

Schools and delinquency

Cambridge University Press - Cause or Effect: The Relationship Between Academic Achievement and Delinquency in America



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Cause or Effect: The Relationship Between Academic Achievement and Delinquency in America

Those sent to summer camp more than once turned out considerably worse than their matched pairs in terms of crime convictions, early death, alcoholism, and several mental health disorders. The chapter discusses risk factors for offending, beginning with risks at the individual level, including biological, psychological, behavioral, and cognitive factors. Delinquency in the School School Shootings Nature and Extent of Shooting Who is the School Shooter? The evidence for desistance in girls is not clear.

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Environmental and Situational Influences Other aspects of the environment that have been examined as factors that may influence the risk of offending include drug markets, availability of guns, and the impact of violence in the media. These studies range from classic studies conducted in the 1920s and 1930s Shaw, 1930; Whyte, 1943, through a second wave in the 1960s Short and Strodtbeck, 1965; Suttles, 1968 and a more recent wave since the late 1980s Bourgois, 1995; Chin, 1996; Moore, 1978, 1991; Padilla, 1992; Pinderhughes, 1997; Sullivan, 1989; Vigil, 1988; Vigil and Yun, 1990.

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More direct evidence comes from a study by Dishion and his colleagues. Whatever characteristics individuals have, resulting personalities and behavior are influenced by the social environments in which they are raised. Despite its great wealth, the United States lags behind many nations in academic achievement.

Linking School Performance and Delinquency

Blumstein 1995 points out the coincidence in timing of the rise in drug arrests of nonwhite juveniles, particularly blacks, beginning in 1985, and the rise in juvenile, gun-related homicide rates, particularly among blacks. Family Structure Before embarking on a review of the effects of family structure, it is important to raise the question of mechanisms Rutter et al. There are also important problems with the choice of statistical models to create categories of developmental trajectories Nagin and Tremblay, 1999.

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One result of this debate has been what Morrison et al.

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Blumstein 1995:30 explains how this led to an increase in handgun carrying by juveniles: These juveniles, like many other participants in the illicit-drug industry, are likely to carry guns for self-protection, largely because that industry uses guns as an important instrument for dispute resolution.

Linking School Performance and Delinquency

Also, the participants in the industry are likely to be carrying a considerable amount of valuable product—drugs or money derived from selling drugs—and are not likely to be able to call on the police if someone tries to rob them. Much of this behavior occurs in relatively unstable pairings or small groups, not in organized gangs Klein, 1971; Reiss, 1988.

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To date, little research has been able to trace direct pathways from these neighborhood risk factors through child and adolescent development, although some of the larger ongoing studies, such as the Project on Human Development in Chicago Neighborhoods, are collecting the kind of comprehensive data on biological and social aspects of individual development as well as on the characteristics of a large number of ecological areas that could make this kind of analysis possible Tonry et al. These behaviors can be assessed very early in life and are associated with certain prenatal and perinatal histories DiPietro et al. The construction of large public housing estates in England following World War II produced this kind of urban configuration Bottoms and Wiles, 1986 , in contrast to the concentration on inner-city public housing projects in the United States.

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