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Submission date: 04-Mar-2021 05:20PM (UTC+0300)

Submission ID: 1524061982

File name: juvenile_delinquency.edited.docx (22.73K)

Word count: 1034

Character count: 6000

Juvenile Delinquency

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Juvenile Delinquency

Juvenile delinquency has increased significantly in Harris County in Texas, despite reducing in other counties. However, with the need to understand the influence of family structure and nature on family delinquency, the research will utilize public data obtained from the National Longitudinal Study of teenage health, also known as Add Health. The study will involve two waves of analysis and thus through the use of interview data collection. Interviews are an essential data collection method because they can allow an interviewer to ask personalized questions compared to questionnaires and thus produce more returns. According to King et al. (2018), interviews could reach many people, resulting in a seamless sample selection as almost every person can respond. Nevertheless, interviews are restricted to only literate people, and that will eliminate other vital participants. Therefore, this research will use in-home interviews. They will be done using Computer-aided personal interviewing and Audio Computer-Aided self-interviewing, which will help to ask personalized questions.

The sample population plays a critical role in obtaining the best conclusion and inference concerning the overall individuals. Therefore, since the study will utilize public data, the original sample will comprise adolescent individuals who attend one hundred and forty-five different junior high schools in Harris County. The sample to use in research will include twenty thousand, seven hundred and forty-five individuals. The number of individuals is good for the sample because having a large sample size will reduce the margin error and make the results have more accurate mean values. The research plan is critical in ensuring the research efficiency attains the objectives. This research intends to provide a useful understanding of the influence of families' nature and structure on causing juvenile delinquency. Moreover, the sample population

selected will utilize stratified sampling as kids in grades 7 to 12 are bedded by grade and sex and chosen randomly to engage in a longitudinal sample.

The longitudinal sample will be used in the research because of its immense benefits in understanding the influence of juvenile delinquency's family structure. According to Ployhart & MacKenzie (2014), a longitudinal study provides researchers a chance to track their sample in real-time. Therefore, this will enable them to realize the changes in individual's behavior and how they end up involving in violent behaviors that are not following social norms. Also, researchers can develop an actual pattern of events letting them understand the causes and effects on their relationships. A causal relationship can be established using longitudinal study considering that it permits researchers to observe individuals frequently; this is essential in allowing them to notice the variations in the variable results, which may not be based on an individual's differences. Moreover, Harris County has a diversity of adolescent individuals, for instance, based on gender and location, and grades. Therefore, considering that the sample population used are students, a stratified sampling method will help differentiate the relationship of juvenile delinquency on students based on grades.

The research will consist of two waves of participants study. The first wave will be in-home interviews, and the second follow-up in-home interviews with the individuals utilized in wave one but excluded seniors. All the gathered data in the research interviews will be recorded on the laptop. The study's dependent variables are violent and nonviolent juvenile delinquency, and the independent variable in the study will be family structure and social control measures such as parental supervision. Similarly, the controlled variables are to be utilized in the study, and they include gender, age, and social-economic status. Halvorsen et al. (2003) stated that the

controlled variables are experimental research elements that remain unchanged throughout the research.

According to Tillé & Wilhelm (2017), sample choice should be selected by observing the research's ethical issues. Also, the sample selected should yield better results based on the goal of the research. Moreover, the selected sample, in this case, is students. Therefore, they are readily available and can produce the best results based on the variables tested and answer the research question. Besides, the population's utilization can fit the research budget restrictions hence be done to completion. Nevertheless, the research limitation will include single parents' use without specification on whether they are single fathers or single mothers, hence producing a generalized result.

The proposed policy implication is the need to identify better information that will help policymakers decrease juvenile delinquency. Recognizing the right information is essential in reducing juvenile delinquency in Harris county and establishing useful crime methods. For instance, tests programs and review if the juveniles repeat the crime after the program will help utilize resources on programs that work. Another policy implication is to realize the divergence of crime data and public perception. The number of arrests made measures juvenile delinquency, but they commit an uneven number of crimes because adults are accountable for many crimes. However, the public has perceived them as the most involved individuals in crime; therefore, policymakers should develop crime data to shape public perceptions positively.

In summary, research is an essential part of helping people understand the cause of certain behaviors. Therefore, juvenile delinquency has been a problem since the 1970s, and this requires special consideration in helping reduce crimes and make children develop into responsible members of society. Based on the literature review, family structure plays a critical

role in raising decent and moral children; however, it might increase juvenile delinquency in society when not considered. The research will use adolescent students in junior and high school levels as the sample. The research will use a stratified sampling ¹ method to select students based on grade. The purpose of the research is to identify the influence of family nature and structure on juvenile delinquency.

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