

The background of the cover is a complex, abstract illustration. It features a dense arrangement of faces and profiles, rendered in a style reminiscent of graffiti or street art. The colors are vibrant and varied, including shades of blue, purple, orange, yellow, and green. The lines are thick and expressive, creating a sense of movement and depth. The overall effect is one of a busy, multi-layered visual field.

Juvenile Delinquency

Theory, Practice, and Law | 13E

Larry J. Siegel & Brandon C. Welsh

Juvenile Delinquency and Children's Rights in the United States and Abroad



The Prepont Morgan Library/Art Resource, NY

1838
Ex Parte Crouse—*Parens patriae* concept relied on. The right of the parent is not inalienable.

1850
 The House of Refuge in Philadelphia closes.

1851
 The first adoption act in the United States is passed in Massachusetts.

1853
 New York Juvenile Asylum started by the Children's Aid Society.

1820

1830

1840

1850

1860

1825
 New York House of Refuge is founded.

1828
 Boston House of Refuge is founded.

1841
 John Augustus, first official probation officer in the United States, begins work in Boston.

1847
 State institutions for juvenile delinquents open in Boston and New York.



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1870

Illinois Supreme Court reverses Dan O'Connell's vagrancy sentence to the Chicago Reform School due to lack of due process procedures in *People v. Turner*.

1875–1900

Case Law begins to deal with protective statutes.

1870

1880

1890

1900

1910

1868

Passage of the Fourteenth Amendment to the U.S. Constitution.

1866

Massachusetts establishes that the state has power over children under 16 whose parents are "unfit."

1889

Board of children's guardians is established in Indiana and given jurisdiction over neglected and dependent children.

1886

First neglect case is heard in Massachusetts.

1884

The state assumes the authority to take neglected children and place them in an institution. See *Reynolds v. Howe*, 51 Conn. 472, 478 (1884).

1881

Michigan begins child protection with the Michigan Public Acts of 1881.

1903–1905

Many other states pass juvenile court acts.

1905

Commonwealth v. Fisher—Pennsylvania Court upholds the constitutionality of the Juvenile Court Act.

1906

Massachusetts passes an act to provide for the treatment of children not as criminals but as children in need of guidance and aid.

1908

Ex Parte Sharpe defines more clearly the role of the juvenile court to include *parens patriae*.

Legislation establishes juvenile justice in Canada (Juvenile Delinquents Act) and in England (Children Act).

1890

Children's Aid Society of Pennsylvania, a foster home for the juvenile delinquent used as an alternative to reform schools, is established.

1891

Supreme Court of Minnesota establishes the doctrine of parental immunity.

1897

Ex Parte Becknell, a California decision that reverses the sentence of a juvenile who has not been given a jury trial.

1899

Illinois Juvenile Court Act.

1910

Compulsory school acts.



Lewis W. Hine/George Eastman House/Getty Images



Art Shay/Getty Images

1918
Chicago area studies are conducted by Shaw and McKay.

1930
Children's Charter.

1959
Standard Family Court Act of National Council on Crime and Delinquency establishes that juvenile hearings are to be informal.

1920

1930

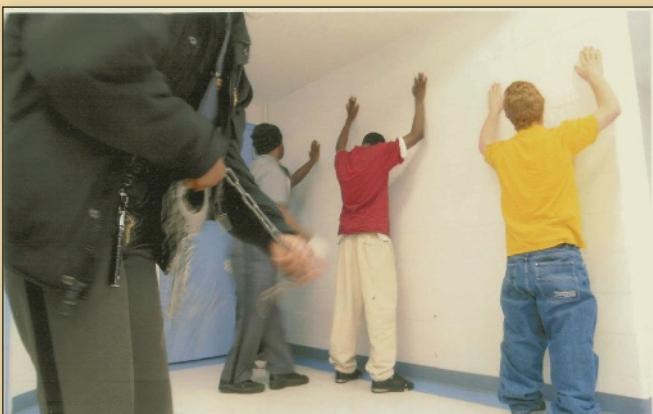
1940

1950

1960

1924
Federal Probation Act.

1954
Brown v. Board of Education, a major school desegregation decision.



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continued on back endsheets...



Juvenile Delinquency

THEORY, PRACTICE, AND LAW

THIRTEENTH EDITION

LARRY J. SIEGEL

University of Massachusetts, Lowell

BRANDON C. WELSH

Northeastern University



Australia • Brazil • Mexico • Singapore • United Kingdom • United States

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DEDICATION

To my wife, Therese J. Libby, and my children, Julie, Andrew, Eric, and Rachel, my grandchildren, Jack, Kayla, and Brooke, and my sons-in-law Jason Macy and Patrick Stephens.

—L.J.S.

To my wife, Jennifer, and our son, Ryan

—B.C.W.

About the Authors

Larry J. Siegel

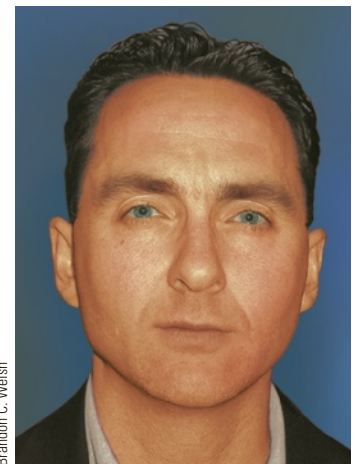
Larry J. Siegel was born in the Bronx, New York. While living on Jerome Avenue and attending City College of New York in the 1960s, he was swept up in the social and political currents of the time. He became intrigued with the influence contemporary culture had on individual behavior. Did people shape society or did society shape people? He applied his interest in social forces and human behavior to the study of crime and justice. After graduating from CCNY, he attended the newly opened program in criminal justice at the State University of New York at Albany, earning both his MA and PhD degrees there. After completing his graduate work, Dr. Siegel spent nine years at Northeastern University and also held teaching positions at the University of Nebraska–Omaha and Saint Anselm College in New Hampshire before joining the faculty at the University of Massachusetts–Lowell, where he now serves as Professor Emeritus. Dr. Siegel has written extensively in the area of crime and justice, including books on juvenile law, delinquency, criminology, criminal justice, and criminal procedure. He teaches courses in criminal justice, criminology, and delinquency at both the undergrad and grad level. He is a court-certified expert on police conduct and has testified in numerous legal cases. The parents of four and grandparents of three, Larry and his wife, Terry, reside in Naples, Florida.



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Brandon C. Welsh



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Preface

“ I ‘m not a monster,” claims teenager Ashlee Martinson, now in prison for shooting her stepfather, Thomas Ayers, 37, and fatally stabbing her mother, Jennifer Ayers, 40, more than 30 times.¹ For her crimes, Martinson pleaded guilty to second-degree homicide and received a sentence of 23 years in prison. Does she regret her decision to kill? “I’m happy,” she has told people. “I know that sounds crazy, because I’m in prison, but I feel like I’m free. I can wake up every day and know that I am safe. I was just a girl, an abused girl, who was forced to make a really bad decision. I’m not the monster that they portrayed me to be.”

She claims that after years of alleged abuse, she suffered from severe depression and post-traumatic stress disorder. Poetry on her webpage shows a darker side:

I clean the dry blood off my tools from a previous session.

The last body has been disposed of just hours before, yet I have not been satisfied with the pain, agony and blood.

I bend down as they start to wake.

“Welcome to hell.” I whisper in her ear. “Never again will you see the light of day.”

What sparked the killing? On March 7, 2015, a day after her 17th birthday, Martinson got into an argument with her parents, who had discovered that the teenager had a 22-year-old boyfriend and sent him a Facebook message telling him to stay away from their daughter, threatening to press charges. Martinson snapped, grabbing a shotgun and killing her stepfather before stabbing her mother. She later claimed that her mother’s boyfriends had been abusing her since she was a young child and one of them raped her when she was 9 years old. Although Thomas Ayers did not hurt her physically, he would abuse her mother and sisters to punish her. Court documents support her story: Thomas Ayers had been accused of assault, kidnapping, child enticement, and being party to the crime of sexual assault of a child younger than 15; he had numerous prior arrests and convictions.

Ashlee Martinson is not alone nor unique. It has become routine to see cases of teens engaging in violent crimes at school, on the street, and at home. What should be done with these violent young offenders? Should they be given special treatment because of their age? Should someone like Ashlee be sent to an adult prison or can she be treated in the community? Can even the most violent juveniles be successfully treated and rehabilitated? Or should they be tried as adults and given long prison sentences, even if it means life behind bars?

¹Lindsey Bever, “I’m Not a Monster’: A Teen Horror Blogger Explains Why She Killed Her Parents,” *Washington Post*, November 2, 2016, <https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/true-crime/wp/2016/11/02/im-not-a-monster-a-teen-horror-blogger-explains-why-she-killed-her-parents/>; Adam Carlson, “Teen Horror Blogger Ashlee Martinson Sentenced to 23 Years in Prison in Slayings of Mother and Stepfather,” *People*, June, 11, 2016, <http://people.com/crime/ashlee-martinson-sentenced-to-23-years-for-killing-mother-and-stepfather/>.

JUVENILE DELINQUENCY: Theory, Practice, and Law

Issues such as youth violence have sparked interest in the study of juvenile delinquency not only in the United States but also around the world. Inexplicable incidents of violence occur all too frequently in schools, homes, and public places. Teen gangs can be found in most major cities. Hundreds of thousands of youths are known to be the victims of serious neglect and sexual and physical abuse each year; many more cases may be unreported or hidden. It is not surprising, considering the concern with the problems of youth, that courses on juvenile delinquency have become popular offerings on the nation's college campuses. We have written *Juvenile Delinquency: Theory, Practice, and Law* to help students understand the nature of juvenile delinquency, its cause and correlates, as well as the current strategies being used to control or eliminate its occurrence. Our book also reviews the legal rules that have been set down either to protect innocent minors or control adolescent misconduct: Can children be required to submit to drug testing in school? Can teachers legally search suspicious students or use corporal punishment as a method of discipline? Should children be allowed to testify on closed-circuit TV in child abuse cases?

Our primary goals in writing this 13th edition remain the same as in the previous editions:

1. To be as objective as possible, presenting the many diverse views and perspectives that characterize the study of juvenile delinquency and reflect its interdisciplinary nature. We take no single position nor espouse a particular viewpoint or philosophy.
2. To maintain a balance of research, theory, law, policy, and practice. It is essential that a textbook on delinquency not be solely a theory book without presenting the juvenile justice system or contain sections on current policies without examining legal issues and cases.
3. To be as thorough and up-to-date as possible. As always, we have attempted to include the most current data and information available.
4. To make the study of delinquency interesting as well as informative. We want to encourage readers' interest in the study of delinquency so they will pursue it on an undergraduate or graduate level.

We have tried to provide a textbook that is both scholarly and informative, comprehensive yet interesting, well organized and objective yet provocative.

Organization of the Text

The 13th edition of *Juvenile Delinquency: Theory, Practice, and Law* has 17 chapters:

- Chapter 1, *Childhood and Delinquency*, contains extensive material on the history of childhood and the legal concept of delinquency and status offending. This material enables the reader to understand how the concept of adolescence evolved over time and how that evolution influenced the development of the juvenile court and the special status of delinquency.
- Chapter 2, *The Nature and Extent of Delinquency*, covers the measurement of delinquent behavior, trends, and patterns in teen crime and victimization, and also discusses the correlates of delinquency, including race, gender, class, and age, and chronic offending.
- Chapter 3, *Individual Views of Delinquency*, covers individual-level views of the cause of delinquency, which include choice, biological, and psychological theories.
- Chapter 4, *Structure, Process, Culture, and Delinquency*, looks at theories that hold that culture and socialization control delinquent behavior.

- Chapter 5, *Social Reaction, Social Conflict, and Delinquency*, reviews theories that state that delinquency is a product of human interaction as well as the economic and political forces that control the way people interact.
- Chapter 6, *Developmental Theories of Delinquency: Life-Course, Propensity, and Trajectory*, covers developmental theories of delinquency, including such issues as the onset, continuity, paths, and termination of a delinquent career.
- Chapter 7, *Gender and Delinquency*, explores the sex-based differences that are thought to account for the gender patterns in the delinquency rate.
- Chapter 8, *The Family and Delinquency*, covers the influence of families on children and delinquency. The concept of child abuse is covered in detail, and the steps in the child protection system are reviewed.
- Chapter 9, *Peers and Delinquency: Juvenile Gangs and Groups*, reviews the effect peers have on delinquency and the topic of teen gangs.
- Chapter 10, *Schools and Delinquency*, looks at the influence of schools and the education process, delinquency within the school setting, and the efforts by schools to prevent delinquency.
- Chapter 11, *Drug Use and Delinquency*, reviews the influence drugs and substance abuse have on delinquent behavior and what is being done to reduce teenage drug use.
- Chapter 12, *Delinquency Prevention: Social and Developmental Perspectives*, covers delinquency prevention and efforts being made to help kids avoid a life of crime.
- Chapter 13, *Juvenile Justice: Then and Now*, gives extensive coverage to the emergence of state control over children in need and the development of the juvenile justice system. It also covers the contemporary juvenile justice system, the major stages in the justice process, the role of the federal government in the juvenile justice system, an analysis of the differences between the adult and juvenile justice systems, and extensive coverage of the legal rights of children.
- Chapter 14, *Police Work with Juveniles*, discusses the role of police in delinquency prevention. It covers legal issues such as major court decisions on searches and *Miranda* rights of juveniles. It also contains material on how race and gender affect police discretion as well as efforts by police departments to control delinquent behavior.
- Chapter 15, *Juvenile Court Process: Pretrial, Trial, and Sentencing*, contains information on plea bargaining in juvenile court, the use of detention, and transfer to adult jails. It contains an analysis of the critical factors that influence the waiver decision, the juvenile trial, and sentencing.
- Chapter 16, *Juvenile Corrections: Probation, Community Treatment, and Institutionalization*, covers material on probation and other community dispositions, including restorative justice programs and secure juvenile corrections, with emphasis on legal issues such as right to treatment and unusual programs such as boot camps.
- Chapter 17, *Delinquency and Juvenile Justice Abroad*, looks at delinquency around the world and examines efforts to control antisocial youth in other nations.

What's New in This Edition

Since the study of juvenile delinquency is a dynamic, ever-changing field of scientific inquiry and because the theories, concepts, and processes of this area of study are constantly evolving, we have updated *Juvenile Delinquency: Theory, Practice, and Law* to reflect the changes that have taken place in the study of delinquent behavior during the past few years.

Like its predecessors, the 13th edition includes a review of recent legal cases, research studies, and policy initiatives. It aims to provide a groundwork for the study of juvenile delinquency by analyzing and describing the nature and extent of delinquency, the suspected causes of delinquent behavior, and the environmental influences on youthful misbehavior. It also covers what most experts believe are the critical issues in juvenile delinquency and analyzes crucial policy issues, including the use of pretrial detention, waiver to adult court, and restorative justice programs. While these principles remain the backbone of the text, we have also incorporated into the 13th edition the following:

- **Chapter 1** opens with an update on the Keaira Brown case, a girl who was just 13 years old when she was found guilty of first-degree murder and attempted aggravated robbery. There are new data on teen problems such as health care, diet, and suicide rates are presented. A new Cyber Delinquency feature looks at “sextortion,” sexual extortion on the Net. There is a new Evidence-Based Juvenile Justice feature that looks at the Family Key programs, designed to provide highly effective case management services that prevent at-risk youth from repeat violations that could result in juvenile probation or detention.
- **Chapter 2** begins with a vignette on the prosecution of two violent street gangs—2Fly and BMB—that wreaked havoc on the streets of the Northern Bronx for years by committing countless acts of violence against rival gang members and citizens. A new Focus on Delinquency, “Co-offending and Delinquency,” examines whether delinquency tends to be a group activity and whether many adolescents join gangs and groups in order to facilitate their illegal activities. A Youth Stories feature, “Room: Kids Held Captive,” looks at cases that inspired the 2015 film *Room* for which Brie Larson won an Oscar. The data on juvenile offending patterns and victim patterns have been updated.
- **Chapter 3** begins with an update on the story of Adam Lanza, a boy with sensory processing disorder (SPD), which made him over-respond to stimuli, who later committed the Sandy Hook Elementary School massacre. There is new research by Bruce Jacobs and Michael Cherbonneau on car theft that shows how teen offenders must figure out a way to make their behavior seem normal to observers, to hide their intentions from prying eyes, and to neutralize the desire of car owners to take action to protect their property. Other new works cover such topics as the safety of gated communities and whether the installation of closed-circuit television (CCTV) surveillance cameras and improved street lighting, techniques can deter would-be delinquents. There is a new section on “pulling levers policing” or focused deterrence, which is about activating or pulling every deterrent “lever” available to reduce the targeted problem. Research on juvenile burglars finds that they like to target residences close to where they live so they know the territory and have access to escape routes.
- **Chapter 4** begins with the tale of what happened when three teenagers from Seattle’s Down with the Crew gang—a violent affiliate of the Black Gangster Disciples gang—broke into the home of a 66-year-old man with the intention of committing an easy robbery. We update the data on economic disadvantage that show that many millions of Americans still live below the poverty line: there are now about 43 million Americans living in poverty, defined as a family of four earning about \$24,000 per year. There are new data on race-based social and economic disparity. New research shows that more cohesive communities, where residents have a stake in the community and know and trust one another, have much lower delinquency rates than less-unified areas.

A Youth Stories feature looks at Ethan Couch, a 16-year-old Texas boy who killed four people while driving drunk and then claimed he suffers from affluenza—being too rich and spoiled to understand the consequences of his

actions. A new section, “Variations on Neutralization Theory,” shows how the theory has evolved since it was first formulated. An Evidence-Based Juvenile Justice feature looks at Families and Schools Together (FAST), a multifamily group intervention program designed to build protective factors for children, empower parents to be the primary prevention agents for their own children, and build supportive parent-to-parent groups.

- **Chapter 5** now begins with a vignette about 14-year-old Ahmed Mohamed, who made national headlines when he brought a disassembled clock to school, an act that caused his teachers to worry about a terrorist device and the principal to call the police. There is a Youth Stories feature entitled “Was It Rape?” which analyzes the sexual assault at prestigious St. Paul’s prep school in New Hampshire. A new Focus on Delinquency box entitled “The Consequences of Labeling” reviews the 2016 report by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention on the risks faced by approximately 1.3 million lesbian, gay, and bisexual (LGB) high school students in the United States. A Cyber Delinquency feature, “Recruiting Young Terrorists,” discusses how the Net is being used to convince American teens to join ISIS and other radical groups. An Evidence-Based Juvenile Justice box looks at Family Group Conferencing in New Zealand.
- **Chapter 6** begins with a vignette about 35-year-old Rebecca Falcon, who is serving a life sentence for a crime she committed when she was a 15-year-old girl. In 2015, the Florida Supreme Court ruled that Falcon and other juvenile criminals should be eligible for parole. A Focus on Delinquency box covers research on the important topic of persistence versus desistance. There is material on social schematic theory (SST) that suggests that people develop schemas or cognitive shortcuts to organize and interpret information.
- **Chapter 7** has an opening vignette on 12-year-old Morgan Geyser and Anissa Weier who lured a friend into the woods and stabbed her, in what is now known as the “Slender Man” case. The Focus on Delinquency covering the trafficking in children has been updated. An Evidence-Based Juvenile Justice box looks at the Practical Academic Cultural Educational (PACE) Center, whose mission is to provide girls and young women an opportunity for a better future through education, counseling, training, and advocacy.

Another Evidence-Based Juvenile Justice feature describes the Keep Safe program, a multicomponent intervention program aimed at building prosocial skills and promoting placement stability for girls in foster care who are transitioning from elementary school to middle school. A new Focus on Delinquency box looks at abused girls in the juvenile justice system. Data on gender differences in official and self-report delinquency have been updated and new research on gender differences on personality and cognition provided.
- **Chapter 8** starts with the story of two teenage brothers, Robert and Michael Bever, who planned and executed the murder of five members of their family. A Youth Stories feature on the Nevil family murders covers the trial of a teenager who was just 13 when he shot and killed his 12-year-old girlfriend’s parents. A Focus on Delinquency box looks at the concept of trauma; traumatic experiences have been linked to a wide range of problems, including addiction, depression, anxiety, and risk-taking behavior. Data on the nature and extent of child abuse and neglect have been updated.
- **Chapter 9** has a new chapter opening vignette about the case of Michael, an 18-year-old gang member who was referred to a gang intervention service when he was 15 years old. There is a new section on deviancy training, in which close friends reinforce deviant behavior through talk and interaction. A new exhibit entitled “Words or Deeds?” looks at research showing how peer pressure works. Data on gangs have been updated, including new information on migration trends. A new section on gang cooperation shows that

collaboration among street gangs has increased; gangs have merged or formed hybrid gangs to counter enforcement control efforts. The most recent gang surveys are reviewed; data now show that street gang activity continues to be oriented toward violent crimes, such as assault, street level and large scale drug trafficking, home invasions, homicide, robbery, intimidation, threats, weapons trafficking, and sex trafficking. A Youth Stories feature entitled “Lisa’s Story” looks at the life of a young girl in Los Angeles who by the time she was 13 was heavily into drugs and “hitting up and shooting up” with a local gang. We show how a growing number of law enforcement agencies are incorporating social media into their gang investigations, specifically to identify gang members and monitor their criminal activity via the Net. An Evidence-Based Juvenile Justice feature covers the Newport News STEP Program. This 10-week program serves young people between the ages of 16 and 24 and provides paid work training experience, enrichment activities, workshops, financial literacy training, and GED preparation classes.

- **Chapter 10** begins with an important 2016 case in which a federal appeals court ruled that Gavin Grimm, a transgender high school student who was born as a female, can sue his school board on discrimination grounds because it barred him from using the boys’ bathroom. There are data from the most recent international student testing that shows the United States ranked 27th out of 62 nations tested in mathematics. Data collected by the National Center for Education Statistics show few if any improvements in educational achievement. A Focus on Delinquency box, “Race and School Discipline,” looks at whether minority youth are subject to harsh disciplinary practices in public school and what effect this has on their academic achievement. We now cover the detracking movement that has helped alleviate some of the tracking system’s most significant problems. The latest data from the National Center for Educational Statistics cover school crime, showing that there were about 850,100 nonfatal victimizations at school in the past year. We also include a new study by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) on school shootings. A Cyber Delinquency feature, “Free Speech in Cyberspace,” looks at whether schools can control personal websites, Twitter messages, texts, and emails that are quickly spread among the student body, or YouTube postings that show secretly made recordings of teachers in unflattering poses.
- **Chapter 11** opens with the death of a Florida teen, Helen Marie Witty, caused by another teen who was driving while under the influence of alcohol and other drugs. As part of her sentence, the driver is required to speak to high school students about the dangers of drinking and driving. The chapter updates recent trends and patterns in juvenile drug use with data based on three national surveys, including the large-scale Monitoring the Future (MTF) survey. The chapter covers the latest research on the effects of medical marijuana laws on juvenile drug use. It updates research on the major explanations for why youths take drugs, including peer pressure and rational choice, and updates research on why juveniles sell drugs. We also added new material reviewing the most up-to-date research on what works to reduce juvenile drug use, including an Evidence-Based Juvenile Justice feature on multisystemic therapy.
- **Chapter 12** opens with a milestone program by the British government to provide home visitation services to new young mothers and their babies, modeled after the Nurse-Family Partnership program in the United States. A Focus on Delinquency feature has been updated with new material on public support for delinquency prevention programs. The chapter also substantially updates material on what works in delinquency prevention, with new evaluations and reviews on the effectiveness of programs that take place in early childhood and the teenage years. One example is afterschool programs. Some new studies have been added on the financial costs of delinquency, as the high costs

of juvenile crime are sometimes used to justify more spending on prevention programs. An Evidence-Based Juvenile Justice feature has been updated to present the latest research findings on the Blueprints for Healthy Youth Development initiative.

- **Chapter 13** opens with the case of Florida teen Michael Hernandez, who took the life of his classmate Jaime Gough and was sentenced to life in prison without the possibility of parole. Owing in part to a recent Supreme Court ruling that life sentences cannot be imposed automatically, Hernandez will be eligible for a “judicial review” for parole eligibility after serving 25 years. We profile the latest information on the oldest age for juvenile court jurisdiction in delinquency cases. The chapter updates the section on a comprehensive juvenile justice strategy, which combines elements of delinquency prevention and intervention and justice approaches. For the Evidence-Based Juvenile Justice feature, the latest research findings on teen courts are presented, and we highlight the new Department of Justice findings on juvenile drug courts.
- **Chapter 14** begins with a story about the intersection of inner-city gang violence, a gunshot injury to 7-year-old Tajahnique Lee, and the growing concern of the police about witness intimidation. The chapter presents new research on juveniles’ attitudes toward police and updates statistics on the handling of juvenile offenders by police, which show that 6 in 10 juveniles (62 percent) who are arrested are referred to juvenile court. The chapter includes new research on training police in procedural justice and reviews the latest developments following the shooting of Michael Brown in Ferguson, Missouri, including the President’s Task Force on 21st Century Policing. It also brings together the latest findings on what works when it comes to police efforts to prevent juvenile crime, including an updated Evidence-Based Juvenile Justice feature on “pulling levers” policing and the national evaluation of the G.R.E.A.T. program.
- **Chapter 15** opens with a violent case involving a group of teens who beat to death a homeless man, drawing attention to the debate on transfers of juveniles to adult court. The chapter includes up-to-date statistics on juvenile court case flow, from the decision to release or detain, to waivers to adult court, to juvenile court dispositions, and presents new research on plea bargaining. In the Evidence-Based Juvenile Justice feature, updated information is provided on the effectiveness of transfers to adult court. The chapter also includes the latest Supreme Court rulings on life without parole for juvenile offenders.
- **Chapter 16** begins with long-standing concerns about the safety of juvenile offenders and their need for treatment while in correctional facilities, profiling the case of Joseph Daniel Maldonado in California. The chapter reports on the latest trends in juvenile probation and incarceration, showing that juvenile incarceration rates are at an all-time low. It examines new research on restorative justice and economic sanctions for juvenile offenders. It also revisits the gender gap in correctional treatment for juvenile offenders and reports on the latest findings of the Juvenile Residential Facility Census. The latest research findings on what works in treating juvenile offenders are reviewed, and material on juvenile aftercare and reentry services is updated.
- **Chapter 17** begins with some of the growing crime problems facing China, a product of social and economic shifts that are also impacting other countries. The chapter presents new material on delinquency and juvenile justice systems around the world. It updates international statistics on juvenile violent and property crime, and reports on the latest European School Survey Project on Alcohol and other Drugs. The Focus on Delinquency feature provides an updated profile of juvenile violence in Japan, showing that violence is on the decline after years of substantial increases.

Learning Tools

To access additional course materials, including CourseMate, please visit www.cengagebrain.com. At the CengageBrain.com home page, search for the ISBN of your title (from the back cover of your book) using the search box at the top of the page. This will take you to the product page where these resources can be found.

The text contains the following features designed to help students learn and comprehend the material:

- **Chapter Outline and Learning Objectives** Each chapter begins with an outline and a list of chapter objectives. The summary is keyed to and corresponds with the learning objectives.
- **Concept Summary** This feature is used throughout the text to help students review material in an organized fashion.
- **Professional Spotlights** These boxed features provide students with a look at what professional career opportunities are available in the area of delinquency treatment, prevention, and intervention. For example, Chapter 13 spotlights juvenile probation officer Carla Stalnaker.
- **Cyber Delinquency** This feature highlights contemporary problems faced by today's youth: delinquency and victimization in the cyber age. Chapter 14, for example, discusses policing juveniles in cyberspace.
- **Focus on Delinquency** As in previous editions, these boxed inserts focus attention on topics of special importance and concern. For example, in Chapter 16, "Mental Health Needs of Juvenile Inmates" discusses that as many as two out of three incarcerated juveniles suffer from mental health problems, but many states are cutting back on funding for mental health programs.
- **Case Profile** This feature discusses real-life situations in which at-risk youths worked their way out of delinquency. These stories are then tied to the material in the chapter with thought-provoking critical thinking boxes.
- **Youth Stories** This interesting feature focuses on current cases and incidents that have made the news and illustrate the trials and tribulations of youths in contemporary society.
- **Evidence-Based Juvenile Justice** These thought-provoking boxes discuss major initiatives and programs. For example, in Chapter 17, "Precourt Diversion Programs Around the World" tells how keeping youths who have become involved in minor delinquent acts from being formally processed through the juvenile justice system has become a top priority of many countries.
- **Weblinks** In the margins of every chapter are links to websites that can be used to help students enrich their understanding of important issues and concepts found in the text.
- **Viewpoint and Doing Research on the Web** Each chapter ends with a feature called Viewpoint that presents a hypothetical case for the student to analyze. The Doing Research on the Web feature presents material found in articles on the Web to lead students to research ideas contained in the chapter.
- **Key Terms** Key terms are defined throughout the text when they appear in a chapter.
- **Questions for Discussion** Each chapter includes thought-provoking discussion questions.
- **Running Glossary** A glossary sets out and defines key terms used in the text. The definitions appear in the text margin where the concept is introduced, as well as in the comprehensive glossary at the end of the book.

Ancillary Materials

MindTap® for Criminal Justice The most applied learning experience available, MindTap is dedicated to preparing students to make the kinds of reasoned decisions they will have to as criminal justice professionals faced with real-world challenges. Available for virtually every criminal justice course, MindTap offers customizable content, course analytics, an e-reader, and more—all within your current learning management system. With its rich array of assets—video cases, interactive visual summaries, decision-making scenarios, quizzes, and writing skill builders—MindTap is perfectly suited to today’s criminal justice students, engaging them, guiding them toward mastery of basic concepts, and advancing their critical thinking abilities.

Instructor’s Manual with Lesson Plans The manual includes learning objectives, key terms, a detailed chapter outline, a chapter summary, lesson plans, discussion topics, student activities, “What If” scenarios, media tools, and sample syllabi. The learning objectives are correlated with the discussion topics, student activities, and media tools.

Downloadable Word Test Bank The enhanced test bank includes a variety of questions per chapter—a combination of multiple-choice, true/false, completion, essay, and critical thinking formats, with a full answer key. The test bank is coded to the learning objectives that appear in the main text, and identifies where in the text (by section) the answer appears. Finally, each question in the test bank has been carefully reviewed by experienced criminal justice instructors for quality, accuracy, and content coverage so instructors can be sure they are working with an assessment and grading resource of the highest caliber.

Cengage Learning Testing Powered by Cognero, the accompanying assessment tool is a flexible, online system that allows you to:

- Import, edit, and manipulate test bank content from the text’s test bank or elsewhere, including your own favorite test questions
- Create ideal assessments with your choice of 15 question types (including true/false, multiple choice, opinion scale/likert, and essay)
- Create multiple test versions in an instant using drop-down menus and familiar, intuitive tools that take you through content creation and management with ease
- Deliver tests from your LMS, your classroom, or wherever you want—plus, import and export content into other systems as needed

Online PowerPoint Lectures Helping you make your lectures more engaging while effectively reaching your visually oriented students, these handy Microsoft PowerPoint® slides outline the chapters of the main text in a classroom-ready presentation. The PowerPoint® slides reflect the content and organization of the new edition of the text and feature some additional examples and real-world cases for application and discussion.

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Scott Belshaw, University of North Texas

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Larry Siegel
Brandon Welsh



part one

The Concept of Delinquency

The field of juvenile delinquency has been an important area of study since the turn of the twentieth century. Academicians, practitioners, policy makers, and legal scholars have devoted their attention to basic questions about the nature of youth crime: How should the concept of juvenile delinquency be defined? Who commits delinquent acts? How much delinquency occurs each year? Is the rate of delinquent activity increasing or decreasing? What can we do to prevent delinquency?

Part One reviews these basic questions in detail. Chapter 1 discusses the current state of American youth and the challenges they face. It covers the origins of society's concern for children and the development of the concept of delinquency. It shows how the definition of delinquency was developed and how the legal definition has evolved. While society has chosen to treat adult and juvenile law violators separately, it has also expanded the definition of youthful misbehaviors eligible for social control; these are referred to as *status offenses*. Status offenses include such behaviors as truancy, running away, and incorrigibility. Critics suggest that juveniles' noncriminal behavior is probably not a proper area of concern for law enforcement agencies and that these cases are better handled by social service organizations.

Chapter 2 examines the nature and extent of delinquent behavior. It covers how social scientists gather information on juvenile delinquency and provides an overview of some major trends in juvenile crime. Chapter 2 also contains information on some of the critical factors related to delinquency, such as race, gender, class, and age. It discusses the concept of the chronic delinquent, those who continually commit delinquent acts in their youth and continue to offend as adults.

Chapter 1 Childhood and Delinquency

Chapter 2 The Nature and Extent of Delinquency

CHAPTER 1

Childhood and Delinquency

Learning Objectives

- 1 Discuss the problems of youth in American culture
- 2 Distinguish between ego identity and role diffusion
- 3 Discuss the specific issues facing American youth
- 4 Examine the recent social improvements enjoyed by American youth
- 5 Discuss why the study of delinquency is so important and what this study entails
- 6 Describe the life of children during feudal times
- 7 Articulate the treatment of children in the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries
- 8 Discuss childhood in the American colonies
- 9 Evaluate the child savers and the creation of delinquency
- 10 Identify the elements of juvenile delinquency today
- 11 Define what is meant by the term *status offender*

Chapter Outline

The Adolescent Dilemma

Adolescent Problems
Problems in Cyberspace
Teen Suicide
Are Things Improving?

The Study of Juvenile Delinquency

The Development of Childhood

Childhood in the Middle Ages
Development of Concern for Children
Childhood in America

The Concept of Delinquency

Delinquency and *Parens Patriae*
The Legal Status of Delinquency
Legal Responsibility of Youth

Status Offenders

How Common Is Status Offending?
The History of Status Offenses
The Status Offender in the Juvenile Justice System
Reforming Status Offense Laws
Are They Really Different?
Increasing Social Control over Youth

Chapter Features

Cyber Delinquency: Sextortion: Sexual Extortion on the Net

Evidence-Based Juvenile Justice—Intervention: Southwest Key Programs

Case Profile: Akeema's Story

KEAIRA BROWN WAS JUST 13 YEARS OLD when she was charged with murder and became the youngest person in Wyandotte County, Kansas, ever to be tried as an adult. Her family life was close but troubled. Her mother, Cheryl Brown, had three other children, two enrolled in local colleges. Keaira was involved in after-school activities, including playing the violin. But when her mom went to prison on a drug charge, things began to spiral downhill for Keaira, and when she was only 10 she attempted suicide. On July 23, 2008, at about 4:00 PM, Keaira was supposed to be at a summer program at the Boys and Girls Club in Kansas City. Instead, she was involved in the carjacking of Scott Sappington, Jr., a junior at Sumner Academy, who had just dropped his siblings off at their grandmother's house. When he returned to his car, neighbors heard him yell, "Hey, hey," then there was a struggle inside the car, and he was shot in the head. An investigation led to a 6-year-old who told police that a young girl told a group of children to get rid of her bloody clothes. Police distributed pictures of the bloody clothes to the media, and soon after, the clothes were traced back to Keaira Brown.

Prosecutors thought the murder was a result of a carjacking that went wrong, while Keaira's family claimed she was an innocent pawn for area gang members who thought she would not be prosecuted because of her age. They were incorrect. In April, almost a year after the crime, a Wyandotte County judge ruled that Keaira should face trial as an adult. On November 9, 2010, Keaira Brown was found guilty of first-degree murder



Kansas State Corrections

and attempted aggravated robbery and received a life sentence with parole eligibility after 20 years.

Since the *Brown* decision, courts have taken a hard look at putting juveniles in prison for life, expressing the fact that teens do not have the maturity of an adult and should not be punished in the same manner. Nonetheless, when Keaira Brown appealed her sentence in 2014, the Kansas Supreme Court upheld her conviction and sentence, ruling that the district court was justified in prosecuting her as an adult for felony murder and attempted aggravated robbery.

Stories such as that of Keaira Brown are certainly not unique. While the Supreme Court ruled in *Roper v. Simmons* that juveniles cannot be sentenced to the death penalty, it is quite legal to incarcerate them in adult prison for life if they commit a capital crime, as long as the judge takes their age into account before sentencing takes place (*Miller v. Alabama*).¹ And even though Keaira will be eligible for parole after spending 20 years in prison, there is no guarantee she will earn early release; she may in fact spend the rest of her life behind bars.

The problems of youth in contemporary society can be staggering. Because of trouble and conflict occurring in their families, schools, and communities, adolescents experience stress, confusion, and depression. There are approximately 75 million children in the United States, a number that is projected to increase to about 80 million by 2030.²

Since the mid-1960s, children have been decreasing as a proportion of the total US population. Today 23 percent of the population are 18 and under, down from a peak of 36 percent in the 1990s, at the end of the so-called baby boom. Children are projected to remain a fairly stable percentage, about 22 percent, of the total population through 2050. Though the number of children is projected to remain stable, the population is projected to become even more diverse in the

Roper v. Simmons

A juvenile under 18 years of age who commits a capital crime cannot face the death penalty.

Miller v. Alabama

In this case, the Supreme Court held that mandatory life sentences, without the possibility of parole, are unconstitutional for juvenile offenders.

exhibit 1.1

Six Generations of Americans

The Greatest Generation: Born after World War I and raised during the Depression, they overcame hardships, fought in World War II, and went on to build America into the world's greatest superpower. They were willing to put off personal gain for the common good.

Baby Boomers: Born between the end of World War II and the Kennedy-Johnson years, and now approaching retirement age, “boomers” are considered the generation that has benefited the most from the American Dream and post-war leadership. Their parents, who grew up during the Great Depression, made sure their children had the best of everything. Baby boomers benefited from affordable college and post-graduate education, relatively low housing costs, and plentiful job opportunities. Though they experienced some significant setbacks, such as the war in Vietnam, they are a privileged generation that has been accused of being self-absorbed and materialistic.

Generation X: Born between 1963 and 1980 and now approaching 50, gen-Xers are often accused of being unfocused and uncommitted—the “why me?” generation. Coming of age between 1980 and 1990, when divorce was rampant and greed was good, they are not attached to careers or families. They lived through the 1990s, a time with significant social problems, including teen suicide, homelessness, the AIDS epidemic, a downsizing of the workforce, and overseas conflict. Generation X is described as pessimistic, suspicious, and frustrated slackers who wear grunge clothing while listening to alternative music after they move back home with their parents.

They do not want to change the world, just make their way in it and through it without complications.

Generation Y (Millennials): Born between 1980 and 2000, gen-Y kids, otherwise known as millennials, were deeply influenced by the 9/11 attacks and as a result are more patriotic than their older peers. They were weaned on reality TV and are sometimes called the *MTV generation*. Compared to their elders, millennials are incredibly sophisticated technologically and have mastered the art of social media. Gen-Y members live in a world that is much more racially and ethnically diverse than their parents, and most are willing to accept diversity. Their worldview is aided by the rapid expansion in cable TV channels, satellite radio, the Internet, e-zines, etc. They may have lived in families with either a single caretaker or two working parents. Millennials are often accused of being self-centered, irresponsible, and having a lack of understanding of how the work world functions. They are also open-minded, liberal, upbeat, and overtly passionate about racial and gender equality.

Generation Z: Born between 2000 and 2012, they are the first generation to have grown up in a world dominated by the Internet and instant communication; iPads, group video games, texting, and tweeting are their milieu. Will this next generation have the same opportunities as their grandparents in a global economy in which the United States is competing with other powerful nations for dominance?

Generation Alpha: Born after 2012, it's just too early to tell.

The mission of the **Children's Defense Fund** (<http://www.childrensdefense.org/>) is to “leave no child behind” and to ensure every child “a healthy start, a head start, a fair start, a safe start, and a moral start in life,” as well as a successful passage to adulthood with the help of caring families and communities. The CDF works to provide a strong, effective voice for kids who cannot vote, lobby, or speak for themselves.



decades to come. By 2023, fewer than half of all children are projected to be white, non-Hispanic; by 2050, 38 percent of children are projected to be white, non-Hispanic, down from 55 percent today.³ By that time the US population is expected to reach 450 million people.

During the baby boom (1946–1964), the number of children grew rapidly (see Exhibit 1.1). Now as the baby boomers enter their senior years, their needs for support and medical care will increase. At the same time, a significant number of kids who are poor and at risk for delinquency and antisocial behavior will need both private and public assistance and aid. While the number of poor kids and the elderly will be rising, the 30- to 50-year-old population (generation X) who will be expected to care and pay for these groups will constitute a much smaller share of the population. Meanwhile, globalization means that generations Y and Z will be facing increasing economic competition from workers abroad and automation at home. The stress placed on young people is sure to increase in the future.

The Adolescent Dilemma

As they go through their tumultuous teenage years, the problems of American society and the daily stress of modern life have a significant effect on our nation's youth. Adolescence is unquestionably a time of transition. During this period, the self, or basic personality, is still undergoing a metamorphosis and is vulnerable to a host of external determinants as well as internal physiological changes. Many youths become extremely vulnerable to emotional turmoil and experience anxiety, humiliation, and mood swings. Adolescents also undergo a period of biological development that proceeds at a far faster pace than at any

other time in their lives except infancy. Over a period of a few years, their height, weight, and sexual characteristics change dramatically. The average age at which girls reach puberty today is 12.5 years; 150 years ago, girls matured sexually at age 16. Although they may become biologically mature and capable of having children as early as 14, many youngsters remain emotionally and intellectually immature. By the time they reach 15, a significant number of teenagers are unable to adequately meet the requirements and responsibilities of the workplace, family, and neighborhood. Many suffer from health problems, are educational under-achievers, and are already skeptical about their ability to enter the American mainstream.

In later adolescence (ages 16 to 18), youths may experience a life crisis that famed psychologist Erik Erikson labeled the struggle between **ego identity** and **role diffusion**. Ego identity is formed when youths develop a full sense of the self, combining how they see themselves and how they fit in with others. Role diffusion occurs when they experience personal uncertainty, spread themselves too thin, and place themselves at the mercy of people who promise to give them a sense of identity they cannot mold for themselves.⁴ Psychologists also find that late adolescence is a period dominated by the yearning for independence from parental domination.⁵ Given this explosive mixture of biological change and desire for autonomy, it isn't surprising that the teenage years are a time of rebelliousness and conflict with authority at home, at school, and in the community.

Adolescent Problems

American youths face countless social, economic, and psychological problems that have been linked to delinquency and antisocial behaviors. Considering the problems they face, it may not be surprising to some that this latest generation of adolescents has been described as cynical and preoccupied with material acquisitions. By age 18, American youths have spent more time in front of a television than in the classroom; each year they may see thousands of rapes, murders, and assaults on TV. Today's teens routinely watch programming with violent and sexually explicit content on cable TV and the Net. They listen to hip-hop music with explicit lyrics that routinely describe sexuality and promiscuity. How will this exposure affect them? Should we be concerned? Maybe we should. Research shows that kids

ego identity

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role diffusion

According to Erik Erikson, role diffusion occurs when people spread themselves too thin, experience personal uncertainty, and place themselves at the mercy of people who promise to give them a sense of identity they cannot develop for themselves.



Spencer Platt/Getty Images

Adolescent poverty has been linked to delinquency. Michell and Alex, who are homeless, sit with their daughter Alexis outside the Pan Am Shelter in Queens in New York City. The facility, a former hotel which currently houses dozens of homeless families, has been denounced by area residents who fear higher crime rates and lower property values if homeless people stay there. Organizers held a rally at the shelter to stress that the real problem is a lack of affordable housing for working-class and middle-class families.

who listen to music with a sexual content are much more likely to engage in precocious sex than adolescents whose musical tastes run to Taylor Swift or Adele; in contrast, there is also evidence that listening to any music, even angry heavy metal, can help calm anger and hostile emotions.⁶

Troubles in the home, the school, and the neighborhood, coupled with health and developmental hazards, have placed a significant portion of American youth **at risk**. Youths considered at risk are those dabbling in various forms of dangerous conduct such as drug abuse, alcohol use, and precocious sexuality. They are living in families that, because of economic, health, or social problems, are unable to provide adequate care and discipline.⁷

at-risk youth

Young people who are extremely vulnerable to the negative consequences of school failure, substance abuse, and early sexuality.

Data on population characteristics

can be found at the website of the US Census Bureau (<http://www.census.gov/>).



Adolescent Poverty According to the US Census Bureau, the nation's official poverty rate is now about 15 percent, a figure that has persisted and even risen despite government efforts to help the poor. This means that about 47 million Americans, or one in seven residents, are living on \$24,000 a year for a family of four. Millions of others—the so-called working poor—live just above the poverty line, struggling to make ends meet.⁸ Real incomes are falling, and poverty in the United States is more prevalent now than in the 1960s when a War on Poverty was declared by the Johnson administration. Working hard and playing by the rules is not enough to lift families out of poverty: even if parents work full time at the federal minimum wage, the family still lives in poverty.

While poverty problems have risen for nearly every age, gender, and racial/ethnic group, the increases in poverty have been most severe among the nation's youngest families (adults under 30), especially those with one or more children present in the home. Kids are particularly hard hit by poverty: more than 20 percent of children under 18 (15.5 million) live in poverty, as compared to about 14 percent of people 18 to 64, and 10 percent of people 65 and older (see Figure 1.1).⁹ About 7 million children live in extreme poverty, which means half of the poverty level or about \$12,000 per year for a family of four.¹⁰

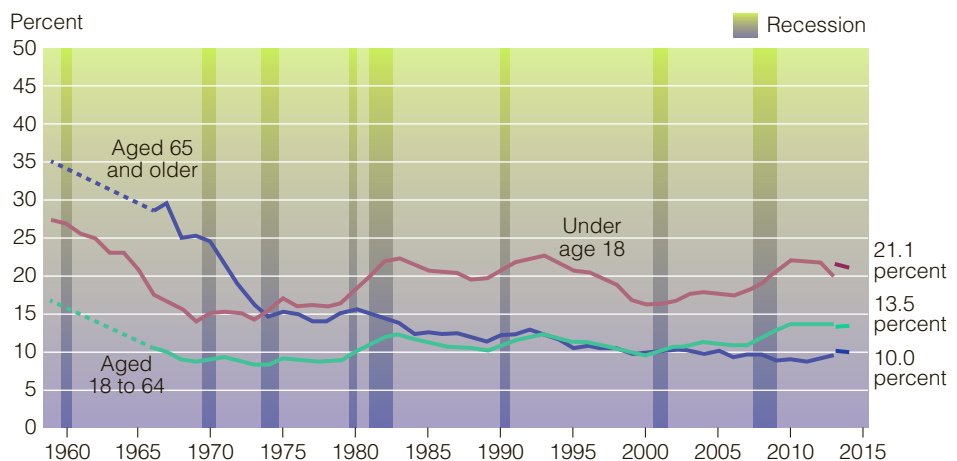
Which kids live in poverty? Those living in a single-parent, female-headed household are significantly more likely to suffer poverty than those in two-parent families.

Child poverty can have long-lasting negative effects on children's cognitive achievement, educational attainment, nutrition, physical and mental health, and social behavior. Educational achievement scores between children in affluent and low-income families have been widening over the years, and the incomes and wealth of families have become increasingly important determinants of adolescents' high school graduation, college attendance, and college persistence and graduation. The chances of an adolescent from a poor family with weak academic skills obtaining a bachelor's degree by his or her mid-20s is now close to zero.¹¹

figure 1.1

Poverty Rates by Age

SOURCE: US Census Bureau, "Income, Poverty and Health Insurance Coverage in the United States: 2014," September 16, 2015, <http://census.gov/newsroom/press-releases/2015/cb15-157.html> (accessed August 2016).



Diet and Health Problems Receiving adequate food and health care is another significant concern for American youth. It may be hard to believe, but there are still millions of children in the United States who do not have access to the nutrition needed for an active, healthy life. Many still do not get enough food, while others suffer reduced food intake and diet quality, as well as anxiety about an adequate food supply. In the most extreme cases, children are going hungry, skipping meals, or have not eaten for a whole day because the household could not afford enough food. How many kids fall into the “food insecure group”? About 16 million children (21 percent of all children) live in households that are classified as food insecure. About 765,000 of these children (1 percent of all children) live in households classified as having very low food security. The children most vulnerable to food insecurity are minority children living in single-parent households with incomes below the federal poverty threshold. Recent national estimates indicate that only about 20 percent of adolescents eat five or more servings of fruits and vegetables per day, and less than 20 percent meet current physical activity recommendations of one hour of exercise a day.¹²

Kids with health problems may only be helped if they have insurance. And while most kids now have health care coverage of some sort, about 7 percent or 6 million youth do not.¹³ As might be expected, children who are not healthy, especially those who live in lower-income families and children from minority backgrounds, are subject to illness and early mortality. The infant mortality rate in the United States is now 6 per 1,000 births, ranking 38th in the world out of 175 nations—better than many third-world nations but far below many industrialized nations, including Germany, Croatia, and Great Britain. It remains to be seen whether the new national health care policy, created by the Health Care and Education Reconciliation Act of 2010 (aka Obamacare), will eventually reduce or eliminate inadequate health care for America’s children.

Mental Health Problems Mental health concerns, such as childhood depression, can have a significant impact on adolescent development and well-being that adversely affects school work, peer and family relationships, and aggravates preexisting health conditions such as asthma and obesity. Youths who have had a **major depressive episode (MDE)** (about 11 percent of all teens) in the past year are at greater risk for suicide and are more likely than other youths to initiate alcohol and other drug use, experience concurrent substance use disorders, and smoke daily. As Figure 1.2 shows, depression is rising among all age groups; girls experience depression significantly more often than boys.

Racial Inequality Despite years of effort to reduce or eliminate its occurrence, racial inequality still exists. Minority kids are much more likely than white,

major depressive episode (MDE)

A period of at least two weeks when a person experienced a depressed mood or loss of interest or pleasure in daily activities plus at least four additional symptoms of depression (such as problems with sleep, eating, energy, concentration, and feelings of self-worth).

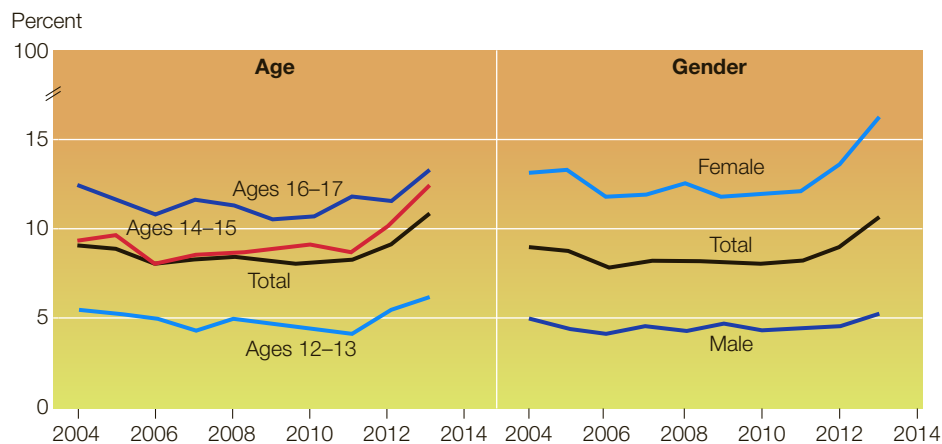


figure 1.2

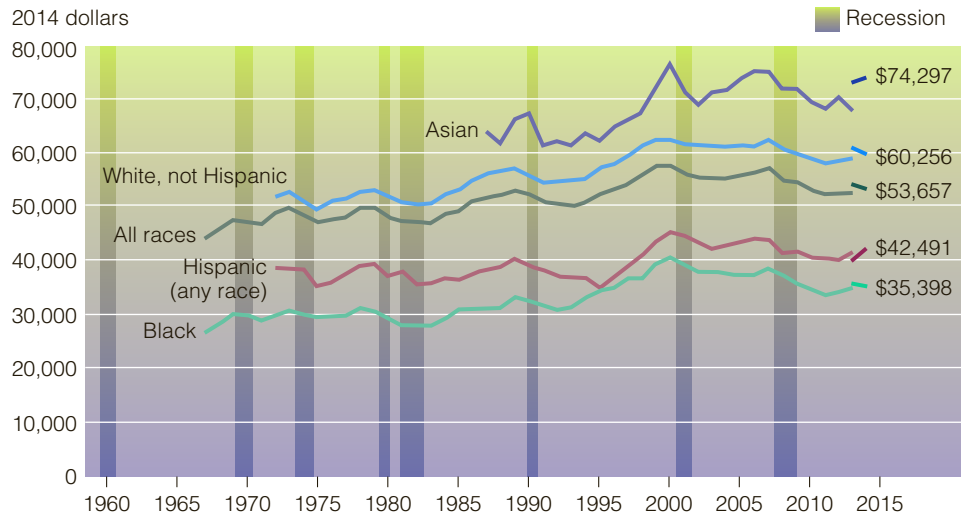
Percentage of Youth Ages 12-17 Who Experienced A Major Depressive Episode (MDE) in the Past Year by Age And Gender

SOURCE: Federal Interagency Forum on Child and Family Statistics, <http://www.childstats.gov/americaschildren/health4.asp> (accessed August 2016).

figure 1.3

Real Median Household Income by Race and Hispanic Origin

SOURCE: US Census Bureau, *Current Population Survey, 1968 to 2015 Annual Social and Economic Supplements.*



non-Hispanic children to experience poverty; proportionately, Hispanic and black children are about three times as likely to be poor than their white peers.¹⁴ As Figure 1.3 shows, African American median income is significantly below that of white and Asian families.

Inequality can also be found in other elements of social life. Educational problems are more likely to hit minority kids the hardest. African American children are half as likely as white children to be placed in a gifted and talented class and more than one and a half times as likely to be placed in a class for students with emotional disturbances. They are also more likely to face disciplinary problems, including being two and a half times as likely to be held back or retained in school, almost three times as likely to be suspended from school, and more than four times as likely to be expelled. The Children’s Defense Fund, a leading child advocacy group, finds:

- Black students fall behind early on and do not catch up. Without an education children are dead on arrival in America’s economy.
- Black children arrive in kindergarten with lower levels of school readiness than white children.
- Black children make up 18 percent of preschool enrollment but 48 percent of preschool children receiving more than one out-of-school suspension.
- More than 80 percent of fourth and eighth grade black public school students cannot read or compute at grade level, compared to less than 57 percent of white students.
- Only two-thirds of black public school students graduate from high school, compared to 83 percent of white students and 94 percent of Asian/Pacific Islander students.
- Each school day, 763 black high school students drop out. Black students are more than twice as likely to drop out as white students.¹⁵

Self-Image Problems Adolescents are particularly vulnerable to stress caused by a poor self-image. According to recent surveys by the American Psychological Association, citizens of all ages are likely to live stress-filled lives, but children and adults alike who are obese or overweight are more likely to feel stressed out; overweight children are more likely to report that their parents were often or always stressed. When asked, one-third (31 percent) of American children report being very or slightly overweight. These kids are more likely to report they worry a lot about things in their lives than children who are normal weight (31 percent versus 14 percent).

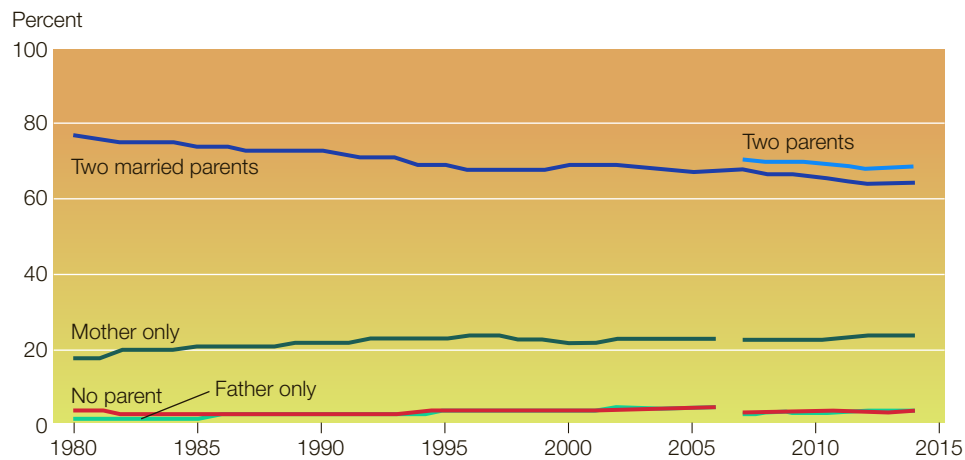


figure 1.4

Percentage of Children Ages 0–17 by Presence of Parents in Household

SOURCE: US Census Bureau, *Current Population Survey, Annual Social and Economic Supplement*.

Overweight children are also significantly more likely than normal-weight children to report they worry about the way they look or about their weight (36 percent versus 11 percent). Children, regardless of weight or age, say they can tell that their parents are stressed when they argue and complain, which many children say makes them feel sad and worried.¹⁶

Family Problems Divorce strikes about half of all new marriages, and many intact families sacrifice time with each other to afford more affluent lifestyles. Today, as Figure 1.4 shows, about 64 percent of children ages 0–17 live with two married parents, down from 77 percent in 1980. Of these, 24 percent live with only their mother, 4 percent live with only their father, and 4 percent live with neither of their parents. The majority of children who live with neither of their parents are living with grandparents or other relatives. Others who live with neither parent live with foster parents or other nonrelatives.

Kids who live with only one parent are much more likely to experience poverty than those living in two-parent families. Because of family problems, children are being polarized into two distinct economic groups: those in affluent, two-earner, married-couple households and those in poor, single-parent households.

Substandard Living Conditions Millions of children live in substandard housing—high-rise, multiple-family dwellings—which can have a negative influence on their long-term psychological health.¹⁷ Adolescents living in deteriorated urban areas are prevented from having productive and happy lives. Many die from random bullets and drive-by shootings. Some are homeless and living on the street, where they are at risk of drug addiction and sexually transmitted diseases (STDs), including AIDS. Today about one-third of US households with children have one or more of the following three housing problems: physically inadequate housing, crowded housing, or housing that costs more than 30 percent of the household income.¹⁸ Despite the fact that the minimum wage has increased, the poor can barely afford to live in even the lowest-cost neighborhoods of metro areas such as Chicago, New York, and Washington, DC.¹⁹

Formed in 1985, the **Children's Rights Council (CRC)** is a national nonprofit organization based in Washington, DC, that works to ensure children have meaningful and continuing contact with both their parents and extended family regardless of the parents' marital status.
<http://www.crckids.org/>



Inadequate Educational Opportunity Education shapes the personal growth and life chances of children. Early educational experiences of young children, such as being read to daily, encourage the development of essential skills and prepare children for success in school. Later aspects of academic performance, such as mastering academic subjects, completing high school, and