11-1-2002

Male and Female Juvenile Delinquency: An Assessment of Contextual Differences in Offending

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MALE AND FEMALE JUVENILE DELINQUENCY: AN ASSESSMENT OF CONTEXTUAL DIFFERENCES IN OFFENDING

A Thesis
Presented to the
Department of Criminal Justice
and the
Faculty of the Graduate College
University of Nebraska

In Partial Fulfillment
of the Requirements for the Degree
Master of Arts
University of Nebraska at Omaha

by
Mark A. Cunningham
November 2002
THESIS ACCEPTANCE

Acceptance for the faculty of the Graduate College, University of Nebraska, in partial fulfillment of the requirements for the degree of Master of Arts
University of Nebraska at Omaha

Committee

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Date 11-11-2002
ABSTRACT

This thesis examines data on gender and the incidence and prevalence of delinquent and criminal offending, as well as gender differences in the context of offending for a sample of high school students in Omaha, Nebraska. Context refers to the specific attributes of a particular offense, whose interrelationship describes both the features and the circumstances of the offense. A focus on gender differences in the context of offending highlights how gender impacts the structural and social conditions that are related to commission of delinquent and criminal acts, and the findings of this study underscore the importance of this research. Results indicate that females offend in fewer settings and in different manners than their male counterparts. For example, females in the study primarily committed theft offenses in department stores at shopping malls, and were much more likely than males to commit such offenses with other individuals rather than alone. Furthermore, the results indicate that for less serious forms of delinquent behavior, such as skipping school and running away from home, the incidence and prevalence of such offenses are very similar for both genders. Such findings impact not only the development of delinquency theory, but also play an important role in the evaluation of gender differences in juvenile justice processing.
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INTRODUCTION

Rarely a day goes by without a media report of a crime being committed by a juvenile. Accounts of drive-by shootings, armed robberies and heinous murders fill the headlines of newspapers across the country. Even though youths between the ages of 15 and 19 make up only 7% of the population in the United States, they account for nearly 22% of all arrests annually. In 2000, juveniles under the age of 18 accounted for 12% of the Violent Crime Index offenses cleared by arrest (i.e., murder/non-negligent manslaughter, forcible rape, robbery and aggravated assault) and 22% of the Property Crime Index offenses cleared through arrest (burglary, larceny/theft, motor vehicle theft and arson; Maguire & Pastore, 2002).

In addition, the involvement of females in the juvenile justice system has been gradually increasing in the last decade. Between 1992 and 1996, the number of girls arrested for Violent Crime Index offenses increased 25%, while arrests of males for these offenses remained stable. During this same time frame, female arrests for Property Crime Index offenses increased by 21%, while male arrests declined 4% (Poe-Yamagata & Butts, 1996). In the ten-year period between 1991 and 2000, female arrests for violent crime increased 32%, while male arrests declined by 17.1% (U.S. Department of Justice, 2002). Increases in juvenile crime and in the severity of offenses being committed, as well as an increase in female participation in delinquent and criminal activities, has raised
the issue of juvenile offending to a new prominence, stimulating widespread interest among academics and criminal justice officials alike.

The resurgence of interest in juvenile delinquency has manifested itself in different ways. One of the most prominent current research focus is that of gender, particularly gender differences in offending. The study of gender as a correlate of crime and delinquency has primarily focused on differences in the prevalence (number of individuals participating) and incidence (number of criminal acts committed) of delinquency and criminality (Ageton, 1983; Ball, Ross & Simpson, 1964; Elliot & Huizinga, 1983; Paetsch & Bertrand, 1999; Paternoster & Triplett, 1988; Sampson, 1985; Steffensmeier & Steffensmeier, 1980; Tracey, 1978). This research is important in developing an understanding of the relationship between gender and crime, but is limited to providing a picture of the distribution of crimes committed. It does not provide valuable information about the context of offenses. As defined by Triplett and Myers (1995), "'Context' refers to the characteristics of a particular offense, whose interrelationship describes both the circumstances and the nature of the act" (p. 59). Examination of contextual characteristics may include the offender's role in initiating and committing the offense, the setting and location of the offense, the type of victim, the victim-offender relationship, as well as a host of other variables.

The study of the "context" of crime and delinquency is integral component of current criminological research. As Miethe and Meier (1994) point out, "It is a truism that crime requires both offenders and victims (or targets) and situations
or social contexts that unite them" (p. 3). Theories of victimization and criminal opportunity pay particular attention to the physical and social dimensions that not only motivate or facilitate the occurrence of crime, but also those contexts that constrain and restrict it (see Miethe & Meier, 1994 and Sacco & Kennedy, 2002). Macro-level theories of crime, such as social disorganization theory, focus on identifying the criminogenic contexts of geographic areas and the interrelationship between these contexts and the occurrence of crime. Micro-level theories, such as routine activities theory, view crime (particularly predatory crimes such as burglary and robbery) as a consequence of the risky behaviors people engage in (knowingly or unknowingly) that expose them to the potential for being victims of crime (Cohen & Felson, 1979).

Examining the context of juvenile delinquency, as well as the prevalence and incidence of it, is important for several reasons. Delinquency research has yielded consistent findings with regard to gender differences in offending. Adolescent males are more likely to be involved in antisocial and delinquent activities and are more likely to commit serious offenses as compared to their female counterparts (Bethel, 2000; Campbell, 1981; Shannon, 1979; Scahill, 2000; Sickmund, Snyder & Poe, 1997). Although females make up a larger percentage of delinquents today than they did a decade ago, they still offend much less than males. For example, in 2000, males under the age of 18 accounted for 77% of total arrests and 82% of arrests for violent crimes (U.S. Department of Justice, 2002). This gender discrepancy raises significant
theoretical questions. First, why do such differences exist? Second, can traditional male-oriented criminological theories adequately explain female delinquency? Third, if traditional theories are found to be inadequate, are gender-specific or modified traditional theories needed to address female delinquency? Studies focusing on the prevalence and incidence of male and female delinquency are useful but do not appropriately address such questions. The identification and examination of contextual variables of delinquent and criminal offenses will address and advance present theoretical understanding of gender differences in offending.

In addition, research on juvenile justice processing (i.e., arrest, detention and sentencing) has revealed significant differences in outcomes for male and female delinquents (Barton, 1976; Bishop & Frazier, 1992; Chesney-Lind, 1973; Chesney-Lind & Sheldon, 1992; DeZolt, 1991; Heimer, 1996; Pope & Feyerherm, 1983; Reese & Curtis, 1991; Rosenbaum & Chesney-Lind, 1994; Rubin, 1977; Snyder, 1988; U.S. General Accounting Office, 1995). This is especially true for juveniles charged with status offenses. Status offenses are non-criminal offenses--running away from home, violating curfew, skipping school or being beyond parental control--for which only youths can be taken into custody.

With respect to female status offenders, research finds girls are more likely than boys to be referred and arrested for status offenses and have a greater likelihood of adjudication and placement within the juvenile justice system (Armstrong, 1977; Bell, 1994; Bethel, 2000; Bishop & Frazier, 1992; Chesney-
Lind, 1973, 1977, 1988, 1997; Chesney-Lind & Sheldon, 1992; Cohen & Kluegel, 1979; Figueira-McDonough, 1987; Johnson & Scheuble, 1991; Pope & Feyerherm, 1983). Such findings have resulted in accusations of a pattern of "official paternalism" that ignores male status offenders, but penalizes females for similar conduct (Chesney-Lind, 1977, 1988). Specifically, there is evidence that suggests parents, police and juvenile justice officials have, and continue, to respond differently to comparable behaviors of boys and girls (Barton, 1976; Chesney-Lind, 1977, 1988; Curran, 1984; Krohn, Curry & Nelson-Kilger, 1983; Farnworth & Teske, 1995; Johnson & Scheuble, 1991; Odem, 1991; Schlossman & Wallach, 1978 and Schwartz, 1989). Parents are more likely to report daughters running away from home, police are more likely to arrest female status offenders and court personnel are more likely to pursue formal intervention in cases involving females (Chesney-Lind & Shelden, 1992; Glick & Goldstein, 1995).

Research has attempted to test this "paternalism hypothesis" by controlling for legal (current offense and prior record) and extra-legal variables (offense type, age, race). However, evidence of gender differences at all stages of case processing remains despite such analysis (Barton, 1976; Chesney-Lind & Sheldon, 1992; Horowitz & Pottieger, 1991; U.S. General Accounting Office, 1995). Further insight into apparent "gendered" processing differences may be gained through examining the context of offending. For example, if female and male status offenders are treated differently despite committing similar offenses
and having similar juvenile court records, are there differences in the context of their offenses that warrant differential treatment? For those adolescents who are before the juvenile court for “ungovernability” (being beyond the control of parents, guardians, or custodians), are girls ignoring parental rules more often, leaving home without permission more often, or not letting their whereabouts be known more often than boys? Without examining the context of offending by gender and answering such questions, delinquency research cannot adequately assess the validity of accusations of gender bias in the juvenile justice system.

Delinquency research focusing on the context of offending has been limited (see Decker, 1993; Loper & Cornell, 1996). The study of “context” has been broadly evaluated in research focusing on situational analysis of predatory crimes (see Lauritsen, 2001 and Lopez & Emmer, 2000), as well as the impact of contextual factors on sentencing outcomes (see Vigorita, 2001 and Britt, 2000). Triplett & Myers (1995) conducted one of the few works that has specifically addressed gender differences in the context of juvenile offending. Analyzing data from the National Youth Survey to examine gender-related differences in offense patterns across specific types of crime, the study found that for more minor offenses (such as status offenses) contextual differences in male and female offending were quite small. Typically, both gender groups committed minor offenses in a similar manner or fashion. In contrast, as the severity of the offense increased (from status offenses such as skipping school to violent crimes such as robbery and assault), so did gender differences in the context of
offending. Females offended in fewer settings and in different manners than males.

Despite limited delinquency research on the context of offending, a plethora of data exists to expand this area of study. Most self-report delinquency surveys contain *follow-up* questions that provide information about the context of delinquent and criminal offenses. Consequently, there is a wealth of data from which the context of offending by males and females can be studied. Although these data have a wide range of applications, their importance in addressing two specific issues cannot be overstated. The first issue addresses delinquency theory. What accounts for male dominance of delinquent and criminal offenses? Also, can traditional male-oriented theories of criminality be used to explain female juvenile delinquency? If not, should gender-specific or modified traditional theories should be advanced? Examining the contextual differences in offending for males and females will contribute to a greater understanding of both delinquent and criminal behavior, as well as gender differences.

The second issue inherent in the data concerns juvenile justice processing. Can the study of the context of offending in delinquency cases shed light on the differential treatment of female status offenders and evidence of gender bias at other processing points in the juvenile justice system? These two issues cannot be adequately addressed without examining the context of offending by male and female delinquents. As Triplett & Myers (1995) stress, "Greater knowledge about how gender shapes offending will help us learn
whether theories developed to explain male delinquency can be used to explain criminality in general" (p. 62).

This research contributes to the literature in the following ways. First, it goes beyond previous work by assessing numerous crimes within four major offense categories: status offenses, vandalism, property and theft offenses and violent offenses. As such, this study pushes forward knowledge of juvenile offending more generally. Furthermore, it advances the examination of gender differences in violent offending which stands of the forefront of theoretical inquiry. Second, this study expands the study of context of offending by exploring measures outside the immediate context of offenses (setting, victim type and seriousness of offense). It includes measures of whether the offense was committed alone or with others, the victim offender relationship, the age of the offender in the first commission of the offense and police discovery or knowledge of the offense.

This thesis will first examine data on the incidence and prevalence of juvenile offending, focusing on gender differences; a review of theoretical and juvenile justice processing research relevant to the study of gender and contextual differences in delinquency will follow. The thesis will then review the Triplett and Myers study and proceed to develop the present study, its analysis and findings, discussion, and conclusion and recommendations.
INCIDENCE AND PREVALENCE OF JUVENILE DELINQUENCY

Research on the prevalence and incidence of delinquency is based on two primary sources of information. The first source is official crime statistics such as the Uniform Crime Reports and Juvenile Court Statistics. The second source is derived from self-report studies that measure delinquent and criminal behavior, as well as criminal victimization surveys that measure whether an individual has been a victim of crime (Loeber, Kalb & Huizinga, 2001). While both of these sources provide important information such as offense trends across jurisdictions and broad measures of juvenile offending, their reliability and validity have been vigorously debated. The strengths, weaknesses and criticisms of official and self-report data will be reviewed, in turn, in the discussion of each source as a measure of juvenile delinquency. The examination of measures of juvenile delinquency is an important element, for as Hardt & Peterson-Hardt (1977) reflect, "Measurement techniques inextricably shape as well as reflect the conceptualization of the phenomena under study, and thus impact on the theoretical formulations which appear viable" (p. 256).

A review of official data from the last few decades has consistently shown that males committed the majority of delinquent acts. In addition, official data has historically shown large sex differences that are both qualitative and quantitative (Elliot, 1988; Cernkovich & Giordano, 1979; Paetsch & Bertrand, 1999; Poe-Yamagata & Butts, 1996; Veddcr & Sommerville, 1970 and Wattenberg & Saunders, 1954). For example, research has found that females
are typically involved in status and minor offenses (e.g., running away from home, incorrigibility, sexual misconduct and petty theft), while males are involved primarily in property offenses and acts of aggression. Furthermore, research has revealed significant differences in the incidence and prevalence of delinquent behavior. Rates of offending among males, for example, are often several times higher than female rates.

There exists a clear discrepancy between official and self-report data on male and female delinquency. Studies based on self-report measures of delinquent behavior reveal that sex differences in offending are not as large as those depicted in official data. While official data have shown the ratio of male to female delinquent acts to range from a 3:1 to 6:1, self-report data reveal that these ratios are often much smaller and that gender patterns of delinquent behavior are quite similar (Bainbridge & Crutchfield, 1983; Hindelang, Hirschi, & Weis, 1979; Kratcoski & Kratcoski, 1975; Loeber, Kalb & Huizinga, 2001; Richards, 1981; Weis, 1976; White & LaGrange, 1987). To address this issue in greater detail, these two primary measures of delinquent behavior will be examined in the following section.

**Official data**

Information on the delinquent and criminal behavior of youth is captured in the official records of law enforcement agencies and juvenile courts across the country. The most widely publicized and used criminal statistics are those based on the Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) Program. Each year the Federal Bureau
of Investigation (FBI) compiles the UCR from crime data from over seventeen thousand rural and urban law enforcement agencies across the country. These agencies voluntarily translate their crime data into the standardized UCR format and submit it to the FBI. The purpose of the UCR is to generate a dependable set of criminal statistics for use by criminal justice officials, academics, and anyone interested in crime as a social indicator in the United States.

Crime in UCR is classified into two major categories, Part I and Part II offenses. Part I offenses are made up of eight serious offenses: murder and non-negligent manslaughter, rape, robbery, aggravated assault, burglary, larceny-theft, motor vehicle theft and arson. Twenty-one lesser felonies and misdemeanors, including simple assault, fraud and liquor law violations compromise Part II offenses. The UCR presents information on crimes known to the police, crimes cleared by arrest (crimes in which an arrest is made) and people arrested (adults and juveniles). It presents material on juvenile offenders under the age of eighteen arrested for a variety of offenses (such as status, property and violent crimes). Finally, it provides details on juvenile arrests by gender, race and location (urban, suburban or rural).

One of the strengths of the UCR is that it is one of the few indicators of crime in the United States that can present such an enormous volume of criminal statistics. As such, it is generally regarded as a good source of national crime trends, a source of evaluating decreases and increases in various types of
crimes and a valuable source of information of crime within different jurisdictions over a wide range of time periods.

With respect to gender, the 2000 arrest data show there are considerable differences in offending between adolescent males and females. The most striking indication is that far fewer females than males are arrested for delinquent and criminal behavior. Of the 2,838,300 juvenile arrests in 2000, females accounted for 26% of the total. This indicates that total arrests of males outnumber total female arrests by a 4:1 ratio (Maguire & Pastore, 2002). Males are also far more likely to be arrested for violent index crimes (84%) and property index crimes (72%). The male to female ratio for violent index crimes (homicide, forcible rape, robbery, aggravated assault) is 6:1, and the ratio for the most serious index property crimes (burglary, larceny-theft, motor vehicle theft, and arson) is nearly 3:1. Males are also much more likely to be arrested for such offenses as vandalism, possession of stolen property, weapons offenses, and "other assaults." Of the remaining non-index crimes, males account for 71% of all arrests. As a result of these arrest patterns, property and violent crimes have typically been regarded as "masculine" offenses.

Females, in contrast, have a dissimilar pattern of offending. According to official statistics, they are more likely to be arrested for prostitution and running away from home. In 2000, over half (58%) of those arrested for running away were female. As for prostitution, females account for 56% of all arrests for this offense. In addition, status offenses play a more significant role in female arrests
than male arrests. Arrests of females for one particular status offense, running
away, accounted for 18.1% of all female arrests, compared to 4.2% for males
(Maguire & Pastore, 2002). In addition, arrests for two status offenses recorded
in the UCR (running away and curfew violation) account for 23.1% of all female
arrests, compared to 8.2% of all male arrests (Maguire & Pastore, 2002).

While males dominate most official criminal statistics, there has been an
increase in the participation of females in delinquent and criminal behavior over
the last decade. Official statistics demonstrate increases of 20% and greater in
arrests of females for property and violent crimes, with noticeable declines for
males in some of these offense categories (Poe-Yamagata & Butts, 1996). In
addition, the number of female delinquency cases coming into the juvenile justice
system rose by 76% between 1987 and 1996, as compared to a 42% increase
for males (Snyder & Sickmund, 1999). Overall, female involvement in the
juvenile justice system, once viewed as an anomaly, has shown significant
increases and the trend does not appear to be slowing.

Official crime statistics from the UCR are important indicators of juvenile
delinquency. However, UCR data is not without its limitations and methodological
problems. One significant problem with statistics published by the FBI is that
they are based upon crimes known to the police through police contact and
arrest. Research has established that not all crimes are reported to the police
(Bureau of Justice Statistics, 1985; Conaway & Lohr, 1994; Singer, 1988; Myers,
1980; Greenberg, Wilson, Ruback & Mills, 1979). Several factors affect the
likelihood of whether a crime is reported to police: the seriousness of the offense; the type of crime committed; an individual's perception of whether anything can be done about the crime; the relationship between the victim and the offender; and other factors such as whether or not victims realize a crime has been committed. Furthermore, there are several influential factors that affect whether a known crime is recorded by the police (Black, 1980; O'Brien, 1985). O'Brien (1985) notes,

The recording of an act in police records as a 'crime known to the police' and the follow-up of arrest are dependent on a number of factors: for example, organizational pressures to get the crime rate up or down, police officer and offender interactions, and the professionalism of particular police departments (p.27).

In addition, not all law enforcement agencies report crime to the UCR Program and those that do have demonstrated problems reporting crimes uniformly and in a manner consistent with the procedures, definitions and guidelines of the reporting program. Finally, only the most serious offenses are often reported to the FBI. For instance, if an individual is arrested for armed robbery but is also found to possess other instruments of crimes or possess illegal drugs, only the armed robbery will be reported by the arresting law enforcement agency to the FBI.

As a result of these inherent problems, arrest statistics could be viewed more as a depiction of "police conduct," rather than a "true measure" of crime
and delinquency. However, the ability of official records to depict system activity has its merits. As Snyder & Sickmund (1999) note, "Analysis of variations in official statistics across time and jurisdictions provides an understanding of justice system caseloads" (p. 52). While official data has its limitations and inherent biases, it remains a consistent and important measure of juvenile delinquency and a valuable resource for research.

Juvenile court statistics, in addition to official data depicted in the UCR, provide another valuable official measure of juvenile delinquency. The *Juvenile Court Statistics* series, compiled by the National Center for Juvenile Justice (NCJJ), provides "annual estimates of the number of delinquency and formally processed status offense cases handled by juvenile courts, ...demographic profiles of youth referred and reasons for referral (offenses), ...and trends in the volume and characteristics of court activity" (Snyder & Sickmund, 1999, p. 142). Findings from NCCJ on juvenile delinquency cases reveal males make up a disproportionate percentage of all delinquency cases. "...Males were involved in about three quarters of person, property and public disorder cases handled by the courts in 1996 and in 86% of the drug law violation cases" (p. 148).

However, while female delinquency cases lag behind in comparison to males, the number of cases "involving females rose 76% between 1987 and 1996, compared to 42% for males" (p. 148). With respect to status offenses, while females only account for 23% of the delinquency cases within the juvenile justice
system, they account for 41% of the status offense cases (Sickmund and Snyder, 1999).

In summary, official statistics demonstrate significant differences in the prevalence and incidence of male and female delinquency. While there have been general increases in arrests of juveniles over the last few decades, official statistics depict that the gender gap in offending is narrowing for many offenses. As Poe-Yamagata & Butts (1996) note,

The findings of this study support the popular contention that female delinquency has increased relatively more than male delinquency in recent years. Of course, juvenile crime is still predominantly a male problem. More than three-quarters of juvenile arrests and juvenile court delinquency cases involve males. If recent trends continue, however, female delinquents will occupy even more of the time and attention of policymakers, service providers, court officials, law enforcement agencies, and communities (p. 18).

**Self-report data**

"Self-reports are surveys of youths (or adults) based on disclosures they might make about the types of offenses they have committed and how frequently they have committed them" (Champion, 1998, p. 58). The development of the self-report measures emerged from a growing need to address the shortcomings of official measures of crime and delinquency. Self-report methods tap information from individuals and groups involved in crime that official records
cannot not and have not included. Based on research findings that reveal that many crimes go unreported to the police, self-report surveys attempt to tap this hidden source of information by asking individuals about their delinquent and criminal behavior (Thornberry & Krohn, 2000). Consequently, self-report data provides a supplemental measure of crime and delinquency and also overcomes one of the significant limitations of official data—crimes not known to the police (Thornberry & Krohn, 2000).

The self-report method has become a very important and well-established measure of juvenile delinquency. Since its use in Short and Nye's delinquency studies in the early 1950's, extensive use of self-report surveys has significantly expanded the volume of information on juvenile delinquency. O'Brien (1985) asserts, "They [Short and Nye] showed conclusively that people would admit to delinquent behavior on a questionnaire and, indeed, admit to much more delinquency than was evident from official records" (p.63). Thus, self-report studies capture delinquent behavior that does not come to the attention of juvenile justice officials, and taps the "dark figure of crime" (Gibbons, 1979). Furthermore, as compared to official criminal statistics, "...self-report studies find a much higher proportion of the juvenile population involved in delinquent behavior" (Sickmund & Snyder, 1999, p. 52).

While the use of self-report studies has greatly increased the amount of data on juvenile delinquency, its value as a measure in research has been
questioned. The paramount concern for any measure to be scientifically worthwhile is that it must be reliable and valid (Thornberry & Krohn, 2000).

...A measure is valid to the extent to which it measures the concept you set out to measure, and nothing else. Whereas reliability focuses on a particular property of the measure—namely, its stability over repeated uses—validity concerns the crucial relationship between the theoretical concept you are attempting to measure and what you actually measure (Thornberry & Krohn, 2000, p. 45).

The examination of the validity and reliability of self-report measures has resulted in its acceptance as a worthwhile measure of delinquency and criminality (Champion, 1998; Hardt & Peterson-Hardt, 1977; Hindelang, Hirschi & Weis, 1979; Sickmund & Snyder, 1999; Thornberry & Krohn, 2000) “With respect to reliability, this approach...appears to be acceptable. With respect to validity, the conclusion is a little murkier...nonetheless, content and construct validity appear to be quite high, and criterion validity would be in the moderate to strong range overall” (Thornberry & Krohn, 2000, pp. 58-59).

Critics also argue that it is difficult to compare the findings of self-report studies because of differences in the types of deviant behavior being measured, sample size, discrepancies in the definitions and wording of questionnaires and differences in the samples populations being studied (Sheley, 1991; O'Brien, 1985; Thornberry & Krohn, 2000). In addition, it is argued that using self-report methods with juveniles is complicated by the limitations of a juvenile’s memory,
as well as juveniles’ greater unwillingness to disclose information concerning deviant and law violating acts (Snyder & Sickmund, 1999; Thornberry & Krohn, 2000). Furthermore, many self-reports surveys lack the inclusion of more serious forms of crime and fail to include enough high rate offenders to distinguish them from other delinquents (Elliot & Ageton, 1980; Hindelang, Hirschi & Weis, 1979). While these criticisms all have merit, the self-report method had been reasonably judged and accepted by social scientists. As Champion (1998) notes, "The credibility of such information [self-report] is highly regarded among juvenile justice professionals, and this is indicated, in part, by the frequency with which such data are cited in the literature by others" (p. 59).

What has self-report data provided to the field of delinquency research? Historically, results most often reveal findings that contradict official data. "Self-reported data about juvenile offenses suggests that a sizeable gap exists between official reports of delinquent conduct and information disclosed through self-reports" (Champion, 1998. p. 59). For example, in a study conducted by Kratcoski & Kratcoski (1975), a sample of high school students from the eleventh and twelfth grades were interviewed about their social backgrounds, acceptance of values, and delinquent behavior. The authors found that males were significantly more involved in aggressive offenses, such as fighting and destroying property, and in property offenses, including all forms of theft. However, for less serious forms of delinquent behavior, there were few gender differences. As the authors note, "There was only a six percent difference in the
proportion of boys and girls who had run away from home, and a three percent
difference in sex distributions on defying parental authority” (p. 87). In addition,
when the authors analyzed status offenses, they discovered a very small
difference (.3) in the mean number of types committed by each gender group.

In Canter's (1982) study of sex differences in self-reported delinquent
behavior among a national sample of 1725 youth, males reported, "significantly
greater total involvement in delinquency than females" (p.154). However, Canter
notes that the significant differences between the gender groups were small.
"The mean magnitude of the sex differences does not exceed one standard
deviation in any instance, and the statistical significance is at least partly a
function of the large sample size" (p. 154). In addition, she found no indication of
the overrepresentation of females in categories of delinquent behavior in which
official data had demonstrated them to be dominant in (such as status and
"decorum" offenses).

The examination of the primary measures of juvenile delinquency—official
and self-report data--clearly demonstrates that they portray divergent pictures of
offending by males and females. As Chesney-Lind & Sheldon (1992) note,

Typically, the surveys reveal that female delinquency is more common
than arrest statistics indicate and that there are more similarities than
official statistics suggest between male and female juvenile delinquency.
They also show males are more involved in delinquency, especially the
most serious types of offenses (p.14).
With exploration into the strengths and limitations of each source of data, reliance on both measures of juvenile delinquency provides a solid foundation for the study of juvenile delinquency. Relying on only one measure for examining juvenile offending can thus be very misleading. As Elliot (1994) notes, to discard official records for self-report data, or vice versa is, “…rather shortsighted; to systematically ignore the findings of either is dangerous, particularly when the two measures provide apparently contradictory findings” (p. 12).

At this point, some general conclusions about male and female delinquency can be drawn. First, males commit more serious offenses than females (seriousness as measured by level of physical or property damaged, the extent of weapons used, and the amount or value of property damage and stolen property). Second, gender differences in the rate of offending for trivial or minor offenses are less disparate. Third, there has been a divergence among males and females in the overall rates of delinquency over the last decade.

While the study of the incidence and prevalence of male and female delinquency is important, it is limited to illustrating the distribution of juvenile crime and delinquency in this country. This data cannot explain why differences exist between male and female delinquents, nor can it explain the changes over time of such differences. In order to advance delinquency research, an examination of how gender shapes offending is needed. This can be accomplished by studying the context of offending. Examining important contextual characteristics of offending, such as the victim-offender relationship,
the setting of the offense and victim characteristics, will demonstrate whether males and females commit offenses in similar or different manners (Triplett & Myers, 1995). Having knowledge about the context of male and female offending will allow for a more complete analysis of sex differences in juvenile delinquency.

THEORY AND THE CONTEXT OF OFFENDING

Gender differences in the commission of delinquent and criminal offenses are widely acknowledged; however, the reasons for these persistent differences are the subject of considerable theoretical debate. Since the recognition of gender as an important correlate of crime and delinquency, two critical questions are at the center of most research. First, why do females commit substantially fewer delinquent and criminal offenses than their male counterparts (or conversely, why do males commit a disproportionate amount of delinquent and criminal offenses)? Second, when females do commit delinquent and criminal offenses, do they do so as a result of the same motivations or causal mechanisms as males (Triplett & Myers, 1995)?

Theoretical research over the last few decades reflects three general trends in addressing these questions. One trend advances the application of traditional male-oriented theories of crime and delinquency to female offenders. (Datesman, Scarpitti & Stephenson, 1975; Deschenes & Esbensen, 1999; Esbensen & Deschenes, 1998; Giordano & Rockwell, 2000; Gottfredson, McNeile & Gottfredson, 1991; Gottfredson & Hirschi, 1990; Hagan, 1991; Hagan, Gillis & Simpson, 1998; McCarthy, Hagan & Woodward, 1999; Menard & Elliot,
1994; Rowe, Vassonyi & Flannery, 1995; Thornberry, Lizotte, Krohn, Farnworth & Jang, 1991; Wade, & Brannigan, 1998). While these scholars do not refute that traditional theories have been developed primarily for the study of male crime and delinquency, they contend that these theories are “universal” in nature and are well suited for the analyses of male and female behavior since the same etiological factors underlie both.

The second trend refutes the application of traditional theories, calling for gender-specific theories that address those factors directly related the delinquency and criminality of females (Adler, 1975; Balkan & Berger, 1979; Bowers & Min, 1990; Caspi, Lynam & Moffitt, 1993; Chesney-Lind, 1989; Chesney-Lind & Hagedorn, 1999; Duke & Duke, 1978; Messerschmidt, 1986). These scholars contend that traditional male oriented theories are inadequate, as they do not include the specific structural and contextual factors that are unique to females and the world they live in. The third trend draws from the previous two and advances the potential utility of traditional theories that incorporate the special contexts and structures that lend themselves to female delinquency and criminality (Agnew, 1992; Agnew & Brezina, 1997; Broidy & Agnew, 1997; Hoyt & Scherer, 1998; Robbers, 2000; Steffensmeier & Allan, 1996).

These important theoretical questions cannot be thoroughly addressed without knowledge of the gender differences in the context of offending. The examination of how gender shapes offending will allow for a more complete analysis of sex differences in juvenile delinquency and will advance present
theoretical understanding of gender and delinquency. In order to understand why an examination of gender differences in the context of offending is of such importance, an examination of gender's role in the development of delinquency theory is needed.

**Females and Delinquency Theory**

A review of delinquency theory over the last fifty years reveals that the criminality of females had been vastly ignored until the 1970's (Leonard, 1982; Naffine, 1987; Wright, 1992). The absence of research on female delinquency can be attributed to results from official data before 1970 that indicated that delinquency was typically a male phenomenon, and the extent of female offending was relatively minor in quantity and quality. As most early researchers concluded, females committed few delinquent acts, and when they did, those acts were a result of biological differences and were sexual in nature (Chesney-Lind, 1973; Chesney-Lind and Shelden, 1992; Shoemaker, 1990; Smart, 1979). Thus, from an empirical point of view, official records that indicated females committed few delinquent acts effectively prohibited an adequate sample size and any meaningful statistical analysis (Chesney-Lind & Shelden, 1992; Heidensohn, 1968; Smith, 1979). In addition, the relatively minor offenses committed by females—typically sexual in nature—were of little social consequence as compared to the serious behavior of males that required in-depth inquiry by researchers and officials of the criminal justice system (Chesney-Lind & Shelden, 1992). For example, in *Delinquent Boys* (1955),


Albert Cohen defended his study of delinquent male gangs on the grounds that most delinquency was *male* delinquency. He asserted, "The delinquent is a rogue male" (p.140). In addition, in *Causes of Delinquency* (1969), Travis Hirschi peripherally supported his focus on males by explaining in a footnote, "...in the analysis that follows the 'non-Negro' becomes 'white,' and the girls disappear" (p. 35-36).

In the few early works focusing on female offenders, researchers often limited the scope of their analysis to the individual physiological and psychological characteristics of females and the sexual nature of female crime and delinquency (Barnhorst, 1978; Lilly, Cullen & Ball, 1995). In *Delinquency in Girls* (1968), Cowie, Cowie, & Slater explored environmental factors and female delinquency, but determined that most girls were brought before the court as a result of sexual misconduct. "The girls' delinquency is predominantly in the form of sexual behavior (e.g., promiscuity) requiring a more advanced degree of maturation than the (mainly non-sexual) delinquencies of the boys " (p.169). In addition, in Konopka's (1966) study of adjudicated female delinquents, she concluded most of the offenses bringing females into the system were "...accompanied by some disturbance or unfavorable behavior in the sexual area" (p. 4).

The virtual omission of females in the theoretical exploration of juvenile delinquency slowly dissipated as official data demonstrated female offending was increasing; and, more importantly, as self-report research revealed female
delinquency was not as uncommon, nor as minor as official statistics depicted. Two early works by Bernard (1969) and Heidenshohn (1968) are noted for drawing attention to the deficiency of female research in criminological study. As Daly and Chesney-Lind (1988) note, these early authors highlighted the “omission of women from general theories of crime” and “signaled an awakening of criminology from its andocentric slumber” (p. 507).

The “emergence” of female delinquency and subsequent shift in the academic response to it has resulted in three general theoretical trends. The first trend includes those theorists who posit that traditional male oriented delinquency theories can be applied or generalized to female offending (Datesman, Scarpitti, & Stephenson, 1975; Deschenes & Esbensen, 1999; Esbensen & Deschenes, 1998; Giordano & Rockwell, 2000; Rosenbaum, 1987; Segrave & Hastad, 1985; Simons, Miller, & Aigner, 1980; Smith, 1979; Smith & Paternoster, 1987). The second trend argues the position that traditional male oriented theories are inadequate and inappropriate for the exploration of female delinquency (Adler, 1975; Balkan & Berger, 1979; Bowers & Min, 1990; Chesney-Lind, 1989; Chesney-Lind & Hagedorn, 1999; Duke & Duke, 1978; Messerschimdt, 1986). This trend has been critical of mainstream criminology that has too often ignored females and has blindly applied unmodified theories of male deviancy to their female counterparts (Smart, 1979). These theorists call for the development of gender specific theories focusing on factors only pertaining to female delinquency. The last trend can be viewed as taking a
“middle-ground” or “modified” approach and advances the use of traditional theories, while taking into consideration those structural and contextual elements that are unique to female offending (Agnew, 1992; Agnew & Brezina, 1997; Heimer & De Coster, 1999; Hoyt & Scherer, 1998; Robbers, 2000; Steffensmeier & Allan, 1996). In order to address the merits of these theoretical positions, a review of these three trends in research will follow.

**Traditional Male Oriented Theories Applied to Females**

Although female delinquency was virtually ignored by social scientists until the 1970's, increases in the prevalence, incidence, and seriousness of female offending, as depicted in both official and self-report data, stimulated the study of female offending. From this new pursuit, one research trend included those scholars who posited traditional male oriented theories could serve as comprehensive theories for female offending. These theorists tested significant independent variables from well-established theories such as differential association (Simons, Miller & Aigner, 1980), strain/anomie (Hoffman & Su, 1997; Segrave & Hastad, 1985; Simons, Miller & Aigner, 1980), control (Canter, 1982a; Gottfredson & Hirschi, 1990; Jensen & Eve, 1976; LaGrange & Silverman, 1999; Segrave & Hastad, 1985; Simons, Miller & Aigner, 1980; Smith & Paternoster, 1987), opportunity (Datesman, Scarpitti & Stephenson, 1975) and deterrence theory (Smith, 1979).

Jensen and Eve (1976) examined the relationship between gender and self-reported delinquent behavior and tested the gender-mediating effects of
several variables measuring Hirschi’s (1969) control theory on reported
delinquent behavior. Measures tested included relationship with parents,
attachment to law, academic performance, and participation in youth culture.
The authors concluded, "...while no one variable could totally account for the sex-
delinquency relationship several did reduce the association and when
simultaneously introduced in a multiple regression analysis the relationship was
reduced even further" (p. 444). In 1980, Simons, Miller, and Aigner,
hypothized traditional male oriented theories of delinquent behavior were
applicable to females, as well as to males. Using self-report data from a large
sample (N=3925) of male and female youths from Iowa, the researchers
analyzed independent variables from anomie, labeling, control, and differential
association theories. Analysis of the data revealed, "...that perceived lack of
educational or occupational opportunity is not a strong predictor of delinquency
for either sex, but this is especially true for females" (p.49). Furthermore, "...sex-
related differences in rates of delinquency appear to be a function of the fact that
females are less exposed to the factors associated with deviance than males are.
When one controls for these dissimilarities, the relationship between the sex and
delinquency is largely eliminated" (p.51).

Canter (1982) examined gender differences in self-report data from the
National Youth Survey testing the differential impact of a single social bond
variable - family bond. Canter hypothesized females would report significantly
stronger family bonds and significantly lower delinquency rates than males.
However, she discovered limited support for the hypotheses. The results indicated that while family bonds were controls against delinquent behavior, "...the nature and degree of family bonding is similar for males and females (p.163). Contrary to prior research, Canter discovered, "...the association between family bonds and delinquent behavior was significantly greater for males than females in over 30% of the correlation comparisons." This discovery was quite significant, for "...they challenge the assumption that the family context is significant mainly for females. They also suggest that the effects of family bonds are not uniform but may be more pronounced for serious crimes among males" (p.163). Segrave & Hastad (1985) formulated an integrated model of independent variables from strain, control, and subculture theories to develop a more comprehensive understanding of male and female delinquency. "Separate regression analyses showed that all three models were significantly predictive of delinquency, although the subculture model variables explained the greatest amount of variance in delinquency" (p. 14). Furthermore, the variables of perception of limited opportunities and value orientations demonstrated greater relevance to females. Segrave & Hastad concluded their integrated model of strain, control, and subculture theories was equally applicable to males and females.

Using a combined theoretical framework of control and differential association theory, Raskin-White and LaGrange (1987) examined self-report data from a random household survey of 304 adolescents. The researchers
incorporated one of the main tenets of differential association theory to avoid the
"...conceptual and empirical inadequacy of a pure control theory" (p. 199). The
researchers discovered that, "Delinquent associates is the only variable tested in
this paper that substantially mediates the relationship between gender and
delinquency" (p. 208). The study also demonstrated that females had
significantly stronger bonds to society than males (based upon parent, school,
and peer measures).

In a more recent test of traditional theories, Deschenes and Esbensen
(1998) examined independent variables from social control and social learning
theory as predictors of gang membership for males and females. The
researchers hypothesized that elements of social bonding theory varied by
gender; thus girls and boy might join gangs for dissimilar reasons. Findings
revealed little support for the predictive ability of the social control variables, and
only moderate support for the social learning variables. In two studies testing
Gottfredson and Hirschi's general theory of crime (LaGrange & Silverman, 1999;
Nakhaie, Silverman & LaGrange, 2000), research findings indicated strong
support for low self-control as a predictor of various types of delinquency
committed by males and females. Furthermore, findings indicated that females
typically have less opportunity to be delinquent and exhibited more self-control
and less risk taking.

In summary, the application of traditional male oriented theories to female
offending has proven to be a worthwhile avenue of research. Studies testing
independent variables from established theoretical traditions such as control, strain/anomie, differential association, social learning and subcultural theory have demonstrated explanatory power for both male and female delinquency. As Alarid, Burton, & Cullen (2000) note, "Results indicate that future studies of criminal behavior risk being misspecified if they do not include measures of these 'traditional' theories of crime" (p. 191).

**Gender-Specific Theories of Female Delinquency**

In a response to the exclusion of females from criminological research, scholars since the 1950's have formulated female-oriented (gender-specific) theories of crime and delinquency. Refuting the application of traditional male-oriented theories to the study of female offending, gender-specific theories were a significant departure from traditional criminology because of their focus on issues and factors pertaining directly to the behavior of females. "The assumption reflected by a belief that major sociological theories are sex specific [specific to males] or that unique theories are required to account for female deviance is that male and female deviance are different in origin" (Smith, 1979, p. 183).

Gender specific research has touched upon such diverse areas as gender discrimination and inequality (Chesney- Lind & Shelden, 1992), the impact of the women’s movement and feminism (Adler, 1975; Balken & Berger, 1979; Chesney-Lind, 1989; Figueiara-McDonough, 1984, Leiber, Farnworth, Jamieson & Nalla, 1994) the relationship between masculine characteristics and delinquency (Thornton, 1982; Thornton & James, 1979), psychological, biological

An initial focus on increasing female delinquency and criminality in the 1970’s related such changes to the emancipation of women and increased female participation in the labor force. Two books, Adler’s *Sisters in Crime* (1975) and Simon’s *Women and Crime* (1975), were instrumental in advancing opportunity theory. These authors argued that the changing role of women and the impact the women’s movement had on opening educational and occupational doors resulted in increased female participation in criminal activities. Adler (1975) concluded that increasing female crime rates were a result of a lifting of social restrictions on women, and subsequent increased opportunities in the market place to commit criminal behavior as men have done for years. Simon (1975) had a similar argument; increased property crimes by women resulted from greater opportunities to commit such crimes since more women were in the labor force. Simon also suggested possible changes in the criminal justice system’s response to treat women more like men resulted in higher crime figures. While the writings of Adler and Simon attracted much attention, many were skeptical of their findings and refuted their analysis as being faulty and misplaced (Curran, 1984; Smart, 1979; Steffensmeier, 1978, 1980).
Changes in female delinquency have also been linked to the advancement of the women's movement. Some have asserted that as a result of this movement, significant changes in traditional attitudes toward acceptable behavior for women have taken place. Furthermore, the liberalizing affects of the movement resulted in increased female participation in the labor force and increased the overall opportunity for females to become involved in delinquent and criminal behavior. In 1980, James and Thornton conducted a study of female adolescents that addressed their attitudes toward feminism and the extent of their delinquent behavior. In addition, the study examined, "...the influence of delinquency opportunities, the availability of social support for delinquent activities, and parental social control on both delinquency involvement and the relationship to delinquency of attitudes toward feminism" (p. 233). Findings indicated that feminism had little direct effect on social delinquency (i.e., status offenses). Furthermore, a negative relationship was discovered between feminism and the commission of property and aggressive offenses. Such results indicated little support for the assumption that the women's movement was an influential factor in the commission of deviant and criminal acts by females. In 1984, Figueira-McDonough analyzed the impact of feminist orientations on delinquency. The study found that in measuring girls' support for public, private, and personal feminist principles, feminist orientations were not significant predictors of delinquent offending. "...All the three hypotheses predicting behavior, legitimate and illegitimate, from feminist orientation received limited
confirmation" (p. 339). Rather, stronger feminist orientations were significantly related to higher career aspirations, better grades, and less involvement in sex.

In an early examination of masculinity and delinquency, Thornton & James (1979), "...sought to confirm or dispute the notion that masculine gender-related expectations held by adolescents for their own behavior and held for the behavior of adolescents by parents and friends would positively vary with delinquency" (p. 236). It was theorized that if delinquency was typically a 'masculine act', "...it follows that perceptions of masculine as opposed to non-masculine gender expectations would be followed by increases in delinquency" (p. 236). When the authors controlled for sex, they found the fourteen delinquent acts examined were not related to masculine identification for either gender group. Thornton and James concluded, "...low masculinity might well be bolstered by delinquent activities" (p. 236). Consequently, delinquency may not be a result of strong masculinity, but rather, delinquency may serve as a method to achieve or verify masculinity.

Some theorists have argued that female delinquents are more sensitive to family conflict or dysfunction than male delinquents. Norland, Shover, Thornton, and James (1979) sought to answer the following research questions,

First, is the relationship between family conflict and delinquency stronger for girls than for boys? And second, is conflict in the home directly related to delinquency, or is the relationship mediated by one or more of the following variables: (1) parental supervision, (2) identification with parents,
(3) beliefs about rules and law, and (4) social support for delinquent activity (p.227)?

Results indicated family conflict was an important predictor of delinquent behavior. While the relationship between family conflict and delinquency was stronger for females, this was primarily an indirect result through reduced identification with parents, adoption of more relativistic beliefs about law, reduced parental supervision, and increased exposure to social support for delinquency. The analysis of the direct effects of family conflict on property and aggressive offenses, “…found them to be greater for males than females. The direct effects of family conflict were only slightly greater for females in the category of status offenses (p. 235).

Gender-Modified Traditional Theories.

The final theoretical approach to the study of gender and delinquency draws upon both of the previous two trends. It has taken a “middle-ground” or “modified” approach and pursues the advancement of traditional theories that incorporate those contexts and structures that are unique to female delinquency and criminality (Agnew, 1992; Agnew & Brezina, 1997; Broidy & Agnew, 1997; Hoyt & Scherer, 1998; Robbers, 2000; Steffensmeier & Allan, 1996 Strugatz, 2001). Inclusion of these contextual and structural factors within traditional theoretical approaches will provide evidence as to whether the etiology of female delinquency may differ from that of male delinquency.
Robbers (2000) tested an interdisciplinary model of juvenile delinquency that addressed the unique motivations that may propel girls to commit delinquent acts. The interdisciplinary model drew upon stress research from psychology and social support theory from medical sociology, and was based on Agnew’s (1992) general strain theory. Robbers specifically tested whether there was support for general strain theory. In addition, models were tested to determine whether the interdisciplinary model was a better predictor of delinquency than general strain theory alone. The final component of the analysis examined whether social support theory mediated the predictive effects of sources of strain in the model. Findings were mixed, with partial support for Agnew’s general strain theory, and moderate support for the predictive ability of the interdisciplinary model. As for the mediating effects of social support theory, “...findings suggest that this variable may explain the variability in crime rates by gender (p. 116). In a similar study, Strugatz (2001) assessed Broidy and Agnew’s (1997) gendered reformulation of general strain theory to further the understanding of the relationship between gender and delinquency. Specifically, self-esteem factors were analyzed to determine their effects on strain and the deviant adaptations of violent crime and drug and alcohol use. Findings indicated that for females the effects of interpersonal strain and self-esteem were the only significant predictors of drug and alcohol use. None of the models tested had any predictive power for violent behavior of females within the study.
Research within this trend has also acknowledged the complexity between
gender and delinquency, and has focused on the need to address the
differentiated experiences of both genders. Heimer and De Coster (1999)
reformulated differential association theory "to specify how the differentiated
experiences of boys and girls led to violent offending" (p. 278). Specifically, the
researchers formulated differential association within a framework that drew
insights from feminist theories and gender studies, while focusing on the cultural
and structural factors that would affect variables such as direct parental controls,
aggressive peers and emotional bonds to families. Heimer and De Coster
concluded results supported their theoretical arguments. "In sum, girls are less
violent than boys because they are influenced more strongly by bonds to family,
learn fewer violent definitions, and are taught that violence is inconsistent with
the meaning of being female" (p. 303). Furthermore, the study advanced
differential association theory while taking into consideration the important
differentiated experiences of both genders. "...We draw on feminist and gender
studies to specify the role of gender differences in the influence of parenting
processes and peer influence" (p. 305)

The current theoretical foundation of juvenile delinquency and gender is
divided among three general trends of research. Some scholars argue that
traditional theories of juvenile delinquency are quite applicable to female
offending. On the other hand, there are researchers who've purported traditional
theories are inadequate for the study of female delinquency. They've asserted
the need for gender-specific (specifically formulated to explain female delinquency) theories. The third trend has not discounted traditional male oriented theories, but has attempted to place them within the unique contexts and structures that relate to female delinquency.

Varying degrees of support for the three theoretical trends in delinquency research has been discussed in the previous review. However, a clear consensus for any of the positions has not yet developed. While all three avenues of research touch upon similar aspects of gender and gender differences in offending, the issue of delinquency research is an intricate and complicated combination of biological, social, environmental and psychological factors. As such, it is clear that much work remains to be done. One fruitful means of improving our understanding of juvenile delinquency, and addressing theoretical questions raised thus far, is the study of the context of offending patterns of male and female delinquents. As Triplett & Myers (1995) posit, Understanding entails not only the study of prevalence, incidence, and diversity in types of offending, but also an examination of the context of offending. Greater knowledge about how gender shapes offending will help us to learn whether theories developed to explain male delinquency can be used to explain criminality in general (p. 62).

**JUVENILE JUSTICE PROCESSING AND GENDER**

The establishment of a court that would put the 'best interests' of the child first, assign primary importance to individualized treatment, and target
rehabilitation as the greatest means of serving youth and society, was a noteworthy development in the historical response to delinquent and dependent children in the latter half of the 19th century. The establishment of the juvenile court was one of the leading progressive developments of its time, and one that coincided with a host of related movements regarding the welfare of children. Progressive reformers fought for compulsory schooling laws, child labor laws, and laws addressing for the care of poor and dependent children.

One core objective of the juvenile court movement was for the court (as the primary party for state intervention) to act as a parental figure to wayward children. In essence, the state was to act as a mentoring figure working towards predicting and preventing juvenile delinquency through a close examination of the child’s environment and home life. In response to the review of the youth’s history, the court would deliver appropriate guidance and services that would alter the child’s path. The juvenile court was heralded as a humanistic and progressive reform to the barbaric and unjust practices directed toward youth during previous decades. Disillusioned with traditional responses to delinquent and deviant behavior, reformers sought to implement a system of individualized justice. Reformers attempted to create a system that would serve as a warm and guiding hand to the child, rather than a punitive and lashing fist; a system that would focus on the child’s living environment, rather than on the harm or consequences of the child’s behavior; and a system not restricted by the confines
of the adult criminal law, but a system with vast discretionary power to dictate what was in the "best interests of the child".

The establishment of a legal framework wherein juvenile offenders can be handled on an individual basis, with an emphasis on what is "best for the offender" rather than an emphasis on the offense, has been one of the most significant developments of the juvenile justice system. Within this framework, significant discretionary power has been given to juvenile justice officials (i.e., police officers, probation officers, judges, corrections officials). As Lamiell (1979) points out, "... they have been given the latitude to deal with certain offenders in accordance with "their own conscience, uncontrolled by the judgment or conscience of others" (p. 77). In a system that advocates discretion and individualization, two offenders may have committed the same offense yet are processed quite differently for a host of reasons.

While legal (e.g., offense and prior record) and extra-legal factors (e.g., race) impact decision-making in the juvenile justice system, gender has been found to be quite important at all processing points. The debate over the existence of gender discrimination in the juvenile justice system (as well as the adult system) has been waged for many years. Some researchers have suggested that young female status offenders are treated more harshly than young men (Bishop & Frazier, 1992; Chesney-Lind, 1977, 1988, 1997, 1999; Cohen & Kluegel, 1979; Conway & Bogdan, 1977; Figueira-McDonough, 1987; Horowitz & Pottieger, 1991; Pope & Feyerherm, 1983). Specifically, they claim
that females are more likely to be referred, adjudicated and detained. Others have claimed that gender differences in case outcomes can be explained by such legal factors as seriousness of offense and prior record, and that significant changes within the juvenile justice system has significantly reduced or eliminated bias against females (Curran, 1984; Fenwick, 1982; Poe-Yamagata & Butts, 1996; Teilmann & Landry, 1981 U.S. General Accounting Office).

The examination of gender bias, particularly with regard to the handling of status offenders, is complex. However, with further study into areas such as gender differences in the context of offending, the intricacy of the relationship between juvenile justice processing and gender can advanced.

**Sex Differences or Sex Discrimination?**

Research on processing and sentencing outcomes for male and female offenders in the adult court has received considerable attention. Findings that female offenders (especially white offenders) are treated more leniently (in the form of greater diversion from the system and shorter/better sentencing outcomes) than their male counterparts have been widely supported (Crew, 1991; Farnworth & Teske, 1995; Hecht-Schafran, Koons, 2001; 1986; Rhode, 1989; Simpson, 1989; Spohn, 1999; Warren, 1981). In contrast, research of the treatment of adolescent males and females in the juvenile justice system demonstrates a reciprocal relationship. Adolescent females, especially those charged with status offenses, are likely to suffer from gender discrimination in the form of harsher treatment. In these cases, gender discrimination results in the
greater likelihood to be referred and admitted into the juvenile justice system, as well in the greater likelihood to be processed and adjudicated (Bishop & Frazier, 1992; Chesney-Lind, 1977; Cohen & Kluegel, 1979; Conway & Bogdan, 1977; Figueira-McDonough, 1987; Horowitz & Pottieger, 1991; Krohn, Curry & Nelson-Kilger, 1983; Pope & Feyerherm, 1983).

Conway and Bogdan (1977) found evidence of gender bias in their examination of New York State Family Court records from 1967 to 1974. The analyses revealed that females, in contrast to males, were more likely to be committed for status offenses and detained in juvenile facilities for longer periods of time. "Females are detained for longer periods of time than males are, in facilities that have been condemned as little more than holding pens for societies unwanted" (p. 135). In Cohen and Kluegel's (1979) analysis of intake decisions in the Denver and Memphis juvenile courts indicated intake officers were more punitive toward youths charged with status offenses, referring clients to formal actions more often than offenders charged with some criminal offenses. Females referred for miscellaneous status offenses also had a greater likelihood of formal adjudication than their male counterparts. Cohen and Kluegel reported,

It is clear, however, that both courts react more harshly to females who violate 'decorum' than to males who do the same things (miscellaneous and alcohol and drug offenses). It appears that a double standard of behavior is in operation, with males less likely than females to be treated
formally for engaging in malicious mischief, loitering, using alcohol or

Moreover, the authors concluded their data probably underestimated the
difference in treatment between males and females referred for "decorum"
offenses. "Outside authorities and law enforcement officials are probably more
likely to refer females to court intake for this type of behavior, while overlooking
similar conduct engaged in by males. . ." (p. 160).

Pope and Feyerherm (1983) found in their analysis of juvenile offender
processing in ten California counties (focusing on intake and detention decisions)
that gender differences existed at the stage of initial screening. "At both the
bivariate and multivariate level it has been demonstrated that females charged
with status offenses receive the more severe disposition in that they are more
likely to be held in detention and given a formal petition" (p. 15). Furthermore, in
an examination of 36,680 juvenile court referrals in one Midwestern state
covering a nine-year period, Johnson and Scheuble (1991) found that first-time,

female status offenders were treated more severely than males, and repeat
female status offenders were much more likely to be assigned a custody transfer.
The analysis also indicated rural, female offenders were less likely than their
male counterparts to have their cases dismissed and more likely to be put on
probation.

Using the concept of type-scripts in an examination of police arrest
decisions, Sealock and Simpson (1998) used the juvenile portion of the data for
the 1958 Philadelphia birth cohort compiled by Wolfgang, Figlio and Sellin in 1972. Based on the analysis of official police records, Sealock and Simpson found that females were most frequently arrested for committing offenses classified as neutral or male-typed. In the examination of status offenses and type-scripts, the researchers discovered that while there were no gender differences in the likelihood of arrest for status offenses that were witnessed by the police, females were more likely to be arrested in those occasions where their offenses came to the attention of the police through outside sources.

**Reasons For Gender Bias**

According to Teilmann and Landry (1981), "...Discriminatory processing is said to occur because deviant behavior by females is viewed as a more serious violation of role expectations than is deviation by males" (p. 47). This assumption introduces one proposed hypothesis of gender discrimination, "judicial paternalism." According to Horowitz and Pottieger (1991):

'Paternalism' generally implies that women who behave in ways that are congruent with traditional female roles of purity and submission receive preferential or lenient treatment, whereas women who violate these standards do not receive this benefit and may be dealt with more severely than males committing the same offense (p. 76).

Before passage of the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act (JJDP) of 1974, which mandated the deinstitutionalization of status offenders, judges had few, if any, legal guidelines in handling youth charged with status
offenses. Judges more often than not relied on their own personal feelings to guide decisions about what should be done with status offenders. As a result, female status offenders were often incarcerated "for their own protection." Dismissals for young men were made on the grounds that "boys will be boys." Female delinquent behavior was viewed more readily as a manifestation of serious problems in need of the "help" that can be provided by the juvenile courts (Chesney-Lind, 1988, 1999). In addition, much of the delinquent behavior of girls was believed to be of a sexual nature, which, if left unchecked, would be a serious threat to traditional middle-class values (Campbell, 1981). This process operated in an environment virtually devoid of constitutional guarantees for the juvenile offender. The judge's decision, therefore was often based on incomplete information, extra-legal factors and personal bias, was final.

Juvenile justice officials have defended themselves against charges of sex discrimination by asserting that differential handling of male and female delinquents results from gender differences in the causes of delinquent behavior. In other words, "girls 'specialize' in status offenses while boys get more involved in 'utilitarian' crimes" (Figueira-McDonough, 1987, p. 403). "Two assumptions are critical to the validity of this justification: "(1) that there is gender specialization in delinquent behavior, and (2) that the causes of delinquent behavior are different for boys and girls" (p. 404). Interestingly, self-report studies of males and females have found little or no significant differences in the

**A Trend of Equitable Treatment or Hidden Bias**

A decline in gender discrimination at various stages of juvenile justice processing has been noted in recent empirical research (Corley, Cernkovich & Giordano, 1989; Reese & Curtis, 1991; U.S. General Accounting Office, 1995). Bishop and Frazier (1992) concluded,

There are about as many recent studies reporting that gender plays no significant role in justice decision-making as there are studies reporting significant gender effects. Even in those recent studies that report significant gender differences, however the magnitude of these differences is considerably smaller than typically found in earlier years. Thus, the record seems to suggest that gender plays a less significant role in juvenile justice processing today than it did in the past (p. 1165).

There are many possible explanations for this change. One is that the feminist movement has had a significant impact on the attitudes and actions of juvenile justice officials, subsequently resulting in more equitable treatment of young men and women. "...Recent studies which have found less sex differentials in the official treatment of status offenders may be pointing to a new awareness among court personnel that excesses of judicial paternalism may be inappropriate" (Bishop and Frazier, 1992, p. 1166).
A second plausible explanation is that legal changes in most states to handle status offenders differently than delinquents results in equitable treatment of males and females charged with status offenses. The Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act (JJDP) of 1974, which mandated the deinstitutionalizing of status offenders, was considered to be a significant legal development and partially responsible for this trend (Bishop and Frazier, 1992). The JJDP Act stipulated that juveniles charged with status offenses cannot be placed in any secure facility such as county jails and juvenile detention centers. Bishop and Frazier (1992) reported,

One consequence of this change in the law may be that it has become difficult for justice officials to practice differentially protectionist policies toward female status offenders. That is, to the extent that females were disadvantaged in the past by practices now forbidden, the legal reforms of the last fifteen years may have tended to equalize the treatment accorded male and female status offenders (p.1166).

Many states have proceeded to remove or decriminalize these offenses as a means of removing them from the jurisdiction of the juvenile court. As Sickmund and Snyder (1999) note, "In these states, the behaviors are no longer law violations. Juveniles who engage in the behaviors may be classified as dependent children, which gives child protective service agencies rather than juvenile courts the primary responsibility for responding to this population" (p. 166). Thus, the removal of status offenders from the jurisdiction of the juvenile
court and their placement under the supervision of social service agencies may have eroded the protectionist attitudes and responses that have resulted in gender discrimination against females in the past.

A third possible explanation of the apparent trend of equitable treatment for young males and females is that gender bias is not as readily observable through statistical analysis of court records of status offenders. According to Bishop and Frazier (1992), "...there is a possibility that no significant changes have occurred in the treatment of males and females, but that differential treatment is now hidden in one or more ways" (p. 1166).

Researchers have discovered that in some jurisdictions, after the decriminalization of status offenders, females were being charged with criminal offenses that had previously been classified as status offenses (Bishop & Frazier, 1992). "...Justice officials may have redefined many status offenses as criminal-type offenses in order to render girls eligible for the kinds of protectionist sanctions which had traditionally been applied" (p. 1167). Curran's (1984) study of the Philadelphia Family Court system, indicated that while status offenses were reclassified in order to remove status offenders from the jurisdiction of the juvenile court, court records indicated a significant increase in the number of young women charged with criminal offenses. Curran postulated this resulted from the reclassification of status offenses as criminal offenses.

Bishop and Frazier (1992) argued that a 1980 amendment to the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act allowed the court system to place status
offenders in juvenile facilities for being in contempt of court for violating a court order. They reported,

If a runaway youth that was ordered by the court to remain at home, was to run away again, they might be found in contempt of court--a criminal-type offense, in that adjudged contemtors can be incarcerated or otherwise institutionalized. Contempt proceedings may be initiated based on either a subsequent status offense or a failure to comply with an earlier court order (p. 1167).

Furthermore, the research demonstrated in contempt cases, the practice of gender bias has continued in the handling of repeat status offenders. "The typical female not in contempt has a 31.2% probability of referral to court. When referred for contempt, her likelihood of court referral increases strikingly to 69.7%, a difference of nearly 40 percentage points" (p. 1181). Disproportionately harsher treatment of repeat female offenders was also supported in a study conducted by Johnson and Scheuble (1991). "The tolerance of the court seems to run out for girls committing repeated offenses, and the tendency to punish them more severely than boys emerges as the apparent trend" (p.695). In addition, Berger (1994) found in his study of the Illinois Juvenile Court System, "The use of contempt power by Illinois juvenile court judges does not harmonize with the Juvenile Court Act and creates a policy of punishment for acts judges themselves define as contumacious" (p. 56).
An area of concern in evaluating the prevalence of gender bias in the juvenile justice system is the confounding influence of variables such as race, prior record, and age. It is possible that one or any combination all of these and other variables may affect case processing, while gender explains little or no variation. For example, Johnson and Scheuble (1991) discovered in their analysis that location and time period should be taken into account when analyzing the effects of gender on case processing. "This analysis demonstrates the need to control for detailed offense when comparing male and female offenders. The results without control for detailed offense gave inflated gender effects." (p. 695).

To adequately test evidence of differential handling of female status offenders, an examination of the context of offending is needed. Using data on the differences in the prevalence and incidence of male and female offending, and attempting to control for such intervening variable as race, social-class, or type of offense is simply not enough in the exploration of the "paternalism hypothesis" (Chesney-Lind & Shelden, 1992).

Further insight can only be gained through an examination of gender and the context of offending. This study indirectly addresses the question why females are treated differently than their male counterparts, and whether there are gender differences the context of cases to warrant higher rates of referral and differential treatment for females. Without examining the context of offending by
gender, researchers will not be able to accurately test the nature and extent of gender bias in the juvenile justice system.

**TRIPLETT AND MYERS AND THE CONTEXT OF OFFENDING**

One study that has examined the context of gender-based differences in juvenile offending patterns was a study by Triplett & Myers (1995). Using data from the National Youth Survey (NYS), the authors analyzed offending patterns of 1,543 adolescents (805 males and 738 females). Twenty-two offenses were placed in the following categories: status offenses (running away from home and truancy), vandalism (damaging family property, school property or other property), theft of property (auto theft, taking a vehicle without the owner's permission, stealing items worth less than $5, stealing items worth $5 to $50, stealing items worth more than $50, buying stolen goods, stealing from a family member, stealing at school, and breaking into a building) and violent offenses (carrying a hidden weapon, attacking someone, hitting a teacher, hitting another student, hitting a parent, using force on other students, using force on teachers and using force on others).

The analysis was divided into two parts. First, prevalence and incidence of offending by gender were examined. *Prevalence* was measured as a dichotomous variable and indicated the commission of at least one offense in the past year. *Incidence* was a continuous variable that measured the frequency of offending of those who had committed at least one offense in the past year. The second component of the analysis examined gender differences in the context of
offending. The inclusion of follow-up questions about the most recent offense in the self-report survey provided contextual data to determine the setting of the offense, victim type and seriousness. In addition, information on whether drugs were involved in the commission of each of the twenty-two offenses was included.

The analysis also included the examination of gender differences in offending across the entire sample. For continuous variables, such as the incidence measures and the measures of the value of items stolen, the means for each item were calculated and t-tests employed to determine any significant gender differences. For categorical variables, such as prevalence and the remaining measures of the context of offending, the chi-square statistic was used to test for significant differences across all variables.

Triplett and Myer's examination of the prevalence of male and female offending revealed results similar to previous self-report studies that found males dominating the commission of most crimes. For all but two of the offenses examined ("running away from home" and "hitting a parent"), males reported a greater prevalence of offending. Although females were more likely to "run away from home" and to "hit a parent", the differences were not found to be statistically significant. In addition, the authors found that,

For those offenses in which males are more likely to report offending, significant differences are found in all but two cases: skipping school (the most prevalent offense for both males and females) and using force on a
teachers to obtain money or other items (the rarest offense for both) (p. 69).

The author's examination of the ratio of male to female offending also found that as the seriousness of the offense increased, so did gender differences reflecting substantial involvement of male offenders. For example, the gender ratio for "damaging family property" was 2.5:1, for "damaging school property" 2.9:1, and the ratio for "damaging 'other' property" was 4.6:1. In addition, within the theft category, the ratio for "stealing from a family member" was 1.3:1, and for "breaking into a building" was 11.2:1. As Triplett & Myers note, "It appears, then, that the setting affects patterns of offending by gender; females' offending is limited to fewer settings" (p. 69).

The examination of the incidence of male and female offending indicated that when nonoffenders were not included in the measure, there were few significant gender differences in the incidence of offending (except for females reporting higher mean frequencies for "running away from home", "carrying a hidden weapon", and "damaging school property"). In addition, it was discovered that, "though only three of the differences are significant, for 13 of the 22 offenses the females who have committed the offense at least once register a higher frequency of offending than their male counterparts" (p. 70).

The second component of the Triplett & Myers study examined gender differences in the context of offending. The authors found that for few exceptions there were no significant gender differences in the context offending for status,
vandalism and theft offenses. "Gender differences come into play only for serious violent offending" (p. 73). For minor offenses (such as status offenses) the only significant contextual difference discovered was in the offense of running away from home. "Males are more likely to run to a place other than a friend's or a relative's house, whereas females are more likely to run to a friend's house" (p.74). Of the context measures for offenses involving the destruction of property, only one was found to be significant; males reported damaging a significantly higher property value for 'other' property than females (t=3.33).

Significant gender differences in the context of offending were discovered in the analysis of violent offenses. While there were no measurable differences in the more minor forms of violent behavior (hitting a student, parent, or teacher), Triplett & Myers found, "The differences are found in the more serious items: attacking someone with the idea of seriously hurting or killing them, and using force on students and others to obtain money or other items" (p.75). Specific contextual differences in the offense of “attacking someone” were in the form of the attack (chi-square=7.64), whether the victim was hurt (chi-square=2.66), the extent of the injury (chi-square=10.74), and whether the offender was on drugs at the time of the offense (chi-square=3.96). The authors assert,

Hitting is the most common form of attack for both males and females, but males are significantly more likely to beat their victims or attack them with a weapon. Males are also more likely to report having hospitalized or cut
their victim, to report hurting the victim, and to have been on drugs at the time of the offense (p. 75).

In addition, for the measure of “use of force on students”, statistical significance was found for males in the purpose of force (chi-square=4.07) and in whether the victim was hurt (chi-square=4.54). Although, this finding must be clarified for as the researchers discovered, "This finding is particularly interesting because there is no significant gender difference in respondents' reports of the extent of the injury to the victim. This discrepancy suggests that females and males differ in their interpretations of harm" (p. 75).

Overall, the research by Triplett and Myers demonstrated that adolescent females offend in fewer settings and in different manners than their male counterparts. Furthermore, as the seriousness of the crime increases, the contextual differences by gender also increase—with males dominating the commission of serious offense categories. The researchers note that, “Although we found few differences for status and property offenses, we observed a number of significant differences for serious violent offenses” (p. 75).

The findings from the study of contextual differences of male and female offending are quite important. The findings not only advance our understanding of juvenile offending, but are also important for the development of delinquency theory and the study of juvenile justice processing. Regarding theory development, Triplett and Myers assert, "Theories of serious criminal behavior then need to explain not only the gender ratio question (why males offend at a
higher rate than females) but also why the context of offending differs by gender" (p. 76). The discovery of few contextual differences in offending for minor forms of delinquent behavior raises several questions about the differential handling of male and female cases within the juvenile justice system. If males and females commit status offenses in similar fashion, they why have female offenders been treated in a differential manner by the juvenile justice system?

PRESENT STUDY

The purpose of this study is to parallel the analysis conducted by Triplett and Myers and increase the limited research on the contextual differences of offending for juvenile offenders. While similar in some respects, it will differ in the following ways. First, the data from the Omaha study will draw out more "contextual" data on every offense type. For example, three important variables included in the Omaha data are: (1) the setting the offense took place; (2) whether the offender was caught, and if so, the outcome; and (3) whether the offense was committed alone or with others. These variables provide important information on the possible differences of male and female offending. Furthermore, the Omaha study includes data on more offense types. While the Triplett and Myer's analysis of vandalism was limited to the categories of family, school, and "other" property, the present analysis will include thirteen specific items, such as vandalism to bus shelters, private cars, telephone booths, and other related items.
In addition, the analysis of the Omaha data will provide added contextual information than what was available to Triplett and Myers. Although the sample size is about half that of the original study, it is sufficiently large enough (and nearly equally divided according to gender) for this examination. The school-based sample used for this thesis has a sample size of 539 respondents.

Data Collection

Data for this thesis was collected for the United States component of the International Self-Report Delinquency Project (ISRD) in Omaha, Nebraska in the spring and fall of 1992. The Omaha study sampled three sub-samples: a school-based sample; a small sample of high-risk youth and a sample of institutionalized youth. The school-based sample is used for the purposes of this study. The sample consisted of a random selection of students from grades 9 through 12 from twelve local Omaha high schools. In-person interviews were conducted with a total of 539 students who were randomly selected from a list of names provided by each school. Local university graduate students conducted interviews in private settings at each of the twelve participating high schools. Interviews varied from ten minutes to one hour in length and each interviewee received between $5.00 and $10.00 for his or her participation in the study.

The Omaha study’s questionnaire covered information concerning the student’s involvement in delinquent and criminal behavior. Offenses were divided into four offense types: status offenses and minor misbehaviors, vandalism, property and theft offenses, and violent offenses. For each offense
in the study, the respondent was asked if they had 'ever' committed the offense and if the offense was committed in the 'last year'. If the respondent had committed the offense in the 'last year,' follow-up questions were raised on information such as: where the offense took place; if it was committed alone or with others; whether they were caught, and if so, by whom and if caught, what was the outcome. In addition to gathering information on respondent's delinquent and criminal behavior, the questionnaire also gathered data on the individual's socio-demographics, alcohol and drug usage, and personal beliefs and experiences.

Sample

The Omaha school-based sample consisted of 539 students aged 14 to 19, with 16 being the mean age. The racial composition of the sample was 83.5% white, 11.3% black and 3.35% Hispanic (the racial composition of the sample was proportionate to the racial composition of the city of Omaha). With respect to gender, 49.9% of the sample was male (N= 269), and 50.1% was female (N=270).

Variables

The first section of the analysis examines the prevalence and incidence of offending. Prevalence is a dichotomous variable that measures whether the offense was 'ever' committed and whether is was committed in the 'last year'. For the category 'ever' committed, a 1 indicates not having ever committed the
offenses and 2 indicates the respondent had committed the offense at least once. For the category committed ‘last year’, a 1 indicates that the respondent had not committed the offense within the last year and 2 indicates at least one commission of the offense within the last year.

The 25 offenses in the study include status offenses (skipping school and running away from home), vandalism (graffiti and a ‘collapsed’ vandalism category of thirteen offenses), theft offenses (steal from a telephone or vending machine, steal from a store, steal from school, steal from home, steal from work, steal a bike, moped, or motorcycle, steal a car, steal from or out of a car, pickpocketing, snatch a purse or bag, burglary, stealing other, buying stolen goods and selling stolen goods) and violent offenses (carrying a weapon, threatening someone, public fighting or disturbances, arson, beating up non-family, beating up a family member and hurting someone with a weapon).

The second section of analysis examines the contextual differences in offending for males and female juvenile offenders. While the ISRD data were not specifically collected to examine the ‘context’ of offending, the data do provide contextual information on the offenses listed above. This information allows examination of several contextual variables, such as the setting of the offense, the victim/offender relationship, the value of damaged or stolen items and whether the offender was caught and if so, the outcome of the apprehension. (See appendix A for a description of the offenses and follow-up questions from the Triplett & Myers and Omaha studies).
For the status offenses of skipping school and running away from home, the contextual questions that were asked are as follows: (1) how many days did you stay away? (2) where did you spend most of the time? (3) did you do this alone or with others? (4) were you caught, and if so, by whom, and (5) what happened when you were caught? For skipping school, a level of seriousness can be determined by the length of time spent away and where the time was spent. For running away from home, longer periods of time away and destinations other than at home/close proximity would constitute an increased level of seriousness.

Vandalism and theft offenses are measured by seven separate items: (1) what the object was; (2) the shop value of the object; (3) owner of the object; (4) where the incident took place; (5) committed alone or with others; (6) whether apprehended, and if so, by whom; and (7) outcome of apprehension. Although the question of victim and offender relationship is not asked, information on the owner of the object and where the offense took place provides a good proxy of the relationship. Measures for the seriousness of these offenses are based on the type of object and its value.

Contextual questions pertaining to violent offenses involve the following information: (1) kind of weapon used; (2) shop value of weapon used; (3) location where offense occurred; (4) owner of the object; (5) identification of victim; (6) offense was committed alone or with others; (7) whether apprehended, and if so, by whom; and (8) outcome of apprehension. In addition, several offense-specific
questions were asked, such as what was paid for the stolen merchandise, what was done with the stolen object, etc. (see appendix B for complete list of follow-up questions). For this category, the type of weapon used and whether medical treatment was or would have been needed are approximate measures of seriousness.

ANALYSIS AND FINDINGS

The objective of this analysis is to examine gender differences in male and female juvenile offending. First, the analysis examines the prevalence and incidence of offending by the entire sample (N=539) and then the respondents are divided by gender. The analysis is based on two time frames: offending that was 'ever' committed and offending that was committed in the 'last year'. The examination is then divided by type of offense: status offenses, vandalism, theft, and violent offense. The analysis of prevalence includes the number of affirmative respondents (N) and the percentages, the chi-square test for significance, and the ratio of male to female offending. Incidence is measured by calculating the mean and standard deviation for each offense type, and t-tests to establish whether significant gender differences exist. The second part of the analysis examines gender differences in the context of offending. The respondents are divided by gender, and specific delinquent and criminal offenses separate the examination of possible gender-based differences. To test for significant differences based on gender, two statistical tests of significance are employed. For the categorical variables, a bivariate analysis based on the chi-
square test for independence is used. For the remaining variables that are continuous, the mean and standard deviation for each item is calculated and a t-test is used to detect whether significant gender differences exist.

**Prevalence and Incidence of Offending**

Table 1 shows the results of the analysis for prevalence, including the number of cases and the percentage of respondents who admitted to 'ever' committing a delinquent offense. The findings show that the most common offense 'ever' committed was vandalism. Nearly 54% of the respondents reported having damaged or destroyed at least one of the following objects: bus shelter, traffic sign, telephone booth, window, public trash can, street light, school furniture, trees, plants or flowers in parks or public gardens, seat in bus, private car, bicycle, motorcycle, or something else. Following vandalism, 47.3% of the sample reported having stolen an item from a store; 41.6% reported skipping school; 30.4% reported having carried a weapon; and 30.4% reported being involved in public fighting or disturbances. An examination of the assault category reveals that except for carrying a weapon and being involved in a public fight or disturbance, the prevalence of the remaining serious assaultive offenses is quite small. Only 2.8% of the entire sample reported ever threatening someone with a weapon; 4.3% reported intentionally setting fire to something; 9.1% reported beating up a non-family member; 2.8% reported beating up a family member; and 7.8% reported hurting someone with a knife, stick or another weapon.
Table 1

Prevalence of Delinquent Behavior ‘Ever’
All Respondents (N=539)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Offense Type</th>
<th>N</th>
<th>%</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Status</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Skipping School</td>
<td>224</td>
<td>41.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Running away from home</td>
<td>64</td>
<td>11.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Vandalism</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Graffiti</td>
<td>64</td>
<td>11.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vandalism</td>
<td>290</td>
<td>53.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Theft</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Steal from tele/vend</td>
<td>31</td>
<td>5.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Steal from store</td>
<td>255</td>
<td>47.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Steal from school</td>
<td>86</td>
<td>16.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Steal from home</td>
<td>138</td>
<td>25.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Steal from work</td>
<td>43</td>
<td>8.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Steal bike/moped/motorcycle</td>
<td>32</td>
<td>5.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Steal a car</td>
<td>33</td>
<td>6.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Steal from/out car</td>
<td>69</td>
<td>12.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pickpocketing</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>2.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Snatch bag/purse</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>1.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Burglary</td>
<td>89</td>
<td>16.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stealing other</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>4.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Buying stolen goods</td>
<td>143</td>
<td>26.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Selling stolen goods</td>
<td>74</td>
<td>13.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Assault</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Carrying a weapon</td>
<td>164</td>
<td>30.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Threatening someone</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>2.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Public fighting/disturbance</td>
<td>164</td>
<td>30.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Arson</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>4.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Beating up non-family</td>
<td>49</td>
<td>9.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Beating up family</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>2.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hurting with weapons</td>
<td>42</td>
<td>7.8</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table 2 provides more detailed data on delinquent involvement. It displays the findings on the prevalence of delinquent behavior ‘ever’, including the number of cases and percentages of males and females who admitted to
delinquent offenses, the chi-square test for significant differences, and the ratio of male to female offending. The results show that for all twenty-five offenses, males report a greater prevalence. The differences in prevalence were statistically significant except for the following offenses: skipping school (the most prevalent offense for females), running away from home, graffiti, stealing from telephone/vending machine, stealing from home, snatching a bag or purse (the least prevalent offense for males), stealing other, and beating up a family member.

The data from Table 2 clearly supports previous research based on self-report studies. For more minor offenses, such as skipping school, running away from home, vandalism, and petty thefts, offending by males and females is quite similar. The ratio of male to female offending from Table 2 displays that for offenses such as skipping school and running away from home the ratio was 1.1:1 and 1.2:1. Regarding vandalism, the ratio of offending for graffiti (1.6:1) and for the vandalism category (1.8:1) is also consistent with previous data demonstrating that for such minor offenses, gender differences are usually small. The ratio of male to female offending also supports past research findings that as the seriousness of offense increases, so do gender differences. For example, within the theft category the ratio of offending for selling stolen goods (9.6:1) is over seven times as great as stealing from home (1.3:1). In addition, the ratio of offending for stealing from or out of a car (4.3:1) is almost four times as great as stealing from home (1.3:1) or stealing other (1.4:1). The one exception to this
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Offense Type</th>
<th>Male</th>
<th>Female</th>
<th>Chi-Sq.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>M:F</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Status</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Skipping school</td>
<td>117</td>
<td>43.5</td>
<td>107</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Running away from home</td>
<td>35</td>
<td>13.0</td>
<td>29</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Vandalism</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Graffiti</td>
<td>39</td>
<td>14.5</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vandalism</td>
<td>188</td>
<td>69.9</td>
<td>102</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Theft</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Steal from tele/vend.</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>6.7</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Steal from store</td>
<td>150</td>
<td>56.0</td>
<td>105</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Steal from school</td>
<td>65</td>
<td>24.3</td>
<td>21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Steal from home</td>
<td>78</td>
<td>29.1</td>
<td>60</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Steal from work</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>16.2</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Steal</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>10.4</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>bike/moped/motcyc.</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Steal a car</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>10.1</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Steal from/out car</td>
<td>56</td>
<td>20.9</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pickpocketing</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>4.5</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Snatch bag/purse</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>2.6</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Burglary</td>
<td>66</td>
<td>24.6</td>
<td>23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stealing other</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>5.6</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Buying stolen goods</td>
<td>110</td>
<td>41.0</td>
<td>33</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Selling stolen goods</td>
<td>67</td>
<td>25.1</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Assault</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Carrying a weapon</td>
<td>126</td>
<td>46.8</td>
<td>38</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Threatening someone</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>4.8</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Public</td>
<td>108</td>
<td>40.1</td>
<td>56</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>fighting/disturbance</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Arson</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>6.3</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Beating up non-family</td>
<td>35</td>
<td>13.0</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Beating up family</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>3.0</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hurting with weapons</td>
<td>31</td>
<td>11.5</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* p < .05
situation is the offense of stealing from a store (1.4:1). It appears that in the case of shoplifting, males and females offend in a similar fashion.

An examination of Table 2 demonstrates that gender differences are also significant when the setting of the offense is considered. The ratio of male to female offending can be used to examine gender differences within offense categories. For example, within the theft category, female offending is limited to fewer settings than their male counterparts: the ratio of male to female offending for stealing from a store is 3.8 and 3.1 for stealing from school, while the ratio for stealing from a telephone or vending machine is 1.4 and 1.3 for stealing from home. This finding is consistent with previous research and explanations where females are viewed as more closely supervised than boys and thus more likely to offend in fewer settings than males. With respect to violent offenses, females were significantly less involved than their male counterparts. Males dominated all offenses with the exception beating up a family member, which was a rare event for both groups. The offending ratio for these offenses ranges from a low of 1.9 for public fighting/disturbance, to a high of 6.5:1 for threatening someone. While females were less involved in violent offenses than males, only a small proportion of each group had ‘ever’ been involved in these offenses. In the analysis of the prevalence of delinquent behavior ‘last year’ for the entire sample (Table 3), there were, as expected, far fewer affirmative respondents than in the examination of ‘ever’ being involved in delinquency. Truancy was the most
Table 3
Prevalence of Delinquent Behavior ‘Last Year’
All Respondents (N=539)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Offense Type</th>
<th>N</th>
<th>%</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Status</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Skipping school</td>
<td>134</td>
<td>24.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Running away from home</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>5.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Vandalism</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Graffiti</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>3.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vandalism</td>
<td>74</td>
<td>13.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Theft</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Steal from tele/vend</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>2.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Steal from store</td>
<td>61</td>
<td>11.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Steal from school</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>4.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Steal from home</td>
<td>41</td>
<td>7.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Steal from work</td>
<td>29</td>
<td>5.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Steal bike/moped/motorcycle</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Steal a car</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>1.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Steal from/out car</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>4.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pickpocketing</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>1.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Snatch bag/purse</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Burglary</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>5.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stealing other</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>2.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Buying stolen goods</td>
<td>82</td>
<td>15.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Selling stolen goods</td>
<td>34</td>
<td>6.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Assault</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Carrying a weapon</td>
<td>97</td>
<td>18.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Threatening someone</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>1.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Public fighting/disturbance</td>
<td>81</td>
<td>15.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Arson</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>1.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Beating up non-family</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>4.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Beating up family</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hurting with weapons</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>2.4</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
frequently reported offense (24.9%), followed by carrying a weapon (18.0%),
buying stolen goods (15.2%), public fighting/disturbances (15.0%), and
vandalism (13.7).

When the category of prevalence of delinquent behavior 'last year' is
separated by gender (Table 4), the number of affirmative responses for males
becomes very small for several offenses (stealing bike/moped/motorcycle,
snatching a bag/purse, arson, and beating up a family member). As for females,
there were four offenses that did not even register any affirmative response:
stealing a bike/moped/motorcycle, pickpocketing, snatching a bag/purse and
threatening someone. Since most of the contextual variables are based on the
responses to this category, it is inevitable that problems will arise in the statistical
analysis of this data due to a small number of cases for several of the offenses.
In regard to skipping school, the percentage of males who had 'ever' skipped
school and reported doing so in the 'last year' was 60.9%. The percentage of
females who had 'ever' skipped school and had done so at least once in the 'last
year' was 59.8%. An examination of these percentages reflects that for males,
the most prevalent offenses committed within the 'last year' were stealing from
work (62.1% of those who admitted to 'ever' stealing from work), carrying a
weapon (61.9%), and skipping school (60.9%). For females, 91.7% reported
stealing from work, 66.7% reported buying stolen goods, and 59.8% of those who
reported 'ever' skipping school reported skipping school last year. The chi-square
Table 4
Prevalence of Delinquent Behavior 'Last Year'
by Gender (N=539)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Offense Type</th>
<th>Male</th>
<th>Female</th>
<th>Chi-Sq.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>N</td>
<td>%</td>
<td>N</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>M:F</td>
<td>(269)</td>
<td>(270)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Status</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Skipping school</td>
<td>70</td>
<td>60.9</td>
<td>64</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Running away from home</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>45.7</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Vandalism</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Graffiti</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>28.9</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vandalism</td>
<td>48</td>
<td>25.7</td>
<td>26</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Theft</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Steal from tele/vend</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>55.6</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Steal from store</td>
<td>37</td>
<td>25.0</td>
<td>24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Steal from school</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>29.7</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Steal from home</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>30.8</td>
<td>17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Steal from work</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>62.1</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Steal</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>14.8</td>
<td>--</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>bike/moped/motcyc.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Steal a car</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>30.8</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Steal from/out car</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>36.4</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pickpocketing</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>46.2</td>
<td>--</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Snatch bag/purse</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>50.0</td>
<td>--</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Burglary</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>26.2</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stealing other</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>37.5</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Buying stolen goods</td>
<td>60</td>
<td>56.1</td>
<td>22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Selling stolen goods</td>
<td>32</td>
<td>49.2</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Assault</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Carrying a weapon</td>
<td>78</td>
<td>61.9</td>
<td>19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Threatening someone</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>58.3</td>
<td>--</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Public</td>
<td>59</td>
<td>55.7</td>
<td>22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>fighting/disturbance</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Arson</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>31.3</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Beating up non-family</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>48.6</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Beating up family</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>37.5</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hurting with weapons</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>35.5</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

a Not applicable due to no female cases

* p < .05
test for independence was significant for only one offense in this category: public fighting/disturbances (3.93).

The ratio of male to female offending shows clear gender differences within the offense categories. The ratios for the status and vandalism categories demonstrate that for such minor offenses, gender differences are quite small. This is evidenced by the ratio for skipping school (1.1:1), running away from home (1.3:1), and vandalism (1.8:1). An examination of the theft category shows more variation in offending: the ratio of male to female offending is 16.0:1 for selling stolen goods, but only 3.8:1 for stealing from school, and 1.4:1 for stealing from home. When one examines the assault section, the ratio of male to female offending shows males are much more involved in violent offenses than females. With the exception of beating up a family member (1.5:1), the range of ratios is from a low of 2.7:1 for public fighting/disturbances, to a high of 7.0:1 for threatening someone. These figures lend support to past researchers’ findings that as the seriousness of the offense increases, so do the gender differences in offending. However, in view of the small sample size of some of the delinquency categories, any conclusions must be made with caution.

Incidence of Offending

Table 5 provides detailed information on the incidence of offending by gender, where incidence pertains to the ‘frequency’ of offending for those respondents who have offended at least once in the past year. As related previously, due to the small (and in some cases, nonexistent) number of
affirmative female responses to the categories of 'last year', the means and t-tests for several offenses could not be calculated

Upon initial examination, one will find few significant gender differences in the incidence of offending. The one exception is the offense of public fighting/disturbance, which males report a higher mean frequency (3.47 versus 1.91). Overall, for 18 of the 25 offenses examined, males who have committed the offense at least once in the 'last year' report a higher incidence of offending. Another finding of interest in Table 5 comes from an examination of status offenses that reflect a similar frequency of rule-breaking behavior for males and females: skipping school (1.45 versus 1.26) and running away from home (1.13 versus 1.42). This finding coincides with the findings on prevalence—the gender differences in the prevalence of offending for these offenses were also very small for both groups. In the vandalism and theft categories, differences in the frequency of offending appear in the examination of the male to female ratio. Males report higher incidence rates than females for graffiti (3.7:1), for vandalism (1.5:1), and for selling stolen goods (2.5:1). Females on the other hand, report higher incidence rates for stealing from work (.7:1), stealing from a store (.9:1), and stealing from school (.9:1). An examination of the assault category shows that the most frequent offenses for both males and females is carrying a weapon (10.16 and 10.90). This finding is not surprising with recent research showing an increased possession of weapons among both gender groups.
Table 5
Incidence of Delinquent Behavior ‘Last Year’
by Gender (N=539)
(mean and standard deviation)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Offense Type</th>
<th>M:F</th>
<th>x Male</th>
<th>x Female</th>
<th>T-Test</th>
<th>Ratio</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Status</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Skipping School</td>
<td>1.45</td>
<td>1.26</td>
<td>1.81</td>
<td></td>
<td>1.2:1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(.50)</td>
<td>(.44)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Running away from home</td>
<td>1.13</td>
<td>1.42</td>
<td>-1.70</td>
<td></td>
<td>.8:1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(.35)</td>
<td>(.56)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Vandalism</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Graffiti</td>
<td>7.40</td>
<td>2.00</td>
<td>1.12</td>
<td></td>
<td>3.7:1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(15.13)</td>
<td>(1.00)</td>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vandalism</td>
<td>3.44</td>
<td>2.23</td>
<td>1.92</td>
<td></td>
<td>1.5:1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(3.66)</td>
<td>(1.51)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Theft</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Steal from tele/vend.</td>
<td>2.14</td>
<td>1.40</td>
<td>1.04</td>
<td></td>
<td>1.5:1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(1.77)</td>
<td>(.55)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Steal from store</td>
<td>4.46</td>
<td>5.00</td>
<td>-.23</td>
<td></td>
<td>.9:1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(6.09)</td>
<td>(10.15)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Steal from school</td>
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<td>3.60</td>
<td>-.23</td>
<td></td>
<td>.9:1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(3.65)</td>
<td>(3.78)</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Steal from home</td>
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<td>4.24</td>
<td>.14</td>
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<td>(6.89)</td>
<td>(5.71)</td>
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<tr>
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<td>4.73</td>
<td>-.68</td>
<td></td>
<td>.7:1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(5.00)</td>
<td>(4.54)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Steal bike/motorcycle</td>
<td>1.17</td>
<td>--</td>
<td>a</td>
<td></td>
<td>1.2:1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(.41)</td>
<td>--</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Steal a car</td>
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<td>2.00</td>
<td>a</td>
<td></td>
<td>.9:1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(1.04)</td>
<td>--</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Steal from/out car</td>
<td>4.06</td>
<td>1.00</td>
<td>a</td>
<td></td>
<td>4.1:1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(3.10)</td>
<td>--</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pickpocketing</td>
<td>9.67</td>
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<td>a</td>
<td></td>
<td>9.7:1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(6.47)</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Snatch bag/purse</td>
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<td>--</td>
<td>a</td>
<td></td>
<td>8.5:1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(9.19)</td>
<td>--</td>
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</tr>
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<td>Burglary</td>
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<td>1.7:1</td>
</tr>
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<td></td>
<td>(2.86)</td>
<td>(.98)</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stealing other</td>
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<td>1.00</td>
<td>2.28</td>
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<td>3.7:1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(3.15)</td>
<td>--</td>
<td></td>
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<td>Offense</td>
<td>Mean Boys</td>
<td>Mean Girls</td>
<td>z</td>
<td>Odds Ratio</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>---------------------------------</td>
<td>-----------</td>
<td>------------</td>
<td>-------</td>
<td>------------</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Buying stolen goods</td>
<td>3.38</td>
<td>2.41</td>
<td>.95</td>
<td>1.4:1</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(5.88)</td>
<td>(3.13)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Selling stolen goods</td>
<td>2.48</td>
<td>1.00</td>
<td>a</td>
<td>2.5:1</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(3.80)</td>
<td>--</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Assault</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Carrying a weapon</td>
<td>10.16</td>
<td>10.90</td>
<td>-.15</td>
<td>.9:1</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(14.54)</td>
<td>(12.09)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Threatening someone</td>
<td>3.40</td>
<td>--</td>
<td>a</td>
<td>3.4:1</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(3.91)</td>
<td>--</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Public fighting/dist.</td>
<td>3.47</td>
<td>1.91</td>
<td>2.00*</td>
<td>1.8:1</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(5.38)</td>
<td>(1.51)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Arson</td>
<td>2.33</td>
<td>1.00</td>
<td>a</td>
<td>2.3:1</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(2.31)</td>
<td>--</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Beating up non-family</td>
<td>1.53</td>
<td>2.17</td>
<td>-1.49</td>
<td>.7:1</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(.87)</td>
<td>(.98)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Beating up family</td>
<td>1.33</td>
<td>1.00</td>
<td>a</td>
<td>1.3:1</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(.58)</td>
<td>--</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hurting with weapons</td>
<td>4.45</td>
<td>1.00</td>
<td>a</td>
<td>4.5:1</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(8.58)</td>
<td>--</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* T-test could not be calculated due to the small sample size for females

**Context of Offending**

While the examination of the prevalence and incidence of juvenile delinquency is important, it certainly does not provide a complete assessment of this phenomenon. Tables 6 and 7 provide the contextual information for this study. Table 6 reports the number of cases, the percentages, and the chi-squares for the categorical variables. Table 7 reports the means and standard deviations for both gender groups, and the t-tests for statistical significance for the continuous variables. As one may note from Table 7, only six of the original twenty-five offenses are examined by context (skipping school, vandalism, theft from store, buying stolen goods, carrying a weapon and public fight/disturbance). This is a result of limited participation in several of the offenses by the
respondents in the Omaha school-based sample. Consequently, it was only feasible to analyze the six offenses that had sufficient cases to allow for the statistical analysis of the categorical and continuous contextual variables.

**Skipping School**

In Table 6, the context of skipping school is measured by destination, whether the offense was committed alone or with others, whether the offender was caught or not, and what the outcome was if the offender was caught. The only significant gender difference is whether the offender was caught (chi-square= 3.88). Males are less likely to be caught skipping school than females. While not statistically significant, the measure of what happened if the offender was caught reflects that females are much more likely to receive school suspensions for skipping school than their male counterparts (61.9% versus 15.4%). In addition, it is apparent that skipping school is an offense that is typically committed with other individuals; 65.8% of the males and 75.0% of the females reported skipping school with others.

**Vandalism**

The context of offending for the offense of vandalism is measured by the object damaged, the owner of the object, the place the offense occurred, whether the offense was committed alone or with others, and whether the offender was caught. The only significant categorical variable found was whether the offense was committed alone or with others (chi-square= 6.90). Males are more likely to vandalize with others than females. Examination of the owners of objects
damaged reflects that males more frequently damage items belonging to 'others' (55.3%) than items belonging to school or friends/neighbors (17.0% and 19.1%).

### Table 6
**Context of Offending for Categorical Variables ‘Last Year’**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Offense Type</th>
<th>Male</th>
<th>Female</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Chi-Sq</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Status</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Skipping school</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Destination:</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>home/within ten minutes</td>
<td>31</td>
<td>24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>friends/relatives</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alone or with others</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alone</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>with others</td>
<td>48</td>
<td>48</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Caught</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No</td>
<td>58</td>
<td>42</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>What happened when caught</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Arrested</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>school suspension</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grounded</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nothing</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

What happened when caught

| Object damaged               |      |        |
| traffic sign                 | 8    | 1      |
| telephone booth              | 0    | 1      |
| Window                       | 9    | 3      |
| street light                 | 4    | 1      |
| school furniture             | 5    | 8      |
| trees/plants/flowers         | 2    | 3      |
| bus seat                     | 3    | 1      |
| private car                  | 9    | 2      |
| something else               | 7    | 7      |

Owner of object

| Family                       | 2    | 4      |

Owner of object

| Traffic sign                 | 17.0 | 3.7    |
| telephone booth              | 0.0  | 3.7    |
| Window                       | 19.1 | 11.1   |
| street light                 | 8.5  | 3.7    |
| school furniture             | 10.6 | 29.6   |
| trees/plants/flowers         | 4.3  | 11.1   |
| bus seat                     | 6.4  | 3.7    |
| private car                  | 19.1 | 7.4    |
| something else               | 14.9 | 25.9   |

Owner of object

<p>| Family                       | 4.3  | 14.8   |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Count</th>
<th>Percent</th>
<th>Count</th>
<th>Percent</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>School</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>17.0</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>37.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>friend/neighbor</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>19.1</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>18.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>55.3</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>25.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>don’t know</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>4.3</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>3.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Place occurred</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>.93</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>home or within ten minutes</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>56.8</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>46.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>friends/relatives</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>6.8</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>11.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>36.4</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>42.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alone or with others</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>6.90*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alone</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>19.1</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>48.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>with others</td>
<td>38</td>
<td>80.9</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>51.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Caught</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>.76</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No</td>
<td>38</td>
<td>82.6</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>74.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>17.4</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>25.9</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Theft

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type of store</th>
<th>Count</th>
<th>Percent</th>
<th>Count</th>
<th>Percent</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>work place</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>5.3</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>small store</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>28.9</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>29.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>self service store</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>7.9</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>4.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>department store</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>36.8</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>58.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>21.1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>8.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Place occurred</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>4.62</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>home or within ten minutes</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>40.5</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>33.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>shopping mall</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>29.7</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>41.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>city center</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>16.2</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>25.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>13.5</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alone or with others</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>2.97</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alone</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>42.1</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>20.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>with others</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>57.9</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>79.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Caught</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>2.38</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No</td>
<td>29</td>
<td>76.3</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>91.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>23.7</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>8.3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Buying stolen goods

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Person bought from</th>
<th>Count</th>
<th>Percent</th>
<th>Count</th>
<th>Percent</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>known</td>
<td>51</td>
<td>85.0</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>86.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>not known</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>15.0</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>13.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alone or with others</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>.01</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alone</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>40.0</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>40.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>With others</td>
<td>36</td>
<td>60.0</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>59.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Caught</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>.75</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No</td>
<td>58</td>
<td>96.7</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>100.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3.3</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
### Assault

#### Carrying a weapon

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Kind of weapon</th>
<th>Yes</th>
<th>No</th>
<th>Others</th>
<th>Overall</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>stick or blunt object</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>7.7</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>5.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Knife</td>
<td>44</td>
<td>56.4</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>68.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>handgun</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>29.5</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>5.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mace</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>6.4</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>21.1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### Place occurred

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Place occurred</th>
<th>Yes</th>
<th>No</th>
<th>Others</th>
<th>Overall</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>home or within ten minutes</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>15.8</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>5.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>shopping mall</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>11.8</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>city center</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>7.9</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>10.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>friends or relatives</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>13.2</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>10.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>everywhere</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>28.9</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>52.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>social gathering</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>5.3</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>5.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>commercial establishment</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>17.1</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>15.8</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### Alone or with others

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Alone or with others</th>
<th>Yes</th>
<th>No</th>
<th>Others</th>
<th>Overall</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Alone</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>35.9</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>42.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>with others</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>64.1</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>57.9</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### Caught

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Caught</th>
<th>Yes</th>
<th>No</th>
<th>Others</th>
<th>Overall</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>No</td>
<td>71</td>
<td>91.0</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>94.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>9.0</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>5.3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### Public fighting/disturbances

##### Was weapon used

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Was weapon used</th>
<th>Yes</th>
<th>No</th>
<th>Others</th>
<th>Overall</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>No</td>
<td>44</td>
<td>77.2</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>90.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>yes</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>22.8</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>9.1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

##### Damage caused

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Damage caused</th>
<th>Yes</th>
<th>No</th>
<th>Others</th>
<th>Overall</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>No</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>32.8</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>59.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>to objects</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>8.6</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>4.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>to person</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>48.3</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>22.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>to both</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>10.3</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>13.6</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### Place occurred

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Place occurred</th>
<th>Yes</th>
<th>No</th>
<th>Others</th>
<th>Overall</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>home or within ten minutes</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>16.4</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>18.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>shopping mall</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>12.7</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>9.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>city center</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>21.8</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>9.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>house party</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>18.2</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>22.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>school</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>14.5</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>18.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>playing field</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>7.3</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>4.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>commercial establishment</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>9.1</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>18.2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### Caught

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Caught</th>
<th>Yes</th>
<th>No</th>
<th>Others</th>
<th>Overall</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>No</td>
<td>35</td>
<td>66.0</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>66.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>yes</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>34.0</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>33.3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* p < .05
Furthermore, males and females report that about half (56.8% and 46.2%) of their vandalism occurs at home or within a ten-minute walk of home.

**Theft**

For the theft offense of stealing from a store, the context of offending is measured by type of store, place where offense occurred, whether the offense was committed alone or with others, and by whether the offender was caught. None of these categorical variables were found to have significant gender differences. Though, further examination of this category does lead to some relevant findings. Females were less likely to be caught for the offense of shoplifting (91.7% *versus* 76.3%) and females reported stealing from stores with other individuals more so than males (79.2% *versus* 57.9%). In addition, females reported that over half (58.3%) of their shoplifting took place in department stores. This coincides with females reporting that 41.7% of stealing from stores occurs at shopping malls. Buying stolen goods is measured by three categorical variables: person the merchandise was bought from, whether it was committed alone or with others, and whether they were caught. For these measures, there was little if any gender variation. Both males and females reported that over three-quarters of their purchases of stolen goods were from individuals known to them (85.0% and 86.4%). The data also reveals that being caught for buying stolen goods very rarely occurs; 96.7% of the males and 100.0% of the females report not being caught for this offense.
Assault

The kind of weapon carried, the place the weapon was carried, whether the offense was committed alone or with others, and whether they were caught measure the context of offending for carrying a weapon. For these items, no significant gender differences were found. Although one pertinent finding for this offense was that males carried handguns more frequently than females (29.5% versus 5.3%). Carrying a knife was typically the weapon of choice for males and females (56.4% and 68.4%). It is also important to note that few juveniles were caught carrying weapons; 91.0% of the males and 94.7 of the females reported they had not been caught carrying a weapon. For the final offense that was analyzed, public fighting/disturbances, no significant differences were found. Both groups reported that weapons were not used most of the time (77.2% and 90.9%). When physical injury or damage was a result of this offense, males were more likely to injure someone (48.3%) than females (22.7%).

Table 7 presents the context of offending for the continuous variables. Of the ten contextual measures, gender differences were statistically significant for only two of these measures: the offense of buying stolen goods where there is a significant difference in the value (in dollars) of property bought ($t = 2.14$). Males reported a higher mean value of stolen merchandise than females. The second significant difference is found in the offense of carrying a weapon; here a significant gender difference is found in the value (in dollars) of the weapon carried. Males reported a higher mean value of weapon carried.
Table 7

Context of Offending for Continuous Variables by Gender (mean and standard deviation)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Offense Context</th>
<th>X Male</th>
<th>X Female</th>
<th>T-Test</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Status</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Skipping school</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Time away (days)</td>
<td>1.48</td>
<td>1.55</td>
<td>-.18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(2.00)</td>
<td>(2.48)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Vandalism</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vandalism</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Value of object damaged ($)</td>
<td>1383.97</td>
<td>84.11</td>
<td>1.64</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(4408.71)</td>
<td>(174.16)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Theft</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Steal from store</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Value of property ($)</td>
<td>19.43</td>
<td>9.42</td>
<td>1.68</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(33.67)</td>
<td>(10.81)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of others involved</td>
<td>2.59</td>
<td>2.00</td>
<td>1.15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(1.92)</td>
<td>(1.25)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Buying stolen goods</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Value of property ($)</td>
<td>207.70</td>
<td>132.80</td>
<td>2.14*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(206.44)</td>
<td>(96.35)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of others involved</td>
<td>3.14</td>
<td>3.54</td>
<td>-.24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(5.36)</td>
<td>(3.91)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Amount paid ($)</td>
<td>43.79</td>
<td>38.64</td>
<td>.46</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(47.51)</td>
<td>(34.96)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Assault</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Carrying a weapon</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Value of weapon ($)</td>
<td>100.50</td>
<td>20.71</td>
<td>4.41*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(145.22)</td>
<td>(21.84)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of others involved</td>
<td>4.57</td>
<td>12.00</td>
<td>-2.40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(3.62)</td>
<td>(9.64)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Public fighting/disturbances</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of others involved</td>
<td>11.95</td>
<td>9.36</td>
<td>.92</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(10.62)</td>
<td>(12.35)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* p < .05
DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSION

This study set out to examine data on gender and the incidence and prevalence of delinquent and criminal offending, as well as gender differences in the context of offending for a sample of high school students in Omaha, Nebraska. The following sections will provide a brief summary of the significant findings of the research, a review of the limitations of the study and conclude with the contributions that this research has made to delinquency literature.

Delinquency research has yielded consistent findings with regard to gender differences in offending. Adolescent males are more likely to be involved in antisocial and delinquent activities and are more likely to commit serious offenses as compared to their female counterparts. This study reveals the prevalence of juvenile offending in the Omaha sample is primarily limited to less serious delinquent and criminal offenses, with vandalism being the most frequent offense committed, followed by shoplifting and skipping school. Only one third of the individuals in the total sample reported “ever” carrying a weapon or being involved in a public fight or disturbance. Overall, results attained have paralleled the results of school-based self-report studies that find minimal involvement in more serious forms of theft and violent offenses.

With respect to gender differences in the prevalence of offending, this research also supports previous self-report data demonstrating a similar offending pattern for males and females in minor offenses such as skipping school, running away from home, vandalism (graffiti) and shoplifting.
Furthermore, findings from the examination of serious offending in the Omaha sample is consistent with results routinely reported in the literature—as the seriousness of the offense increases, so do gender differences—with males dominating most categories of serious theft and violent offenses. Males in the Omaha study report engaging in significantly more serious offenses than females.

The examination of gender differences in the incidence of offending reveals only one statistically significant difference—males report a higher mean frequency for the offense of public fighting/disturbances. Overall, males report higher incidence rates of offending for eighteen of the twenty-five offenses examined. Consistent with previous self-report data, females reported higher incidence rates for running away from home and shoplifting. However, contrary to prediction, the data indicate that females who do carry a weapon have a higher incidence of doing so than their male counterparts.

The investigation of the contextual variables in this study reflects several noteworthy findings. First, the examination of the offense of skipping school demonstrated a statistically significant finding that males were less likely to be caught for this behavior than females. In addition, while only two of the fourteen males caught for skipping school received a school suspension, over half (13 of 22) of the females received such a sanction. A review of the contextual variables for vandalism demonstrated that males were more likely to commit destructive acts with others rather than alone, and males were more likely to damage objects
belonging to “others” as opposed to objects belonging to “schools” or “friends/neighbors”. With respect to theft, the only significant contextual finding was that males reported a higher mean value of purchased stolen merchandise. The examination of the offense of carrying a weapon (the only serious offense with sufficient cases to be statistically analyzed) resulted in one significant contextual difference between males and females--males reporting a higher value of the weapon carried.

Much of the existing delinquency literature focuses on the prevalence and incidence of juvenile offending, with gender an important correlate of this research. This research is important in developing an understanding of the relationship between gender and crime, but is limited to providing a picture of the distribution of crimes committed. Valuable information on the context of offending, and the important components of the “criminal event” that compose the nature and circumstances of the act isn’t provided. Contextual analysis has been an important component of criminological research. The development of ecological theory highlighted the importance of structural contextual elements conducive to crime in certain geographic areas. More recently, study of situational analysis and the “criminal event” has advanced important contextual factors in criminological theories of criminal opportunity such as routine activity and rational choice theory (Kennedy & Van Brunschot, 2001; Warr, 2001).

Examination of the context of the “criminal event,” with respect to gender differences in juvenile offending has been limited. The findings of this study
underscore the importance of researching the context of offending by gender. Results indicate that females offend in fewer settings and in different manners than their male counterparts. For example, the analysis reflects that theft offenses committed by females occur in fewer settings and in different manners than males. Females in the study primarily committed theft offenses in department stores at shopping malls, and they were much more likely than males to commit such offenses with other individuals rather than alone. Furthermore, the results indicate that for less serious forms of delinquent behavior, such as skipping school and running away from home, the incidence and prevalence of such offenses are very similar for both genders. Such findings impact not only the development of delinquency theory, but also play an important role in the evaluation of gender differences in juvenile justice processing.

Gender differences in the commission of delinquent and criminal offenses are widely acknowledged. However, the study of the etiology of such differences has resulted in three trends in delinquency research. A number of scholars have argued that traditional male-oriented delinquency theories are appropriate for studying female participation in delinquent and criminal acts. On the other hand, other scholars refute the application of traditional theories to females, and advocate the development of gender-specific theories focusing on female criminality. The third theoretical trend supports the potential utility of traditional male-oriented theories, but encourages the inclusion of those special contexts
and structures that lend themselves to female delinquency and criminality into existing theoretical research.

With respect to theory development, the findings of this study generally indicate there are few significant gender differences in the prevalence, incidence and context of offending for the more minor forms of status and delinquent behaviors that need to be explained by delinquency theory. Collectively, these findings draw into question the development of gender specific or specialized theories to account for such behavior, and tentatively support the position that traditional male oriented theories may adequately explain female participation in status and less serious offenses. One notable exception is the finding that females in this study offend in fewer settings and often in different manners for theft offenses than males. Consequently, delinquency theories drawing from control perspectives focusing on variables that constrain and limit female participation in delinquent activities appear to be fruitful avenues of research. By identifying the contextual elements associated with gender and specific delinquency offenses, theories of delinquency will more accurately identify factors for the purpose of crime prevention and control. For more serious forms of criminal behavior, significant differences existed in the prevalence, incidence and context of offending, with males dominating the theft and assault offense categories. As such, theories of serious criminal behavior must continue to explore why males dominate these offenses and why contextual differences exist among males and females who participate in such behaviors. This research
lends tentative support for the development of traditional theories that incorporate the contexts and structures that are unique to male and female delinquency and criminality.

The findings of this research are also important for the study of gender differences in juvenile justice processing. Research on processing at arrest, detention and sentencing stages has revealed significant differences in outcomes for male and female delinquents. This is especially true for juveniles charged with status offenses—research finds girls are more likely than boys to be referred and arrested for these offenses and have a greater likelihood of adjudication and placement within the juvenile justice system. Such findings suggest that parents, police and juvenile justice officials continue to respond differently to comparable behaviors of boys and girls. The examination of two status offenses in this study—skipping school and running away from home—demonstrate little contextual variation by gender. However, the finding that females were significantly more likely to be caught skipping school and receive a school suspension than males support research demonstrating sex-stereotyped responses to minor misbehaviors of females. The lack of significant contextual gender differences in the commission of status offenses explored in this study raises critical questions pertaining to the differentiated responses that the juvenile justice system has to male and female status offenders. Justifications of differentiated treatment of male and female status offenders based on claims that these offenses are committed in divergent manners and thus require appropriate
gender-specific system responses, are quite questionable in the light of the results of this study.

This study has the following limitations. One critical issue, pertinent to this study as well as to most school-based samples, is that the number of cases for serious offenses becomes very small as seriousness increases from theft to violent offenses. The contextual analysis was significantly reduced to only examining six of the twenty-five offenses included in this study as a result of insufficient cases to allow for statistical analysis. This is even more problematic given that an important component of this research is examination of female offending. Since the prevalence of female participation in delinquent and criminal offenses is much lower than males, the analysis was limited to only a few cases in many of the offenses under study, particularly in the more serious violent offenses. As such, in view of the small sample sizes in these categories, conclusions must be made with caution. Future school-based research would benefit from larger sample sizes that would increase the reliability of statistical analysis.

Despite the limitations discussed above, this research has significantly contributed to delinquency literature in the following ways. First, this study's examination of contextual elements of delinquent and criminal offending and gender differences in the context of offending provides valuable information for current research in the criminal event perspective (CEP) (see Meier, Kennedy & Sacco, 2001). This perspective focuses on the interrelatedness of offenders,
victims and contexts within which they interact, and pursues a broader paradigm of those factors (both close to and removed from the act) that encourage and restrict criminal and delinquent behavior. The examination of contextual elements such as whether the crime was committed alone or with others, the structure of the victim and offender relationship and the various outcomes of the event are thus important components of the criminal event perspective.

Furthermore, this study's focus on gender differences in the context of offending highlights how gender impacts the structural and social conditions that are related to commission of delinquent and criminal acts.

Second, this study has also contributed to the dearth of research on the context of offending by gender. While "context" has played an important role in theoretical research examining the structural and social contextual dimensions of deviant and criminal behavior, the study of gender and its relationship to the context of the criminal event has been limited. However, this study may well provide the catalyst to examine existing self-report data that include follow-up questions that could provide valuable information pertaining to the study of gender the context of delinquent and criminal offenses. In addition, the existing research on gender and context, including the work by Triplett and Myers (1995), has been limited to a narrow set of questions pertaining to the context of the criminal event. This study expanded contextual analysis to include important variables such as the setting of the offense, whether the offense was committed alone or with others, whether or not the offender was caught, and if caught, the
outcome of the apprehension. Furthermore, this study expanded the examination of delinquent and criminal behavior to include twenty-five acts among four offense categories: status/minor misbehaviors, vandalism, property/theft offenses, and violent offenses. Consequently, the self-report data of this study does not suffer from one of the main problems with earlier self-report scales—the omission of serious delinquent and criminal events. The inclusion of serious delinquent and criminal offenses in this study thus properly represents the “domain” of juvenile offending, and permits conclusory statements focused on juvenile offending that may be broadly construed.

Third, the findings from the analysis of the prevalence, incidence and context of offending by gender, addresses current debates over the use of traditional male-oriented theories and gender-specific theories to explain female participation in delinquent and criminal behaviors. The finding of few gender differences in status and minor offenses included in this study provides tentative support for the application of traditional theories to female offenders. However, the findings of significant gender differences for more serious theft and violent offenses is cautiously supportive of the development of “modified” traditional theories, as well as gender-specific theories of serious offending.

Fourth, the analysis of contextual variables associated with status offenses provides valuable information that will allow for more accurate development and specification of tests for gender bias in status offense processing within the juvenile justice system. Even though recent research has
demonstrated a greater equitableness in the treatment and processing of male and female status offenders, evidence of the use of judicial contempt powers to mandate punitive sanctions for those who are essentially status offenders dictates the need for critical examination of offending patterns by gender. Research incorporating detailed contextual information in studies that follow each stage of juvenile justice processing will more fully explain the effects of gender in juvenile justice decision-making.
REFERENCES


relationships among family, school and delinquency. *Journal of Criminal Law and Criminology, 82* (1), 3-35.


## APPENDIX A

### CATEGORICAL MEASURES OF THE CONTEXT OF OFFENDING

Comparison of Triplett & Myers Study and Present Study

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Triplett &amp; Myers</th>
<th>Cunningham</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Status</strong></td>
<td><strong>Status</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Running away from home</td>
<td>Running away from home</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Time away from home</td>
<td>Time away from home</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Overnight</td>
<td>Spend time</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Destination</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Distance</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Skipping school</td>
<td>Skipping school</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Length of time</td>
<td>Length of time</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Vandalism</strong></td>
<td><strong>Vandalism</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Damage family property</td>
<td>Damage bus shelter**</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Drugs</td>
<td>Damage traffic sign**</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Damage school property</td>
<td>Damage telephone booth**</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Drugs</td>
<td>Damage window**</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Damage other property</td>
<td>Damage public trash can**</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Drugs</td>
<td>Damage street light**</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Damage school furniture**</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Damage trees, plants, or flowers**</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Damage seat in bus**</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Damage private car**</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Damage bicycle**</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Damage motorcycle**</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Damage something else, namely**</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Graffiti</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Theft</strong></td>
<td><strong>Theft</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Take vehicle</td>
<td>Steal from lele/vend</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kind stolen</td>
<td>What was it</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vehicle owner</td>
<td>Setting</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>How started</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Drugs</td>
<td>Steal from store</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* includes variables not listed: (1) Age of first offense; (2) Police find out; (3) Commit alone/others; (4) If caught, by whom; (5) If caught, what happened.

** includes variables listed directly above and: (6) Object(s) Destroyed/damaged; (7) Owner of object(s); (8) Setting.
**Triplett & Myers**

**Theft (cont’d)**

- Steal less than $50
  - Drugs
- Steal $5-$50
  - Actually steal
  - Drugs
- Steal more than $5
  - Actually steal
  - Drugs
- Steal from family
  - What stolen
  - Drugs
- Steal from school
  - Actually steal
  - Drugs
- Buy stolen goods
  - What done with
- Break into a building
  - Actually break into
  - Broke into what
  - Reason for break-in
  - Drugs

**Cunningham**

**Theft (cont’d)**

- Steal from store
  - What was taken
  - Owner of object(s)
  - Setting
- Steal from school
  - What was taken
  - Owner of object(s)
  - *
- Steal from home
  - What was taken
  - Owner of object(s)
  - *
- Steal from work
  - What was taken
  - Owner of object(s)
  - *
- Steal bicycle, moped, motorcycle
  - What was taken
  - Owner of object(s)
  - Setting
  - What was done with
  - *
- Steal vehicle
  - Owner of object(s)
  - Setting
  - What was done with
  - *
- Steal from vehicle
  - What was taken
  - Owner of object(s)
  - Setting
  - *
- Pickpocketing
  - Owner of object(s)
  - Setting
  - *
- Snatching bag or purse
  - Owner of object(s)
  - Setting
  - *

* includes variables not listed: (1) Age of first offense; (2) Police find out; (3) Commit alone/others; (4) If caught, by whom; (5) If caught, what happened.
Theft (cont’d)

Breaking into house, yard, building
  What kind of building
  Was something taken
  Owner of object(s)
  Was damaged committed
  Setting
  *
Steal something else
  Where did it happen
  *
Buying stolen goods(s)
  What was bought
  From whom bought
  Where did it happen
  *
Selling stolen goods(s)
  What was sold
  Who sold to
  Where did it happen
  *

Assault
  Carry a hidden weapon
    Kind of weapon
    Reason for carrying
  Attack someone
    Form of attack
    Hurt victim
    Extent of injury
    Drugs
  Hit parent
    Actually hit
    Hurt victim
    Extent of injury
    Drugs
  Hit teacher
    Actually hit
    Hurt victim

Assault
  Carry a weapon
    Kind of weapon
    Setting
    *
Threaten with weapon
  Kind of weapon
  What taken
  Owner of object(s)/money
  Setting
  *
Public fighting/disturbance
  Kind of situation
  Weapon used/if so, what kind
  Damage to object(s)/person(s)
  Setting
  *

* includes variables not listed: (1) Age of first offense; (2) Police find out; (3) Commit alone/others; (4) If caught, by whom; (5) If caught, what happened.
### Triplett & Myers

**Assault (cont'd)**

- Extent of injury
- Drugs
- Hit students
  - Actually hit
  - Hurt victim
  - Extent of injury
  - Drugs
- Force students
  - Type of force
  - Purpose of force
  - Hurt victim
  - Extent of injury
  - Drugs
- Force others
  - Type of force
  - Purpose of force
  - Hurt victim
  - Drugs

### Cunningham

**Assault (cont'd)**

- Setting fire intentionally
  - What was it
  - Owner of object(s)
  - Setting
- *Beat up non-family
  - Weapon used/if so, kind
  - Kind of medical help
  - Who was victim
  - Setting
- *Beat up family
  - Weapon used/if so, kind
  - Kind of medical help
  - Who was victim
  - Setting
- *Hurt with weapons
  - Kind of weapon
  - Kind of medical help
  - Who was victim
  - Setting

* includes variables not listed: (1) Age of first offense; (2) Police find out; (3) Commit alone/others; (4) If caught, by whom; (5) If caught, what happened.
### APPENDIX B
CONTINUOUS MEASURES OF THE CONTEXT OF OFFENDING

**Comparison of Triplett & Myers Study and Present Study**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Triplett &amp; Myers</th>
<th>Cunningham</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Vandalism</strong></td>
<td><strong>Vandalism</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Damage family property</td>
<td>Damage bus shelter</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Value of property damaged</td>
<td>Value of property damaged</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Damage school property</td>
<td>Damage traffic sign</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Value of property damaged</td>
<td>Value of property damaged</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Damage other property</td>
<td>Damage telephone booth</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Value of property damaged</td>
<td>Value of property damaged</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Theft</strong></td>
<td><strong>Theft</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Steal more than $5</td>
<td>Steal from phone/vending machine</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Value stolen</td>
<td>Value stolen</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Steal $5</td>
<td>Steal from store</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Value</td>
<td>Value stolen</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Steal from family</td>
<td>Steal from school</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Amount of money stolen</td>
<td>Value stolen</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Steal at school</td>
<td>Steal from home</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Value stolen</td>
<td>Value stolen</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Buy stolen goods</td>
<td>Steal from work</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Value stolen</td>
<td>Value stolen</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Steal bicycle, moped, or motorcycle</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Theft (cont'd.)</td>
<td>Cunningham</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>----------------</td>
<td>------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Value stolen</td>
<td>Theft (cont'd.)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Steal vehicle</td>
<td>Value stolen</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Value stolen</td>
<td>Steal from vehicle</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Value stolen</td>
<td>Value stolen</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pickpocketing</td>
<td>Value stolen</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Value stolen</td>
<td>Snatch bag, purse, other</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Value stolen</td>
<td>Value stolen</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Value stolen</td>
<td>Break into house, yard, building</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Value stolen</td>
<td>Value stolen</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Value stolen</td>
<td>Stealing something else</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Value stolen</td>
<td>Value stolen</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Value paid for</td>
<td>Buying stolen object(s)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Actual (shop) value</td>
<td>Value received for</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Actual (shop) value</td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>
APPENDIX C

International Study of Youth Questionnaire
INTERNATIONAL STUDY
OF YOUTH

Date of Interview __________________ Mo Day Year 7-12/

Time of Interview
Start ___________________ 13-16/
Finish ___________________ 17-20/
Interviewer Initials ___________ 21-22/
Editor/Supervisor Initials ___________ 23-24/
School ___________ 25-26/

Department of Criminal Justice
University of Nebraska at Omaha
Omaha, Nebraska

(3-11-94) - Form H
PART 2A: INTRODUCTION AND GENERAL QUESTIONS ON MISBEHAVIOR

INTERVIEWER:
Many young people do things that are not usually permitted. We would like to know if you have done some of these things. Remember that all your answers are confidential and no one except the researchers will ever see them.
Now I will read to you a number of activities and you can tell me then if you ever did these things, yes or no.

(1) no (2) yes
010. Did you ever stay away from school for at least a whole day without a legitimate excuse?

(1) no (2) yes
020. Did you ever run away from home to stay somewhere else for one or more nights without your parents or guardian's permission?

(1) no (2) yes
040. Did you ever travel on a bus without paying?

(1) no (2) yes
060. Did you ever drive a car, a motorcycle or a moped without a license or insurance?

(1) no (2) yes
070. Did you ever write or spray graffiti on walls, buses, bus seats, shelters, etc.?

<if one or more of these things has/have been answered positively:>

INTERVIEWER:
You have indicated that you have done one or more of these things. Now I would like to ask you some details about them.
PART 3A: SPECIFIC QUESTIONS ON MISBEHAVIOR

You mentioned staying away from school for at least a whole day, without a legitimate excuse.

011. At what age did you do it for the first time?
   ___ years old

011b Did the police ever find out that you did it?
   (1) no   (2) yes   (3) don’t know

012. Did you do it during this last year? <INTERVIEWER: that is, since __>
   (1) no --> next specific subject   (2) yes --> How often this last year?
   (check part 2) ____ times

014. Speaking about the last time, how many days did you stay away?
   ____ days

016. Where did you spend most of the time?
   (1) at home or the place you live, or within a 10 minute walk from
       your home or the place you live
   (2) at a shopping center/shopping mall
   (3) downtown or in the city center
   (4) somewhere else, namely: ____________________________

017. Did you do this alone or with others, then?
   (1) alone
   (2) with (approx.) ___ others

018. Were you caught?
   (1) no   ( ) yes --> by whom?
   (2) parents   (6) accidental witness(es)
   (3) store staff   (7) police
   (4) teachers/school staff   (8) other namely: ________
   (5) public transport staff

019. What happened to you when you were caught?

   o Does not apply (was never caught)
You mentioned running away from home to stay somewhere else for one or more nights without your parent's or guardian's permission.

021. At what age did you do it for the first time?
   __ years old

021b Did the police ever find out that you did it?
   (1) no  (2) yes  (3) don't know

022. Did you do it during this last year? <INTERVIEWER: that is, since ...>
   (1) no --- > next specific subject  (2) yes --- > How often this last year?
   (check part 2)  ___ times

024. Speaking about the last time, how many nights did you stay away?
   ___ nights

026. Where did you spend most of the time?
   (1) some place within a 10 minute walk from
       your home or the place you live
   (2) at a shopping center/shopping mall
   (3) downtown or in the city center
   (4) somewhere else, namely: ______________________

027. Did you do this alone or with others, then?
   (1) alone
   (2) with (approx.) ___ others

028. Were you brought back?
   (1) no  ( ) yes _________ by whom?
   (2) parents  (6) accidental witness(es)
   (3) store staff  (7) police
   (4) teachers/school staff  (8) other namely: __________
   (5) public transport staff

029. What happened to you when you were caught?

   o Does not apply (was never caught)
You mentioned traveling on a bus without paying.

041. At what age did you do it for the first time?
   ___ years old

041b Did the police ever find out that you did it?
   (1) no  (2) yes  (3) don't know

042. Did you do it during this last year? <INTERVIEWER: that is, since ...>
   (1) no ---> next specific subject (check part 2)
   (2) yes ---> How often this last year? ___ times

047. Did you do this alone or with others, then?
   (1) alone
   (2) with (approx.) ___ others

048. Were you caught?
   (1) no ( ) yes ---> by whom?
      (2) parents
      (3) store staff
      (4) teachers/school staff
      (5) public transport staff
      (6) accidental witness(es)
      (7) police
      (8) other namely: _______

049. What happened to you when you were caught?
   o Does not apply (was never caught)
You mentioned driving a car, a motorcycle or a moped without a license or insurance.

061. At what age did you do it for the first time?  
   ___ years old

061b. Did the police ever find out that you did it?  
   (1) no  (2) yes  (3) don't know

062. Did you do it during this last year? <INTERVIEWER: that is, since ...>  
   (1) no --> next specific subject  (2) yes --> How often this last year?  
   (check part 2)  ____ times

063. Speaking about the last time, what did you drive?  
   (1) moped  
   (2) motorcycle  
   (3) car  
   (4) other, namely: ____________________

066. Where did you drive mainly, this last time?  
   (1) near home or the place you live, or within a 10 minute walk from  
       your home or the place you live  
   (2) to a shopping center/shopping mall  
   (3) downtown or in the city center  
   (4) somewhere else, namely: _______________________________________

067. Did you do this alone or with others, then?  
   (1) alone  
   (2) with (approx.) ___ others

068. Were you caught?  
   (1) no  ( ) yes --> by whom?  
       (2) parents  (6) accidental witness(es)  
       (3) store staff  (7) police  
       (4) teachers/school staff  (8) other namely: _________  
       (5) public transport staff

069. What happened to you when you were caught?  
   o Does not apply (was never caught)
You mentioned writing or spraying graffiti on walls, buses, bus seats, shelters, etc...

071. At what age did you do it for the first time?  
___ years old

071b Did the police ever find out that you did it?  
(1) no  (2) yes  (3) don't know

072. Did you do it during this last year? <INTERVIEWER: that is, since ...>  
(1) no —> next specific subject  (2) yes —> How often this last year?  
(check part 2) ___ times

076. Where did you do this, this last time?  
(1) at home or the place you live, or within a 10 minute walk from your home or the place you live  
(2) at a shopping center/shopping mall  
(3) downtown or in the city center  
(4) somewhere else, namely: ____________________________

077. Did you do this alone or with others, then?  
(1) alone  
(2) with (approx.) ___ others

078. Were you caught?  
(1) no ( ) yes ————> by whom?  
(2) parents  (6) accidental witness(es)  
(3) store staff  (7) police  
(4) teachers/school staff  (8) other namely: _________  
(5) public transport staff

079. What happened to you when you were caught?  
( ) Does not apply (was never caught)
PART 2B: INTRODUCTION AND GENERAL QUESTIONS ON VANDALISM

INTERVIEWER:
Now I want to ask you about vandalism. I will read to you a list of objects and please tell me if you ever damaged or destroyed any one of these objects.

Did you ever damage or destroy on purpose ....
(1) no (2) yes 090. a bus shelter?
(1) no (2) yes 100. a traffic sign?
(1) no (2) yes 110. a telephone booth?
(1) no (2) yes 120. a window?
(1) no (2) yes 130. a (public) trash can?
(1) no (2) yes 140. a street light?
(1) no (2) yes 150. school furniture?
(1) no (2) yes 160. trees, plants or flowers in parks or public gardens?
(1) no (2) yes 170. a seat in bus?
(1) no (2) yes 180. a private car?
(1) no (2) yes 190. someone's bicycle?
(1) no (2) yes 200. someone's motorcycle?
(1) no (2) yes 210. something else belonging to someone else?

<if one or more of these things has/have been answered positively:>

INTERVIEWER:
You have indicated that you have done one or more of these things. Now I would like to ask you some details about them.
PART 3B: SPECIFIC QUESTIONS ON VANDALISM

You mentioned damaging or destroying things.

091. At what age did you do it for the first time?
   ___ years old

091a. Did the police ever find out that you did it?
   (1) no  (2) yes  (3) don't know

092. Did you do it during this last year? <INTERVIEWER: that is, since ...>
   (1) no — > next specific subject (2) yes — > How often this last year?
   (check part 2) ___ times

093. Speaking about the last time, what was it?
   (01) bus shelter  (02) traffic sign
   (03) telephone booth  (04) window
   (05) (public) trash can  (06) street light
   (07) school furniture  (08) trees, plants, or flowers
   (09) seat in bus  (10) private car
   (11) bicycle  (12) motorcycle
   (13) something else, namely: __________

094. What was about the (shop) value of this?
   (01) bus shelter  (02) traffic sign
   (03) telephone booth  (04) window
   (05) (public) trash can  (06) street light
   (07) school furniture  (08) trees, plants, or flowers
   (09) seat in bus  (10) private car
   (11) bicycle  (12) motorcycle
   (13) something else, namely: __________

095. Who was the owner of this object?
   (01) parents  (02) father  (03) mother
   (04) sibling  (05) the school  (06) teacher
   (07) another student  (08) acquaintance
   (09) friend  (10) neighbors  (11) stranger
   (12) company I work for  (13) fellow worker
   (14) boss  (15) small store
   (16) self-service store  (17) department store
   (18) transport company  (19) other company
   (20) city  (21) tourist
   (22) other: __________
   (23) I don't know

096. Where did you do this, this last time?
   (1) at home or the place you live, or within a 10 minute walk from
   your home or the place you live
   (2) at a shopping center/shopping mall
   (3) downtown or in the city center
   (4) somewhere else, namely: __________

097. Did you do this alone or with others, then?
   (1) alone
   (2) with (approx.) ___ others

098. Were you caught?
   (1) no  ( ) yes — > by whom?
   (2) parents  (6) accidental witness(es)
   (3) store staff  (7) police
   (4) teachers/school staff  (8) other namely: __________
   (5) public transport staff

099. What happened to you when you were caught?
   ( ) Does not apply (was never caught)
PART 2C: INTRODUCTION AND GENERAL QUESTIONS ON PROPERTY-RELATED BEHAVIOR

INTERVIEWER:

Sometimes people take away things from others, without the intention of returning them. Now, we would like to know if you have ever done something like that. Of course all your answers will be treated strictly confidential.

(1) no (2) yes 230. Did you ever steal money from a public telephone or from a vending machine?

(1) no (2) yes 240. Did you ever steal something from a store?

(1) no (2) yes 250. Did you ever steal something from school?

(1) no (2) yes 260. Did you ever steal something from home or the place you live?

(1) no (2) yes 270. Did you ever steal something from the place you are working? (8) does not apply (respondent has not had a job yet)

(1) no (2) yes 280. Did you ever steal a bicycle, moped or motorcycle?

(1) no (2) yes 290. Did you ever steal a car?

(1) no (2) yes 300. Did you ever steal something out of or from a car?

(1) no (2) yes 310. Have you ever done any pickpocketing?

(1) no (2) yes 320. Did you ever snatch from a person a purse, a bag, or some other thing?

(1) no (2) yes 330. Did you ever sneak or break into a private yard, a house or a building? (not meaning abandoned houses or buildings)

(1) no (2) yes 340. Did you ever steal something I did not mention yet? What was it:

(1) no (2) yes 350. Did you ever buy something that you knew or suspected at the time, had been stolen?

(1) no (2) yes 360. Did you ever sell something that you knew or suspected at the time, had been stolen?

<If one or more of these things has/have been answered positively>

INTERVIEWER:

You have indicated that you have done one or more of these things. Now I would like to ask you some details about them.
PART 3C: SPECIFIC QUESTIONS ON PROPERTY-RELATED BEHAVIOR

You mentioned stealing money from a public telephone or from a vending machine.

231. At what age did you do it for the first time?
       ___ years old

231b Did the police ever find out that you did it?
       (1) no     (2) yes     (3) don't know

232. Did you do it during this last year? <INTERVIEWER: that is, since >
       (1) no ---> next specific subject  (2) yes ---> How often this last year?
              (check part 2)     ___ times

233. Speaking about the last time, was it a telephone or a vending machine?
       (1) telephone
       (2) vending machine

234. How much money did you get out of it, then?
       __________

236. Where did you do this, this last time?
       (1) at home or the place you live, or within a 10 minute walk from
           your home or the place you live
       (2) at a shopping center/shopping mall
       (3) downtown or in the city center
       (4) somewhere else, namely: ____________________________________

237. Did you do this alone or with others, then?
       (1) alone
       (2) with (approx.) ___ others

238. Were you caught?
       (1) no  ( ) yes ----------> by whom?
              (2) parents
              (3) store staff
              (4) teachers/school staff
              (5) public transport staff
              (6) accidental witness(es)
              (7) police
              (8) other namely: __________

239. What happened to you when you were caught?
       o Does not apply (was never caught)
You mentioned stealing something from a store.

241. At what age did you do it for the first time? _ years old

241b Did the police ever find out that you did it?
(1) no (2) yes (3) don't know

242. Did you do it during this last year? <INTERVIEWER: that is, since ...>
(1) no --> next specific subject (2) yes --> How often this last year?
(check part 2) times

243. Speaking about the last time, what did you take away?

244. What was about the (shop) value of what you took?
(0) I don't know

245. Who was the owner of this object/money?
(01) parents (09) friend (16) self-service store
(02) father (10) neighbors (17) department store
(03) mother (11) stranger (18) transport company
(04) sibling (12) company I work for (19) other company
(05) the school (13) fellow worker (20) city
(06) teacher (14) boss (21) tourist
(07) another student (15) small store (22) other:
(08) acquaintance (23) I don't know

246. Where did you do this, this last time?
(1) near the place you live, or within a 10 minute walk from your home or the place you live
(2) at a shopping center/shopping mall
(3) downtown or in the city center
(4) somewhere else, namely: ________________

247. Did you do this alone or with others, then?
(1) alone
(2) with (approx.) ___ others

248. Were you caught?
(1) no ___ yes ______--> by whom?
(2) parents (6) accidental witness(es)
(3) store staff (7) police
(4) teachers/school staff (8) other namely: ________
(5) public transport staff

249. What happened to you when you were caught?
(0) Does not apply (was never caught)
You mentioned stealing something from school.

251. At what age did you do it for the first time?
   ___ years old

251b Did the police ever find out that you did it?
   (1) no   (2) yes   (3) don't know

252. Did you do it during this last year? <INTERVIEWER: that is, since ...>
   (1) no ---> next specific subject  (2) yes ---> How often this last year?
   (check part 2)  ___ times

253. Speaking about the last time, what did you take away?

254. What was about the (shop) value of what you took?
   (a) I don't know

255. Who was the owner of this object/money?
   (01) parents    (09) friend    (16) self-service store
   (02) father    (10) neighbors    (17) department store
   (03) mother    (11) stranger    (18) transport company
   (04) sibling    (12) company I work for    (19) other company
   (05) the school    (13) fellow worker    (20) city
   (06) teacher    (14) boss    (21) tourist
   (07) another student    (15) small store    (22) other: _______
   (08) acquaintance    (23) I don't know

257. Did you do this alone or with others, then?
   (1) alone
   (2) with (approx.) ___ others

258. Were you caught?
   (1) no   ( ) yes ---> by whom?
   (2) parents    (6) accidental witness(es)
   (3) store staff    (7) police
   (4) teachers/school staff    (8) other namely: _______
   (5) public transport staff

259. What happened to you when you were caught?
   (a) Does not apply (was never caught)
You mentioned stealing something from home, or the place you live.

261. At what age did you do it for the first time?
   ___ years old

261b. Did the police ever find out that you did it?
   (1) no   (2) yes   (3) don’t know

262. Did you do it during this last year? <INTERVIEWER: that is, since ...>
   (1) no ---> next specific subject   (2) yes ---> How often this last year?
   (check part 2)   ___ times

263. Speaking about the last time, what did you take away?

264. What was about the (shop) value of what you took?
   o I don’t know

265. Who was the owner of this object/money?
   (01) parents   (09) friend   (16) self-service store
   (02) father   (10) neighbors   (17) department store
   (03) mother   (11) stranger   (18) transport company
   (04) sibling   (12) company I work for   (19) other company
   (05) the school   (13) fellow worker   (20) city
   (06) teacher   (14) boss   (21) tourist
   (07) another student   (15) small store   (22) other: ________________
   (08) acquaintance   (23) I don’t know

267. Did you do this alone or with others, then?
   (1) alone
   (2) with (approx.) ___ others

268. Were you caught?
   (1) no   ( ) yes -----------------> by whom?
   (2) parents   (6) accidental witness(es)
   (3) store staff   (7) police
   (4) teachers/school staff   (8) other namely: __________
   (5) public transport staff

269. What happened to you when you were caught?
   o Does not apply (was never caught)
You mentioned stealing something from the place you are working.

271. At what age did you do it for the first time?  
   ___ years old

271b Did the police ever find out that you did it?  
   (1) no  (2) yes  (3) don't know

272. Did you do it during this last year? <INTERVIEWER: that is, since ...>
   (1) no ----> next specific subject  (2) yes ---> How often this last year?  
      (check part 2) ___ times

273. Speaking about the last time, what did you take away?

274. What was about the (shop) value of what you took?  
   0 I don't know

275. Who was the owner of this object/money?  
   (01) parents  (09) friend  (16) self-service store
   (02) father  (10) neighbors  (17) department store
   (03) mother  (11) stranger  (18) transport company
   (04) sibling  (12) company I work for (19) other company
   (05) the school  (13) fellow worker (20) city
   (06) teacher  (14) boss  (21) tourist
   (07) another student  (15) small store  (22) other: __________________
   (08) acquaintance  (23) I don't know

267. Did you do this alone or with others, then?  
   (1) alone  
   (2) with (approx.) ___ others

268. Were you caught?  
   (1) no  ( ) yes --------> by whom?  
      (2) parents  (6) accidental witness(es)
      (3) store staff  (7) police
      (4) teachers/school staff  (8) other namely: __________
      (5) public transport staff

279. What happened to you when you were caught?  
   0 Does not apply (was never caught)
You mentioned stealing a bicycle, moped or motorcycle.

281. At what age did you do it for the first time?
   ___ years old

281b Did the police ever find out that you did it?
   (1) no (2) yes (3) don't know

282. Did you do it during this last year? <INTERVIEWER: that is, since ...>
   (0) no --- > next specific subject ( ) yes --- > How often this last year?
   (check part 2) ___ times

283. What did you take away?
   (1) motorcycle (2) moped (3) bicycle

284. Speaking about the last time, what was about the (shop) value of this vehicle?
   (I don't know

285. Who was the owner of this object?
   (01) parents (09) friend (16) self-service store
   (02) father (10) neighbors (17) department store
   (03) mother (11) stranger (18) transport company
   (04) sibling (12) company I work for (19) other company
   (05) the school (13) fellow worker (20) city
   (06) teacher (14) boss (21) tourist
   (07) another student (15) small store (22) other:____________________
   (08) acquaintance (23) I don't know

286. Where did you do this?
   (1) at home or the place you live, or within a 10 minute walk from your home or the place you live
   (2) at a shopping center/shopping mall
   (3) downtown or in the city center
   (4) somewhere else, namely: ________________________________

286b What did you do with it at the end?
   (1) dumped it somewhere (4) sold it
   (2) destroyed/damaged it (5) I still use it
   (3) brought it back (6) other namely:____________________

287. Did you do this alone or with others, then?
   (1) alone
   (2) with (approx.) ___ others

288. Were you caught?
   (1) no ( ) yes --- > by whom?
   (2) parents (6) accidental witness(es)
   (3) store staff (7) police
   (4) teachers/school staff (8) other namely:____________________
   (5) public transport staff

289. What happened to you when you were caught?
   (D) Does not apply (was never caught)
You mentioned stealing a car.

291. At what age did you do it for the first time? ___ years old

291b Did the police ever find out that you did it?
(1) no  (2) yes  (3) don’t know

292. Did you do it during this last year? <INTERVIEWER: that is, since ...>
(1) no --> next specific subject (2) yes --> How often this last year? (check part 2) ___ times

294. Speaking about the last time, what was about the (shop) value of this car?
(0) I don’t know

295. Who was the owner of this object?
(01) parents (02) father (03) mother (04) sibling (05) the school (06) teacher (07) another student (08) acquaintance
(09) friend (10) neighbors (11) stranger (12) company I work for (13) fellow worker (14) boss (15) small store
(16) self-service store (17) department store (18) transport company (19) other company (20) city (21) tourist
(22) other: ____________
(23) I don’t know

296a Where did you do this?
(1) at home or the place you live, or within a 10 minute walk from your home or the place you live
(2) at a shopping center/shopping mall
(3) downtown or in the city center
(4) somewhere else, namely: ____________

296b What did you do with it at the end?
(1) dumped it somewhere (2) destroyed/damaged it (3) brought it back
(4) sold it (5) I still use it (6) other namely: ____________

297. Did you do this alone or with others, then?
(1) alone
(2) with (approx.) ___ others

298. Were you caught?
(1) no ( ) yes --> by whom?
(2) parents (3) store staff (4) teachers/school staff (5) public transport staff
(6) accidental witness(es) (7) police (8) other namely: ____________

299. What happened to you when you were caught?
( ) Does not apply (was never caught)
You mentioned stealing something out of or from a car.

301. At what age did you do it for the first time?
   — years old

301b Did the police ever find out that you did it?
   (1) no (2) yes (3) don't know

302. Did you do it during this last year? <INTERVIEWER: that is, since ...>
   (1) no --> next specific subject (2) yes --> How often this last year?
   (check part 2) times

303. Speaking about the last time, what did you take out/off the car? [Code "1" no, "2" yes.]
   <here, more than one answer can be entered if required>
   (1) antennas (5) drivers license, passport etc.
   (2) hub cap (6) tape deck
   (3) mirror (outside) (7) cellular phone
   (4) radio (8) other: ________________________________

304. What was about the (shop) value of what you took then?
   (a) I don't know

305. Who was the owner of this object/money?
   (01) parents (06) teacher (11) stranger (16) self-service store
   (02) father (07) another student (12) company I work for (17) department store
   (03) mother (08) acquaintance (13) fellow worker (18) transport company
   (04) sibling (09) friend (14) boss (19) other company
   (05) the school (10) neighbors (15) small store (20) city
   (21) tourist
   (22) other: ________________________________
   (23) I don't know

306. Where did you do this, this last time?
   (1) at home or the place you live, or within a 10 minute walk from
       your home or the place you live
   (2) at a shopping center/shopping mall
   (3) downtown or in the city center
   (4) somewhere else, namely: ______________________________________

307. Did you do this alone or with others, then?
   (1) alone
   (2) with (approx.) ___ others

308. Were you caught?
   (1) no ( ) yes --> by whom?
      (2) parents (6) accidental witness(es)
      (3) store staff (7) police
      (4) teachers/ school staff (8) other namely: __________
      (5) public transport staff

309. What happened to you when you were caught?
   ( ) Does not apply (was never caught)
You mentioned doing 'pickpocketing'.

311. At what age did you do it for the first time?
   ___ years old

311b Did the police ever find out that you did it?
   (1) no  (2) yes  (3) don't know

312. Did you do it during this last year? <INTERVIEWER: that is, since ...>
   (1) no —— next specific subject  (2) yes —— How often this last year?
   (check part 2) ___ times

314. Speaking about the last time, what was about the (shop) value of what you look?
   o I don't know

315. Who was the owner of this object/money?
   (01) parents  (09) friend  (16) self-service store
   (02) father    (10) neighbors  (17) department store
   (03) mother    (11) stranger  (18) transport company
   (04) sibling   (12) company I work for  (19) other company
   (05) the school (13) fellow worker  (20) city
   (06) teacher * (14) boss  (21) tourist
   (07) another student (15) small store  (22) other:_________
   (08) acquaintance  (23) I don't know

316. Where did you do this, this last time?
   (1) at home or the place you live, or within a 10 minute walk from
       your home or the place you live
   (2) at a shopping center/shopping mall
   (3) downtown or in the city center
   (4) somewhere else, namely: ____________________

317. Did you do this alone or with others, then?
   (1) alone
   (2) with (approx.) ___ others

318. Were you caught?
   (1) no  ( ) yes ——> by whom?
   (2) parents  ( ) yes ——> by whom?
   (3) store staff  (6) accidental witness(es)
   (4) teachers/school staff  (7) police
   (5) public transport staff  (8) other namely:_________

319. What happened to you when you were caught?
   o Does not apply (was never caught)
You mentioned snatching a purse, bag or something else from a person.

321. At what age did you do it for the first time?
   ___ years old

321b Did the police ever find out that you did it?
   (1) no  (2) yes  (3) don't know

322. Did you do it during this last year? <INTERVIEWER: that is, since ...>
   (1) no --> next specific subject  (2) yes --> How often this last year?
      (check part 2) ___ times

324. Speaking about the last time, what was about the (shop) value of what you took?
   (1) I don't know

325. Who was the owner of this object/money?
   (01) parents  (09) friend  (16) self-service store
   (02) father_  (10) neighbors  (17) department store
   (03) mother_  (11) stranger  (18) transport company
   (04) sibling_ (12) company I work for (19) other company
   (05) the school(13) fellow worker  (20) city
   (06) teacher_ (14) boss    (21) tourist
   (07) another student(15) small store  (22) other:_________________________
   (08) acquaintance(23) I don't know

326. Where did you do this, this last time?
   (1) at home or the place you live, or within a 10 minute walk from
       your home or the place you live
   (2) at a shopping center/shopping mall
   (3) downtown or in the city center
   (4) somewhere else, namely: ________________________________

327. Did you do this alone or with others, then?
   (1) alone
   (2) with (approx.) ___ others

328. Were you caught?
   (1) no  (2) yes --> by whom?
      (2) parents  (6) accidental witness(es)
      (3) store staff  (7) police
      (4) teachers/school staff  (8) other namely: ______________
      (5) public transport staff

329. What happened to you when you were caught?
   (1) I don't know
      (2) parents  (6) accidental witness(es)
      (3) store staff  (7) police
      (4) teachers/school staff  (8) other namely: ______________
      (5) public transport staff

   (1) I don't know
      (2) police
      (3) school
      (4) teachers
      (5) other
      (6) accidental witness(es)
      (7) parents
      (8) store staff
You mentioned sneaking or breaking into a house, a yard or a building. (not meaning abandoned or ruined objects)

331. At what age did you do it for the first time?
   ___ years old

331b Did the police ever find out that you did it?
   (1) no (2) yes (3) don’t know

332. Did you do it during this last year? <INTERVIEWER: that is, since ...>
   (1) no ---> next specific subject (2) yes ---> How often this last year?
   (check part 2) ___ times

333. What kind of building did you get in?
   (1) school (4) house
   (2) warehouse (5) other, namely: _______________________
   (3) apartment building

334. Speaking about the last time, did you take away something?
   (1) no (2) yes ---> What was about the (shop) value of what you took?
   o I don’t know

335. Who was the owner of this object/money?
   (01) parents (09) friend (16) self-service store
   (02) father (10) neighbors (17) department store
   (03) mother (11) stranger (18) transport company
   (04) sibling (12) company I work for (19) other company
   (05) the school (13) fellow worker (20) city
   (06) teacher (14) boss (21) tourist
   (07) another student (15) small store (22) other,
   (08) acquaintance (23) I don’t know

335b Did you damage something in the building then?
   (1) no (2) yes

336. Where did you do this, this last time?
   (1) at home or the place you live, or within a 10 minute walk from
   your home or the place you live
   (2) at a shopping center/shopping mall
   (3) downtown or in the city center
   (4) somewhere else, namely: ______________________________

337. Did you do this alone or with others, then?
   (1) alone
   (2) with (approx.) ___ others

338. Were you caught?
   (1) no ( ) yes ---> by whom?
   (2) parents (6) accidental witness(es)
   (3) store staff (7) police
   (4) teacher/school staff (8) other namely: _________
   (5) public transport staff

339. What happened to you when you were caught?
   o Does not apply (was never caught)
You mentioned stealing (something else) ........................................

341. At what age did you do that for the first time?
   ___ years old

341b Did the police ever find out that you did it?
   (1) no (2) yes (3) don't know

342. Did you do it during this last year? <INTERVIEWER: that is, since ...>
   (0) no --> next specific subject (1) yes --> How often this last year?
   (check part 2) ___ times

344. Speaking about the last time, what was about the (shop) value of what you took?
   (0) I don't know

345. Who was the owner of this object/money?
   (01) parents (09) friend (16) self-service store
   (02) father (10) neighbors (17) department store
   (03) mother (11) stranger (18) transport company
   (04) sibling (12) company I work for (19) other company
   (05) the school (13) fellow worker (20) city
   (06) teacher (14) boss (21) tourist
   (07) another student (15) small store (22) other:
   (08) acquaintance (23) I don't know

6. Where did you do this, this last time?
   (1) at home or the place you live, or within a 10 minute walk from
       your home or the place you live
   (2) at a shopping center/shopping mall
   (3) downtown or in the city center
   (4) somewhere else, namely: __________________________________________

347. Did you do this alone or with others, then?
   (1) alone
   (2) with (approx.) ___ others

348. Were you caught?
   (1) no (2) yes ----------> by whom?
   (2) parents (6) accidental witness(es)
   (3) store staff (7) police
   (4) teachers/school staff (8) other namely: __________
   (5) public transport staff

349. What happened to you when you were caught?
   (0) Does not apply (was never caught)
351. At what age did you do it for the first time?
   __ years old

351b Did the police ever find out that you did it?
   (1) no  (2) yes  (3) don’t know

352. Did you do it during this last year? <INTERVIEWER: that is, since ...>
   (1) no --- > next specific subject  (2) yes --- > How often this last year?
   (check part 2)  ___ times

353. Speaking about the last time, what did you buy?
   (description) ____________________________

354a. Speaking about the last time, what did you pay for it?

354b. What was about the real (shop) value?
   ____________
   (0) I don’t know

355. From whom did you buy it?
   (01) parents  (09) friend  (16) self-service store
   (02) father    (10) neighbors  (17) department store
   (03) mother    (11) stranger   (18) transport company
   (04) sibling   (12) company I work for  (19) other company
   (05) the school (13) fellow worker (20) city
   (06) teacher   (14) boss       (21) tourists
   (07) another student (15) small store (22) other:____________________
   (08) acquaintance (23) I don’t know

356. Where did you do this, this last time?
   (1) at home or the place you live, or within a 10 minute walk from
   your home or the place you live
   (2) at a shopping center/shopping mall.
   (3) downtown or in the city center
   (4) somewhere else, namely: ____________________________

357. Did you do this alone or with others, then?
   (1) alone
   (2) with (approx.) ___ others

358. Were you caught?
   (1) no  ( ) yes --- > by whom?
   (2) parents  (6) accidental witness(es)
   (3) store staff (7) police
   (4) teachers/school staff (8) other namely: ______________________
   (5) public transport staff

359. What happened to you when you were caught?
   ______________
   (0) Does not apply (was never caught)
You mentioned selling something that you knew or suspected at the time, had been stolen.

361. At what age did you do it for the first time?
   ___ years old

361b Did the police ever find out that you did it?
   (1) no    (2) yes    (3) don't know

362. Did you do it during this last year? <INTERVIEWER: that is, since ...>
   (1) no -> next specific subject  (2) yes -> How often this last year?
   (check part 2) ___ times

363. Speaking about the last time, what did you sell?
   (description) ________________________________________

364. How much money did you get for it?
   ________________

364b Do you know how much it would have cost in a store?
   ________________

365. To whom did you sell it?
   (01) parents    (09) friend    (16) self-service store
   (02) father     (10) neighbors  (17) department store
   (03) mother     (11) stranger   (18) transport company
   (04) sibling    (12) company I work for (19) other company
   (05) the school (13) fellow worker (20) city
   (06) teacher   (14) boss       (21) tourist
   (07) another student (15) small store (22) other: ____________
   (08) acquaintance (23) I don't know

6. Where did you do this, this last time?
   (1) at home or the place you live, or within a 10 minute walk from
       your home or the place you live
   (2) at a shopping center/shopping mall
   (3) downtown or in the city center
   (4) somewhere else, namely: ______________________________________

367. Did you do this alone or with others, then?
   (1) alone
   (2) with (approx.) ___ others

368. Were you caught?
   (1) no    ( ) yes ---------> by whom?
   (2) parents    (6) accidental witness(es)
   (3) store staff (7) police
   (4) teachers/school staff (8) other: ________________________________
   (5) public transport staff

369. What happened to you when you were caught?
   ________________
   o Does not apply (was never caught)
INTERVIEWER:
Now I have some questions about weapons and fighting.

(1) no  (2) yes  380. Did you ever carry a weapon, like a knife, stick etc.?  

(1) no  (2) yes  390. Did you ever threaten somebody with a weapon or to beat him/her up, in order to get money or other valuables?  

(1) no  (2) yes  400. Were you ever actively engaged in fighting or disorder in a group in a public place? (e.g. in situations such as: on the sports-playing field, in railway stations, music festivals, rioting, demonstrations or just on the streets)  

(1) no  (2) yes  410. Did you ever set fire intentionally to something like a car, a basement, a building, a barn, a forest or something else not belonging to you?  

(1) no  (2) yes  420. Did you ever beat up someone not belonging to your immediate family, to such an extent that you think or know medical help or a doctor was needed?  

(1) no  (2) yes  430. Did you ever beat up someone belonging to your immediate family to such an extent that you think or know medical help or a doctor was needed?  

(1) no  (2) yes  440. Did you ever hurt someone on purpose with a knife, stick or another weapon?  

<if one or more of these things has/have been answered positively:>

INTERVIEWER:
You have indicated that you have done one or more of these things. Now I would like to ask you some details about them.
PART 3D: SPECIFIC QUESTIONS ON VIOLENT BEHAVIOR

You mentioned carrying a weapon, like a knife, stick etc.

381. At what age did you carry a weapon for the first time? ___ years old

381b Did the police ever find out that you did it?
(1) no (2) yes (3) don't know

382. Did you carry one during this last year? <INTERVIEWER: that is, since ...>
(1) no --- > next specific subject (2) yes --- > How often this last year?
(check part 2) ___ times

383. Speaking about the last time, what kind of weapon did you carry?
(1) stick
(2) knife
(3) handgun
(4) other, namely: __________

384. What is about the (shop) value of that weapon?
(1) I don't know

386. Where were you when you were carrying the weapon?
(1) at home or the place you live, or within a 10 minute walk from your home or the place you live
(2) at a shopping center/shopping mall
(3) downtown or in the city center
(4) somewhere else, namely: __________________________

387. Were you alone or with others, then?
(1) alone
(2) with (approx.) ___ others

388. Were you caught?
(1) no ( ) yes --- > by whom?
(2) parents (6) accidental witness(es)
(3) store staff (7) police
(4) teachers/school staff (8) other namely: __________
(5) public transport staff

389. What happened to you when you were caught?
(1) Does not apply (was never caught)
You mentioned threatening somebody with a weapon or to beat him up, in order to get money or other valuables.

391. At what age did you do it for the first time?
   ___ years old

391b Did the police ever find out that you did it?
   (1) no (2) yes (3) don't know

392. Did you do it during this last year?  <INTERVIEWER: that is, since ...>
   (1) no ---> next specific subject (2) yes ---> How often this last year?
   (check part 2) ___ times

392b If you used a weapon, what type of weapon was it?
   (0) did not use a weapon (1) stick (2) knife (3) handgun (4) other, namely: _______

393. Speaking about the last time, what did you get?
   (1) money (2) something else, namely: ________________________
   (3) nothing ---> go to question 396

394. How much money did you get then, or what was the (shop) value of what you got?
   ___________
   (0) I don't know

395. Who was the owner of this object/money?
   (01) parents (09) friend (16) self-service store
   (02) father (10) neighbors (17) department store
   (03) mother (11) stranger (18) transport company
   (04) sibling (12) company I work for (19) other company
   (05) the school (13) fellow worker (20) city
   (06) teacher (14) boss (21) tourist
   (07) another student (15) small store (22) other:
   (08) acquaintance (18) tourism

396. Where did you do this, this last time?
   (1) at home or the place you live, or within a 10 minute walk from your home or the place you live
   (2) at a shopping center/shopping mall
   (3) downtown or in the city center
   (4) somewhere else, namely: ____________________________

397. Did you do this alone or with others, then?
   (1) alone (2) with (approx.) ___ others

398. Were you caught?
   (1) no (2) yes ---> by whom?
   (2) parents (6) accidental witness(es)
   (3) store staff (7) police
   (4) teachers/school staff (8) other, namely: _________
   (5) public transport staff

399. What happened to you when you were caught?
   __________
   (0) Does not apply (was never caught)
You mentioned being actively engaged in fighting or disorder in a group in a public place, e.g. in situations such as: on the sports playing field, in school, in the mall, or just on the streets.

401. At what age did it happen for the first time?
   ___ years old

401b Did the police ever find out that you did it?
   (1) no (2) yes (3) don’t know

402. Did it happen during this last year? <INTERVIEWER: that is, since ...>
   (1) no --> next specific subject (2) yes --> How often this last year?
   (check part 2) times

403. Speaking about the last time, what kind of situation was it?
   (1) sports playing field
   (2) bus station
   (3) music festival
   (4) rioting
   (5) demonstration
   (6) just on the streets
   (7) in a bar, café, pub etc.
   (8) somewhere else ............

403b If you used a weapon, what type of weapon was it?
   (0) did not use a weapon
   (1) stick
   (2) knife
   (3) handgun
   (4) other, namely: ___________

404. Did you cause any damage to objects or persons?
   (1) no (2) yes --> (3) objects (4) persons (5) both

406. Where did this happen?
   (1) at home or the place you live, or within a 10 minute walk from your home or the place you live
   (2) at a shopping center/shopping mall
   (3) downtown or in the city center
   (4) somewhere else, namely: ____________________________

407. How many others were involved?
   (approx.) ___ others

408. Were you caught?
   (1) no (2) yes --> by whom?
   (2) parents (6) accidental witness(es)
   (3) store staff (7) police
   (4) teachers/school staff (8) other namely: ___ ___
   (5) public transport staff

409. What happened to you when you were caught?
   (0) Does not apply (was never caught)
You mentioned setting fire intentionally to something not belonging to you, like a car, a basement, a building, a barn, a forest or something else.

411. At what age did you do it for the first time?
   ___ years old

411b Did the police ever find out that you did it?
   (1) no    (2) yes    (3) don't know

412. Did you do it during this last year? <INTERVIEWER: that is, since ...>
   (1) no ---> next specific subject    (2) yes ---> How often this last year?
   (check part 2) ___ times

414. Speaking about the last time, what was it?

415. Who was the owner of this object?
   (01) parents    (09) friend    (16) self-service store
   (02) father    (10) neighbors    (17) department store
   (03) mother    (11) stranger    (18) transport company
   (04) sibling    (12) company I work for    (19) other company
   (05) the school    (13) fellow worker    (20) city
   (06) teacher    (14) boss    (21) tourist
   (07) another student    (15) small store    (22) other
   (08) acquaintance    (23) I don't know

416. Where did you do this, this last time?
   (1) at home or the place you live, or within a 10 minute walk from
       your home or the place you live
   (2) at a shopping center/shopping mall
   (3) downtown or in the city center
   (4) somewhere else, namely: ____________________________

417. Did you do this alone or with others, then?
   (1) alone
   (2) with (approx.) ___ others

418. Were you caught?
   (1) no    (2) yes ---> by whom?
   (2) parents    (6) accidental witness(es)
   (3) store staff    (7) police
   (4) teachers/school staff    (8) other namely: ____________________________
   (5) public transport staff

419. What happened to you when you were caught?
   o Does not apply (was never caught)
You mentioned beating up someone not belonging to your immediate family to such an extent that you think or know medical help or a doctor was needed.

421. At what age did you do it for the first time?
   ___ years old

421b Did the police ever find out that you did it?
   (1) no  (2) yes  (3) don't know

422. Did you do it during this last year? <INTERVIEWER: that is, since ...>
   (1) no --- > next specific subject (2) yes --- > How often this last year?
   (check part 2) ___ times

423. If you used a weapon, what type of weapon was it?
   (0) did not use a weapon
   (1) stick
   (2) knife
   (3) handgun
   (4) other, namely: ___________

424. Speaking about the last time, what kind of medical help was, or would have been needed?
   (1) only first aid
   (2) first aid and follow up check
   (3) admission into hospital
   (4) other
   (5) I don't know

425. Who was this person?
   (01) parents  (02) father  (03) mother  (04) sibling  (05) school
   (06) teacher  (07) another student  (08) acquaintance
   (09) friend  (10) neighbors  (11) stranger
   (12) company I work for  (13) fellow worker  (14) boss
   (15) small store  (16) self-service store
   (17) department store  (18) transport company
   (19) other company  (20) city
   (21) tourist  (22) other: ___________

426. Where did you do this, this last time?
   (1) at home or the place you live, or within a 10 minute walk from
       your home or the place you live
   (2) at a shopping center/shopping mall
   (3) downtown or in the city center
   (4) somewhere else, namely: ___________________________

427. Did you do this alone or with others, then?
   (1) alone
   (2) with (approx.) ___ others

428. Were you caught?
   (1) no  (2) yes --- > by whom?
   (2) parents
   (3) store staff
   (4) teachers/school staff
   (5) public transport staff
   (6) accidental witness(es)
   (7) police
   (8) other namely: _______________________

429. What happened to you when you were caught?

___ Does not apply (was never caught)

---
You mentioned beating up someone belonging to your immediate family to such an extent that you think or know medical help or a doctor was needed.

431. At what age did you do it for the first time?
   ___ years old

431b Did the police ever find out that you did it?
   (1) no   (2) yes   (3) don't know

432. Did you do it during this last year? <INTERVIEWER: that is, since ...>
   (1) no ---> next specific subject   (2) yes ---> How often this last year? (check part 2) ___ times

433. If you used a weapon, what type of weapon was it?
   (0) did not use a weapon
   (1) stick
   (2) knife
   (3) handgun
   (4) other, namely: ________________

434. Speaking about the last time, what kind of medical help was, or would have been needed?
   (1) only first aid
   (2) first aid and follow up check
   (3) admission into hospital
   (4) other ________________
   (5) I don't know

435. Who was this person?
   (01) father
   (02) mother
   (03) sibling
   (04) other member of the family/who?____________________

436. Where did you do this, this last time?
   (1) at home or the place you live, or within a 10 minute walk from your home or the place you live
   (2) at a shopping center/shopping mall
   (3) downtown or in the city center
   (4) somewhere else, namely: ________________________________

437. Did you do this alone or with others, then?
   (1) alone
   (2) with (approx.) ___ others

438. Were you caught?
   (1) no   ( ) yes ---> by whom?
       (2) parents
       (3) store staff
       (4) teachers/school staff
       (5) public transport staff
       (6) accidental witness(es)
       (7) police
       (8) other namely: ____________
       o Does not apply (was never caught)

439. What happened to you when you were caught?

34
You mentioned hurting someone with a knife, stick or another weapon.

441. At what age did you do it for the first time?
   ___ years old

441b Did the police ever find out that you did it?
   (1) no  (2) yes  (3) don't know

442. Did you do it during this last year? <INTERVIEWER: that is, since ...>
   (1) no --> next specific subject  (2) yes --> How often this last year?
      (check part 2) ___ times

443. What type of weapon did you use?
   (1) stick
   (2) knife
   (3) handgun
   (4) other, namely: ______________

444. Speaking about the last time, do you know or think medical help was, or would have been needed?
   (1) no  ( ) yes --> what type of medical help?
      (2) only first aid
      (3) first aid and follow up check
      (4) admission into hospital
      (5) other  ______________
      (6) I don't know

445. Who was this person?
   (01) parents  (09) friend  (16) self-service store
   (02) father  (10) neighbors  (17) department store
   (03) mother  (11) stranger  (18) transport company
   (04) sibling  (12) company I work for  (19) other company
   (05) the school  (13) fellow worker  (20) city
   (06) teacher  (14) boss  (21) tourist
   (07) another student  (15) small store  (22) other: ______________
   (08) acquaintance

446. Where did you do this, this last time?
   (1) at home or the place you live, or within a 10 minute walk from
      your home or the place you live
   (2) at a shopping center/shopping mall
   (3) downtown or in the city center
   (4) somewhere else, namely: ________________________________

447. Did you do this alone or with others, then?
   (1) alone
   (2) with (approx.) ___ others

448. Were you caught?
   (1) no  ( ) yes --> by whom?
      (2) parents
      (3) store staff
      (4) teachers/school staff
      (5) public transport staff
      (6) accidental witness(es)
      (7) police
      (8) other namely: ______________

49. What happened to you when you were caught?
   o Does not apply (was never caught)