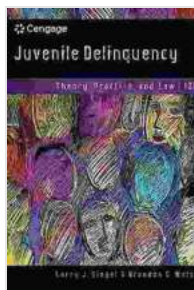


# Juvenile Delinquency: Theory, Practice, and Law

Juvenile delinquency is a serious problem that affects communities across the United States. In 2018, an estimated 1.3 million youth between the ages of 10 and 17 were arrested for a crime. That's about 1 in every 10 youth in America.

Juvenile delinquency can have a devastating impact on both the individual and society as a whole. Youth who engage in delinquent behavior are more likely to experience negative outcomes later in life, including academic failure, unemployment, and involvement in the criminal justice system. They are also more likely to be victims of violence and abuse.



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by Larry J. Siegel

★★★★☆ 4.5 out of 5

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The problem of juvenile delinquency is complex and there is no single solution. However, by understanding the major theories of juvenile delinquency, as well as the practices and laws that are used to address it, we can take steps to prevent and intervene in this destructive behavior.

## Theories of Juvenile Delinquency

There are many different theories that attempt to explain the causes of juvenile delinquency. Some of the most common theories include:

- **Biological theories** focus on the role of genetics and biology in juvenile delinquency. These theories suggest that certain individuals may be more likely to engage in delinquent behavior due to their genes or other biological factors.
- **Psychological theories** focus on the role of psychological factors in juvenile delinquency. These theories suggest that certain psychological traits, such as aggression or impulsivity, may make individuals more likely to engage in delinquent behavior.
- **Social theories** focus on the role of social factors in juvenile delinquency. These theories suggest that certain social factors, such as poverty or exposure to violence, may make individuals more likely to engage in delinquent behavior.

No one theory can fully explain the causes of juvenile delinquency. However, by understanding the different theories, we can gain a better understanding of the complex factors that contribute to this problem.

## Practice and Law

The field of juvenile justice is responsible for addressing the problem of juvenile delinquency. Juvenile justice professionals use a variety of practices and laws to prevent and intervene in delinquent behavior.

Some of the most common practices used in juvenile justice include:

- **Prevention programs** focus on preventing youth from engaging in delinquent behavior in the first place. These programs may include educational programs, mentoring programs, and after-school programs.
- **Intervention programs** focus on intervening in the lives of youth who are already engaging in delinquent behavior. These programs may include counseling, probation, and community service.
- **Rehabilitation programs** focus on helping youth who have been involved in the juvenile justice system to turn their lives around. These programs may include education, job training, and counseling.

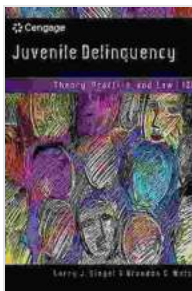
In addition to these practices, juvenile justice professionals also rely on a variety of laws to address the problem of juvenile delinquency. These laws may include:

- **Juvenile codes** are laws that specifically address the issue of juvenile delinquency. These codes may include provisions for juvenile arrest, detention, and sentencing.
- **Criminal laws** may also be used to address juvenile delinquency. However, criminal laws are typically more harsh than juvenile codes and may result in more severe penalties.

The field of juvenile justice is constantly evolving and new practices and laws are being developed all the time. The goal of these practices and laws is to prevent and intervene in juvenile delinquency and to help youth who have been involved in the juvenile justice system to turn their lives around.

Juvenile delinquency is a serious problem that affects communities across the United States. However, by understanding the major theories of juvenile delinquency, as well as the practices and laws that are used to address it, we can take steps to prevent and intervene in this destructive behavior.

If you are concerned about a youth who is engaging in delinquent behavior, there are many resources available to help. You can reach out to your local juvenile justice agency, school, or community



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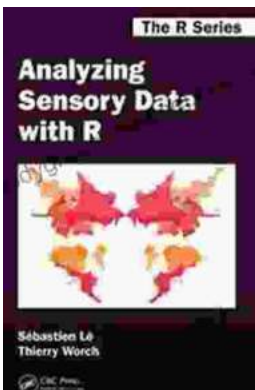
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