

The Clemson Juvenile Delinquency Project

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Acknowledgements

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Multi-Agency Matched Control Study Sample

- ❑ SC DJJ sample comprises 99,602 youth born in 1981-1988.
- ❑ DJJ file merged with files from departments of Mental Health (DMH), Social Services (DSS), Education (SCDE), Health and Environmental Control (DHEC) and Law Enforcement Division (SLED).
- ❑ A “control” (non-delinquent) group of 99,602 was selected from files provided by SCDE; proportional random sampling by birth year, sex, and ethnicity. The same information that was obtained from the other state agencies for the delinquent sample was collected and included in the non-delinquent file.
- ❑ Delinquent and non-delinquent files combined into a master file.

DJJ Sample Characteristics

- 99,602 juvenile offenders
- 65% male, 35% female
- 51% Black, 47.5% White
- 1st referral (M) = 14.46 years
- 69% father absence
- 45% family income < \$15,000
- 20% first offenses felony
- 22% first offenses “status”

DJJ Data Include for Each of First 3 Referrals

Age at Referral	Offense Severity	Solicitor Action	Court Disposition
Age in months	Status Offense Misdemeanor Felony Violent Felony	Dismiss Diversion Prosecute	Probation Commitment SAO* Other

*School Attendance Order

Multi-Agency Data Include

DMH	DSS	SCDE	DHEC	SLED
Referral: Dates, Ages at 1 st , 2 nd , Last	Child Protective Services (CPS) Found Cases: Dates, Ages	Eligibility for Free or Reduced Lunch (Grade levels)	Childbirth: Dates, Ages, Number	Adult arrest: Date, Age
Primary and Secondary Diagnoses	Foster Care: Dates, Ages	Special Education: Dates, ages, Classifications	Low Birthweight Births: Date, Ages	Felony Arrest: Date, Age

Major Questions Addressed

1. How much of the variation in delinquent group status (delinquent versus control) can be accounted for by CPS, DMH evaluations of an aggression-related disorder, and school-related disabilities when sex, race and SES are accounted for?
2. How much of the variation in recidivism is explained by these factors?
3. Does solicitor action affect the likelihood of recidivism and does this effect depend on offender characteristics?
4. Are there race differences in the influences of various predictors on delinquency and recidivism?
5. What are the implications of delinquency research for understanding teen childbearing?
6. What is the significance of later-starting, non-violent, one time offending, particularly as a risk factor for adult criminal behavior?

Measurement Issues/Assumptions

- **Mental Health Diagnoses**

 - Stability of DSM-IV classifications

- **Standard of Living**

 - Continuity of SES indicators

- ✓ **Special Education**

 - Reliability of school-related special education groupings

- **Indicators of Child Maltreatment**

 - Interpretation of post-referral CPS found cases

(Adjusted) Odds Ratios in Accounting for Delinquent Group Membership

Influences on Delinquency (n= 196,066)	OR When Entered Alone*	Final AOR in Multivariable Equation*
Free/Reduced Lunch	1.57	1.23
CPS	4.92	2.53
Foster Care	6.78	1.25
DSM-Aggression	13.24	9.31
DSM-Other	4.67	3.24
LD	1.69	1.27
EBD	4.17	1.78
		R ² =.18
*All OR/AOR p<.001		

(Adjusted) Odds Ratios in Accounting for Juvenile Recidivism

Influences on Recidivism (n= 96,557)	OR When Entered Alone*	Final AOR in Multivariable Equation*
Gender (Male)	1.37	1.42
Race (Black)	1.33	1.10
Age 1 st referral	.71	.74
Severity	.62	.71
Prosecution (Yes/No)	1.96	1.70
Free/Reduced Lunch	2.09	1.53
CPS	2.70	1.54
Foster Care	3.03	1.08
DSM-Aggression	4.79	3.34
DSM-Other	2.51	1.91
LD	1.55	1.10
EBD	3.19	1.44
*All OR and AOR significant at p<.001 except AOR Foster Care		R² = .26

Predicting Recidivism: Odds Ratio for Prosecution/Non-Prosecution

Odds Ratio for Each of 4 Subgroups	Aggression- Related Disorder Absent	Aggression- Related Disorder Present ^a
1 st Offense a Misdemeanor ^b	1.83	.90 ^c
1 st Offense a Felony	1.35	.76

^a For recidivists, DSM-IV disorder had to occur before second offense

^b Does not include status offenses

^c Odds ratio not significant

Final Adjusted Odds Ratios in Predicting Recidivism for Black and White Youth

Influences on Recidivism	Black Youth (n= 49,686)*	White Youth (n= 46,871)*
Gender (Male)	1.51	1.35
Age 1 st referral	.74	.74
Severity	.77	.67
Prosecution (Yes/No)	1.52	1.87
Free/Reduced Lunch	1.69	1.40
CPS	1.58	1.52
Foster Care	1.09	1.09
DSM-Aggression	3.45	3.23
DSM-Other	1.75	2.06
LD	1.12	1.09
EBD	1.68	1.22
*All AOR significant at p<.001 except Foster Care (NS) and LD for White Youth (.003)	R²=.26	R²=.25

(Adjusted) Odds Ratios in Accounting for Teen Childbearing

Influences on Childbearing (n= 69,228)	OR When Entered Alone*	Final AOR in Multivariable Equation*
Race (Black)	1.48	1.29
Free/Reduced Lunch	2.67	2.11
Maltreatment	2.78	1.61
Foster Care	2.24	.73
DSM-Aggression	2.61	1.56
DSM-Mood	2.17	1.64
DSM-Other	2.19	1.67
EBD	1.91	.90
LD	1.52	1.19
ID	1.33	.83
Delinquency	3.49	2.80
*All OR and AOR significant at p<.001 except AOR EBD		R² = .16

Comparison of Low and High Risk Juvenile Offenders with Control Group

% with Marker	Control (n= 98,033)	Low Risk (n= 33,438)	High Risk (n= 7,323)
Free Lunch	50.72	52.75	77.66
Foster Care	.83	2.75	11.73
CPS	2.78	7.39	23.26
DSM (any)	7.84	21.10	59.68
EBD or LD	11.66	14.56	37.23
Adult Arrest	20.76	43.22	78.92
Adult Felony	2.89	7.84	35.11

Low Risk: 1st referral after age 14, single offense, non-felony offense
 High Risk: 1st referral before age 13, felony offense, repeat offender

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