SUMMARY

In *Psychopathology in Juvenile Delinquents*, after a short presentation of the juvenile justice systems, the authors provide a global overview of the main mental health disorders usually diagnosed in the population of juvenile delinquents, with a specific focus on Attention Deficit / Hyperactivity Disorder, Learning Disabilities and Mood and Anxiety Disorders. A developmental psychopathology perspective is used and specific attention has been given to gender and ethnic / minority issues. The aim of this overview is to clarify through integration of theory and research in this field, the possible link between mental disorders and delinquent behavior of youth and therefore, present some pathways to delinquency through psychopathology. Moreover, mental health services needed in juvenile justice are described and detailed recommendations are given for the prevention strategies and the social policies needed to be developed. The final objective of the book is to propose a direction western societies could turn to in order to face the multifaceted phenomenon of juvenile delinquency.

FOREWORD

One of the greatest interests – indeed fascinations – of society today is to glimpse into the criminal mind. We search for understanding, knowledge and answers. We search for an explanation. We seek to find the bridge that links the innocence of childhood with acts of deceit, manipulation and aggression. *Psychopathology in Juvenile Delinquents* goes a long way in providing an explanation by
giving valuable and insightful information about the developmental pathway of young people involved in the criminal justice system. We know that disruptive behaviour problems and/or mental disturbance play a significant role and in the past few years practitioners have begun to respond by developing psychological interventions that aim to meet the specific needs of young people (many of whom are emotionally immature, vulnerable in some way and lack scholastic achievement) and reduce risk to society (e.g. the Reasoning and Rehabilitation program for antisocial youths and adults with ADHD).

However the authors push the reader to acknowledge that the gains we have made are random and not nearly enough. The authors highlight that these youths do not “come out of nowhere”. They draw our attention to the developmental signposts that illuminate the pathway. These are not old, faded or shaded signposts. They are brilliantly lit beacons that we cannot fail to miss. The authors provoke us to move away from a passive acceptance that in western societies we respond reactively and, often, punitively in our dealings with youth offenders and encourage us to move towards an undertaking to act proactively and intervene at the first signposts. Why do we not? Are these signposts so brilliantly lit that we are blinded to the obvious? Are there so many signposts that we become confused, indecisive and paralysed? Or do we deliberately look the other way preferring to walk a more familiar path?

The authors identify a pathway forward and argue their case well. What is clear is that social policy is not following in the footsteps of science. What is needed is a policy of rehabilitation, treatment, education and support. This means that social agencies need to join up and work together in a meaningful way towards common goals. There has been a lot of talk and agreement but not enough action. It is inexcusable that preventions are not applied early in the cycle. The authors lay down the challenge for this to be achieved.

These authors are experts in their field. Significantly, they are scientist-practitioners in child psychology with great insight into the developmental needs of antisocial youths, practical experience in managing them and the depths to which society fails them. This thoughtful, reflective book may be small but it is an important book and powerful in its message.

Susan Young, BSc, DClinPsy, PhD

Department of Forensic and Neuropsychological Sciences

King’s College, Institute of Psychiatry, London
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This study examined the relationship between social class and self-reported various juvenile delinquent acts in Ankara, the capital of Turkey. Data included 1,710 high school students using a two-stage stratified cluster sample. Such uncommon measures of social class as students' perceptions of their family economic status, the type of place where middle school was finished, home ownership, and car ownership were employed as well as often used measures of social class. Juvenile delinquency, Child psychopathology, Délinquance juvénile, Enfants, Adolescent Psychology, Juvenile Delinquency, Psychopathology, Adolescent, Jugendkriminalität, Psychologie. Publisher. New York: Basic Books.
Juvenile delinquency has traditionally been defined as behavior exhibited by children and adolescents that has legal ramifications, such as engaging in illegal activity (statutory and criminal). Juvenile delinquents include youth who have contact with law enforcement and those who are adjudicated through juvenile court for a crime. These are behaviors that violate the rules of a society and result in contact with the juvenile justice system. Originally, the juvenile justice system was created as a separate entity from the adult legal system in recognition of the developmental differences between juvenile crime and its legal ramifications. Juvenile delinquency is an alarming issue, and concern about it is growing among federal, state and local government officials as well as the general public (Committee on Law and Justice et al., 2001). For the majority of the 20th century, juvenile crime was assumed to be a result of immaturity and young offenders were dealt with in a separate justice system with the goal of rehabilitation. However, an increase in the rates of violent crimes by adolescents in the 1980s and 1990s resulted in lawmakers adopting harsher sanctions for juvenile crime and subjecting juvenile offenders to the adult criminal justice system. In determining further the culpability of juvenile offenders, neurobiological and behavioural research is playing an increasingly significant role. Part of the Politics series on Youth rights. Youth rights. Society portal.