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 Neurodevelopmental Sciences

King’s College, Institute of Psychiatry, London
TABLE OF CONTENTS

FOREWORD

PREFACE

CHAPTER 1. The Juvenile Justice Systems
1. Introduction
2. Historical Overview of the Juvenile Justice Systems
3. Legal Issues regarding the Juvenile Justice Systems

CHAPTER 2. Psychopathology in Juvenile Delinquents
1. Prevalence Rates
   1.1 Learning Disabilities
   1.2 Disruptive Behavior Disorders
   1.3 Substance Abuse Disorders
   1.4 Mood and Anxiety Disorders
   1.5 Other Mental Health Disorders
   1.6 Comorbidity Issues and Other Considerations
2. Gender and Race/Ethnicity Issues
   2.1 Gender Differences
   2.2 Racial/Ethnic Differences
3. Effects on Individuals and Society

CHAPTER 3. The Relationship between Juvenile Delinquency and Psychopathology
1. Difficulties in Understanding the Relationship
2. Psychopathology as a Consequence of Incarceration
3. Psychopathology as a Cause of Delinquency
4. Integrating Theory and Research

CHAPTER 4. Mental Health Services in Juvenile Justice
1. Identification and Assessment
2. Treatment
   2.1 Reasons that Underscore the Need for Treatment
   2.2 Evidence from Practice
3. Barriers to Mental Health Service Use

CHAPTER 5. Recommendations
1. Prevention of Juvenile Delinquency
2. Social Policies and Interventions

CONCLUSION
REFERENCES
INTERESTING SITES AT THE INTERNET
SUMMARY
INDEX
Juvenile delinquents very often come from impoverished environments, not only in an economic sense but also in an intellectual and emotional sense. Personal relations within the family are often poor, either actively hostile or casual and diluted. The homes of delinquents are often barren and their neighborhoods short on facilities for constructive out-of-school occupation. School itself seldom provides satisfactory outlets or experiences of success for the delinquent. It is possible that Psychology and juvenile delinquency.

Essay on how psychology explains juvenile crime and the implications this has for the crim...View more. Juvenile crime 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. 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 delinquency, also known as "juvenile offending", is the act of participating in unlawful behavior as a minor or individual younger than the statutory age of majority. For example, in the United States of America a juvenile delinquent is a person who is typically below 18 (17 in the states of Georgia, New York, Michigan, Missouri, North Carolina, New Hampshire, Texas, and Wisconsin) years of age and commits an act that otherwise would have been charged as a crime if they were an adult. BACKGROUND This study aimed to assess psychopathology among incarcerated Russian juvenile delinquents in relation to the onset of conduct problems. METHOD 358 male juvenile delinquents were interviewed from January to September 1999, using the Schedule for Affective Disorders and Schizophrenia for School-Age Children-Present and Lifetime Version. Early behavior problems, current antisocial behavior, and psychopathology were also assessed through self-reports. The presence of conduct disorderâ€¦ CONTINUE READING.