

Empirical Research on Juvenile Crime Prevention

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Abstract: This article conducts an in-depth analysis and empirical research on the rising juvenile crime rate in China's transitional society. It first outlines the impact of juvenile crime on social stability and public safety, and reviews preventive measures and suggestions proposed by scholars and research institutions in recent years. The study conducted a questionnaire survey on 1000 juveniles with delinquent behavior in City A, and combined with data from relevant departments, analyzed the types of delinquent behavior, age composition, and family-school relationships. The results show that truancy, staying out late at night, and other general delinquent behaviors are common, and are related to ineffective family supervision. Moreover, gang crimes are prominent and closely related to juveniles' dropping out of school and family conditions. The article concludes by proposing suggestions for addressing family, school, internet, and juvenile crime prevention issues, including strengthening legal education, early intervention, optimizing family and school environments, establishing a juvenile crime risk warning system in smart cities, and establishing an intervention mechanism supported by family-school cooperation. These suggestions aim to reduce the juvenile crime rate, enhance their social adaptability and self-protection awareness, and promote social harmony and progress.

1. Introduction

In the past decade, Chinese society has been in a transitional period, with the economy growing continuously. However, the rate of minors engaging in illegal activities and crime has been on the rise. This phenomenon has attracted widespread attention and concern in society. With the development and transformation of society, the forms and characteristics of juvenile crime are also changing, showing a trend towards diversification and complexity. Juvenile crime not only causes great harm to victims and their families but also has a serious impact on social order and public security, posing a threat to social stability and safety.

To effectively prevent juvenile crime, many scholars and research institutions have conducted in-depth empirical studies focusing on juvenile crime cases. The "Research on the Protection and Prevention of Juvenile Delinquency in China," published by the Chinese Social Sciences, reviewed research literature from 1980 to 2020 and summarized the key points and academic controversies in the research on juvenile protection and crime [1]. The study pointed out that scholars have experienced a process of deepening research on juvenile protection and crime, but there is a lack of empirical research literature, especially in the areas of juvenile correctional institutions and

international conventions related to juvenile protection. The "White Paper on Juvenile Prosecution Work," issued by the Supreme People's Procuratorate, summarizes the effectiveness and experience of procuratorial organs in juvenile protection and judicial work from the perspective of judicial practice [3]. The white paper emphasizes the importance of legal education and proposes suggestions such as strengthening professional standardization construction and deepening theoretical research. The role of grassroots procuratorates in preventing juvenile crime should not be overlooked. Studies have shown that grassroots procuratorates, courts, judicial bureaus, education bureaus, and other institutions should jointly carry out activities to rectify social atmosphere, strengthen protection and education for juveniles, and reduce juvenile crime [5].

With the continuous development of the internet in recent years, juvenile crime is not only occurring in real life but also more easily appearing on online channels. Fang Yunqiang's article, "Juvenile Crime and Its Prevention in the Digital Age," explores the current situation and prevention strategies of juvenile crime in the digital age [2]. The article points out that although the popularization of the internet has brought many conveniences, it has also provided avenues for juveniles to commit crimes. Therefore, it is necessary to strengthen legal education, improve juveniles' internet literacy, and involve families and society in preventing juvenile crime. The white paper emphasizes the role of schools in legal education and the responsibility of families and society in cultivating juveniles' legal awareness and moral qualities. The lack of legal education in schools and inadequate guidance on legal rules by families are important factors leading to juvenile crime.[4]

In China's judicial practice, there is a lack of clear handling results for juvenile crime cases, and there is also a lack of sufficient case studies. Strengthening prevention work has important practical significance and profound historical significance in specific judicial practice and legal education. Exploring effective prevention strategies and methods, and doing well in preventing juvenile crime, can not only reduce the occurrence of juvenile crime and alleviate social security pressures but also enhance juveniles' social adaptability and self-protection awareness, promoting social harmony and progress.

2. The Empirical Situation of Juveniles with Delinquent Behavior in City A

We conducted visits to various departments in City A, including the Youth League Committee, juvenile detention centers, and the Public Security Bureau. We randomly selected 1000 juveniles who had engaged in delinquent behavior for a questionnaire survey and received 942 valid responses. The questionnaire included the specific eight general delinquent behaviors and eight serious delinquent behaviors listed in the "Law on the Prevention of Juvenile Delinquency," requiring the interviewed juveniles to select the delinquent behaviors they had engaged in. Additionally, we visited departments such as the Youth League Committee, courts, procuratorates, and the municipal government to compile data on the age composition, educational background, and geographical distribution of juveniles with delinquent behavior. We used data analysis tools to filter and analyze the data, resulting in multiple charts and graphs.

2.1. The Manifestation of Types of Delinquent Behaviors.

The manifestation of types of delinquent behaviors among juveniles in City A is complex, including but not limited to theft, fighting, drug abuse, and group brawls. Before proposing specific strategies for preventing juvenile crime, we need to first understand the specific types of behavior exhibited by delinquent juveniles, identify and understand the reasons and motives behind juvenile crime, and uncover the underlying issues behind criminal behavior. Analyzing the types of delinquent behaviors can also help us discover the social background and environment of

delinquent juveniles, which is helpful for fundamentally addressing delinquent behavior issues.

Table 1: Manifestation of Types of Delinquent Behaviors among Juveniles in City A

Number	General Delinquent Behaviors	Probability	Serious Delinquent Behaviors	Probability
(1)	Truancy, staying out late at night	81.2%	Carrying controlled knives, persisting in such behavior despite warnings	24.5%
(2)	Carrying controlled knives	49.3%	Organizing others to cause trouble, disturbing public order	68.4%
(3)	Fighting, insulting others	80.5%	Repeatedly intercepting, assaulting, or forcibly demanding money or goods from others	30.8%
(4)	Forcibly demanding money or goods from others	45.8%	Repeated theft	35.6%
(5)	Theft, intentionally damaging property	60.4%	Participating in gambling, persisting in such behavior despite warnings	23.5%
(6)	Participating in gambling or disguised gambling	41.9%	Spreading obscene literature or audio-visual products	22.9%
(7)	Watching, listening to pornographic or obscene audio-visual products	56.9%	Engaging in lewd or pornographic activities, prostitution	19.2%
(8)	Entering entertainment venues such as nightclubs	88.3%	Using, injecting drugs	18.4%

As shown in Table 1, the data on delinquent behaviors among juveniles in City A indicates that certain patterns of behavior, such as truancy and staying out late at night, are relatively common. This may reflect issues with the attractiveness of school education or inadequate family supervision. If these general delinquent behaviors are not corrected in time, they may develop into more serious behaviors, such as carrying controlled knives or participating in fights, which not only pose a threat to individual development but may also impact social order. The data also reveals a correlation between general delinquent behaviors and serious delinquent behaviors, suggesting that in preventive measures, we need to focus on those juveniles who have already shown certain behavioral problems. Through timely psychological intervention and behavior correction, we can help them avoid progressing to more serious deviant behaviors.

2.2. Composition of Juveniles with Delinquent Behaviors by Age

As society's attention to juvenile crime continues to increase, there is a growing call from all sectors to lower the minimum age of criminal responsibility. Therefore, the age of juvenile offenders should be an important consideration in analyzing delinquent behavior. Classifying juvenile offenders by age can serve as a key reference for determining whether there is a need to lower the minimum age of criminal responsibility.

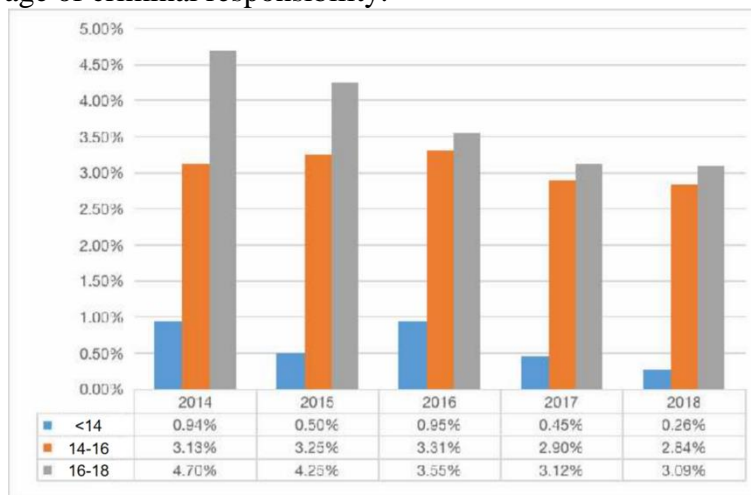


Figure 1: Composition of Juveniles with Delinquent Behaviors by Age in City A

According to the data shown in Figure 1, juveniles with delinquent behaviors are mainly concentrated in two age groups: 14-16 years old and 16-18 years old. Among them, the proportion of delinquent behaviors in the 14-16 age group has increased from 0.94% in 2014 to 0.95% in 2018, while the proportion of delinquent behaviors in the 16-18 age group has decreased from 4.70% in 2014 to 3.09% in 2018.

From 2014 to 2018, the proportion of delinquent behaviors among 14-16 year-olds has remained relatively stable, basically maintaining a low level. This may indicate that delinquent behaviors among juveniles in this age group have been to some extent controlled and prevented. In contrast, there has been a significant downward trend in the proportion of delinquent behaviors among 16-18 year-olds, which may reflect the effectiveness of relevant preventive measures, or it may be because juveniles in this age group are gradually maturing, leading to a natural decrease in delinquent behaviors.

Among juveniles in each age group, the proportion of delinquent behaviors decreases as age increases. This may indicate that as juveniles deepen their understanding of social responsibility and legal consequences, their behavior gradually improves. Therefore, for juveniles aged 14-16, it is necessary to strengthen legal education and psychological counseling to help them establish correct behavioral norms. For juveniles aged 16-18, more attention should be paid to their career planning and future development, providing more opportunities for social participation and guiding them to actively face adult life.

2.3. Investigation and Analysis of Gang Formation and Juveniles' Family-School Relationships

In the investigation and analysis of 129 juvenile crime cases over the past three years, we have identified a significant trend: there were a total of 93 cases involving juvenile gang crimes, accounting for approximately 72%. This phenomenon indicates that the majority of juvenile crimes are committed through gang activities rather than individual actions. Among these 93 gang crime cases, in 42 cases, 45.2% of the juvenile offenders dropped out of school for various reasons, and theft and provocation were the most common types of crimes in these two types of gang crimes.

Table 2: Investigation of 93 Cases of Juvenile Gang Formation and Family-School Relationships

Investigation Items	Schooling Status			Family Situation		Gang Members	
	Public School	Private School	Dropout	Parents' Divorce	Neglect of Discipline	Classmates	Other Individuals
Number of Individuals	39	12	42	45	48	67	33

As shown in Table 2, the majority of juvenile offenders' crime partners in these cases were former schoolmates, accounting for as much as 64.5%. This indicates that juveniles' social circles are relatively limited, and these offenders may not be aware of more complex social relationships or other temptations that lead to criminal outcomes. Instead, it is more likely that imitation among classmates played an important role in the formation of criminal behavior. The motivation for juvenile crime may not be the criminal result itself, but rather impulsive criminal acts influenced by surrounding classmates or groups.

Furthermore, family factors also play a significant role in juvenile gang crimes. Among the surveyed cases, 48.4% of juvenile offenders came from families with divorced or tense relationships, while 51.6% of cases involved parents who neglected daily discipline due to being busy with work. These data indicate that families have insufficient understanding of juveniles' social relationships and lack effective measures and resources to intervene and prevent juvenile

crime. To effectively prevent juvenile crime, efforts are needed from families, schools, and society to strengthen education and guidance for juveniles, helping them establish healthy social relationships and behavioral patterns.

3. Recommendations for Preventing Juvenile Crime in Family, School, and Online Settings

Based on the urban development trends and the characteristics of preventing juvenile crime, we mainly propose relevant suggestions from four aspects: legal, policy, technological, and institutional, regarding the supervision responsibilities, prevention strategies, early warning mechanisms, and intervention mechanisms for preventing juvenile crime.

3.1. Legal Perspective: Supervisory Responsibilities and Obligations Based on the "Law on the Protection of Minors"

In terms of the law, the newly revised "Law on the Protection of Minors" clearly stipulates that families, schools, and relevant social units related to the protection of minors are responsible for the education and protection of minors. Families serve as the first line of defense for the growth of minors, and parents and guardians should strengthen their education and management of minors. They should focus on cultivating correct values and behavioral norms in minors, advocating for good parent-child relationships, and creating a harmonious family atmosphere.

Schools, as important places for minors' learning and growth, should strengthen moral education. School education should not only focus on imparting knowledge but also on cultivating students' legal awareness and legal literacy, enhancing their sense of social responsibility and compliance with the law. At the same time, schools should establish sound teacher-student relationships, provide emotional support and guidance to students, and help them solve the confusion and problems of growing up.

Various sectors of society should also actively pay attention to the growth environment of minors and create a good social atmosphere. The media, social organizations, and others should actively participate in the prevention of juvenile delinquency, strengthen care and assistance to minors, and guide them to grow up healthily. The government should strengthen the formulation and implementation of relevant laws and regulations, improve the prevention system for juvenile delinquency. The government should establish a sound policy system, increase support for the prevention of juvenile delinquency, and promote the implementation of relevant work.

3.2. Policy Level: Adjustments to Juvenile Crime Prevention Strategies under the New Criminal Policy

Within the framework of the new criminal policy, the so-called juvenile crime prevention policy not only needs to consider societal policies but also needs to comprehensively consider factors such as early intervention, family, and school environments in the implementation of relevant policies. We suggest that society issue effective policies, emphasizing the need for all parties around juveniles to strengthen legal education and moral development. Policies should encourage schools and communities to disseminate legal knowledge and raise juveniles' awareness of the rule of law and social responsibility, which can fundamentally reduce the occurrence of criminal behavior. At the same time, all parties should improve early intervention and correction mechanisms, providing psychological counseling and behavior correction for juveniles with criminal tendencies to help them return to the right path in time.

In addition to curbing crime, policies should also focus on the future development of juveniles, enabling them to have a brighter future and fundamentally solve the problem of crime. We

encourage institutions to provide vocational training and entrepreneurial guidance to help juveniles transition smoothly into adulthood. Meanwhile, through social support programs, providing active social participation opportunities for juveniles can enhance their sense of social responsibility and self-worth. Under limited conditions, strengthening inter-departmental cooperation and resource integration to form a linkage mechanism for juvenile crime prevention can improve the efficiency and effectiveness of prevention efforts, ensuring that various measures are effectively implemented.

Finally, policies should provide more attention and support to special groups and regions. Special plans and projects should be implemented to improve their living conditions and educational environments. For left-behind children, impoverished families, remote areas, etc., more targeted prevention measures should be implemented to reduce the occurrence of criminal behavior and create better conditions for the healthy growth of juveniles. Through these comprehensive measures, the juvenile crime prevention strategies under the new criminal policy will be more comprehensive and effective, contributing to the construction of a harmonious and stable social environment.

3.3. Technological Aspect: Risk Warning System for Juvenile Crime under the Promotion of Smart Cities

Under the promotion of smart cities, establishing a risk warning system for juvenile crime is an important technological means for preventing juvenile delinquency. The smart city system can utilize advanced technologies such as big data analysis, artificial intelligence, and the Internet of Things to monitor and intelligently analyze the behavior patterns, social networks, and relevant environmental factors of juveniles in real-time, thereby identifying potential crime risks in a timely manner.

This warning system can integrate data from multiple scenarios such as schools, families, and communities, including students' attendance records, performance, online behaviors, etc., to build behavioral profiles for each juvenile. Through the analysis of this data, the system can identify abnormal or high-risk patterns, such as frequent truancy, sudden drop in grades, inappropriate online communications, etc., providing early warning information to parents, teachers, and relevant departments. The system uses these collected profiles to predict the behavioral trends of juveniles through intelligent algorithms, detecting potential criminal tendencies in advance. For example, by analyzing juveniles' social networks and behavior patterns, the system can predict who is more likely to be influenced by negative groups, thus taking timely intervention measures.

In addition to being used for preventing juvenile crime, the warning system can be used in rapid response centers for juvenile crime incidents, combined with existing public safety systems such as video surveillance, police deployment, etc., to achieve real-time monitoring of key areas and populations. Once suspicious behavior or abnormal events are detected, the system can immediately notify the police and relevant departments for rapid response and action.

3.4. Mechanism Level: Juvenile Crime Prevention and Intervention Mechanism Supported by Family-School Cooperation

At the mechanism level, family-school cooperation is key to building an effective mechanism for preventing and intervening in juvenile crime. By establishing a close relationship between families and schools, a support network can be formed to jointly focus on and guide the behavioral development of juveniles, and to timely identify and intervene in potential criminal risks.

The family-school cooperation mechanism should be based on mutual trust and respect, ensuring transparent information flow and effective communication. Parents and teachers should regularly exchange information about students' performance at school and their family situations, jointly

assess students' behaviors and psychological states, and promptly identify abnormal changes. This two-way communication helps both sides understand the needs and problems of students, thus enabling them to formulate more personalized prevention and intervention measures.

Schools can provide professional psychological health education and behavioral correction guidance, while families can provide emotional support and daily life supervision. Through resource sharing, both families and schools can more effectively deal with juvenile delinquency, providing them with more comprehensive support and assistance. Schools can organize parent schools, providing training on topics such as effective communication and guiding adolescents' correct behavior, helping parents improve their educational capabilities and enhance the effectiveness of family education.

The family-school cooperation mechanism should encourage the active participation of parents and students. By organizing activities such as parent volunteer activities and student club activities, students' sense of belonging and social responsibility can be enhanced, reducing the occurrence of delinquent behaviors. At the same time, these activities provide parents with opportunities to understand and participate in their children's growth, helping to strengthen the connection and cooperation between families and schools.

4. Conclusions

In conclusion, addressing juvenile delinquency requires a multifaceted approach involving families, schools, communities, and the legal system. The findings from empirical studies highlight the importance of early intervention, effective communication between stakeholders, and the implementation of tailored prevention and intervention strategies. By fostering a supportive environment and providing resources for both youth and their caregivers, we can work towards reducing juvenile crime rates and promoting the healthy development of our young population.

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