


Children, Risk and Crime: the On Track Youth Lifestyle Surveys


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**Hazel Blears,
“Studies can predict with uncanny
foresight which children are
predisposed to a life of villainy”**



“I don’t think it’s stigmatising those children by targeting them... You can intervene at an early age and say... Let’s put the support in as early as we can” (ibid).



- **Prenatal and perinatal factors**
 - **Personality factors**
 - **Intelligence and attainment**
 - **Parental supervision and discipline**
 - **Parental conflict and separation**
 - **Socio-economic status**
 - **Delinquent friends**
 - **School influences**
 - **Community influences**
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- **That risk factors are likely to play a significant role in the formation of antisocial and offending behaviour**
- **Where risk factors play a role in future offending this is likely to occur where there are a number of factors operating upon an individual**
- **Interventions need to address that range of risk factors that are implicated in future offending behaviour**
- **We know that risk factors occur in four domains of the child's experience but our knowledge of which interventions and which combination of interventions are most likely to be successful is not well developed**
- **Procedures for identifying individuals with high risk factors and for targeting interventions accurately are also a long way from an exact science**

Ethnicity by Secondary School Attendance

	%	N
White (UK or European)	71	12,854
White Irish	2	321
Black Caribbean	3	566
Black African	2	445
Black Other	1	146
Bangladeshi	2	274
Indian	4	722
Pakistani	6	1,124
Chinese	0.5	93
Mixed (White + Black Caribbean)	2	331
Mixed (White + Black African)	0.5	86
Mixed (White +Asian)	1	180
Missing or Other	6	1,042
Total		18,184

Number of Problem Behaviours

Number of problem behaviours	Boys		Girls		Total	
	N	%	N	%	N	%
None	2656	30%	2903	33%	5559	32%
One	2007	23%	2178	24%	4185	24%
2-3	2306	26%	2293	26%	4599	26%
4-6	1395	16%	1317	15%	2712	15%
7-9	445	5%	249	3%	694	4%
Total N	8809		8940		17749	

Frequency of problem behaviours by school year

Number of problem behaviours	Year 7		Year 8		Year 9		Year 10/11		Total	
	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
None	2093	46%	1665	34%	1051	24%	695	18%	5504	31%
One	1160	25%	1173	24%	962	22%	879	24%	4174	24%
2-3	890	19%	1222	25%	1320	30%	1145	30%	4577	26%
4-6	389	9%	641	13%	817	19%	689	23%	2536	15%
7-9	65	1%	146	3%	216	5%	271	7%	698	4%
Total N	4597		4847		4366		3679		17489	

Proportion of boys and girls reporting offending

	Boys		Girls		Total	
	N	%	N	%	N	%
Offending	4450	55%	3973	49%	8423	52%
Property crime	3204	40%	2561	32%	5765	36%
Attacking someone	1537	19%	716	8%	2253	14%
Vandalism	2646	33%	2680	32%	5326	32%
Official caution, warning or court conviction	1365	17%	647	8%	2012	12%

Proportion of offending by school year

	Year 7		Year 8		Year 9		Year 10/11		Total	
	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
Offending	1576	39%	2209	49%	2403	59%	2212	61%	8400	52%
Property crime	1035	26%	1490	34%	1641	41%	1580	45%	5746	36%
Attacking someone	429	10%	580	13%	621	15%	621	17%	2251	14%
Vandalism	890	21%	1384	31%	1583	38%	1472	40%	5329	32%
Official caution, warning or court conviction	320	8%	499	11%	579	14%	617	17%	2051	12%

On Track Risk and Protective Factors

	Risk Factors	Protective Factors
Family domain	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Poor parental supervision and discipline • Family conflict • Parental attitudes condoning of problem behaviour 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Positive relationship with parents • Family attachment
School	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lack of commitment to school 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Opportunities for pro-social involvement in school • Positive feelings about school • High school expectations of behaviour
Community	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community disorganisation and neglect • Lack of neighbourhood attachment • Easy availability of drugs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Positive relationships with adults
Individual/Peer Group	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Attitudes condoning problem behaviour • Friends involved in problem behaviour • Individual conflictual attitudes • Victim of crime or bullying 	

Levels of Risk and Protection in the Family Domain

	Factor	Low	Moderate	High
Risk	Poor parental supervision and discipline	40%	49%	11%
	Family conflict	52%	23%	25%
	Parental attitudes condoning problem behaviour	60%	34%	6%
Protection	Positive relationship with parents	5%	35%	60%
	Family attachment	2%	15%	83%

Levels of Risk and Protection in the School Domain

	Factor	Low	Moderate	High
Risk	Lack of commitment to school	42%	41%	17%
Protection	Opportunities for pro-social involvement	4%	35%	62%
	Positive feelings about school	6%	30%	64%
	High school expectations of behaviour	3%	20%	76%

Levels of Risk and Protection in the Community Domain

	Factor	Low	Moderate	High
Risk	Community disorganisation and neglect	50%	23%	27%
	Lack of neighbourhood attachment	63%	19%	18%
	Easy availability of drugs	24%	46%	30%
Protection	Positive relationship with adults	32%	20%	48%

Levels of Risk and Protection in the Individual/Peer Domain

	Factor	Low	Moderate	High
Risk	Attitudes condoning problem behaviour	42%	37%	21%
	Individual conflictual attitudes	34%	52%	14%
	Friends involved in problem behaviour	24%	37%	38%
	Victims of crime or bullying	39%	43%	18%

Odds ratio of factors related offending in general

Contributory Variable	Any offending in last 12 months	More than one type of offending in last 12 months
Number with behaviour	8583	4423
Gender = male	1.4	1.8
School year = 10/11	0.7	-
Family = single parent	-	1.5
Parental supervision risk high	1.5	1.4
Sibling problem risk moderate	1.4	-
Sibling problem risk high	-	1.9
Parental attitudes risk high	1.7	1.6
Community neglect risk high	-	1.3
Availability of drugs risk high	1.9	2.0
Attitudes condoning problem behaviour (high)	2.1	2.2
Friends' involvement problems risk high	4.2	5.8
Conflictual attitudes risk high	3.5	4.4
Victimisation risk high	1.9	2.7
Is a current smoker	1.4	1.4
Has consumed alcohol 1-2 times in last 4 weeks	1.3	1.8
Has used drugs in last 4 weeks	2.4	2.2

Odds ratios of factors related to property and violent offending

Contributory Variable	Any offending in last 12 months	Vandalism	Carried a knife	Attacked Someone
Number with behaviour	5874	5427	1610	2315
Gender = male	1.6		4.8	2.4
Ethnicity = white				0.6
School year = 8		1.4		
School year = 9	0.8			
Family = single parent	1.3			
Parental supervision risk high	1.6			
Sibling problem risk high	2.0	1.9	1.6	1.6
Parental attitudes risk high		1.5	1.7	1.7
Community neglect risk high		1.2		1.5
Availability of drugs risk high	1.6	2.0		
Attitudes condoning problem behaviour (high)	1.5	2.0	2.1	1.7
Friends' involvement problems risk high	4.0	3.9		2.2
Conflictual attitudes risk high	3.1	2.8		4.6
Victimisation risk high	2.2	1.2	2.5	2.3
Is a current smoker	1.5			
Has used drugs in last 4 weeks	2.3	2.0	2.0	1.7
Has played truant in the last 4 weeks				1.6
Positive relation with adults high protection			1.5	

Odds ratios of factors related to different types of property offending

Contributory Variable	Shoplifting	Theft of car	Theft from car	Mobile Phone theft	Burglary	Receiving stolen goods
Number with behaviour	4031	900	921	945	625	3512
Gender = male		6.6	4.0	3.3	1.6	1.8
Ethnicity = white				0.5		
Ethnicity = Indian						1.7
School year = 9					0.6	
School year = 10/11					0.5	
Family = single parent						1.4
Family = both parents	0.8					
Parental supervision risk high	1.6				1.7	1.7
Family conflict risk high	1.5					
Sibling problem risk high						1.6
Parental attitudes risk high				2.0		1.5

Continuation....

Contributory Variable	Shoplifting	Theft of car	Theft from car	Mobile Phone theft	Burglary	Receiving stolen goods
Community neglect risk high		1.8		1.7		1.3
Availability of drugs risk high					1.5	2.4
Pro-social attitudes risk high	1.4				1.7	1.7
Friends' involvement problems risk high	4.2				2.8	3.5
Conflictual attitudes risk high	2.6				3.2	3.1
Victimisation risk high	1.6				2.9	2.4
Is a current smoker	1.5	1.7			1.4	
Has used drugs in last 4 weeks	2.0	3.3	2.4	2.6	1.9	1.9
Truanted in the last 4 weeks		2.0	1.7	2.1		
Persistent or recent truant					1,8	
Binge drinking in last 4 weeks	1.4				1.4	