

Abstract

Does the juvenile justice center have more of a bad impact on youth adulthood rather than a good impact? This is a question that many people may not find themselves asking. This proposed study aims to find out the correlation between youth involved in the juvenile system and the adulthood outcomes. 10 youth will be given a 10-question survey and the answers will be recorded. The youth will test in separate rooms. The predicted results will be youth who have a background in the juvenile justice system have higher scores in comparison to those who do not have a background in the system by measuring the usage of marijuana. The results will underscore the negative impact that the system had on adulthood outcomes specifically the usage of marijuana. The behavior that an individual express in adolescents and adulthood is from learned experiences growing up. Youth who had been in the juvenile justice system encounter a hard transition to becoming an adult, causing them to encounter distressful outcomes in adulthood.

Introduction

Youth who come from a challenging background and in and out of the juvenile justice system tend to experience troubling outcomes in adulthood. If this what their surroundings consist of growing up most likely these will actions carry over into adulthood. It is estimated about 2.1 million youth are arrested in the United States each year (Flores et al., 2021). In today's time, it is difficult being a teenager; youth are forced to grow up sooner than later. Furthermore, this can be determined by measures such as environment, peers, parents, and exposure to things a youth should know nothing about or see at the given age. While youth may be aware of such actions, they are never really prepared to endure the consequences. "I had to grow up too fast." "I ain't been able to be a teenager." Youth face unwanted life-changing situations throughout their life resulting in emotional distress, high-risk behaviors, attachment, relationship issues, dissociation, cognition issues, and self-concept.

This study analyzed different studies that discussed youth who have been involved in the juvenile system and the effect that the system has had on them as they develop into adulthood. The juvenile justice system includes detention centers, foster care, and group homes. Youth have the choice to let their involvement with the juvenile system lead them to have hard and troubling adulthood or in contrast, lead them to have a more successful adulthood. Influential factors and resiliency will also be discussed, as we know that the history of an individual is a probable cause to later life experiences. It is hypothesized that youth who had been in the juvenile justice system encounter a hard transition to becoming an adult; causing them to encounter troubling outcomes in adulthood. The current study will use the marijuana usage as measure of troubling outcomes in adulthood.

Flores et al. (2018) study is focused on youth who are "crossover youth." It analyzes the struggles of youth who are "crossover youth" and to do so the author assesses a 24-month ethnographic study on detained youth that collects in-depth interviews. Flores et al. (2018) discusses the potential effect of the relationship between a youth and staff, caseworkers, and/or caretakers. Smith (2013) informs us that race plays a part in the type of counsel that one may receive. This study discussed community-based alternatives to detention (ATDs) and alternatives to incarceration (ATIs). These are two forms of community-based alternatives for youth to attend before jail. The focus was to create a pathway for organizations in the community to work with youth to decrease offending behavior.

Logan-Greene et al.(2020) focus was to provide an analysis of distinguishing six sets of youth on probation based on acute and chronic adversity. The goal of this study was to help guide probation practitioners to successfully help youth transition out of the system and ensure public safety. It also helped officers and other frontline law enforcement by guiding them about the diversity of youth that they encounter. Studies have found elevated levels of early life adversities that were reported by youth in the juvenile justice system resulting in about 70% have experienced a traumatic event and close to a third have a history of physical and sexual abuse (Logan-Greene et al., 2020).

In this study, the survey will ask 10 questions about the usage of marijuana of youth involved in the juvenile justice system in comparison to youth who were not involved in the system. Youth are expected to learn from their mistakes, but a deeper look should be taken before giving sanctions; this helps choose the best sanction for youth. This study will analyze and predict juveniles who have been in the juvenile justice system and who have not been predicted to show more troubling outcomes by the measurement of marijuana. Youth who have backgrounds of being involved in the juvenile justice system will have a higher reported usage of marijuana.



Predicted Results

The dependent variable of marijuana usage will be scored by a numerical answer from participants. It will be tested by using a quantitative quasi-experimental design with the expected outcomes of higher usage of participants with backgrounds involved in the system. It will be predicted that participants involved in the juvenile justice system encounter troubling outcomes in adulthood measuring by the usage of marijuana. If the group who have a background in the system is higher than the group without a background in the system, the hypothesis is supported. Youth who have backgrounds of being involved in the juvenile justice system will have a higher reported usage of marijuana. Alternative interpretations will be no difference between the groups.



Methods

Participants

Participants will be youth between the ages of 13 and 18, averaging 16-17-year-old, with a minimum of 10 youth total. All participants will be chosen from a local community center within the westside of Dayton, Ohio. All participants have been arrested for crimes of the severity however, 50% served time and 50% did not. None of the youth at the time of the study was diagnosed with any mental disorders or illnesses. For participation, participants will be given gift cards of their choice.

Materials and Procedure

The responses from the surveys are used to measure the usage of marijuana in youth who were involved in the juvenile justice system and those who are not. This survey consists of 10 multiple choice questions with options being numerical covering their usage of marijuana. with the expectation that youth will give honest and detailed responses. Youth will answer the questionnaire then responses will be recorded. The participants will indicate their usage by numerically answering the questions. An example question is "How many times have you been in trouble with the law due to marijuana ? How many "blunts" would you say you smoke in a day/week timeframe?" Randomly selected from a local community center, participants will be provided knowledge of the study and purpose. The experiment used a simple random sampling survey in which given to youth who have the same legal background in comparison to the other 50% of youth who did not have a legal background with the system. This survey will be distributed in person to youth.

To begin, participants will be placed in separate rooms, following asking any question that they may have or need clarification on. Participants are given a confidentiality form to sign. If there are no questions or clarification needed, next participants will be given the survey with rules explained. Participants are given a time frame to complete the survey. Once participants have completed the survey, feedback will be asked. Throughout the study, it is made clear that the surveys are anonymous and the information that is recorded will be kept confidential and this is done by confidentiality forms being signed by participants and experimenters prior to the study. If participant feel that the study has triggered any form of mental discomfort cognitive therapy treatment will be offered. Altogether, this study will take roughly two and a half hours.

Discussion

If participants have higher scores than with a background in the juvenile system, then the study significantly support the hypothesis. If there is no difference or participants have lower scores, then the hypothesis is not supported. Issues seen with marijuana usage can come from other influencers besides the system in which may have influenced the mental and physical affect that it has on participant. It is seen in the literature review how it magnifies research and studies that talk about youth development between middle age and adolescence and how being involved in the juvenile system including any out-of-home placement that comes with the system has impacted their decisions in adulthood. In a detention center there may be educational services, visitation, communication, counseling, supervision, medical and mental health care, nutrition, and recreation but who is to say the quality of these resources is good? Services, and resources are offered inside of the detention centers, however it is how they are delivered, and the level of access youth have. The relationships between youth and staff are important being they must interact or deal with one another daily. Positive outcomes in secure custody are a result of the quality of relationships between youth and staff.

References

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