

Juvenile Delinquency

SEDCUTIONS OF CRIME: MORAL AND SENSUAL ATTRACTIONS OF DOING EVIL

- I. Katz claims that criminologists are misguided about the importance of background characteristics, such as class, racial, education, age, or gender.
 - i. Therefore, he argues that girls and boys offend at similar rates
- II. He further argues that need doesn't explain offending decisions- it is the thrill of crime that seduces individuals to offend

TESTING KATZ- McCARTHY'S CONTRIBUTION: HOMELESS ADOLSCENTS

- I. About half of shoplifters said they didn't have the money for the object they took. This indicates that need may be influential on crime
- II. McCarthy took interest in this aspect of 'need', and conducted research on homeless youth in Seattle, Toronto, and Vancouver to understand how much need influenced delinquency.
- III. McCarthy and Hagan contend that living on the streets provide not only temptations and opportunities for involvement in delinquent behavior, but that these harsh living conditions produce excessive strain. (146)
- IV. McCarthy concludes that the motivation for crime exists in the crime-producing condition of homelessness, rather than in a person's background. Street crimes associated with problems of shelter, hunger, or lack of legitimate resources; money and employment. (146)
- V. The likelihood of having home increased with a number of factors:
 - i. Age
 - ii. Coercive controls by parents
 - iii. Sexual abuse
 - iv. Conflict with teachers
 - v. Having delinquent friends

HOMELESS YOUTH: INFLUENTIAL FACTORS

- VI. Background v. Foreground: McCarthy argues that the current class position of the homeless youth, and not the class position of their parents, is more important in assessing delinquency. These youth are the Lumpen Proletariat (unemployed), but may also have jobs (proletariat).
- VII. Relative v Absolute Deprivation: subjective interpretations of poverty
 - i. Relative: poverty in relation to others in the society, or social norms of economic stability (it is normative to have food, shelter, clothing in the US)
 1. Material hardships: unable to get the quality or quantity of products desired, based on the larger social context
 - a. Ex: not being able to buy the quality of food I want