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Examining the Effectiveness of Juvenile Delinquency Prevention Programs to Reduce Juvenile Recidivism

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Walden University

College of Social and Behavioral Sciences

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Monte S. Powell

has been found to be complete and satisfactory in all respects,
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the review committee have been made.

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Walden University
2021

Abstract

Examining the Effectiveness of Juvenile Delinquency Prevention Programs to Reduce
Juvenile Recidivism

by

Monte S. Powell

MA, Missouri Southern State University, 2013

BS, Missouri Southern State University, 2002

Dissertation Submitted in Partial Fulfillment

of the Requirements for the Degree of

Doctor of Philosophy

Criminal Justice

Walden University

November 2021

Abstract

Multiple community prevention programs have been established to help reduce delinquency, but further research is required to address the gaps that exist by measuring the effectiveness of state-sponsored (Community that Cares) and private programs (D.A.R.E.). The purpose of this study was to examine these programs, which may provide pathways toward a successful and fulfilling livelihood for juveniles by preventing them from reoffending. The research questions were aimed at determining the reasons why deviant behavior is increasing and identifying effective methods for improving organizational aftercare program efficiency to reduce juvenile delinquency and recidivism. Environmental and demographical variables were examined that are associated with the strain theory such as school, family, and economic and social status, which have been found to contribute to juvenile delinquency and recidivism. Data were collected through interviews with ten subject matter experts associated with juvenile delinquency treatment plans and legal process along with related peer-reviewed articles from the past 5 years. Recommendations based on the findings include establishing a shared corporate knowledge-based system to improving community-wide problems, reducing legal costs, and developing community safety programs toward positive social change. The implications for social change include maximizing the ability to provide a safe and effective aftercare program for an individual's juvenile specific needs. Additionally, social change can result from considering other related academic programs that deal with deviant behavior to ensure every child could reach their full potential and contribute to society.

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Dedication

This dedication is to the men and women in uniform who have served or currently serving our great nation and in memory of those who have paid the ultimate sacrifice. It is also dedicated to those who are deployed on foreign shores in hopes of freedom and peace, while pursuing educational opportunities, in preparation for civilian life to obtain achievable goals. Through their dedication of those who served and their Espirit-de-Corps for continued service to our country, while fostering leadership and unity by means of setting the example and their servitude. For our Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) and military families who always held constant vigils for service members safe return home and maintained an eternal flame of hope that no fallen hero will ever be left behind.

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Chapter 1: Introduction to the Study

Based on the increasing rate of juvenile delinquency, a re-examination of the ineffectiveness of juvenile delinquency prevention programs is necessary to effectively reduce juvenile recidivism. Due to limited research, competing resources, and variety of aftercare programs, a gap analysis study was required to ensure the success of juvenile aftercare programs. This study aimed to determine the reasons why juvenile delinquency has been on the rise and ensure the effectiveness of aftercare programs in reducing juvenile delinquency. Law enforcement agencies have been involved in nearly 1.1 million juvenile delinquency cases (Ryan et al., 2013). Furthermore, reported law enforcement data reflected those juvenile offenders were responsible for 15% of all violent crimes and 24% of all property crimes (Ryan et al., 2013).

This study on community prevention programs and a school-based substance abuse prevention program provides results that could minimize the number of repeat offenders in the criminal justice system. Additionally, the results identified cost-effective applications and precursors for legal professionals to meet the required needs for juveniles to become responsible decision-makers and positive contributors within our society. This study's social implications include minimizing the negative impacts of the criminal justice system by offering effective rehabilitation treatment methods that could be implemented through aftercare programs. An in-depth analysis was used to align many aspects of deviant behavior with current treatment program effectiveness to reduce juvenile delinquency.

Background

Factors leading to delinquency and recidivism research has identified the root causes of the nearly 1.1 million juvenile delinquency criminal cases in the United States (Ryan et al., 2013). An individual's mental capacity and demographics are the primary causes (e.g., adequate education, family support programs, safe and secure environment). Other research has examined the background and delinquent behaviors as predictors for young offenders. These variables were also included in the subsets for comparisons, such as family-related challenges, mental health welfare, and school-related disabilities (Watts et al., 2019). Based on these assumptions, it has been determined that the proportionality of diverse groups accounted for a minor percentage of crimes based on background alone, earlier adversities, psychological variables, and age of the first-time juvenile arrested probation, or referrals (Barrett & Katsiyannis, 2016). These key factors were considered regarding upward trends in juvenile delinquency and recidivism.

Other risk factors in reoffending have also determined the likelihood of predictable variables of deviant behavior, such as aggressiveness or violent behavior patterns for early intervention methods. Previous research has also considered the risk factors for a racial or ethnic social group's aggressive behavior, including delinquency profile, moral withdrawal, and lack of social support (Zapolski et al., 2016).

Additionally, other considerations were discovered, such as mistrust toward medical professionals and substandard education. These considerations have provided additional information for successful aftercare treatment techniques (Zapolski et al., 2016). Though most studies have considered a broad range of factors, few have examined

culture using current research methodologies. Further consideration of these factors will enhance the effectiveness of delinquency programs (Zapolski et al., 2016).

Need for aftercare programs peer-reviewed articles have shown that law enforcement agencies depend on quality-based youth aftercare programs and treatment facilities. Data have reported an increase in juvenile delinquency, which requires effective countermeasures (Ryan et al., 2013). Need for research to improve aftercare programs multiple community preventive aftercare programs were established to significantly reduce or prevent juvenile delinquency, but further research is required to address associated gaps in current research on the effectiveness of these programs. The acquired knowledge base would benefit the overall solutions to reducing community-wide problems, minimizing legal costs, and improving community safety and treatments. A better understanding is needed of the connection between juvenile delinquency, recidivism, and the ineffectiveness of prevention programs. Programmatic issues must be addressed due to the increasing rate of juvenile delinquency, recidivism failures, and limited resources associated with these programs. Many recommendations have been provided for improving the juvenile justice system (Barrett & Katsiyannis, 2016); however, when preventive and aftercare programs were offered or considered, many variables could have affected the success rates and treatments for juveniles at risk for recidivism. Additionally, to be effective these recommendations must consider the available legal options and resources associated with aftercare treatment programs (Jaggers et al., 2014).

Relevance of current research detailed a gap analysis study was used to compare the differences between two community-based programs: (a) the Communities that Care (CTC), an organization based in Dallas, Texas that services several surrounding communities and (b) D.A.R.E., a national organization that offers a school-based substance abuse prevention program (Kuklinski et al., 2012). The results of this study could benefit current programs utilized by the criminal justice system, treatment facilities, and aftercare programs by improving understanding of how to bring about successful results in reducing juvenile delinquency and recidivism rates among young adults (Kuklinski et al., 2012). Furthermore, this analysis was needed to assist juvenile offenders placed under the criminal justice system, as the laws have transformed over time (Barrett & Katsiyannis, 2016). Research is needed to determine what works and what does not work related to mutable legal personalities, law enforcement training, and political atmosphere. For example, previous analyses of intervention programs indicated that program management, health and welfare services, and security and intervention programs have a significant impact or inverse relationship with recidivism; addressing these indicators can improve success rates and provide youth with the necessary life skills for success (Hancock, 2017). The solutions identified by this study lend credibility, options, and placement for competing and limited resources to be effectively applied towards juvenile delinquency programs that can help its participants become productive citizens and reintegrate back into society (Barrett & Katsiyannis, 2016).

Problem Statement

Despite the numerous aftercare preventions programs designed to reduce juvenile delinquency, there is significant room for improvement in the effectiveness of these aftercare programs. Though there are currently multiple community prevention programs designed to help reduce or prevent juvenile delinquency, the ineffectiveness of both state-sponsored and school-based programs is a result of antiquated solutions, leading to a significant increase in juvenile delinquency and recidivism. The results of this research could help improve community-wide problems, reduce legal costs, and improve community safety (Anderson et al., 2016; Furdella & Puzanchera, 2013).

Purpose of the Study

This study aimed to investigate the effectiveness of state-sponsored and school-based programs. Tailored treatment methods can mitigate predetermined factors that are related to deviant behavior by identifying deficiencies in a youth's capability to adapt to or cope with behavioral changes; such methods have yielded positive results and may lead to positive social change (Anderson et al., 2016). These methods were measured and tested by the strain theory of five adaptations: conformity, ritualism, innovation, retreatism, and rebellion (Merton, 1938).

This study examined the effectiveness of two community prevention programs, CTC and D.A.R.E. This comparison offered a litmus test for determining the overall effectiveness of two diverse types of approaches or supplemental programs to identify which methods best suit the needs of juveniles to reduce delinquency and recidivism (Anderson et al., 2016). This study also investigated the associated factors of deviant

behavior to address concerns related to the effective treatment and resource applications of juvenile aftercare programs and abilities to identify a youth's specific needs that can influence social change (Kuklinski et al., 2012). Intangible outliers that were unpredictable and based on past and current governing bodies of laws that have little or no added value were not considered. However, tangible, and applicable variables that exposed the linkages between current policies relied on statistical data and resulted in recommendations regarding techniques to be used in aftercare programs (Jaggers et al., 2014).

Research Questions

The following research questions were designed to determine the effectiveness of juvenile delinquency programs and to ensure time, money, and limited resources were utilized effectively:

Research Question 1: What impact do juvenile delinquency programs have on reducing juvenile recidivism rates?

Research Question 2: Are tailored programs and treatment facilities more effective than traditional programs in reducing juvenile delinquency and recidivism?

These research questions were designed to determine what works and what does not work based on previous research and statistical data. This approach ensured that time and money could be spent wisely to foster young adults while facilitating their progress in society (Barrett & Katsiyannis, 2016).

Theoretical Framework

The theoretical framework for this study was based on strain theory, which identified a core basis and interrelated differences associated with juvenile delinquency, recidivism rates, and aftercare program effectiveness (Merton, 1938). Strain theory was first developed by the well-known theorist R. Merton in 1938 and was categorized as a theory of sociology and criminology theory; which claimed that society places undue pressure on individuals to achieve socially accepted goals, such as the American dream, though they lack the means to do so, leading to strain that can cause an individual to exhibit deviant behavior (Agnew, 2015; Merton, 1938). Strain theory argues that society can influence deviant behavior within a measurable margin by positive behavior patterns and mental perceptions through changes in environmental conditions. Identified and recognized societal expectations and goals determine a youth's ability to conform. This theory also claims that when individuals cannot reach their intended goals and perceived expectations (e.g., financial, or social status), relative strain has occurred. These related external spheres of influence are grounded in the five adaptations of the strain theory:

- Conformity: pursuing cultural goals through socially approved means.
- Innovation: using socially unapproved or unconventional means to obtain culturally approved goals.
- Ritualism: using the same socially approved means to achieve less elusive goals.
- Retreatism: to reject both the cultural goals and the means to obtain them, then find a way to escape them.

- Rebellion: to reject the cultural goals and means, then work to replace them.

A different theory of sociology and criminology, known as general strain theory (GST), was defined in 1992 by theorist Robert Agnew. According to Agnew (2001), the concept behind Merton's strain theory was ambiguous and did not explain criminal mischief and any financial benefits. The theory referred to how those individuals who have experienced a form of strain or stress become tormented or distraught, thereby creating an environment for criminality. The key elements of theory consider the emotional motivations behind criminal activities (Agnew, 2001). GST holistically conceptualizes the full scope of societal strain as well as goals, beliefs, and social classes, whereas Merton's theory focuses primarily on money.

Strain Theory's Relationship to the Research Questions

This study's research questions were prompted by two recognizable concepts, the structural and individual. The structural refers to processes by which social levels may filter downward and affect how individuals perceive their needs. For example, if a specific social structure is insufficient or regulated, it may reflect perceptions of an individual's means and opportunities. Second, the individual refers to their friction and pain as they seek alternatives to satisfy their own needs. An individual's own goals in society become more significant than obtaining their personal goals as intended or expected achievements (Merton, 1938). The research approach and questions were used to compare two community juvenile prevention programs.

Nature of the Study

This study consisted of a qualitative approach and case study methodology that addressed gaps in the research on juvenile delinquency programs' ineffectiveness and increased recidivism rates. A case study technique allowed me to conduct controlled interviews with predetermined questions to ensure adequate information collection. I prepared for all interviews through an in-depth analysis from previous research data on the related subjects, similar cases studies, and contextual conditions (Yin, 2014). This approach further allowed me conduct interviews through social media platforms because of the COVID-19 pandemic preventive measures. I interviewed 10 volunteers identified as subject matter experts (SMEs) who were familiar with juveniles. These interviews with legal professionals or those employed in related occupational fields (e.g., detention officers, juvenile court judges, welfare programs managers) produced significant results regarding strain for a deductive analysis (see Merton, 1938).

A 10-part questionnaire was emailed before the interviews, followed by an email that established the date and time at the volunteer's convenience. The volunteers confirmed all rights and confidentiality prior to interviews and their rights to participate according to strict guidelines of Walden University Institution Review Board (IRB) policies. No personal information was collected to protect the identity of the participants. Once the interview was completed, a written record was completed and sent to the interviewees to review and confirm its accuracy or modify their statements if necessary. The data were safely stored and encrypted once each interviewee confirmed it. Additionally, all volunteers were briefed on the procedures, assigned a code number for

information identification, asked questions, and allowed to review the results to address any concerns, questions, or notifications once the research study was completed (Stacks, 2013). Next, all collected data was entered into a computer software-based program that produced a graph depicting the overall results.

Operational Definitions

Communities That Care (CTC): A state-sponsored program with a net-benefit return of \$4,438.00 per youth that focuses on prevention and intervention.

Drug Abuse Resistance Education (D.A.R.E): A school-based substance abuse prevention program.

Juvenile delinquency: Adolescents who have committed or are accused of committing a criminal offense.

Assumptions

I identified two assumptions for a targeted gap analysis. The first assumption was related to determining what works and what does not work in aftercare programs. Identifying these factors and applying mitigation measures benefits the rehabilitation of young offenders. However, it may be difficult to identify a single or group of principles based on independent variables to demonstrate effective treatments, validating the need for current research analysis (Barrett & Katsiyannis, 2016).

The second assumption was that the establishment of common factors used in determining predictable tendencies could be applied toward a more proactive approach for reducing juvenile delinquency. However, when identifying predictable tendencies, it is important to be cognizant that one approach does not apply to everyone. Considering

these two assumptions provides cost-effective applications and identifies predetermined factors for assisting criminal justice professions and juveniles' treatment progression (Anderson et al., 2016).

The necessary assumptions for this study also included variable selection methods that examined relationships based on factors such as the severity of the offense, initial contact of age involvement, welfare system, termination of parental rights, parental criminal history, family support programs, status updates in program completions, and placement after discharge (Calley, 2012). These assumptions may also influence social change and youth behavior. For this research study, these assumptions provided a baseline foundation for effective and credible applications in reducing juvenile recidivism.

Scope and Delimitations

Scope

The scope of the research consisted of examining two community prevention programs based in Dallas, Texas, and its surrounding counties. CTC and D.A.R.E are both intended to reduce or prevent juvenile delinquency (Ryan et al., 2013). However, due to limited resources and the current political atmosphere, further examination is required to determine the effectiveness of these programs and how they align with the criminal justice system. Identifying these necessary aspects is critical to reducing community-wide problems and legal costs and improving safety (Anderson et al., 2016). The identified factors and solutions offered by the two programs may be transferrable to any preventive aftercare programs (Ryan et al., 2013). There were several aftercare

programs considered during this research, but they were not addressed due to limitations regarding the scope of this paper. However, the gap analysis determined associated variables and offered recommendations to social problems, which, if applied correctly, can facilitate solutions that ensure the effectiveness of juvenile delinquency programs and reduce recidivism rates (Stacks, 2013).

Volunteers consisted of those professionally involved in the juvenile justice system; therefore, sample results may be limited in comprehensiveness beyond this sampled population. The sampling of volunteers encompassed legal professionals who served for at least the last 5 years to provide updated information due to technology, changes in laws, and generational demographics (Anderson et al., 2016). Those who never served as police officers, intake officers, probation agents, attorneys, judges, jurors, or other legal professionals for at least five years based on this research were not considered. The sampling population, data, and scheme included 10 volunteers for data collection. Interviews with this targeted population of legal professionals were designed for a better analytical venue and flexibility to deduce the required information collected (Stacks, 2013).

Delimitations

The research delimitations included the alignment with the current political atmosphere and laws that changed while conducting this study. Mutable personalities, law enforcement personnel and training, and political atmosphere may have influenced various aspects of the analytical analysis and percentage rates during this study. Therefore, I only interviewed legal professionals who could be considered SMEs and

have served as police officers, intake officers, probation agents, attorneys, judges, and jurors over the past 5 years. The intent was to align with the current political atmosphere and laws that have transformed over the period of this study to better understand the impacts in may had on the disposition of juveniles since the early 1990s. Unpredictable outliers based on past and current governing bodies of laws may have little or no added value and were not considered. However, the study's tangible results considered the linkages between current legal policies and statistics that provided applicable treatment methods for preventive measures to support the criminal justice system and the current structure in aftercare programs (Stacks, 2013).

Limitations

One limitation of this study is that all participants are professionally involved in several dimensions of the juvenile justice system; therefore, sample results may be limited in comprehensiveness beyond the sampled population. The research only included legal professionals with at least 5 years of experience (Stacks, 2013). Legal professionals who never served in juvenile affairs were not included in this research. Limitations were addressed by ensuring that the established criteria were identified and that the sampled population data was sufficiently stipulated and presented suitably prior to conducting research and monitored carefully in case adjustments were necessary (Stacks, 2013).

Another limitation was considering previous and current juvenile research studies to establish a comprehensive baseline, which may induce false positives. Possible biases could have also influenced the outcome of this study. A self-assessment was critical to

one's own abilities (i.e., biases, organizational skills, experiences, and cultural background). Any level of comprehension and researcher perspective may have influenced the outcome; therefore, resources, time invested, misinformation, and lack of credibility must be taken into consideration or avoided at all costs (Stacks, 2013).

Recognizing these biases was key to identifying the linkages between self-assessments, demographic variables, and current policies (Van Wormer & Campbell, 2016). To reduce the impact of these limitations, the research plan consisted of conducting a self-assessment, practice interviews, cordial questioning, and environmental considerations (Stacks, 2013).

Finally, other factors examined included but were not limited to demographic variables such as school, family background, and economic status. But it was important to be aware that treatment methods to resolve deviant behavior do not work for every individual. This posed a challenge to render infinite results in reducing recidivism but offer a realistic approach to support juveniles in change behavior incentives (Anderson et al., 2016).

Significance of the Study

Juvenile delinquency and recidivism are primary concerns at all levels of governments and private programs, as criminal involvement and offender recidivism rates continue to steadily increase while budgets decrease, and aftercare programs are becoming overburdened (Anderson et al., 2016). This research determined the cost-related benefit analysis associated with juvenile delinquency aftercare programs to identify the effectiveness of tailored programs based on an individual's specific needs or

to streamline programs that were expected to meet the common needs of all youth (Anderson et al., 2016). The independent variables considered included school services, economic status, and demographics, all of which revealed tangible evidence that contributed to a youth's risk for recidivism. Maximizing the efficiency of aftercare programs to influence social change by allowing a juvenile offender to have direct access to quality care programs to assist in responsible decision-making skills for a more productive life. Addressing concerns regarding the effectiveness of juvenile delinquency programs in reducing recidivism rates ensures the advancements and contributions to the criminal justice field (Stacks, 2013).

This study can also influence other academic curricula in future research studies and social programs. The social change and research applications could benefit medical treatment and mental health services as well as education and sociology research that involves a youth's overall development. The tenable results of this study are exclusive, not inclusive, to the complexities of a youth's social aspects in behavior and requirements for adulthood (Anderson et al., 2016). Few studies have analyzed culture to identify the potential benefits but considering these factors will enhance the effectiveness of delinquency programs (Zapolski et al., 2016).

The Benefits of Aftercare Programs

Due to the extensive research, limited and competing resources, and numerous aftercare programs, a gap analysis study was necessary to ensure improvements are applicable and can be directed toward reducing juvenile delinquency. An analytical approach was key to understanding juvenile behavior patterns and the criminal justice

system's ability to deter deviant behavior, which must work in unison with community aftercare programs to reduce juvenile delinquency. Tangible factors identified in this research analysis are critical for state agencies, which seek to develop and implement programs with shared services and specific areas of targeted intervention methods to support young adults (Stacks, 2013). Therefore, the field of law enforcement, community aftercare programs, and stakeholders within the youth divisions can benefit from this research. The results of this study may facilitate solutions to improving the effectiveness of juvenile delinquency programs and reducing juvenile recidivism rates (Stacks, 2013). Additionally, the research outcomes contribute to future research and development within the criminal justice fields by offering recommendations for aftercare programs while revealing new pathways for juveniles to lead them from reoffending and provide them with options for making better life choices (Anderson et al., 2016).

Education and Sociology Programs

Education and social programs must consider the risk factors for racial or ethnic social group's aggressive behaviors, such as delinquency profiles, moral withdrawal, and lack of social support; there may be other variables to consider in determining the success of state-sponsored programs and school-based programs. The hypothesis validity confirmed that these associated risk factors could contribute to aggressive behavior patterns that will need to be addressed by mental health services to provide adequate treatment. Additionally, when it comes to racial or ethnic social groups, other considerations were discovered, such as mistrust and inadequate educational opportunities. These are additional considerations in race could be implemented for

successful programs to consider as an intervention tool towards social welfare and mental health treatment (Zapolski et al., 2016). Therefore, the research study examined these linkages to determine the probative evidence between education programs and mental health (Hancock, 2017). The analyses of intervention (sociology) programs indicated that health and welfare services, security, and intervention methods significantly impact these relationships. Research has suggested that when these indicators are properly applied to intervention programs, the successful outcomes have provided youth with the necessary life skills for improvement (Hancock, 2017).

Some researchers have argued that the effectiveness of health care and educational programs require effective cultural awareness training and discovered the lack of adequate public services that address youth's specific needs or concerns. These two areas of concern (cultural awareness and public services) combined with adequate training and education can offer legal professionals' options to design-focused treatment programs, decision-making skills, and appropriate judicial involvement to minimize law enforcement initial contact to reduce recidivism (Vergara et al., 2016).

Summary

This dissertation focused on the effectiveness of juvenile delinquency prevention aftercare programs designed to reduce juvenile recidivism. Due to incomplete research, limited resources, and the numerous aftercare programs, a gap analysis study was necessary to identify effective techniques and procedures to reduce juvenile delinquency (Vergara et al., 2016). The following overarching research questions were designed to determine the effectiveness of juvenile delinquency programs to ensure that time, money,

and limited resources were utilized effectively: (a) How effective are state-sponsored or school-based programs on reducing juvenile recidivism rates? (b) Is tailoring aftercare treatment plans to a juvenile's individual needs more effective in reducing juvenile delinquency and recidivism rates? (see Anderson et al., 2016).

Chapter 1 provided an overall introduction to the study. It overviewed two specific current methodologies but different associated programs (CTC and D.A.R.E.) that determined a gap analysis and disparities into a juvenile's overall performance and rehabilitation decrease based on limited resources and current treatment techniques used in aftercare programs. Even though several aftercare preventions programs are utilized to reduce juvenile delinquency, further research is required to address the gaps when determining measurements for treatment method effectiveness. The subsequent chapters provide insightful information, research methods, data analysis, recommendations, and improvements for aftercare treatment facilities.

Chapter 2 provides a critical analysis and review of relevant research literature on the effectiveness of state-sponsored versus school-based aftercare programs in reducing juvenile recidivism. Chapter 3 provides a detailed analysis of the sample population, settings, instrumentations, and data collection. A rationalization of the research methodology is also included to validate the outcomes. Chapter 4 provides a final analysis and coded text information for interpretation of the collected data. In addition, it provides a graphic representation of the dependent and independent variables associated with the problem set. Finally, Chapter 5 contains a detailed summary of the final research findings captured by this study and provides recommendations for further research and

social change (see Meintje et al., 2018). The concluding chapter also provides recommendations for further research to align with the implications for social change.

Chapter 2: Literature Review

One problem with managing deviant youth behavior is that there are multiple community prevention programs to help reduce or prevent juvenile delinquency, but further research was required to address the significant gaps in the effectiveness of two diverse types of aftercare programs (i.e., state-sponsored, and school-based programs; Rose et al., 2017). These programs are centered on antiquated aftercare solutions with little or no tangible improvements in the juvenile justice system. This qualitative study was conducted to determine why juveniles face unique social problems and to mitigate these challenges by incorporating treatment methods that are designed to meet the specific needs of each child and improve their chances of rehabilitation (see Anderson et al., 2016). The study's premise is based on the review of multiple community prevention programs offered to reduce or prevent juvenile delinquency, addressing significant gaps in studies on the effectiveness of state-sponsored and school-based programs.

The organization of the literature review and chapter structure are based on a summary of the theoretical framework, premise, and methodology used to establish the foundation for the research study. The theoretical framework was based on strain theory, which identifies the core and interrelated differences associated with juvenile delinquency, recidivism rates, and aftercare program ineffectiveness (Settumba et al., 2018).

Literature Search Strategy

The research strategy consisted of careful and creative topics to validate the premise and problem statement for the literature review. These specified key research phrases and combinations searches included the following: *background of juvenile offenders; male vs. female offenders; nature vs. nurture argument for those who offend; strain theory (conformity, innovation, ritualism; retreatism; rebellion); juvenile delinquency programs (compare and/or contrast at least two programs); and juvenile delinquency legal process and laws* (see Blomberg, 2019). These topics were searched through Walden University's library or SAGE journal databases. Primary and secondary phrases ensured an adequate selection of full text, peer-reviewed articles published in the past 5 years (see Macdonald et al., 2017).

Theoretical Framework

Due to the rise in crime rates among U.S. juveniles in the 1940s, a well-known researcher and contributor to the criminal discipline was Robert Merton, who gained favorability among contemporary sociologists in this field of study about influences of human behavior (Anderson et al., 2016). Merton's grounds for his theory were based on an individual's desires to obtain the status quo, or the "American Dream," which is the ability to achieve an expectation of success. Certain opportunities ensured that those who worked hard could obtain equality regardless of status, classification, gender, background, or ethnicity. Tangible measures for accumulating wealth or material possessions were based on ability through ambition, skillsets, and arduous work (Anderson et al., 2016).

Strain theory was used for the theoretical framework of this study to address juvenile delinquency, recidivism rates, and aftercare programs' ineffectiveness (Settumba et al., 2018). Strain theory argues that society can influence deviant behavior such as expectations to guide a youth's willingness to conform (Settumba et al., 2018). Strain theory also supports the common belief that strain occurs when individuals cannot reach their goals and perceived expectations, which are usually related to finances, social status, or environmental conditions (e.g., unemployment and opportunities). These spheres of influence are based on the five adaptations of the strain theory: conformity, ritualism, innovation, retreatism, and rebellion (Anderson et al., 2016). Juvenile behavior can be corroborated through the contexts of strain theory. Because of the lack of control in environmental influences, some juveniles may not be afforded an opportunity to have available resources to succeed, which could have an adverse effect in determining a youth's ability to conform. The literature review determined that there were similar applied theories in current research studies based on societal norms, conditions, standards, economics, and politics-based tolerance (Anderson et al., 2016).

Review of Related Articles

Literature Review of Related Methods #1

Importance of mentorship to address delinquent behavior has been recognized as an effective intervention technique for at-risk juveniles (Wesely et al., 2017). Positive influence has assisted juveniles in adapting to life events and increasing their resilience, but lack of time and attention dedicated to mentoring relationships or techniques have led to negative results. Four positive coping strategies that enhanced juvenile resilience

(emotional distress, conflict resolution, proposed orientation, and active listening) can be applied to mentorship programs, thereby decreasing recidivism rates (Wesely et al., 2017).

Literature Review of Related Methods #2

Influence of criminal record and sentencing in related research methods has suggested that a person's past criminal record profoundly impacts current or future offenses based on sentencing and duration (Hester, 2018). Prior convictions have contributed to mass incarcerations and the effects or disparities regarding race have been exacerbated. Jurisdictional guidelines or criminal background checks demonstrated impartiality for risk prevention methods. However, outcomes of research using survival sampling and curved analysis over 3 years have yielded insufficient evidence to determine the probability of reoffending for a juvenile delinquent. Categories and subcomponents should be re-engineered for jurisdictional authorities to offer lesser punishments in specific cases without recognizable decreases in public safety, which can prevent criminogenic emotional reactions to crime with shared similarities in coping mechanisms described by GST.

Literature Review of Related Methods #3

Future aspirations' influence on delinquent behavior in prior studies have discovered a definite link between juvenile deviant behavior and expectations (Mahler et al., 2017). But fewer studies have evaluated adolescents' aspirations or expected importance of achieving goals, leading to incomplete research data on how to achieve their own realistic expectation. Additionally, fewer studies have considered how an

individual's traits affect expectations and aspirations to deter delinquent behavior.

Previous research has evaluated the independent effects of expectations and aspirations, using the strain theory as a related method by following adolescent behavior during a youth's first initial contact with law enforcement. Any aspiration may only influence a youth's behavior if a juvenile possesses psychosocial attributes when considering their future aspirations and continuing constructive behavior patterns.

Literature Review of Related Methods #4

Self-control predicting alcoholism untreated as juveniles who have become law enforcement officers, have demonstrated consistent pattern as adults concerning alcohol abuse have been thoroughly documented, showing the influence of self-control in predicting behavior. Research data from police stressors and domestic violence were collected from police families in Baltimore, Maryland from 1997 to 1999 (Zavala & Kurtz, 2017). There were conclusive indicators that self-control was significant in predicting alcohol abuse by law enforcement officers. In addition, self-control is a consistent factor leading to the likelihood of criminal behavior committed by law enforcement officers.

Literature Review of Related Methods #5

Limited research on the influence of exposures to violence on delinquent behavior based on general strain exacerbated by secondary exposure to violent crimes in homes, communities, or schools (Zimmerman & Kushner, 2017). However, using the study provided by the Project on Human Development in Chicago Neighborhoods, secondary data in relation to certain variables such as race, ethnicity, drug use, and relationships

have been defined as the primary gaps in GST regarding the effects of violence. The regression model sample of race and ethnicity consisted of 1,670 juveniles, with 51% consisting of females living in eighty neighborhoods, indicating the effects of violence on substance abuse over time; marijuana and drug use; witness to violence without weapons compared to drug use over a brief period; and witness to violence with weapons associated with drug use. Thus, prolonged exposure to violence requires aggressive intervention methods.

Literature Review of Related Methods #6

Dierenfeldt et al. (2018) referred to previous GST studies conducted on sexual assault of women, weapons use, and the victim or offender relationships when an offender's intoxication was a variable. These variables provided reliable results based on the severity of the offense compared to a victim's injuries. The authors identified limitations in the data analysis that resulted from inconsistencies and other factors due to the limited sample populations of survivors and offenders.

The study referenced literature research applications by Agnew's GST, a *race* hierarchy linear model, found in the National Incident Based Reporting System from cities where data has been collected. Based on the findings, the relationship between the victim and offender and the offender's level of intoxication contributed to the severity of offenses; however, these relationships are also affected by the strain that results from community-based characteristics (Dierenfeldt et al., 2018).

Literature Review of Related Methods #7

Baron (2019) concluded similarities of homeless youth and GST based on understanding how police engagements and injustices are perceived by police activities regarding two forms of criminal coping factors from strain. Additionally, the study has also the relationships between police measurements of strain and criminal coping factors exacerbated through anger and depression. Furthermore, the author explored the composition of criminal propensity theorized by the GST and the influence of relationships between police officers on strain and coping.

According to Baron (2019), the data shows a direct relationship between property crimes and violence, while police influence is only related to violence. Additionally, police strain had an indirect influence on violence. Finally, a criminal's propensity to commit further crimes determines the relationship between these forms of activity by police strain and violent offender, but not property offenses with further suggestions of additional research in police contact (Baron, 2019).

Literature Review of Related Methods #8

Field (2018) explained alcohol abuse within inmate populations by utilizing strain theory. There is a connection between alcohol abuse and aggression, criminal behavior, and incarceration. While mental health professionals have largely accepted these assertions, there has been no explanation for any enduring relationships and social disadvantages experienced by juveniles. Finally, alcohol abuse and incarceration are related when it comes to negative social expectation.

Additionally, GST provides supplemental factors for determining the interrelationships between social and health factors. Generalizing that strain theory successfully drew a correlation between criminality and substance abuse in several studies reflected in the strain theory (Field, 2018).

Failure to achieve one's own anticipated goals, wants, or needs results in a state of mental discord, which leads an individual who was already motivated to engage in criminal activities to achieve one's goals, wants, or needs. The author found that those from a lower socioeconomic status are susceptible to strain, and their experiences are more intensified due to their inability to obtain goals, needs, or wants. Therefore, those who are incarcerated may be influenced by strain (Field, 2018).

Review of Related Research

Synopsis of Current Literature

Ryan et al. (2013) have corroborated recent research data on all aspects of juvenile delinquency prevention aftercare programs; they demonstrated that law enforcement agencies were involved in nearly 1.1 million juvenile delinquency cases over the last decade. Juvenile delinquency and recidivism refer to youth offenders under eighteen charged with criminal law violations in the United States. Juvenile offenders are responsible for 15% of all violent crimes and 24% of all property crimes (Ryan et al., 2013).

Some of the primary factors influencing associated variables (i.e., schools, family support, and economic status) include mental capacity and demographics. These key factors are considered when analyses are conducted to identify reasonable solutions

regarding juvenile delinquency and recidivism rates. Multiple community preventive aftercare programs have been implemented to help reduce or prevent juvenile delinquency, but further research is needed to address associated gaps related to the effectiveness of these programs (Ryan et al., 2013).

Research Literature Related to the Problem Statement and Research Questions

The literature review revealed that factors such as an individual's mental capacity and demographics are the primary causes that influence associated variables which influences social behavior. When analyses are conducted to identify reasonable solutions regarding juvenile delinquency and upward recidivism trends community preventive aftercare programs are key resources to support juveniles due to the disparities in treatment philosophies these treatment plan comes into question compared to a rise in recidivism. Further research is needed to address these associated gaps when scrutinizing the effectiveness of these programs (Ryan et al., 2013).

The research problem addresses multiple community prevention programs to reduce or prevent juvenile delinquency and the further research required to address significant gaps regarding the effectiveness of two types of aftercare program methodologies (i.e., state-sponsored, and school-based programs). Gaps identified from this research analysis were completed over a five-year period, which was crucial in providing recommendations for addressing community-wide problems, reducing legal costs, and improving community prosperity. These research questions were designed to explore why adolescents studied under adverse environmental conditions such as an individual's mental capacity and demographics to identify adequate resources and offer

options to aftercare treatment facilities on how to provide the proper use of time, resources, and money.

A critical analysis was required to address the ineffectiveness of juvenile delinquency prevention programs to reduce juvenile recidivism. Based on the recent literature, the overarching research questions were designed to determine the effectiveness of juvenile delinquency programs to ensure the effective utilization of time, money, and limited resources. The following research questions are (1) What significant impacts do juvenile delinquency programs have on reducing juvenile recidivism rates? (2) Are tailored programs and treatment facilities more effective than traditional programs in reducing juvenile delinquency and recidivism?

Themes and Trends from the Literature Review

Consisted of multiple variables and factors, first mental capacities, and demographics. Secondary factors consisted of the types of punishments and initial interactions with law enforcement officers. Third factors consisted of substance abuse and alcohol; degree of exposure to violent crimes; *race*; ethnicity; social status, and family support (Ryan et al., 2013).

According to Wesely et al. (2017), the focused of the research study was on emotional distress, conflict resolution, proposed orientation, and active listening. The study consisted of observing adolescent behavior during the initial arrest and types of punishment that affected the outcomes into recidivism to identify any existing variables that may cause an increase in recidivism. Additional considerations regarding impulse control included expectations, aspirations, and strain in modifying one's behavior to

determine a decrease in recidivism through effective treatment options (Mahler et al., 2017).

Zimmerman and Kushner (2017) asserted that secondary exposure to violent crimes in homes, communities, or schools are the root causes of deviant behavior. Secondary data consisted of variables such as *race*, ethnicity, and drug use, all of which have been defined as primary effects on violence severity.

Additionally, burnouts and peer drinking are predictable dependent variables consistent with factors that lead to the likelihood of criminal activity and deviant behavior (Zavala & Kurtz, 2017). Field (2018) suggested that alcohol or substance abuse influences active aggression in deviant behavior, incarceration, and substance abuse.

Dierenfeldt et al. (2018) argued that an offender's intoxication was a variable to consider when examining sexual assault against women, weapon use, and the relationship between victim and offender. These results were based on the severity of the offenses compared to the victim's injuries.

Baron (2019) drew conclusions based on police engagements and injustices perceived by police activities regarding two forms of criminal coping based on research such as anger and depression. Relationships between the police measurements of strain and criminal behavior coping skills are exacerbated by anger and depression.

Reoccurring variables and factors, such as an individual's mental capacity and demographics that are primary causes that may influence associated variables. These key factors were considered when analyses were conducted to identify reasonable juvenile delinquency and recidivism.

Peer-Reviewed Literature

Background on Juvenile Offenders

According to Barrett and Katsiyannis (2016), background data from state reporting agencies for identifying the characteristics of offenders between 17 and 30 years old can determine recidivism rates by comparing one-time offenses with their non-offender counterparts. This experiential research also included adverse factors such as family-related issues, mental capacity, and school-related factors. Data research has determined that recidivism among juveniles has accounted for at least a 20% variance in offenses.

The analysis also determined other dependent covariates such as gender and age of offense compared to peers in the same category that are multiple repeat offenders versus one-time offenders. In contrast, data also determined that one-time misdemeanors represented minimal departures from normal behavior, which differed immensely from non-delinquents based on every risk category. Finally, in comparison of young offenders with persistent life offenses had accounted for 50% of background evidence in earlier accounts towards diversity, psychological factors, and age of involvement (Barrett & Katsiyannis, 2016).

Exploring a juvenile offenders' background has confirmed variables useful to effective treatment programs tailored to the specific needs of an offender. Identifying and predicting behavior characteristics of young offenders and applying specific treatment strategies captured meaningful results for juvenile delinquency programs to reduce recidivism rates (Barrett & Katsiyannis, 2016).

Asscher, Van der Put, Stams, and M (2015) considered gender differences in their exploration of childhood abuse and neglect to determine any linkages between sexual abuse and victims of violence. Based on their study, women are more frequently exposed to sexual and physical abuse and maltreatment than their male counterparts. Evidence has suggested that male juvenile offenders have committed more sexual offenses against others. Furthermore, when it comes to women, there were sex related offenses against others that were either limited or not captured in this data.

The study found that sexual abuse has a relationship to sexual offenders, while physical abuse is linked to violent offenses. Finally, offenses committed by male juveniles were more predictable than female juveniles. By considering gender differences, experiences of childhood abuse and neglect were identified as variables that determined specified needs for tailored juvenile aftercare programs to reduce recidivism aligned with research question one (Asscher, Van der Put, Stams, & M, 2015).

Steinke and Martin (2014) asserted that, based on background data, differences in juvenile status as either delinquents (i.e., criminal offense) or status offenders (. i.e., noncriminal act) was an area of research that should be considered when determining variables or factors for effective aftercare treatment programs.

Liability considerations in research data have determined that similarities between the two groups demonstrate that severe offenses or lesser status classifications among young offenders were more influenced by labeling than actual difference. The research focused on the liability in classifications and their harmful effects on social behavior. It identified differences in a juvenile's status as either delinquent or offender as variables

that allow specific treatment methods in juvenile aftercare programs to significantly reduce recidivism aligned with research question one (Steinke & Martin, 2014).

According to Taylor and Spang (2017), a young offender's background, criminal records, and the likelihood of employment are crucial factors for tailored and effective aftercare treatment programs; research data revealed aspects associated with *race* and the inconsistencies in recidivism. The study aimed to determine if *race* is a specific factor for determining whether incarcerated Black men were less likely to earn competitive wages than their White counterparts with similar delinquency backgrounds. The country's implementation of policies that are tough on crime is gradually eroding many of the protections afforded to juveniles in the past. Therefore, past discretions are more likely to be expunged and be available for public access when employment opportunities arise. An experimental research study of fictitious resumes investigated the likelihood of unemployment and recidivism based on an applicant's previous involvement with the juvenile court system.

The study results showed that those with no previous juvenile involvement were more likely to be hired than those with juvenile discretions. However, when *race* was considered, there were no significant differences between Black and White offenders. The stigma that comes from easier access to juvenile records created challenges for employment, and further considerations need to be considered about employer access to juvenile records (Taylor & Spang, 2017).

Therefore, further research based on training and education was an outlier when comparing race and equality based on similar circumstances. By considering a juvenile's

criminal records and their likelihood of employment to determine factors or variables as significant impacts on juvenile unemployment rate therefore leading to increased recidivism. Both research questions supported the impact of types of aftercare and tailored programs required to reduce recidivism.

According to Zapolski et al. (2016), risk assessments based on a juvenile's background are a common tool to determine the likelihood reoffending by juveniles who have expressed signs in aggressive or violent behaviors. Even though these tools are often utilized among a broad range of factors, an understanding in culture is often omitted. This study examined the ethnic background and racial socialization well beyond the basic ideology of historical delinquency, moral disengagements, and welfare.

The outcomes have partially supported a hypothesis consistent with ethnic background and racial socialization as indicators of aggressive behavior. Furthermore, when racial ethnicity was considered, the model determined that the lack of trust predicted aggressive behaviors beyond more commonly recognized factors. In conclusion, cultural awareness and education could be an important supplement to intervention and awareness for juvenile offenders. Conducting risk assessments can help determine a juvenile's propensity to reoffend based on aggressive or violent behaviors patterns; both research questions supported the premise of the impact of juvenile aftercare and specifically tailored programs on recidivism reduction (Zapolski et al., 2016).

Male Versus Female Offenders

Cotter and Smokowski (2016) determined that minimal research has been conducted on the perceptions of peer descriptive norms by gender influencing external

behaviors among juveniles who influenced by peer acceptance. The utilized frameworks consisted of social norms as a template for current research data, which examined the differences between gender differences in relationship perceptions and external behavior patterns in the sample population. Previous studies found that youth behavior patterns are based on experiences of negative emotional responses when their peers display delinquency behavior patterns. Therefore, influencing subsequent external behaviors while exploring methods in mentoring between a youth's friends and their external behavior influences that cause deviant behavior should be considered for further research to determine options for treatment (Cotter & Smokowski, 2016).

The juvenile's perceptions of peer descriptive norms by gender influences determined an individual's external behaviors are factors that both research questions supported the premise in types of juvenile delinquency aftercare and specified treatment programs have on reducing recidivism (Cotter & Smokowski, 2016).

Baglivio, Wolff, Piquero, Bilchik, Jackowski, Greenwald, and Epps (2016), in their research on a child's gender, race, and ethnicity, documented connections between maltreatment and delinquency effects on the involvement and timing in social services for offenders has received less attention. The study found that the timing of social services received affected recidivism for youth who have been adjudicated by the judicial system and assigned to juvenile aftercare programs. Additional research has explored the direct effects of traumatic events on juvenile offenders' actions towards delinquency and any indirect events through social services involvement using a structural model.

The findings showed no direct linkages between a child's adverse experiences and recidivism; however, a significant indirect link was found between recidivism and social services intervention. In other words, a youth's traumatic experiences do not necessarily reflect the likelihood of reoffending; such outcomes are based on the effects of timing associated with maltreatment and adverse experiences based on the types of social services a child received after experiencing a traumatic event. Any differences in a youth's behavior could be influenced based on gender, race, and ethnicity on the outcome in experiences or treatment.

A child's gender, *race*, and ethnicity have often documented the linkages between maltreatment and delinquency as determining factors; both research questions supported the premise. Based on these factors that specified treatment and research can make a difference in recidivism (Baglivio et al., 2016).

King et al. (2015) asserted that female youth involved in the criminal justice system and not involved in any gang activities but had boyfriends associated with gang activity demonstrated a higher probability of psychological impairment, decreased relationships, and risky sexual activities than their peers. Data analysis demonstrated that gang-related relationships are a higher risk factor for emotional distress, abuse, post-traumatic stress syndrome, depression, drug abuse, as well as several risky sex factors, such as decreased relationships, infidelity, shorter time with monogamous partners, and limited HIV testing.

Previous authors have suggested that female youth involved in gang activity should be offered earlier prevention and aftercare programs. Limited perception of life

opportunities and several risky sex factors are determining factors; both research questions supported the types of juvenile delinquency aftercare and specified treatment programs towards recidivism reduction (King et al., 2015).

Barrett et al. (2015) have suggested that female juvenile offenders compared to other female non-offenders based on national observations that determined potential factors and predictors towards future behavior patterns in female juvenile offenders to determine if there are any precursors to identify predictable behavior to better offer solutions. Specific roles or variables observed in female offenders such as family make-up, mental health, drug usage, age, and first offense were predictors for the likelihood of future offenses.

Previous research has identified the potential factors and predictors for future behavior patterns of female juveniles compared to other female non-offenders; both research questions supported the premise that tailored programs offered in juvenile delinquency aftercare and specified treatment (Barrett et al., 2015).

Celinska and Cheng (2017) have suggested that overall delinquency rates have declined in recent years. However, this study found that female offenders are institutionalized at a higher rate than their male counterparts. The study also revealed that therapy and different pathways for treatment between males and females were predetermined factors. Therefore, there were mixed outcomes between all genders and no significant statistical data; therefore, additional research was required. This study supported research question one, which determines whether gender-specific approaches

to aftercare programs are more suitable when compared to evidence-based intervention (Celinska & Cheng, 2017).

Nature Versus Nurture: Juvenile Delinquency

Walters (2015) asserted that juvenile offenders who had contact with law enforcement agencies based on self-reporting that involves the use of drugs, crimes against persons, and property are crimes not specifically supportive of an “all or nothing” criminal behavior. Therefore, the research is based on identifying workable solutions at an early age to influence positive behavior. Thus, there may be a continuum based on other categories besides a nature vs. nurture concept. How a juvenile was groomed throughout adulthood can determine the overall recidivism based on studies that may infer distinct categories to reach a conclusive outcome. The study supported the first research question, which addresses the type of treatment received from state or private aftercare programs to consider other variables in reducing juvenile recidivism (Walters, 2015).

Connolly et al. (2015) stated that a juvenile’s genetic make-up is associated with the influence of peers and family relationships; they also identified an association between environmental risk factors and delinquency for adolescents. While most researchers have found a considerable link between peer relationships and various behavior factors, there has been minimal research in genetic makeup. Previous studies have interpreted the effects of peer influences on adolescent delinquency rates. The correlation between developmental progression, peer pressure, and self-reporting with genetics and environmental influences was supported by both research questions that

tailored programs offered for juvenile delinquency aftercare and specified treatment programs have on reducing recidivism (Connolly et al., 2015).

Sherman et al. (2015) asserted that repeated offenses of juveniles were determined by their victims, accusers, environment, and family relationships. After an exhaustive analysis, research has determined that convicted offenders who consented to meet face-to-face with their victims prior to sentencing based on a random selection reduced the frequency of repeat offenses. Therefore, determining a cost-effective method for reducing the rate of recidivism, reflecting research question two, by tailoring to a juvenile's individual needs vice an established aftercare treatment plans which may or may not be conducive to reducing juvenile delinquency and recidivism (Sherman et al., 2015).

Cicchetti and Hyde (2015) asserted a linkage in neurogenetics between gene pathways and brain behavioral patterns. Areas of study focused on a juvenile's behavior as possible variables by predicting influences on a brain's activities and normal functions. Though neurogenetics has been considered a variable in juvenile behavior, there is a minimal association between neurogenetics and developmental psychopathology. The study reviewed the areas of six core tenets of developmental psychopathology in the structure of phenotypes; exploring mechanisms and importance of relationships; the nature of risks; complexities of multi-level pathways and developmental roles noted the importance of a study in a sampled population that recognizes the role of neurogenetics.

The study aimed to determine how neurogenetics, imaging, and molecular genetics can be utilized in developmental psychopathology to better understand gene research, environment, brain analysis, and behavior activities. The research aimed to

determine how neurogenetics, imaging, and molecular genetics can be utilized in developmental psychopathology, allowing a better understanding of both research questions (Cicchetti & Hyde, 2015).

In past studies, Henneberger et al. (2016) mentioned relationships between a juvenile's family and aggressive adolescent behavior. However, this study suggested there might be significant variance based on a juvenile's ethnicity. Recognition of these variables may offer solutions to treatment and effective aftercare programs in reducing juvenile recidivism among young adults and their families. During the study, a significant variation of demographics was identified in family cohesiveness related to negative physical aggressions by ethnicity, which lends credibility to the importance of tailored aftercare programs that reflects cultural sensitivity into family intervention and prevention of aggressive behavior patterns. Therefore, both research questions identify specific and tailored aftercare programs for reducing juvenile recidivism (Henneberger et al., 2016).

Strain Theory

Wright et al. (2014) stated the expectations and challenges youth face from society's well-being, diversity, and marginalization. The significant challenges posed by antisocial behavior and its associated risk factors have received little attention in literature. Regarding large neighborhoods' effects on crime, the direct and indirect disadvantages for juveniles are substantially higher. Determining factors of disadvantaged youth examined indirect effects of social control, general strain, and

learning have on recidivism. These impacts on environmental conditions in a youth's behavior has also been considered for this research study.

Results found a direct link between juvenile's behavior and their association with deviant peers. Therefore, creating strain, an indirect pathway to disadvantages associated with the blockage of conventional goals and the perceived ability to obtain them. These affects the outcome based on exposure to indirect deviant peer exposure and setting conditions for recidivism. In conclusion, there has been a considerable success on strain when a supportive environment was created. The successful transition from adolescent to adulthood supports both research questions based on the type of aftercare and tailored programs provided to meet a juvenile's specific needs (Wright et al., 2014).

Carroll, Gordon, Haynes, and Houghton (2013) asserted that enhancing a youth's ability to achieve goals, self-reliance, and reputation should remain the focus of the initiatives for conforming to social norms or other activities. Evidence has suggested that juveniles with lower expectations avoid challenges and minimum academic expectations; they also had a lower commitment to their ability to obtain established goals based on at-risk groups and low-risk groups. Discriminant factors in juveniles who experienced higher delinquency rates and lower educational expectations, or interpersonal goals are more likely to belong to a delinquent suborder; therefore, the differential between at-risk or low-risk groups could not be determined. However, the evidence suggested that youth who set lower goals and are self-resilient are less committed to their established goals; therefore, it is important to develop prevention and aftercare programs tailored to the specific needs of adolescents in assisting youth to achieve their objectives and goals. The

study reflects both research questions in establishing a suitable aftercare program and tailored structure to reduce juvenile recidivism and inefficiency (Carroll, Gordon, Haynes, & Houghton, 2013).

May et al. (2015) ascertained that a juvenile's neighbor might affect strain or an adolescent's ability to fear crime while demographic controls previously identified as an association with the fear of crime based on the percentage of offenses committed. Recent studies have suggested that feelings of powerlessness significantly impact a juvenile's ability to fear crime. Therefore, the supported suggestions of strain theory derive from the perceptions of limited opportunities and powerlessness in achieving positive goals that impact fears of deviant behavior. Relationships are consistent with both research questions in providing efficient aftercare programs tailored to meet the specific needs on juveniles until young adulthood to have a significant impact on reducing recidivism for current and future generations (May et al., 2015).

Baglivio et al. (2016) stated that recent research has often documented the linkage between childhood maltreatment, deviant behavior, and the timing of offenses has received minimal attention. The study examined a youth's involvement and its differential effects on recidivism and juveniles who have been adjudicated by courts and assigned to aftercare programs. It also explored a juvenile's traumatic experiences as well as any indirect effects on welfare involvements. Outcomes of the study failed to reach conservative results that adverse experiences failed to directly impact juvenile recidivism, but indirect findings on recidivism through childhood welfare involvements associated with recidivism. Exposure to childhood traumatic experiences does not determine the

likelihood of reoffending or likelihood through effective aftercare programs offered. However, placement and types of aftercare care programs significantly impact the likelihood of recidivism across all racial groups and genders. Overall findings have suggested that exposure to adverse childhood conditions, aftercare programs, and juvenile justice system involvements are not equal throughout all subgroups studied. However, the earlier intervention was more detrimental when it does matter supported both research questions in these types of aftercare programs and tailored treatments to reduce juvenile recidivism (Baglivio, Wolff, Piquero, Bilchik, Jackowski, Greenwald, & Epps, 2016).

Jordan (2017) suggested that proper terms and usage for delinquency and how it was applied to an adolescent behavior could profoundly affect predictors into future outcomes in juvenile delinquency rates. Labeling causes an associated strain with the expectations of a juvenile when they are labeled as a delinquent, typical a student who places educational opportunities are at-risk in substantive progress. Therefore, better suited for research question two, in tailored aftercare programs to build self-efficacy and self-determination to obtain positive social norms for a juvenile's ability towards adulthood (Jordan, 2017).

Kurtz, Zavala, and Melander (2015) examined stress in police officers to determine three possible concepts as variables of strain exposure as a child, parental abuse, or interparental violence. The importance of this study by law enforcement officers was to determine if exposure to general strain as a child and its effects associated with working long hours under stressful conditions, job performance, and attitudes towards coworkers. The study examined an officer's critical incident to strain,

physiological stress responses, and officer-to-officer aggressions. During the study, those who were exposed to childhood strain were at a higher risk of work-related strain.

Finally, exposure to child abuse and working conditions increased the risks of officer-to-officer violence within the sample population. The study outcomes offer insight into the implications of general strain; however, the study only included adult respondents who recognized the seriousness of juvenile delinquency. Based on police officers that participated in the study which did not determine any specific options for treatment or aftercare programs to reduce strain. Therefore, more research may be required to determine any linkages between each research question (Kurtz, Zavala, & Melander, 2015).

Kuptsevych-Timmer et al. (2018) examined the associated risks and the relationship between general strain and juvenile delinquency. The outcomes showed fear of sanctions and level of social control in relationships between general strain and juvenile delinquency at different degrees, depending on the types and frequencies of exposure to the sanctions imposed by punishment or level of social control imposed by societal rules. The study produced mixed results regarding parental guidance, which may affect the linkage between strain and delinquency. It did not specify any aftercare programs or tailored treatments and determined that further research was required (Kuptsevych-Timmer et al., 2018).

Baron (2018) suggested there was an association between homeless youth and juvenile delinquency rates. By examining Agnew's interpretation of GST, linkages between low self-esteem, violence among peers, and street codes of conduct are typical

variables for determining how a juvenile will react to strain and aggressive behavior. Study outcomes indicated that child abuse and neglect, extreme violence and victimization, homelessness, and anger are four factors that predict the likelihood of violent behavior. This study supported both research questions by determining the types of aftercare programs and tailored treatments to address child abuse and neglect, extreme violence and victimization, homelessness, and anger (Baron, 2018).

Lianos and McGrath (2018) suggested that cyberbullying was increasing and posed a significant area of concern that would be affected by general strain on young adults. The study found conclusive evidence of the connection between cyberbullying based on hours of online usage with low self-esteem, perpetration, and aggressive behavior. The study supported both research questions in the specific types or tailored treatments associated with adequate aftercare programs to increase the efficiency and decrease the impacts in juvenile delinquency (Lianos & McGrath, 2018).

Moon and Morash (2017) asserted that general strain in adolescents differs according to gender. Children are affected by general strain, negative emotions, and other gender-related factors. Evidence has shown that children differ in the types of strain and emotions they experience in relation to delinquent behaviors. The types of empirical data examined in male juveniles are related to violent outcomes and offender status predictions. However, the outcome fell short when explaining differences between genders. The study supported both research questions in the types of aftercare programs offered to offenders coupled with tailored treatment programs (Moon & Morash, 2017).

Niño et al. (2017) found a relationship between the two diverse types of strain caused by social isolation and the rate of violence and juvenile delinquency. The two hypotheses of GST (social isolation and violent delinquency) were used to determine whether isolation or violent relationships differed for isolated youth compared to sociable youth. The study also considered whether negative experiences or circumstances could determine any association between juvenile relationships between isolation and violent behavior to determine the relationship derived from deviant behavior activities. The study found significant variance in violent behavior between socially isolated youth and more sociable youth. The analysis of peer relationships, adolescent strain, and violence supports both research questions when determining different aftercare programs and specifically tailored treatment facilities to reduce juvenile recidivism (Niño et al., 2017).

Juvenile Delinquency Programs

Hall, Prendergast, and Warda (2017) suggested that incentives positively alter or improve treatment facilities. Their research showed that the retention success rate is consistent. Expected outcomes or hypotheses support all efforts for improving community relationships and reducing re-arrest rates. However, post-treatment success rates after 18 months have showed no considerable differences, and psychological issues, substance abuse, unemployment, age, gender were the determining predictors for repeat offenders. The study presented evidence that despite the level of treatment, there may be a certain population or incentives offered that may not make a difference in the outcome. Both research questions are related to considering the diverse types of aftercare programs

offered and incentives for reducing re-arrest rates among offenders (Hall, Prendergast & Warda, 2017).

Gobeil et al. (2016) found that a difference in gender or gender-neutral treatment for women was effective in aftercare-related treatments. Based on the sample population of women compared to men, there has been a considerable improvement for women participants than their counterparts who did not participate in any aftercare programs. Therefore, successful aftercare programs have produced greater success rates among gender-informed populations to reduce recidivism among women. The study determined that gender-based treatment among young women and female adolescents who participated are more likely to have a higher success rate when treatments are tailored as a gender-informed approach to meet specific needs. The study strongly supported both research questions in the types of aftercare received and tailored specific assistance to reduce recidivism among female adolescents (Gobeil et al., 2016).

Stanley et al. (2017) examined the rates of success based on offenders' substance abuse and identified the lack of research-based relationships with their clinicians. The initial sample population based on counselors and patient relationships yielded no significant evidence to be considered a factor in an association with reoffending or reducing recidivism rates among young adults. Other counseling and support organizations that replicated this study came to the same conclusions; however, there are psychological predictors for the probability of reoffending. The overall outcome suggested that clinical assessments are vital for recommendations in the criminal justice

system to reduce recidivism, which supported both research questions in the types and specific needs for juveniles (Stanley et al., 2017).

Van den et al. (2018) assumed that group environments in treatment and aftercare programs affected positive changes and willingness among young adults to conform to positive social norms. Treatment facilities that consisted of stringent security measures and open or semi-secured protective measures were examined to determine if the receptiveness of aftercare treatments or adolescent peer pressure to aggressive behaviors and noncompliance were determining factors. The overall perceptions of environments, staff interactions, growth opportunities, and repression did not show any significant differences. Types of secured treatment facilities from open to semi-secured experienced showed the best results for changes in aggressive behavior patterns. Furthermore, research has also suggested that open facilities have fewer aggressive incidents than semi-secure or secure treatment facilities. There was no meaningful change in adolescent behavior when comparing semi-secure and secure treatment facilities. Furthermore, the longer juveniles are institutionalized, the higher the rates of aggressive behavior are. The study was consistent with both research questions that addressed the specific needs and types of aftercare programs provided for juveniles to reduce juvenile recidivism among young adults (Van den et al., 2018).

Watson (2018) asserted that there are still issues that must be addressed by probation officers, correctional officials, and qualified volunteers in the criminal justice system, and more could be done to reduce juvenile recidivism. Study has shown that by reducing drug offenses, adequate medical support, psychological care, accommodations,

and employment opportunities offered has significantly reduce juvenile recidivism. To include newer innovation and approaches for correctional employees, probation officers, and volunteers with the expectation to reduce the age of juvenile behavior and thus reducing crime and recidivism. Which is consistent with supporting both research questions in diverse types of aftercare programs methodologies offered either by state or private institutions (Watson, 2018).

Kaufman (2018) examined the role of religion and nongovernmental organizations involved with aftercare support facilities for adolescents. However, with an increase in the roles of religious and nongovernmental organizations providing support for aftercare programs, criminal justice is mostly supported by secular-based programs. Research studies supported and advocated the role of religion and nongovernmental organizational in reducing juvenile delinquency. These advocacy groups sought to change deviant behavior by supporting ideas of morality and sin for those leaving aftercare programs and institutions. This study was based on hypothetical research and did not find any differences between religion and nongovernmental agencies versus secular approaches to reduce juvenile delinquency among young adults. Therefore, the perception was positive in both research questions on the diverse types of aftercare programs offered and specific needs for individuals while incarcerated (Kaufman, 2018).

Hay et al. (2018) asserted that there are over 100,000 juveniles who have attended aftercare programs and were released back into the community. As a researcher an opportunity to explain or identify numerous factors contributing to recidivism to offer a valuable insight on problem solving and aftercare treatment techniques would be a great

tool in providing care to juveniles. A predetermine assessment tool was developed to captured related factors to identify predictable deviant behavior patterns among juveniles who have been released from treatment facilities. The study found comparative factors that determine whether predictive or protective factors based on prior research are validated on success in the outcome of repeat offenders. Based on the implications of the findings, the predictability of repeat offenders is determined by the assessment, monitoring, and types of aftercare programs offered were comfortable with both research questions in the search for valid factors to reduce recidivism among juveniles (Hay et al., 2018).

Gregory et al. (2017) mentioned that disparity in aftercare programs is based on *race*, gender, and associated factors had been well documented in past research. Additionally, educational facilities with related results regarding suspension rate can exacerbate the issues for those already recognized as disadvantaged students. The purpose of this research was to identify the risk factors based on *race* and gender to develop a framework for increased equality in aftercare programs and educational facilities to offer solution to better serve disadvantage youths where *race* or gender has shown to be a significant factor. Offering a basic framework to not only determine the differences in *race* and gender but offer awareness training and problem-solving techniques as options to aftercare programs and educational institutions. To address developmental behavior which may be more effective in reducing disparities between *race* and gender. Based on research results both research questions related to aftercare specific and tailored programs to reduce juvenile recidivism (Gregory et al., 2017).

Bouchard and Wong (2018) asserted that juvenile corrections have the highest detention rates among youth in North America than any other judicial practice worldwide. Intensive supervision or probation in juvenile detention facilities and aftercare programs yielded mixed results. The authors aimed to determine if intensive research applications succeed and their effects on juveniles and reentry. The method consisted of a sample population based on intervention type of aftercare programs and outcomes alleged or final convictions. The sample populations yielded mixed results in both cases, and supervision had a more positive effect on alleged offenses and a marginal effect on convicted offenses. These results and tangible analysis are available for future research and discussions. Both research questions are suitable based on the types of aftercare or tailored treatment programs (Bouchard & Wong 2018).

James, Asscher, Stams, and van der Laan (2016) examined aftercare programs for serious juvenile offenders to determine a link between distortion of cognitive behavior, criminal patterns, or pro-social skills compared to basic treatment options. There was no inclusive analysis to determine whether ethnicity and coping skills were affected as measurable factors. Furthermore, those who have dropped out of basic treatment programs have given a different approach to consider, and challenges had proposed research questions to determine the effectiveness of aftercare programs, which did not definitely determine the specific or tailored methodology in treatment programs to reduce juvenile delinquency and suggested further research was required (James, Asscher, Stams, & van der Laan, 2016).

Sankofa et al. (2018) synthesized rehabilitation of juvenile corrections and aftercare programs efficiency to reduce juvenile delinquency rates. Researchers examined segments of criminology, sociology, and social welfare disciplines based on coding methods to determine variables or recognizable factors. The study offered insight into two major components of juvenile correctional experiences, such as treatment and evidence-based practices. The influences are based on identities, masculinities, and preparations for reentry. Analysis was vital to current policymakers and stakeholders in the era of juvenile justice reform programs as resources have been challenged based on the results of recidivism programs and their effects on reducing delinquency among juveniles over punitive punishment techniques. The study considered its analysis based on before, during, and after the era of criminal justice reform. Therefore, raising considerable questions about the effectiveness of reform strategies. This study supports both aspects of the research questions for state and private aftercare programs to make a positive impact on reducing deviant behavior (Sankofa et al., 2018).

Baglivio et al. (2017) mentioned areas of undue risks, needs, and responsiveness as a framework for dominance in criminality and juvenile justice paradigms. Minimal empirical data was produced for this model or paradigm based on the framework for dominance. The results indicated that youth progression among different areas of observations throughout aftercare programs were inconclusive and no definitive options could be offered. However, evidence of the study has showed that dynamic variable in related factors (i.e., buffer=promotive? risk) were vital for demonstrating in a multinomial model then demographics or related criminal history indicators. Finally,

evidence showed recognizable differences in recidivism rates across all venues of post-completion that suggested improvements in some variations of offending behaviors during post-release. Therefore, implying that both research questions addressed the types of aftercare and tailored programs in offering options to reduce juvenile delinquency (Baglivio et al., 2017).

Bahr et al. (2016) observed a sample population assigned to treatment or control groups consisted of cognitive behavior treatments based on training, goals, and coaching by phone. Outcomes of detailed training sessions consisting of six classes and follow-up phone calls for one year yielded no significant differences to determine whether the sample population was re-arrested or the total number of re-arrests. However, the results were disappointing and did not distinguish between supportive phone calls, the total number of re-arrests for a felony offense committed, or non-felony re-arrests. Even though based on the premise studied reflected those types of aftercare programs and specific treatments can provide options which are related to both research questions (Bahr, Cherrington & Erickson, 2016).

Juvenile Delinquency Legal Process and Laws

Barnert et al. (2017) asserted that youth involved within the criminal justice system are vulnerable and need to be examined closely to understand why a legal system does not adequately address their needs. Correctional facilities should provide solutions to current problems and those who show signs of possible adaptation issues compared to adults. Juvenile offenders are more likely to have experienced some type of childhood trauma, such as maltreatment, learning disabilities, or behavioral problems, compared to

their non-solicited peers. Interesting statistics show that at least 91% of those involved in the criminal justice system may have been exposed to some type of traumatic event occurring between (2 to 5) years old. Evidence has shown that the criminal justice system or confinement may further exacerbate a repeated cycle of victimization and conformity issues. Therefore, the study was better suited for both research questions that addresses specific or tailored treatment options for youths early into the induction phase of criminal justice system to ensure treatment can be applied soonest to reduce juvenile recidivism (Barnert et al., 2017).

Cooper (2017) mentioned that in the past few years, there has been an outcry for juvenile criminal justice reform from all recognized stakeholders at a federal level even though most juveniles are confined at the state and local levels, which was significant, and profound based on historical past, and the rises in juvenile delinquency. Proposals for juvenile justice reform are centered on arguments surrounding the constitution that violated the Eighth Amendment by providing adequate care for those juveniles assigned into adult confinement facilities. Most stakeholders agree that the Eighth Amendment was irrelevant in making any necessary changes. Issues with solitary confinement alone seem to be beyond any relationships of the Constitution when it comes to juveniles. A reflection on severe under-funding, inadequate staffing, and an aggressive willingness within confinement facilities to also keep correctional personnel safe and maintain discipline. The author argued that the focus should be at the state and local levels to allow fewer restrictions in making effective adjustments deemed necessary for improvements. State Attorney Generals are duty-bound to represent interests in the population they

serve, including all stakeholders within the criminal justice system, plaintiffs, and juveniles. Therefore, crucial to the process in criminal adjudication and minimizing the unnecessary and lengthy confinement of juveniles in adult prisons. Augments corroborated both research questions to determine the types of aftercare programs and tailored treatment options for juveniles while confined (Cooper, 2017).

Russell and Manske (2017) stated that some state governments have revised their juvenile justice codes, which are more committed to reducing juvenile confinements. By offering incentives to state governments towards evidence-based programs and supporting realistic goals towards reliable decision-making for treating juvenile recidivism. The program supported progress towards the assistance of judges in determining risk factors for youth, best disposition options for juveniles, and placing youth in the best aftercare programs tailored to specific needs for individuals in a lesser restrictive environment to ensure public safety. The current research has determined that these efforts towards a better-defined process should lead to changes in juvenile delinquency. Based on these three main factors, such as detention rates, adjudications, and disposition reflect the overall success in the types of aftercare programs (state versus private). Results were measured by qualitative and quantitative methods and have shown evidence suggesting a decrease in juvenile detention and recidivism despite an unrelated increase in the juvenile populations (Russell & Manske, 2017).

Carkin and Tracy (2017) investigated specific results regarding the nature of crimes committed in offense types and their relationships compared to similar adult crimes or statuses. Based on juvenile offenses, a population can be examined holistically

as a career criminal regarding the specific types of crimes committed by adults. The premise was based on understanding timing, type of offense, severity, punishment, or court disposition to determine future legal involvements as an adult. The research was limited in determining if a juvenile's past criminal activities could be factors as a career criminal in adulthood. Based on the notion that a juvenile's delinquent behavior is a direct sign of adult delinquency, initial criminal delinquency determines whether a juvenile would continue these behaviors as an adult. The outcome of the research suggested that the status of adult crimes based on a juvenile's court disposition corroborated both research questions that determined the types of aftercare programs provided for juveniles during their initial crimes or based on the nature of crimes committed, severity, and disposition (Carkin & Tracy, 2017).

Farrington (2017) suggested the need to understand why crime rates in the middle class are less than those in lower class societies. The author suggested that various communities and neighborhood variables might be why there were disparities within two social statuses and the importance of parenting and adjudications are the fundamental issues. Which required communities, neighborhoods, and their families to understand the effects of offending after a youth's initial involvement with the criminal justice system despite the social class of statuses. All juveniles do not have a choice at birth to determine their class or social status however delinquency is transparent despite which class or social status they fall into.

Additionally, utilizing a self-reporting methodology in delinquency court while processing middle class and lower-class juvenile to obtain reliable research data for

comparison may be a better method in obtaining factual data for analysis that can be used in determining options and positive solution to reduce recidivism. This study also suggested that more programs and opportunities are required in lower-class neighborhoods. Additionally legal adjudications should be minimized as much as possible to be effective therefore more in line with research question one, that determined the effectiveness of aftercare programs to reduce delinquency (Farrington, 2017).

Kempker et al. (2017) suggested that juvenile delinquents show higher psychiatric diagnoses and often face improper home displacement care challenges. Evidence has shown negative effects of juvenile confinements, especially within the sample population. Furthermore, evidence has suggested that juvenile justice system has also been processed differently based on gender alone. Males and females' manifest adversity in diverse ways and have demonstrated signs and symptoms of psychopathology. Considerations between genders also have shown that the psychopathology of a juvenile's gender-based placement programs link to relationships within the criminal justice system. The research examined these types of aftercare programs based on gender to determine externalizing, internalizing, substance abuse, mental disorders in determining predictable mental health and placement factors. Legal professionals and court adjudications affect the overall success based on aftercare programs and specific treatment facilities offered to individual youth. The legal process and aftercare facilities do not provide adequate psychological services to effectively reduce juvenile recidivism (Kempker et al., 2017).

Bouchard and Wong (2017) suggested that juvenile delinquency has been on the decline for many years. However, the court system continues to handle more than 1.5

million cases per year. The authors determined a link between the juvenile criminal justice system and risk factors as a variable in preventing positive youth development. In addition, evidence-based institutional programs are limited in access and essential services to divert juvenile offenders from deviant behavior activities. Teen courts are an effective way to divert offenders from the harsh penalties and penal codes. Even though teen courts are on the rise, the determination was to understand if the rapid expansion effectively prevented deviant behavior. Outcomes in research determined that even though the intent was to reduce burdens on juveniles, evidence has also shown that teen courts are no more effective than formal processing or other supportive programs. Both research questions are required to determine if the types of aftercare offered, and specifically tailored programs would reduce juvenile recidivism rates in providing the necessary support into adulthood (Bouchard & Wong, 2017).

Pittman and Shah (2017) examined the success of the Supreme Court's decision in 2005, which eliminated the death penalty for juveniles. Two years later, the Supreme Court eliminated the mandatory sentencing of a juvenile for life in imprisonment without the possibility of parole violates a youth's constitutional rights for protections against cruel and unusual punishment. Supreme Court justices understanding the level of maturity when it comes to juveniles suggested that they are still trying to define their own identity, and even severe crimes was enough evidence to justify the possibility to reverse irreputable damages, exacerbating deviant behavior. Additional research has determined that most youth sex offenders have reported severe mental health issues. Registering youth as sex offenders increases their likelihood of reoffending.

Courts have determined that registering young offenders for sex-related crimes will negatively affect their ability to obtain basic needs for rehabilitation such as housing, education, and employment, which limits their ability to rehabilitate. Several attempts at the state level to prevent juvenile registry as a sex offender reflected the importance of research question two in specified treatment for juveniles (Pittman & Shah, 2017).

Smokowski et al. (2017) mentioned previous research studies involving teen court judicial processes. The aim was to determine if there was considerable evidence that recidivism would be reduced if first-time juvenile offenders were diverted from the traditional criminal justice system and reintegrated into the community. Psychological issues, relationships, and educational experiences could affect these outcomes utilized for treatment in juvenile court proceedings based on internalization, externalization, severe behavior, parent-youth relationships, self-esteem, and delinquent associates. Both research questions supported the types of aftercare programs and specific treatment as a valuable tool in reducing juvenile delinquency (Smokowski et al., 2017).

Troutman (2018) asserted that the U.S. criminal justice system has improved treatment for juvenile offenders over the past century. These changes are observed daily than from their adult counterparts from the legal aspects and protections offered through the criminal justice systems. The obvious differences between federal, state, and local privileges were based on the age of consent, such as driving privileges, alcohol consumption, and voting rights, and were adjudicated with different legalized standards. Since the inception of juvenile justice, courts have been treating juveniles differently, starting with the Supreme Court shielding juveniles from the death penalty, life without

parole, and Miranda rights. By adding these safeguards, the Supreme Court utilized a scientific approach, and social norms suggested a juvenile's maturity levels are different from that of adults and should be treated differently. The study can be applied to both research questions in the types of aftercare programs and specific treatment facilities to reduce juvenile recidivism (Troutman, 2018).

Cohen (2018) asserted that the Prison Litigation Reform Act (PLRA) hindered whether a person can bring forth conditions of confinement in court. The PLRA measures demanded strict adherence to institutional guidance procedures no matter the complexities. While this may be the status quo for adults, this measure of instructions did not apply to juveniles, even though courts have recognized this population should be treated differently and with common sense from adult court proceedings.

Courts have identified the juvenile population incarcerated in adult facilities as non-ordinary groups and are at a higher risk of being victimized. Courts must recognize and enforce adult institutions to comply and allow juveniles the same opportunities in filing grievances. The concept was better supported by research question two in identifying specific treatment programs for meeting the needs of juvenile offenders (Cohen, 2018).

Methodology Literature Review

Comiskey (2018) conducted a qualitative methodology study by collecting current data from case studies on theories of homeland security taught from higher education curricula. A survey was used to determine roles or theories and offer homeland security curricula an enhanced program method within the U.S. educational system. Emailed

surveys were conducted with a sample population consisting of college department heads and faculty staff members. They were required to explain their experiences and interpretations of how colleges can utilize theories for their undergraduate and graduate homeland security classes. The purpose was to determine if there were any significant differences in a theory concept at all levels. The study identified a diverse population of faculty members with professional backgrounds that taught theory from various disciplines and areas of studies within homeland security curriculums. A comprehensive understanding of the theoretical framework, concepts, and phenomena within research lends credence to the field of homeland security based on root causes of human behavior and effective treatments during a crisis environment (Comiskey, 2018).

Anand et al. (2018) examined a flagship program to determine the importance of information security and implementation in policies. The examination covered a study of initiative-based programs and options taken by various actors involved in the processes. The purpose of a qualitative case study was to develop processes and performance-based inquiry models to understand actions and situations in security governance. In this case study, there were two systematic models developed and followed throughout the research process. The sampled population consisted of those deemed classified and responsible for framing technical policies, infrastructural development, and electronic governance. The study determined suitable actions from performance-based programs associated with the transformation of information, security, and policies implemented. The outcome of this study could reflect human behavior and performance-based incentives that could offer

options to local, state, and federal agencies to develop effective policing programs (Anand et al., 2018).

Meintje et al. (2018) conducted a qualitative descriptive study to examine the intergenerational continuity of criminal activities in families and underlying variables regarding intergenerational discord. The sample population consisted of twenty-five crime-related offenders, their children of at least age 19, and qualitative in-depth analytical information provided by police files, Department of Justice reports, child protection services, and family members. The study determined that most men followed in their father's footsteps, while women are less likely to do so. Intergenerational transmission could be recognized by mediated risk factors, parenting skills of the mother or father's violent behavior, and social skills that have been designated as deviant individuals (Meintje et al., 2018).

The Western Medical Research Conference (2018) conducted a qualitative case study on how the filming agencies portrayed immunizations throughout history. The study determined if a filming agency could influence societal behaviors or efforts to change future behaviors. Another purpose of the study was to impact health professionals in preventing the Human Papillomavirus among young women between the ages of 9 through 25 years old, which was commonly linked to cervical, vaginal, or anal cancers. Boys from the same age groups could be protected as well from cancer or genital warts.

With active participation as suggested by the Western Medical research Conference in hopes in the availability of vaccines, combined with joint efforts from the filming industry and behavior changes prompted by educating the population on receiving proper

medical care to prevent the spread of the Human Papillomavirus among all genders and age groups. The research consisted of medical professionals that treated youth in prevented care and qualitative data based on face-to-face surveys on the ideology of change for youth seeking preventive treatment (Western medical research conference, 2018).

Jozaghi et al. (2018) mentioned several studies conducted on people who abused drugs; while authors have recognized the sample population as participants and their communities, their efforts have identified little attention in this area of research. The study utilized a qualitative method and a case study research design to examine over 20 years of peer-reviewed literature, university theses, books, and reports that have influenced, shaped, or directed activist organizations for an effective change. The study reported that over four hundred peer-reviewed articles determined that the poorest populations were the most vulnerable groups within this research, and there are more areas of research needed to provide adequate care for those who will hope to overcome their addictions and become productive citizens in their communities (Jozaghi et al., 2018).

Wadd and Dutton (2018) asserted that alcohol abuse has decreased among juveniles in several countries and increased in older adults over the last decade. Treatment facilities are a vital asset in the rehabilitation for alcohol abuse treatments, especially for those with complex requirements and severe alcoholism. The purpose of the research was to determine the extent of treatment facilities in the upper age limits that do not include older adults or how they will obtain adequate services.

The study was conducted through a mixed-methods approach, using an online directory of treatment facilities to identify an upper age threshold. Additionally, qualitative interviews were conducted by a population of sixteen adults who have attended one of the designated treatment facilities since their 50th birthday. The study determined that there was direct and indirect age discrimination in treatment facilities contrary to laws enforced. Treatment facilities should not consider age limits and ensure they are suitable to meet minimum requirements of older adults, which was an associated theme concerning adequate care for juveniles during detention, aftercare programs, or treatment facilities (Wadd & Dutton, 2018).

Interests and Methods Consistent with Scope and Course of Actions

Construct of interest was a course of action for choosing the types of methodologies and methods consistent within the scope based on social change and tangible results. There was limited research conducted in dissertations and conferences that addressed alignment of the current political atmosphere and laws that have transformed over the past decades. Mutable personalities, law enforcement personnel, and political atmosphere have influenced community aftercare programs' methods, processes, and policies. The research study addressed these shortfalls by encompassing legal professionals, who faithfully serve as police officers, intake officers, probation agents, attorneys, judges, and jurors, within the past five years to provide updated information due to technology, changes in laws, and generational demographics (Barrett & Katsiyannis, 2016).

Courses of action that referenced similar research were corroborated in published peer-reviewed articles by authors, who conducted qualitative, descriptive case studies to examine predetermined numbers in sample populations, interviews, surveys, and coding software for data systemization (Meintje et al., 2018).

For this study, the researcher conducted interviews with a sample population of ten legal professionals (e.g., detention officers, juvenile court judges, welfare programs managers) that produced results for a deductive analysis approach. A computer-based software was used to process coded texts and other data source elements to manipulate data collection that produced a graphical display of codes. Therefore, the research study aimed to identify and answer why deviant behavior can be transformed into positive outcomes resulting in effective enhancement of aftercare programs to reduce juvenile delinquency and recidivism (Anderson, Barnes, Campbell, Campbell, & Onifade, 2016).

Conclusion

Literature Review Findings Relevant to this Study

The literature review identified recognizable themes, justifications, trends, and variables or factors to be considered in a comprehensive research study. Findings in relationships within this literature review were to ensure the alignment in each research question; the current political atmosphere and laws that have transformed over the time frame of this study were used to determine “what works” and “what does not work” from previous research data and statistics (Barrett & Katsiyannis, 2016). Major themes identified are considered within the problem statement to come to a resolution in determining the efficiency and effectiveness of aftercare programs to reduce delinquency

within these studies established topics: background of juvenile offenders; gender considerations for offenders; male versus females; nature versus nurture; juvenile aftercare programs; effects of strain or labeling; juvenile judicial system; laws; disposition and initial induction.

The most significant findings from the literature review that nailed down justifications for this study were associated with the strain theory and how it affects juveniles, their familial support apparatus, education, treatment, and opportunities. Research on strain theory was a broad perspective that can be intertwined with any aspect of theories, research studies, and societal norms. References to specific articles in the literature review provide the cement for conducting a detailed research study.

Wright et al. (2014) stated there is little research on the expectations and challenges youth face while transitioning to adulthood; significant challenges resulting from antisocial behavior are associated with risk factors and environmental protective measures. Additional findings consisted of how larger neighborhoods affect crime rate statistics and direct and indirect disadvantages on juveniles, which are higher. Disadvantaged youth were examined to understand the indirect effects of social control, strain, and teaching ability. Wright et al. (2014) suggested other considerations that estimated the possible impacts and changes in a youth's environment, which may impact a youth's behavior under favorable conditions. The results have shown a direct link to a juvenile's behavior through association with deviant peers. Therefore, creating strain is an indirect pathway to disadvantages associated with the blockage of conventional goals and the perceived ability to obtain them. Affected outcomes were based on indirect peer

exposures, which set the conditions for anticipated recidivism. Justifications have been considerable in the success on strain when a supportive environment was created and successfully transitioned from adolescent to adulthood established in supporting both research questions based on the two diverse types of aftercare options provided and tailored programs to meet a juvenile's specific needs (Wright et al., 2014).

Known and Unknown in Juvenile Justice

Known causes of juvenile delinquency are numerous and affect both men and women; however, statistical data shows that most offenders are male youths. Some causes of juvenile deviant behavior are domestic violence, low-income areas, high crime rates, poor educational systems, and inadequate social support programs. The literature review showed that a cause-and-effect method related to core factors has been identified throughout this research and peer-reviewed articles. However, research premise clearly articulated the adverse reactions by applying societal expectations and goals upon youth. Environmental influences are not distributed fairly, which could adversely affect and determine a youth's inability to conform. Direct and logical links determined by the research questions must encompass an individual's demographics such as school, mental capacity, family, and economic status to uncover all factors.

Unknown causes of juvenile delinquency focused on or in two different areas associated with female offenders and the lack of or inadequate psychological treatments for juvenile offenders. Celinska and Cheng (2017) suggested that overall delinquency rates have declined in recent years. However, the study has determined that females are institutionalized at a higher rate than their male counterparts. Since support for drug

offenses has been reduced, there are increasingly inadequate medical care or treatment facilities to provide psychological care, accommodations, and employment opportunities. These two issues were addressed, and the plethora of unknown statistical data determined a cause for further research (Watson, 2018).

Known causes of juvenile delinquency are numerous and affect both men and women; however, statistical data infers that most offenders are men. Some causes of juvenile deviant behavior could be domestic violence, low-income areas, or high crime rates, poor educational system, and inadequate social support programs. Environmental influences are not distributed fairly, which could adversely affect and determine a youth's inability to conform. The direct and logical links determined by the research questions must encompass an individual's demographics such as school, mental capacity, family, and economic status to uncover all factors.

Studies on the unknown causes of juvenile delinquency have focused on two areas, female offenders, and the lack of or inadequate psychological treatment for juvenile offenders. Celinska and Cheng (2017) suggested that the overall delinquency rates have declined in recent years. However, the study has determined that women are institutionalized at a higher rate than their male counterparts (Watson, 2018).

Gaps Filled in Literature and Extend Knowledge into the Discipline

According to Taylor and Spang (2017), there are gaps regarding a young offender's background criminal records and their likelihood of employment. The study's premise was to determine if race was a specific factor in determining if incarcerated Black males were less likely to earn competitive wages than their White counterparts

with similar delinquency backgrounds. A gap analysis determined that a juvenile's past discretions are likely to not be expunged and be available for public assessment when employment opportunities arise. An experimental research study with fictitious resumes compares involvement or non-involvement past with the juvenile court system. The outcome has determined that those with no previous juvenile involvement were more attractive for hire than those with juvenile discretions. However, there were no significant differences between Black and White offenders. The results are based on the stigma that comes from easier access to juvenile records which created challenges for employment and should consider a different approach to potential employer's access to juvenile records (Taylor & Spang, 2017).

Transition to Chapter 3

Transitional materials in the Chapter 3 methodology were the tie-in on "how" to identify options and treatment methods to reduce recidivism based on the overall research questions established to ensure validity and reliability of the research study. Computer software was utilized to process coded texts and other data source elements, manipulating the collected data to produce a graphical display of codes through traditional methods; a comparison to other software-based programs provided the greatest opportunity to enhance validity, credibility, and quality in the findings based on the volume of data collected. The identified research gap analysis has shown related inadequacies regarding the effectiveness of multiple community preventive aftercare programs designed to reduce or prevent juvenile delinquency (Stacks, 2013).

Chapter 3: Research Method

The study conducted was a qualitative case study, which provided an intuitive understanding of the current conditions and challenges juveniles have experienced regarding the criminal justice adjudication process and aftercare programs. Tailored treatments in aftercare programs involve social disparities such as race, gender, education, parental guidance, income, mental health, environment, sexual abuse, and lack of self-esteem. A methodology analysis was led by the strain theory to address the overarching research questions that identified predetermined risk factors to assist a researcher in obtaining adequate information which replicated, designed, measured, and validated the premise. The research questions were designed to determine the effectiveness of juvenile delinquency programs to provide innovative results for improving the efficiency of juvenile justice and aftercare programs (Anderson et al., 2016). This chapter provides a detailed analysis regarding the sample population, settings, instrumentations, data collection, and ethical concerns.

Research Design and Rationale

This research consisted of a qualitative case study approach to address the gaps between juvenile delinquency programs' ineffectiveness and recidivism. The case study methodology provided me with a recommended format to conduct interviews through social media, control the sample population, and ensure how to determine when adequate information would be obtained (Yin, 2014). It also provided an in-depth analysis of the related subjects, referenced similar cases, and observed contextual conditions over a period that determined the fallacies of central concepts and phenomena (Yin, 2014).

This case study research design involved a field observation through social media platforms due to COVID-19 protocol mitigation measures, which was effective in determining the methods to gain an understanding of the study topic. Additionally, the study identified tangible linkages between juvenile delinquency, recidivism, and the ineffectiveness of prevention programs that addressed the problem statement. The two overarching research questions were designed to ascertain the effectiveness of juvenile delinquency programs to ensure that time, money, and limited resources were effectively utilized: (a) What predetermined variables can be used to identify the efficiency and effectiveness of state-sponsored or school-based programs in reducing juvenile recidivism?, and b2) Is tailoring an aftercare treatment plan to a juvenile's individual needs more conducive to reducing juvenile delinquency and recidivism?

Qualitative Method Answers to the Research Questions

A qualitative case study research method was appropriate to answer the research questions and analyze reasons behind the increase in juvenile delinquency and options that could enhance program efficiency (Anderson et al., 2016). The qualitative method required many of those involved in various aspects of juvenile justice and their legal capacities to determine indefinite solutions to treatment plans offered to reduce juvenile delinquency based on their views, which may be limited in comprehensiveness beyond the sample population due to technological advancement, changes in laws, and generational demographics (Anderson et al., 2016). In a qualitative study, there were five approaches reviewed that determined suitability for the research problem, purpose, and questions.

Case Study

Case studies are used to determine how culture works to understand the issues or problems within a sample population (Chih-Pei & Yan-Yi, 2017). Therefore, case study research incorporates the issues or problems by exploring more cases within a context. This method is best suited for a researcher with clearly identified case-specific boundaries and provided an in-depth analysis of comparable cases, though one of the challenges is identifying a suitable case for study.

Narrative Study

A narrative study is defined as a written account of storytelling or an individual's experiences during interviews (Chih-Pei & Yan-Yi, 2017). This kind of study represents a collection of events or actions given in chronological order. The method was best suited for a research problem that will benefit from detailed stories identified by the sample population. However, a challenge would have been collecting an extensive amount of information and understanding the experiences based on the sample population.

Phenomenological Study

Phenomenology is like the narrative research method; however, a phenomenological study captures the phenomenon of several individuals or groups within a population or their life experiences (Chih-Pei & Yan-Yi, 2017). This is best suited for a research problem that will benefit from an in-depth detail and multiple interviews with a sample population. But one challenge is understanding the phenomenon from a broader philosophical analysis.

Grounded Theory Study

A grounded theory study is different from the phenomenological approach because it is used to analyze a personal phenomenon, and the approach is intended to develop or generate a theory for a sample population (Chih-Pei & Yan-Yi, 2017). The data collected by the sample population's experiences provides a general explanation or a process that shapes views of a sample population. The method is best suited for a researcher when a theory cannot provide an explanation of the analytical process. The challenge is setting aside any preconceived theoretical notions to allow the process to continue without complications for the substantive process to be successful.

Ethnographic Study

Ethnography is like a grounded study since it also collects a large amount of data from those who may have similar experiences or events (Chih-Pei & Yan-Yi, 2017). Ethnography includes shared experiences but not necessarily in the same location but frequently enough to capture data that may yield similar experiences. Ethnography study would be best suited for a researcher if it were necessary to describe commonalities in the culture of a population, beliefs, and local customs. The challenge is understanding cultural anthropology and social sub-system of cultures. After carefully reviewing options, the best approach for this research was the case study, which incorporates issues or problems by exploring one or more cases within a context.

Justification: Design, Approach, and Method

The case study provided a better foundation to guide the established research design, which involved collecting information from several different sites at various

times. Data was collected from a population of volunteers considered as SMEs with unique and similar experiences, making it convenient to reach saturation and answer the research questions with validity. This research served the purpose of comparing past studies for greater insight and generalization without the associated cost or to maximize time being spent on current or repetitive research studies (Stacks, 2013).

The qualitative approach and case study methodology supported and assessed the theoretical framework through analysis of peer-reviewed articles from the past 5 years. A case study analysis was used to understand the linkages between juvenile delinquency, recidivism, and the ineffectiveness of prevention programs. During this process, I determined gaps, provided recommendations, and offered solutions that may help ensure the effectiveness of juvenile delinquency programs and reduce recidivism (Stacks, 2013) by offering them an opportunity to be productive citizens and contribute to society (Barrett & Katsiyannis, 2016). Transferability was based on the study's extensive research and many theories written previously with different options to improve the juvenile justice system (Barrett & Katsiyannis, 2016). When prevention and aftercare programs are offered or considered, variables could affect the outcome of success and treatment of juveniles who become repeat offenders. Topics that contribute to this research study included background on juvenile offenders, male versus female offenders, nature versus nurture, juvenile delinquency, juvenile delinquency programs and juvenile delinquency, and the legal process and laws (Jaggers et al., 2014).

Role of the Researcher

A researcher's role in the qualitative study is to serve as an objective instrument of data collection through a questionnaire. Moreover, maintaining a journal used to record any personal reactions or awareness of any biases, assumptions, expectations, and experiences. Researcher served as the modeled instrument for data collection from an outside perspective and objective viewpoint as an observer-participant. Data collected was mediated by me. Information about my qualifications offered the designated volunteers a self-assessment covering any biases, assumptions, expectations, career, education, and experiences. A research journal was maintained to accurately record reactions, reflections, and insights; a separate journal was maintained on beliefs and past experiences for bracketing purposes (Mitchell et al., 2018). Interviews consisted of probing questions, critical listening, and detailed analysis for cohesive research through unique experiences and comprehensive thoughts on treatment. A researcher's roles during data collection entails objectively maintaining the thoroughness and credibility of numerous aspects in research.

Personal, Professional, Researcher-Participants, Supervisory or Instructor

Relationships

The revelation of any personal and professional relationships researcher may have with participants with emphasis on supervisory or instructor relationships involving authority over participants could be awkward when a researcher has expert knowledge about corporate experiences, despite every attempt to ensure confidentiality or anonymity. There are assumptions or grounds for intimidations by a researcher or

moderator with the intention of exploring political or clinical challenges inherent to corporate practices. Researchers typically work in areas that they either feel comfortable with or have professional associations with.

Therefore, based on the researcher and their subjective experiences, some areas may be a conflict of interest or contentious that must be identified before starting research and approval through the IRB. Many organizations have a corporate climate or chain of command that may influence the relationships and sample population's ability to provide an objective viewpoint. Supervisory or instructor relationships are usually the foundations and cooperative climate that is valuable to the overall success of any researcher and their ability to obtain a complete research data analysis. Being the researcher, there are no conflict of interest or relationships involved with the sampled population.

Management of Researcher Biases and Power Relationships

Before any research could be conducted, there was a need to be aware of biases and power relationships to best manage and maintain objectivity. Information about the researcher's qualifications must be offered to the sampled population and a self-assessment covering any biases, assumptions, expectations, career, education, and experiences. Additionally, mock interviews were conducted, and solicitation for feedback from peers and instructors were utilized to finalize my approach and gain interview experience; the mock interviews were completed prior to the main study to ensure a more professional and objective data collection analysis.

Addressing Ethical Issues

Ethical concerns were identified early in the research proposal and addressed. Researchers typically work in areas that they either feel comfortable with or have professional associations with. Therefore, based on the researcher and their subjective experiences, some areas may be a conflict of interest or contentious that needed to be identified prior to starting any research (i.e., sensitive population, medical research, or animal testing) and must be preapproved through the IRB process. Organizations have a corporate climate or chain of command that may influence the relationships, incentives, employment differential, and sample population's ability to provide an objective viewpoint. Supervisory or instructor relationships are usually overall foundations and maintaining a cooperative climate valuable to the overall success of any researcher and their ability to obtain a complete research data analysis. Based on this research conducted by me, there were no cooperate related ethical concerns.

Methodology

Participant Selection Logic

The study consisted of ten volunteers for data collection were sufficiently stipulated and presented suitably by conducting interviews within a sample population's natural setting to collect data through detailed interviews and observations. This research study was conducted with a select group of volunteers from Dallas, Texas, and its surrounding counties through social media due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Through the interview process, a ten-question questionnaire was used as a guide for the selected population of ten legal professionals (i.e., detention officers, juvenile court judges,

welfare programs managers) who were familiar with CTC and D.A.R.E. aftercare programs. Also, these volunteers were considered SMEs and are considered knowledgeable in the judicial process, including intake, detainment, sentencing/adjudication, treatment, probations/release, and follow-up requirements with aftercare programs to ensure the proper alignment of this research which validated the process (Stacks, 2013).

Research data was collected from Dallas, Texas, and surrounding counties, using the snowball technique through word of mouth. Volunteers were legal professionals who served as police officers, intake officers, probation agents, attorneys, judges, and jurors and who are familiar with both methodologies of aftercare programs associated with juveniles and the legal adjudication process within the past five years. Criteria consisted of ten volunteers for data collection and were sufficiently stipulated and presented suitably. Interviews were conducted through social media at the convenience of the interviewee (Stacks, 2013).

The reasoning and purpose for decisions were based on the current COVID-19 pandemic. The use of social media platforms allowed for observation, orientation, and understanding of the judicial procedures, processing, and decision-making process. Finally, if any additional information or clarity is required every reattempt will be based on the same research guidelines and convenience of the volunteer. (Stacks, 2013).

Population Selection

The sample population only included legal professionals who are SMEs and serve as police officers, intake officers, probation agents, attorneys, judges, and jurors, and

family, friends, or associates willing to participate in a research study to improve the quality of care for juveniles. Furthermore, this population was familiar with both methodologies of aftercare programs and the legal adjudication process within the past five years. They were able to provide crucial updated information related to advancements in technology, changes in laws, and generational demographics. The aim was to align with current political atmosphere and laws that may have transformed over the time frame for study concerning juvenile delinquency (Stacks, 2013).

The study delimitations were those who never served as police officers, intake officers, probation agents, attorneys, judges, and jurors, or those legal professionals that served over five years were not included. Which are unpredictable outliers, based on past and current governing bodies of laws may have little or no added value for the study. However, tangible results in this study were the linkages between current policy and statistics to provide applicable programs for preventive measures in supporting the criminal justice system and aftercare programs (Stacks, 2013).

The delimitation process identified the criteria, and sampled population data was sufficiently stipulated and presented suitably. Therefore, this process clarified the research topics related to juvenile delinquency and determined methods for enhancing program efficiency (Anderson, Barnes, Campbell, Campbell, & Onifade, 2016).

Defense of Sample Size

Rationale in determining sample size was based on a volunteer with similar academic accreditation in the legal profession based on training, analytical reasoning, and code of ethics. to provide an objective view in supporting data collection analysis for

research. Legal professionals obtained the same type of education, training, ethos, ethical standards, and similar working conditions or operating environments when dealing with the public to include supportive organizations (for-profit and nonprofit); therefore, saturation rate was sufficiently met to stipulate and present suitable efficacy (Stacks, 2013). Volunteers were determined by their occupation or experience and broken down into two to three subsets per professional category who served within the past five years in public legal services for a total of ten volunteers (Stacks, 2013). Finally, the rationale for this decision was to have an opportunity to observe, gain better orientation, and obtain an understanding of the relevant judicial procedures, processing, and decision-making process (Stacks, 2013).

In qualitative research, defense sample sizes are usually smaller and based on methods that provide vivid details from interviews and case study methodology. The description and defense for this study's sample size were based on legal professionals' confidence and validity. The sample population consisted of legal professionals who served as police officers, intake officers, probation agents, attorneys, judges, and jurors, who served within the past five years as public servants consisting of ten volunteers for data collection was sufficiently stipulated and presented suitably. Therefore, the subset data collection was managed by creating five categories based on occupational experience, background, or training, with two to three volunteers in each category for a total of ten volunteers. For example, the subset will mirror (2x volunteers as police officers, 2x volunteers as probation officers, 2x volunteers' judges, 2x volunteers as

attorneys, 2x volunteers as intake officers, 2x volunteers as youth pastors, 2x volunteers as others associated with juvenile issues; Stacks, 2013).

Eligibility Criteria for Study Participants

Eligibility criteria consist of ten volunteers for data collection were sufficiently stipulated and presented suitably. The rationale for determining the sample size was based on the legal professionals' commonalities. Legal professionals obtain the same type of education, training, ethos, ethical standards, and similar working or operating environments when dealing with the public, including supportive organizations (for-profit and nonprofit). Therefore, collecting a sample population of two to three personnel or staff members from each professional category (Stacks, 2013).

The delimitation of this study included those who never served as police officers, intake officers, probation agents, attorneys, judges, and jurors, or those legal professionals who served over five years. Volunteers in this category are considered as unpredictable outliers, based on past and current governing bodies of laws may have little or no added value for study. However, those volunteers who as deemed appropriate with the research methodology has provided valuable results in this study by identifying the linkages between current legal policies and statistical data for recommended options in preventive measures to support the criminal justice system and aftercare programs (Stacks, 2013).

Procedures for Participant Recruitment

Specific procedures for how participants were identified, contacted, and recruited were commensurate with judicial experience and identified by word of mouth, utilizing

the snowball technique for recommendations of knowledgeable volunteers who were willing to participate. Recruitment criteria that were established in methodology data collection criteria are from the Dallas, Texas area and familiar with both methodologies of aftercare programs. Collaborating with the selected volunteers who have met the recruitment criteria based on research requirements, and qualifications to address any questions or concerns as part of initial recruitment. Once initial contact was completed, an email of the research premise, ten-question questionnaire, overall intent, contact information, and outline were provided for review (Stacks, 2013). Once approval was obtained from organizational management, recruitment was initiated, and contact information was sent. After all volunteers were identified, the date and time were established for 10–15-minute interviews through social media to collect data through detailed interviews and observations (Stacks, 2013).

Data Collection Procedures

The data collection procedure began with identifying legal professionals, friends, or associates who were considered SMEs in their fields and who served either as police officers, intake officers, probation agents, attorneys, judges, and jurors within the past five years. Ten volunteers were recruited by word of mouth using the snowball method, which was approved by the Walden University IRB process. The data collection method consisted of two to three volunteers, who each represented five distinct categories from each occupational or experience field. Once a date and time were agreed upon, an email of the research premise, research questions, intent, contact information, and outline was provided for a 10–15-minute interview (Stacks, 2013).

Data Collection Instruments and Sources

The data collection instrument utilized for this research was through a structured interview process, where predetermined questions were established. The process allowed an opportunity to provide explanations and clarifications if required and guided the interviewee if responses were vague or unclear or if any additional guidance was warranted to meet the research intended objectives. Additionally, a journal was maintained for a matter of record to record any personal reactions/insights while being aware of any biases, assumptions, expectations, and experiences to ensure an objective result between interviewer and interviewee. Research requires the prevention of reflexivity by having separate journals based on beliefs and past experiences for bracketing purposes to identify any bias concerns (Mitchell et al., 2018).

The source for structured interviews and journal record-keeping methods were referenced (The SAGE Handbook of Qualitative Data Collection, 2018). Other suggested data collection instruments and sources (i.e., observation sheet, interview protocol, focus group protocol, videotape, audiotape, artifacts, archived data, and other kinds of data collection instruments) for research:

1. The questionnaire is a series of questions designed to elicit information, filled in by all participants in the sample. Information can be gathered either by oral interview or by written questionnaire. These common types of research instruments are examples used by qualitative research methods (Hahn, 2018).
2. Checklists are items comprised of several questions on a topic and require the same response format (McConnell, 2003).

3. Interview protocol is a pre-established script that entails specific topics, ideas, concepts, and main points for the beginning and end of the interview to include a permission statement or signature (Jacob & Furgerson, 2012). The interview involves either structured or unstructured verbal communication between the researcher and subject, during which time information is obtained for a study (Sabine, 2003).
4. Observation is most frequently used in qualitative research and offered by two diverse types of observations. For an unstructured collection method for research data has both opponents and proponents in the utility of this process. Structured observation entails the preparation of record-keeping forms such as category systems, checklists, and rating scales. A researcher typically has prior knowledge about the behavior or event of interest (The SAGE Handbook of Qualitative Data Collection, 2018).
5. Records refer to all the numbers and statistics that institutions, organizations, and people keep as records of their activities. Sources consist of census data, educational records, and hospital and clinic records (The SAGE Handbook of Qualitative Data Collection, 2018).
6. An experimental approach is a powerful design for evaluating the hypothesis of causal relationships among variables. The researcher controls the independent variable and watches the effect on the dependent variable. Two groups of experimental approaches include the treatment/experimental group and the control group (Colton & Covert, 2007).

7. A survey is a non-experimental method, through which the researcher investigates a community or group of people (Colton & Covert, 2007).

Sufficiency of Data Collection Instruments for Research Questions

The establishment was sufficient in data collection instruments used in this research study and determined a structured interview process and journals utilized a predetermined questionnaire with ten questions to identify options to reduce juvenile delinquency and recidivism. These questions are designed to determine the effectiveness of juvenile delinquency programs to ensure that time, money, and limited resources are effectively utilized. These two overarching research questions were formulated as follows: (1) What is the efficiency and effectiveness of state-sponsored or school-based programs in reducing juvenile recidivism rates? (2) Is tailoring an aftercare treatment plan to a juvenile's more conducive to reducing juvenile delinquency and recidivism? (Anderson et al., 2016).

Through the structured interview process, data collection instruments provided interview responses in the questionnaire that determined data sufficiency without calculation, which was sufficient to obtain required information that concluded a qualitative aptitude for research results in validity based on volunteers who were deemed as SMEs in their field of expertise in juvenile aftercare (Anderson, Barnes, Campbell, Campbell, & Onifade, 2016).

While examining two community prevention programs, CTC, and D.A.R.E, a school-based substance abuse prevention program, offered to reduce or prevent juvenile delinquency with similar mission statements but different methodologies for aftercare.

Data sufficiency provided analytical results through statements to determine the effectiveness of juvenile delinquency aftercare programs assigned or designed to rehabilitate delinquent youth (Anderson, Barnes, Campbell, Campbell, & Onifade, 2016).

Published Data Collection Instrument, Developer, and Previous Publications

For the research study, example research that is not specifically related to the topic, however the focused as on the procedural of the instrument process to identify proven techniques for research purposes only. The published data collection instrument was the structured interview process and referenced journals and collection instruments previously used in a study conducted by Risius et al. (2017). Their study found that fish raised through aquaculture production plants are becoming more popular in the future needs of human consumption. Procedures and processes in the sustainability of aquaculture food sources are considered an alternative method used to address any negative environmental concerns in conventional methods and wild fisheries. The study consisted of a qualitative method associated with thinking about protocol and in-depth interviews by face-to-face applications.

Interview protocols are pre-established scripts that entail specific topics, ideas, concepts, and main points for the beginning and end of an interview process, including permission statements and signatures (Jacob & Furgerson, 2012). Moreover, interviews involve either structured or unstructured verbal communication between a researcher and volunteer, during which information is obtained study purposes in validity (Sabine, 2003). Published or document forms for research can be obtained from this website

address <https://atlasti.com/wp-content/uploads/2015/01/Commented-Example-of-an-interview-protocol.jpg>

Cultural Context: Population Development of Research Instrument

The cultural context of the structured interview data collection instrument was appropriate for research because it required predetermined questions that facilitated this research study on juvenile delinquency and aftercare programs. The study consisted of a qualitative method into protocol techniques and in-depth interview methods through face-to-face applications. Interview protocols are pre-established scripts that entail specific topics, ideas, concepts, and main points for the beginning and end of the interviews and included permission statements and signatures for validity (Jacob & Furgerson, 2012). Furthermore, interviews involve structured or unstructured verbal communication between the researcher and subject, during which time information was obtained during the study to be analyzed appropriately based on qualitative principles. The interview protocol script was well structured and only modified to meet specificity within this research to maintain integrity and validity (Jacob & Furgerson, 2012).

Content Validity for the Published Instrument

The research study was a formative content validity that assessed the effectiveness of juvenile delinquency aftercare programs to improve chances of reformative a youth's ability to become a productive citizen, thereby reducing possibilities of recidivism. This research can be replicated in similar environments within state or private aftercare programs (Dipboye, 1997). Validity for this research study followed a model and guidance by Dipboye (1997), who found that an interview design

was vital for the thorough analysis of a questionnaire based on a solid background analysis, which was key in a constructed rating and scoring process for the interviews. Ensuring psychometric properties are sufficient to conduct interviews for a researcher to use as a justifiable and defensible rating scale or criteria. Ratings were based upon the preponderance of data collected during interviews, utilizing notes obtained based on the sample population's performance and input from a standardized format and process (Reilly & Chao, 1982).

The content validity for a developed instrument used in this research consisted of the following attributes: the instrument used was a questionnaire consisting of ten predetermined open-ended questions and scored by a tallied worksheet that captured the frequency of variables mentioned and categorized main topic points separated by state and private sponsored aftercare programs. The content validity was referred to by measuring appropriateness in the predetermined questions, observations, and journals recorded during interviews to accurately assess the intent to ensure analysis or results meet the main purpose of research development and refinement through a pilot test before a main study can be done (Stacks, 2013). Secondary validity and reliability measurement was conducted through triangulation and secondary sources to identify comparable results or patterns that determined consistency, which confirmed validity, reliability, and confidence within a tested or proven developed instrument utilized (Stacks, 2013).

Culture-Specific Issues of a Population and Development of Research Instrument

Context and culture-specific issues considered while an instrument was being developed in some cases are like other research instruments for research. The predetermined questionnaire was designed to use the same legal terms, definitions, and spatial understanding that ensured clarity and objectivity. The cultural aspects of legal professionals include collective thought process instead of individual or independent execution of the legal process. Volunteers who experienced similar types of education, training, ethos, ethical standards, and similar working conditions or operating environments when dealing with the public, including supportive organizations (for-profit and nonprofit). Finally, other cultural concerns are legal professionals familiar with objective interviews, where obtaining information by a novice or unprepared researcher in the collection of data analysis may be skewed if the cultural or context aspect was not understood. For analytical usage before developing any type of instruments and conducting data research analysis must be interpreted correctly to be beneficial in considering options for aftercare techniques (Huffcutt & Roth, 1998).

Most critical aspects started with a researcher; for an effective interview, the interviewer must be trained and aware of any biases that may impact observations, recordings, and evaluations in collecting information from a sample population. Training should possess clear guidance, efficient questioning, critical listening, and observation (Huffcutt & Roth, 1998).

Procedures: Exit Plan for Participants

Participants could exit the study by providing any additional information, clarification, omissions, or questions concerning the research process or expectations for social change. Reaffirm the code of ethics, anonymity, and protections of the IRB process and thank each interviewee for their participation in the questionnaire. Finally, if an interviewee was interested in learning more about the outcomes of this research study and or factors that were identified to offer options to enhance juvenile aftercare programs to reduce juvenile recidivism, they were able to contact me at their convenience. Any concerns or questions about the interviewer's rights as a participant in this study could be directed to the Walden University IRB Secretary.

Procedures: Follow-up Interviews

Follow-up procedures for previous interviews were required to properly end each questionnaire to comply with institutional guidelines. After the initial interview was concluded, if required, an initial follow-up was conducted via telephone if there was a need for any additional concerns or questions for quality assurance (Stacks, 2013).

Procedures for Pilot Study: Recruitment, Participation, Data Collection

The pilot study provided a foundation for how the official study was conducted to ensure consistency and establish proper procedures during the interview process, data collection, and reporting. The sample population was identified in the following categories as legal professionals who served as police officers, intake officers, probation agents, attorneys, judges, and jurors, who served within the past five years. Five volunteers for data collection were sufficiently stipulated and presented suitably. Once initial contact has

been completed, an email of the research premise with research questions, intent, contact information, and outline was provided for prior review before the interview process (Stacks, 2013).

Once the pilot study was approved recruitment was initiated with me contact information to meet the established research criteria. Once confirmed, the date and time were established for 10–15-minute interviews (Stacks, 2013). The research study was planned for seven days a week for one month, Monday through Sunday, between the hours of 0800–1630, based on shift changes or rotations that may affect planned schedule times or designated locations. The established flexibility and convenience for accessibility for data collection while conducting interviews will facilitate the overall success of the plan (Anderson et al., 2016).

A tertiary plan consisted of the same established conditions, a 10–15-minute interview within an interviewee's natural setting. However, data collection methods were continued within multiple counties to ensure that the targeted sample population criteria were met; flexibility in scheduling and dates was maintained to include weekends, night shifts, or additional days as required (Stacks, 2013).

Data Collection Instrument for the Pilot Study

The aim was to develop an instrument for research that consisted of the following attributes. The instrument was a questionnaire that consisted of ten predetermined open-ended questions and scored by a tallied worksheet that captured the frequency of variables mentioned and categorized the main topic points separated by state and private sponsored aftercare programs. Content validities are referred to by measuring the

appropriateness in the predetermined questions, observations, and journals recorded during the interviews. The research analysis supported the main purpose in research development and refinement through a pilot study.

The pilot study consisted of legal professionals recruited by word of mouth who served as police officers, intake officers, probation agents, attorneys, judges, and jurors who served within the past five years. Five personnel or staff members represented each category such as police officers, intake officers, probation agents, attorneys, judges, and jurors. For example, the subset reflected (1x volunteer as police officers, 1x volunteer as probation officers, 1x volunteer judges, 1x volunteer as attorneys, 1x volunteer intake or others associated with juvenile issues). By conducting interviews through social media while all volunteers were in their natural setting and convenience to collect data through detailed interviews and observations (Stacks, 2013).

The rationale for determining sample sizes was based on the legal profession who provided objective views during the data collection analysis. Legal professionals obtain the same education, training, ethos, ethical standards, and similar working conditions or operating environments when dealing with the public, including for-profit and nonprofit organizations (Stacks, 2013).

Relationship Between a Pilot Study and Main Study

A pilot study for research was divided into critical stages that identified any potential problems and deficiencies in research instruments or protocols prior to executing the main study, allowing opportunities to become familiar with procedures and gaining an in-depth interview process (Hassan, Schattner, & Mazza, 2006). The pilot

study was designed as a small-scale study to assess research protocols, data collection instruments, a sample of recruitment techniques, and other requirements in preparation for an actual or larger study (Stacks, 2013). The process consisted of validating steps feasible to the proposals, recruitments, research techniques, and data analysis. A pilot study provided a foundation for conducting an official study that ensured consistency and established proper procedures while ensuring objectivity during the interview process, data collection, and reporting (Stacks, 2013).

Lessons of the Pilot Study

The lesson learned from the pilot study was the importance of having a contingency plan and a flexible scheduling process. Anticipated partnered organizations have a stringent acceptance policy that was difficult to manage, and considerable time and energy was wasted after the initial rejection. Another lesson learned was about COVID-19 restrictions. My proposal method was planned for face-to-face interaction and discussions; once protective measures were put into place at the height of the pandemic, I requested options through the IRB process for an alternate method of data collection, such as the snowball technique, utilizing social media platforms, which made it much easier for data collection. Finally, dealing with volunteers and working with their schedule based on time zone differences was challenging but finally gratifying once completed.

Data Analysis

Once the data was collected, it was analyzed through qualitative principles to identify any direct and logical links between associated factors within the research gap

analysis that were deemed relevant to reference topics, supplemented by secondary resources and peer-reviewed articles within the past five years. Underlying categories for this study were the supportive narratives: Background on Juvenile Offenders; Male vs. Female Offenders; Nature vs. Nurture: Juvenile Delinquency; Juvenile Delinquency Programs and Juvenile Delinquency; Legal Process and Laws (Jaggers et al., 2014). The data analysis consisted of dependent and independent variables categorized into subsets for comparison, including family-related challenges, mental health welfare, and school-related disabilities. A computer based-software program was used to process coded texts and other data source elements to manipulate the collection of data, producing a graphic and a final written report for formal research purposes (Rose, Ambreen, & Fayyaz, 2017).

Direct and indirect links to the research questions encompassed an individual's mental capacity and demographic variables such as school, family, and economic status to uncover factors discovered during the research analysis based on factors contributing to juvenile delinquency and recidivism. The review of multiple community prevention programs utilized, and their related effectiveness facilitated rehabilitation programs to reduce or prevent juvenile delinquency. Based on these research requirements, the development, planning, and execution in data analysis, designed research questions yielded analytical data to encompass issues associated with the criminal justice system and aftercare programs (Anderson et al., 2016).

The collected through interviews with a selected population of ten volunteers of legal professionals (i.e., detention officers, juvenile court judges, welfare programs managers) was transcribed. Facilitated the collection of data analysis that was deductive

and a qualitative case study approach within their natural settings to obtain collective data through observations, archived data, or documents (Stacks, 2013).

Coded data, similarities, themes, and differences revealed, and once saturation has occurred, validated data collected and drew linkages between research questions and theoretical framework. The results were portrayed in a graphic in preparation for a written report; and conclusions provided reliable data for addressing community-wide problems, reducing legal costs, and improving community safety (Anderson, Barnes, Campbell, Campbell, & Onifade, 2016).

Sorting and Coding the Statistical Operation

Sorting and coding procedures during qualitative operations consisted of axial coding analysis. The concept and categories were based on the following research topics: Background on Juvenile Offenders; Male vs. Female Offenders; Nature vs. Nurture: Juvenile Delinquency; Juvenile Delinquency Programs and Juvenile Delinquency; Legal Process and Laws (Jaggers et al., 2014). Also included mental capacity and demographic variables such as school, family, and economic status has been identified as contributors in delinquency and recidivism (Anderson, Barnes, Campbell, Campbell, & Onifade, 2016).

These concepts and categories confirmed the accuracy of interview responses and explored how each concept and category were related. Throughout the interview process, determined what conditions caused or influenced the concepts and categories previously established and if any social or political atmosphere, associated effects, or consequences were a factor (Anderson et al., 2016).

Finally, final concepts and categories were transferred into a data table by listing major categories with an explanation of each one, which was an effective way to organize the results and discussions. Based on the results offered a valuable insight into prevention technics and aftercare programs or considerations that could affect the success and treatment of juveniles who may become repeat offenders (Anderson et al., 2016).

Software Computer-Based Programs for Data Analysis

Computer-based software was used during the analysis process for coded texts and other data source elements that manipulated the collection of data to produce a graphical display of codes. Computer based-software program was a useful tool because codes were clearly labeled, which allowed the editing, rearrangement, deletion or merger, and simultaneous recording of the date, time, and authors. With limited time, detailed reports were produced for visual data displayed relating to codes, themes, and frequencies, making collaboration easier with organized folders (Stacks, 2013).

Computer-based software programs can manage data; they were designed to provide a means to store, coded text, and display data, which provided the greatest opportunity to enhance the validity, credibility, and quality of the findings based on the volume of data collected. Additionally, it provided a roadmap to ensure the effectiveness of juvenile delinquency programs and reduce recidivism. These concepts and categories confirmed the accuracy of the interview responses accuracy and explored how each concept and category were related (Stacks, 2013).

Treatment of Discrepant Cases

The data collection and the manner of treatment in discrepant cases were based on the normative development of juvenile independence, which was expected to involve different directions in a youth's information supervision, usually typified by limiting disclosures and increasing confidentiality. Sampling methods were designed to either elaborate, modify, or refine the theory proposed in reducing juvenile delinquency and effectiveness in aftercare programs (Anderson et al., 2016).

Therefore, the goal was to extend knowledge based on how data on a juvenile's behavior patterns and risky behavior was identified and collected. These disclosures may impact the outcomes during the initial intake and screening process of juveniles. Considering the estimated effects of third-party influences (risky behavior patterns) whether the individual was mentally challenged and any reports of psychiatric warning signs, substance abuse, suicidal ideations, and childhood adversities. Obvious goals offered an acceptable outcome to the community to treat juveniles who may help support, modify, or emerge theories without being refuted (Herrera et al., 2017).

Trustworthiness

Trustworthiness of research was based on credibility established by the legal professional, friends, and associates who have assisted juvenile delinquents in their official capacity. These volunteers are considered SMEs and have occupational similarities and are familiar with the intake, processing, treatment, detention, and aftercare programs to reduce juvenile delinquency. All are familiar with both methodologies of aftercare (state versus private) institutions and share similar educational

backgrounds, training, mission statements, and institutional knowledge. Trustworthiness was established when saturation criteria were met during the interview process when common themes, terms, and recommendations were made, which determined when enough data was collected, and coding was no longer required or feasible (Stacks, 2013).

Supported by scholastic peer-reviewed articles within the past five years for this overall research to obtain the most recent updated information to effectively offer options for the benefit of juveniles. Additionally, a journal was maintained to record any personal reactions and remain aware of any biases, assumptions, expectations, and experiences to ensure objective results (Stacks, 2013).

Transferability by External Validity

The validity of transferability in a research study may go beyond the current research in a broader environment and apply to similar research when dealing with adult offenders in similar conditions and environments regarding recidivism, aftercare treatment, and diagnosis of unique symptoms. Mental capacity and demographic variables such as school, family, and economic status have been identified as contributors to criminal activity and recidivism rates among adults (Anderson et al., 2016).

Dependability

A qualitative counterpart to reliability was established through the trustworthiness of the established research study's findings, which was determined to be consistent and repeatable based on the outcome of raw data collected and analyzed. The volunteers who participated were SMEs and legal professionals associated with juvenile delinquents. The reliability of the results was corroborated by those who served as police officers, intake

officers, probation agents, attorneys, judges, and jurors, who served within the past five years. The results were consistent and could be replicated, which determines when enough data was collected and coding no longer required or feasible (Stacks, 2013).

Confirmability

Confirmability was established by an audit trail of highlighted details in data analysis and dependability through consistent results that can be replicated within future research (Martínez-Ballesté et al., 2018). The qualitative counterpart of objectivity was established through the research data collection and data analysis process by SME volunteers in the legal profession associated with juvenile delinquents. The congruency criteria were confirmed through scholastic peer-reviewed articles on similar themes, topics, and recommendations that support the premise through the accuracy, relevance into the meaning of the data that assisted in the transcription, which indicated the means to demonstrate the quality of this research (Dipboye, 1997).

Intra and Intercoder Reliability

Intra and intercoder reliability for this research consisted of a two-step process related to analyzing collected data and a formal written report. Intercoder reliability was established through independent coding from peer-reviewed research studies, which were identified during the literature review process in Chapter 2. An intercoder was supported by similar research codes in this research study once consistency was established through the coding process with comparable results. Additionally, intra and inter-coder reliability is based on external coding measurements, such as other written or visual means (e.g.,

news media, facial expressions, and commercials), which can be replicated in similar environments within state or private aftercare programs (Dipboye, 1997).

Protection of the Participant's Rights and Ethical Procedures

The participant's rights were protected to reduce any physical or psychological harm to the volunteer population. A written and verbal statement was obtained for confidentiality, data collection, and coding, and participant identification was omitted during and after the interview process to ensure anonymity. All volunteers during the interview process had the opportunity to withdraw or modify their statements at any time without any repercussions or intimidation. Once the interview process and formalized statement were completed, all participants were given a copy of their statements to ensure accuracy (Anderson et al., 2016).

Areas of considerations that were strictly followed included the following: communication; evaluation of the reasoning for human subjects; compliance with Walden University IRB regulations and approval (#01-29-21-0571608); protection of individual's rights for self-determination; and promotion of the responsibility for the use of human sampling (Stacks, 2013). There was a mutual understanding of what is expected, how the research would be conducted, and how information was shared (Stacks, 2013). Compliance with Walden University IRB approval process and regulations was strictly adhered to as part of the approved protocol process. To ensure the sample population's rights for self-determination, the decisions for participation were based on an approved informed consent form. The sampling population was briefed and fully understood all the

associated risks and benefits for participating in a research study while continuing to participate and freely in an agreement to continue the study (Walden, 2019).

Finally, the promotion for responsible participation of human sample population if there any indifference for consideration, every attempt would be made to initiate discussions; identify appropriate regulations; and exhibit responsible research procedures are adhered to. If any violations of research principles were discovered during the conduct of the research study, Walden University Ethics and IRB would have been immediately informed (Walden, 2019).

Human Participants: Ethical Concerns Related to Recruitment Materials

The treatment of human participants and ethical concerns for recruitment were followed under the strict guidance of Walden University IRB. The recruitment of participants came in different forms when providing information about the study, enrollment, interest, and willingness to participate. All participants were volunteers, without intimidation, pressure, or undue influence (Walden, 2019).

Once coordination and permission were obtained, an emailed copy of this research plan without acronyms, technical or scientific jargon for review, questions, concerns, or comments (Walden, 2019). Afterward, solicitations were sent out to those who met the sample population criteria. Criteria consisted of ten volunteers for data collection sufficient to present validity and suitably (Stacks, 2013).

Ethical considerations involved the privacy concerns of those who were selected to participate in a study. The form of interaction consisted of emails and voice messages which may have specific medical condition or situation that may stigmatize an

interviewee that must be protect if discovered, secured, and provide opt-out options if required. Any ambiguity, bias, promises, or misleading emphasis concerning a study that may give any false impressions was avoided at all costs. An accurate and clear description of the study was conveyed to all participants, including the method, background, problem statement, purpose, and intent (Walden, 2019).

Human Participants: Ethical Concerns Related to all Data Collection

All volunteers were informed of their rights to discontinue participation in a survey at any time without any penalties or loss of benefits. However, it was especially important for evolution and reporting purposes to capture the reasons for early withdrawal. This information may be valuable to Walden University's IRB process to identify any potential problems associated with the conduct of this research topic. Information may be beneficial because if there are high withdrawal rates, then any reconsideration could determine if any ethical concerns, magnitude, or probability of any risks may outweigh the benefits of the research outcome (Leukefeld et al., 2017).

Additionally, if there were a requirement to terminate a participant's participation due to excessive risks, lack of benefit, or to protect the integrity of data collected based on falsified information, an explanation would be reported by summarizing the reasons for early withdrawals. Safe withdrawal or continuation of any participant's safety would always be considered, and any data previously collected before withdrawal may be used for research purposes if it remains pertinent to the research study and reported to Walden University's IRB with an explanation surrounding the circumstances (Leukefeld et al., 2017).

Agreements Obtained to Gain Access to Participants or Data

The recommended consent form used for the use of gaining access to participants and data collection consisted of a Liker Scale document that consisted of a basic knowledge statement and instructions for filling out the consent form; a ten-question questionnaire that informed participants of their rights and acceptance of the study; procedures regarding confidentiality; understanding of withdrawal process; and methods (such as interviews, audio or video); use of research data; access to research data; opportunity to have name published (Appendix).

Data to Include Archival Data and Relative Concerns of Confidentiality

Safeguards were established to address any issues or concerns through the handling of anonymous or confidential research data prior to conducting research approved through Walden University IRB. During the study, if it was necessary to collect and link any identifying information to the volunteers, creativity and ingenuity measures were applied to ensure the confidentiality of the research data (Walden, 2019).

Techniques included using codes with data documents and maintaining a separate document that links codes to the volunteer's identity secured in a separate area with restricted access. Detailed methods consisted of removing all cover sheets with identifying information from surveying instruments; the proper disposal, destruction, or deletion of data; limiting access to identifying information; storing data documents in a secured and safe location; and assigning passwords to all computerized documents or folders to safeguard the handling of anonymous or confidential research data (Chulkov, 2017).

Treatment of Data, Access, Storage, Dissemination, and Destruction

Safeguards that addressed any issues or concerns with the handling of anonymous or confidential research data were addressed prior to conducting research and approved through Walden University IRB. During the study, if it was necessary to collect and link any identifying information to the participants, creativity and ingenuity measures were applied to ensure the utmost confidentiality, handling, and destruction of all research data. All participants were briefed thoroughly on the intent and length of time that data could be collected, stored, and destroyed in a consent form for clarity and expectation management. Since the scope of this research plan was dependent on a five-year data analysis, then it would be safe to secure and destroy collected research data after five years, noting that the scope and intent would be outdated at this point unless otherwise dictated by Walden University IRB policies (Walden, 2019).

During this period, all research data required limited access to any identifying information and use for only clarity and options dictated by researchers or participants; storage of data documents were secured in a safe location and assigned passwords to all computerized documents or folders to safeguard the handling of anonymous or confidential research data. After five years or expiration of data, all electronic files will be deleted and any residuals hard copied notes, voice recordings, or videos deleted and destroyed sufficiently without any means or linkage of compromising personal information between the researcher and participants (Chulkov, 2017).

Treatment of Data, Ethical Issues, Conflict of Interest, and Incentives

The treatment of research data and applicable ethical issues were addressed by safeguards for handling of anonymous or confidential research materials before conducting any research approved through Walden University IRB. During the study, if it was necessary to collect and obtain, and link any identifying information related to the volunteers, creativity and ingenuity measures were applied to ensure the utmost confidentiality, handling, and destruction of all research data. All volunteers were briefed thoroughly on intent and length of time data collected, stored, and destroyed in a consent form with no incentives for participation for clarity and expectation management (Chulkov, 2017).

Summary

Description and highlights of this methodology summary referenced main points found within the research problem, demonstrated by multiple community prevention programs that have been offered to help support the reduction or prevention that concerns juvenile delinquency issues. However, since the rise in juvenile delinquency and outdated techniques are influenced by current laws, police training, political atmosphere, funding, and generational changes, juvenile justice system and aftercare programs have been affected by outdated procedures or applying antiquated policies. Therefore, further research is required to address significant gaps in the type of disposition with juveniles from the initial contact, induction, and rehabilitation (Rose et al., 2017).

Research methodology for this study identified detailed analysis regarding the sample population, settings, instrumentations, data collections, and analysis. To include

rationalization of research methodology used in this study. The research questions were designed to determine the effectiveness of juvenile delinquency programs to ensure that time, money, and limited resources are effectively utilized effectively; both have been explored in-depth to provide recommendations and present innovative results that improved the efficiency of juvenile justice and aftercare programs (Anderson et al., 2016). The methodology results provided a conclusion with an explanation depicting a final qualitative graphical pictorial of the results that support the established premise. A summarized report of each research findings produced from this study included recommendations towards further research studies on social change.

Chapter 4: Results

The purpose of this study was to determine why juveniles face unique social problems to incorporate treatment methods designed to meet their specific needs as well as improving the efficiency of prevention programs. Effective treatment options can provide a greater opportunity for rehabilitation and reintegration back into society as productive citizens (Anderson et al., 2016). I compared two aftercare treatment institutions with different program methodologies to identify any disparities through comparing the overall performance and rehabilitation rates. The first program examined was the CTC, which serves several communities within Dallas, Texas, and surrounding counties. The second program was D.A.R.E., a national organization that offers a school-based substance abuse prevention program. Studying these two programs allowed the delineation and comparison of the differences between two treatment methods within the

outcome through substantive research. Chapter 4 reviews and analyzes the collected data, producing results based on efforts applied in corroboration with the research premise.

Pilot Study

Conducting a pilot study involved creating a research process for an official study to ensure consistency and establish safe and effective procedures while ensuring objectivity during interviews, data collection, and reporting (Stacks, 2013). The purpose of the pilot study was to identify and confirm associated costs, effective instrumental procedures, and interviewing techniques in the dissertation process to ensure that intended goals and objectives were achievable.

The pilot study criteria consisted of five volunteers representing each category in the sample population, which were sufficient for the study's stipulations. Selected volunteers were identified through the snowball technique, which means that they were selected for participation through recommendations from family members, associates, legal professionals, counselors, youth pastors, and police officials. All interviewees were familiar with institutional budgets, intake methods, treatment, rehabilitation, and follow-up procedures associated with state-run and privately run aftercare programs (e.g., CTC and D.A.R.E.) in Dallas, Texas, and surrounding counties (Stacks, 2013). Once initial contact was completed, an email provided the research premise, questions, intent, contact information, and outline. The date and time were pre-established for a 10–15-minute interview through social media (i.e., Facebook, Zoom) due to COVID-19 restraints (Stacks, 2013). All volunteers were able to choose the ideal location, timing, and setting

for their prescheduled interviews. They also had the opportunity to prepare themselves adequately prior to interviews after receiving the initial email.

Impact of the Pilot Study on the Main Study

The pilot study had minimal impact, which was considered marginal with no required adjustments. This process was considered a small-scaled approach to test research protocols, data collection instruments, recruitment techniques, and other requirements in preparation for an actual or larger study. The relationships between the pilot study and the main study determined the data collection methods and confirmed safe and effective procedures to ensure the overall success of the main study (Stacks, 2013). The process consisted of validating all feasible step-by-step procedures for the proposed recruitment, research technique, data collection, and analysis. The pilot study established critical methods to identify any potential problems and deficiencies of the research instrument or protocols utilized before executing the main study (Hassan et al., 2006).

Setting

Time differences, real-life events or emergencies, funding, personnel issues, departmental protocols, stakeholder's priorities, and weather conditions all created unique challenges in which patience was key to the overall success of the data collection. Further, once initial contact was completed, there were limited responses, including fewer-than-expected returned phone calls within the planned timeline of 30 days to conduct my initial research. However, those who agreed to the interview were eager to participate while looking forward to the outcome of this research and its impact on social change in various occupational fields. The effects of this study's outcome were a realistic

portrayal of those participants' personal success stories in their ability to make slight changes.

Demographics

Participant demographics and characteristics were relevant to this research study because the study encompassed SMEs' families, associates, and legal professionals. The participants served as police or intake officers, probation agents, attorneys, judges, or jurors within the past 5 years. The study did not include those who have never served as an SME in the field of juvenile delinquency and legal professionals who have been out of the job-related responsibilities for more than 5 years. Participants were chosen to provide the most updated information due to advancements in technology, changes in laws, and generational demographics to establish credible relevancy. The intent was to identify any effects in the current political atmosphere and laws that have transformed over the timeframe of this study since personalities, law enforcement personnel, and political atmosphere may have influenced current research materials (Stacks, 2013).

Data Collection

Participants

Selected volunteers were identified through the snowball technique or by word of mouth. They included legal professionals, family members, and associates familiar with organizational budgets, intake methods, treatments, rehabilitation, and follow-up procedures of state and private aftercare programs (i.e., CTC and D.A.R.E.) from Dallas, Texas, and surrounding counties. Selection criteria required 10 volunteers to represent

each sample category for data collection, which had been determined to be appropriate for research results.

Location, Frequency, and Duration of the Data Collection

I examined two community prevention programs centered in Dallas, Texas, and surrounding counties. Once initial contact was completed, an email of the research premise, questions, intent, contact information, and outline was provided for review. The date, time, and location were pre-established for a 10–15-minute interview through social media (i.e., Facebook, Zoom) due to COVID-19 restraints (Stacks, 2013). The research study was planned and conducted over a 30-day period, up to at least 7 days per week depending on location and availability, between 8:00 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. The timeline was based on shift changeovers or rotations that may affect scheduling times or designated locations to provide maximum flexibility and convenience for volunteers during data collection and interviews. However, the data collection method allowed me to consider scheduling hours and dates to include weekends, night shifts, and holidays (Anderson et al., 2016).

Data Recording Methods

Data were recorded through interviews consisting of probing questions, critical listening, and detailed analysis of cohesive conversations regarding ideas and related experiences, captured in each of the 10 questions based on the questionnaire provided. The collection process also involved a research journal to accurately record reactions, reflections, and insights, while a separate journal focused on beliefs and past experiences for bracketing purposes (Mitchell et al., 2018).

Variations in Data Collection from the Plan Presented

Data collection methods during this research were in line with careful planning prior to execution with minimal variations and no significant changes. This research process and execution went according to plan with minimal variations in the execution of data collection, as anticipated. However, unusual circumstances and lessons learned originated with the initial contact to solicit participation from family members, associates, legal professionals, youth pastors, and police officials, which was challenging at times. These challenges were primarily based on timing, real-life events or emergencies, funding, personnel issues, departmental protocols, stakeholder's priorities, and weather conditions.

Data Analysis

Process to Move Inductively from Coded Units to Larger Representations

Sorting and coding procedures during qualitative operations consisted of an axial coding analysis process. The concept design and categories were based on the following research topics: Background on Juvenile Offenders, Male versus Female Offenders, Nature versus Nurture: Juvenile Delinquency, Juvenile Delinquency Programs and Juvenile Delinquency, Legal Process, and Laws (Jaggers et al., 2014). In addition, mental capacity and demographic variables were included, such as school, family, and economic status, all identified as contributors to delinquency and recidivism rates (Anderson et al., 2016).

The interview responses confirmed the accuracy of these concepts and categories, which explored how each concept and category were related. Throughout the process,

participants determined which conditions caused or influenced concepts and categories that had been previously established, as well as whether any social or political atmosphere has contributed associated effects in determining similarities to assist in coding the relationships between themes and categories (Anderson et al., 2016).

Finally, all concepts and categories were established and transferred into a data table by listing all major categories with an explanation of each, which is an effective way for organizing the results and discussions; a graphical data display was created, offering valuable insight into the prevention techniques and aftercare programs for the treatment of juveniles who may become repeat offenders (Anderson et al., 2016).

Description of Specific Codes, Categories, and Themes

According to Rose, Ambreen, and Fayyaz (2017), coding addressed significant gaps that currently existed in the effectiveness of two diverse types of aftercare programs offered (i.e., state-sponsored, and school-based programs). Aftercare programs are centered on antiquated treatment solutions that offer little or no tangible improvements in the juvenile justice system and aftercare programs as the increase in juvenile delinquency and recidivism rates continues. The importance of coding was to capture the tangible categories and themes that accurately produced results for replication and application (Bontinck et al., 2018).

Direct and indirect links to the research questions discovered during the research analysis included an individual's mental capacity and their demographic variables, such as school, family, and economic status, which uncovered factors contributing to juvenile delinquency and recidivism. The review of multiple community prevention programs and

their related effectiveness facilitated rehabilitation programs to reduce or prevent juvenile delinquency. Based on research requirements in the development, planning, and execution of data analysis, the designed research questions yielded analytical data regarding issues associated with the criminal justice system and aftercare programs (Anderson et al., 2016).

The emphasized themes included repeating variables or factors based on evidence collected through interviews that identified *race*, gender, education, parental guidance, income, mental health, environment, sexual abuse, lack of self-esteem, and lack of opportunities as significant factors (Anderson et al., 2016).

Discrepant Cases and How They Were Factored into the Analysis

Data collected and the treatment as discrepant cases was considered based on these individual categories: background on juvenile offenders, male versus female offenders, nature versus nurture: juvenile delinquency, juvenile delinquency programs and juvenile delinquency, legal process, and Laws (Jaggers et al., 2014). De Los Reyes and McCauley Ohannessian (2016) asserted that to determine discrepancies, researchers must identify whether theories converge with or diverge from the essential information transcribed within the report. The mental capacity and demographic variables, such as school, family, and economic status, were identified as contributors to delinquency and recidivism rates.

The normative development of independence in juvenile offenders involves a different direction in a youth's supervision, usually typified by limiting the disclosures of sensitive information and increasing confidentiality. This sampling method was designed

to either elaborate, modify, or refine the theory proposed in reducing juvenile delinquency and the effectiveness of aftercare programs (Anderson et al., 2016). Therefore, factors in the analysis were extensions of knowledge progression based on how a process reflects a juvenile's behavior patterns in which disclosures could impact the initial intake and screening process. One must consider the estimated effects of third-party influences and whether an individual was mentally stable when reporting psychiatric warning signs, substance abuse, suicidal ideations, or childhood adversities. Goals must offer acceptable outcomes to communities that are treating juveniles and corroborates the premise by supporting or modifying without refuting the results of the theoretical framework (Herrera et al., 2017).

Evidence of Trustworthiness

The trustworthiness of this research was based on credibility established by family members, associates, and legal professionals who are considered SMEs associated with juvenile delinquents to ensure confidence in the research analysis and the lack of necessary adjustments based on the pilot study. The credibility strategies consisted of a mock or pilot study to anticipate, prepare, and become familiar with SMEs who collaborate with juveniles in an official capacity. Triangulation and member checks included continued engagement and observation of all volunteers during the interview; anticipated outcomes were met by putting countermeasures in place to prevent any unpredictability (Sheahan et al., 2018). Credibility strategies focused on acquiring volunteers with experience-based knowledge or certifications that were obtained through education, training, ethos, ethical standards, and similar working conditions. Credibility

strategies were supported by recent and peer-reviewed articles that were written within the past five years. Additionally, a journal was maintained to record any personal reactions or insights and reveal any biases, assumptions, expectations, and experiences to ensure the objectivity of the interviews (Stacks, 2013).

The sample population that participated in this research study were considered SMEs within their fields of study or experience, which established transferability by identifying aftercare organizations with similar mission statements through consistent results that can be replicated, which determined when enough data was collected and when coding was no longer required or feasible (Stacks, 2013).

Transferability

The validity of the transferability strategy for this research study was implemented without adjustments from other recent research that falls within broader environments and applies to unresolved consequences when dealing with adult offenders in similar conditions and environments regarding recidivism, aftercare treatments, and integral diagnoses of unique symptoms. Mental capacity and demographic variables, such as school, family, and economic status, were identified as contributors to criminal activities and recidivism rates among adults (Anderson et al., 2016).

The transferability strategies consisted of a similar sample population of volunteers, such as legal professionals, who served either as police or intake officers, probation agents, attorneys, judges, or jurors. The criteria required ten qualified volunteers for data collection from each identified category, and aftercare organizations with similar mission statements established transferability, and dependability was

established through consistent results that can be replicated and supported through peer-reviewed articles (Stacks, 2013). According to Druckman (2019), undiscovered or undeveloped research topics that should be considered for continued investigations were identified for replicating previous studies for refinement and corrections based on transferability.

Dependability

Dependability strategies were established by legal professionals who provide support and aftercare solutions to juvenile delinquents. According to Manczak et al. (2018), dependability strategies reflected the outcome despite the frequency of interaction with predictability in variables associated in deviant behavior. Therefore, the criteria consisted of ten volunteers for data collection, which was sufficient to stipulate and suitably present data; dependability was also established by aftercare organizations with similar mission statements (Stacks, 2013). Supported by recent and peer-reviewed articles written within the past five years, dependability was further established or determined by similar evidence in mixed-methods or quantitative research studies, satisfying triangulation requirements (Stacks, 2013).

Confirmability

Confirmability was established by the participation of legal professionals who were associated with juvenile delinquents. According to Sirdifield and Owen (2016), during research analysis, the outcome determines the consistency or confirmability based on the frequency of analytical results. Criteria consisted of ten volunteers for data collection were found sufficiently enough to stipulate confirmability by an audit trail.

Highlighted details of the data analysis which determined when enough data was collected, and coding was no longer required or feasible. Additionally, the confirmability was based on external measurements that verified that this research could be replicated in similar environments (Dipboye, 1997).

Results

Interview #1

The interviewee is involved with juveniles and familiar with the issues and concerns dealing with this vulnerable population. However, volunteers are familiar with the associated challenges in juvenile delinquency, specifically with limited resources, such as quality of time, money, and correctional laws focused on incarceration over rehabilitation. Aftercare programs were compared during this research to determine which treatment methods were more effective. Commonalities by all interviewees were that state programs are ineffective due to limited resources but have regulatory oversight compared to private programs supported by stakeholder interests, lack of regulatory oversight, and competitive standards.

Most of the participants were concerned about the effects of current juvenile laws. Most interviewees agreed that the laws were either outdated and disparate or antiquated rehabilitation methods that did not address the underlying issues concerning juveniles but focused instead on parents' positional grievances, which may be counterproductive to any real solutions toward recidivism. Furthermore, juveniles face social media saturation, lack of extracurricular activities such as sports, community division, and video games or television that have gripped their attention. The top five variables were *race*, income,

peer pressure, environment, and family support; additional suggestions noted the lack of community involvement and funding for newer or enhanced programs to reduce juvenile recidivism.

The interviewee agreed that improvements were needed in different areas to reduce recidivism. One of the most prominent suggestions was collaborating with parents because they are the initial contact of the root causes of juveniles' challenges. Providing a tailored, combined, or a separate class for parents and their children could be an effective preventive measure. It could reduce the costs for better allocation of limited resources, which would be a wise investment for today's youth and future generations to reduce juvenile recidivism.

Interview #2

The main factor discussed in this interview that juveniles were seriously facing was the lack of mental health services; participants noted that children could display signs of mental stress as early as nine years of age and should be receiving the necessary treatments to live productive lives. Other variables considered as the top five associated concerns were *race*, income, mental health, environment, and family support; additional suggestions included the lack of juvenile immersion programs that were designed for juvenile legal representation to consider; as law enforcement personnel and teachers, these participants would like to have the opportunity to contribute to designing related program discussions and scenarios that would be greatly beneficial in supporting juveniles. Specific training and classes provide knowledge about interacting with juveniles who have received mental health diagnoses and limited mental facilities for

better care. This specialized training can effectively treat juveniles and develop programs as well as counseling methods for juveniles and their families.

During the interview, there were common themes that affected the outcome based on the interviewer's perspective towards *race*, income, mental health, environment, and family support; additional suggestions included a lack of juvenile immersion programs designed to represent juvenile courts and the notion that laws were either outdated, affected by disparity, or antiquated rehabilitation methods to address underlying issues concerning juveniles. However, current laws are more focused on issues concerning parent's positional grievances, which may be counterproductive to any real solutions toward recidivism.

The interviewee agreed that improvements are needed in different areas when it comes to reducing recidivism. One of the most prominent is collaborating with parents because they are the initial contact with the root causes and challenges those juveniles are facing. There is a collective agreement to the solution that providing tailored, combined, or separate classes to parents and children could be an effective preventive measure to reduce associated costs and effective allocation of limited resources is a wise investment.

Interview #3

Factors discussed in this interview included juveniles under the influence of social media and peer pressure. These children are bombarded with information that does not depict real-life issues. In entertainment, for example, being a drug dealer is glorified through media. These young people have seen the materialistic and financial rewards of this lifestyle as depicted in these forums and have aimed to emulate their views.

However, these movies and music often do not describe the consequences associated with these lifestyle choices. The fallacy of what is depicted in entertainment and social media results in many people committing crimes at an early age. However, these numbers are greater in minority communities due to socioeconomic factors, making the glorified lifestyle seem like a means to an end. Another factor of concern was the environment; high crime areas can exacerbate the crime rates among impressionable youth, especially given that many youths in these communities do not have financial or emotional stability in their homes. The lack of mental health services could affect the necessary treatment required for juveniles; children may show deviant behavior patterns associated with mental stress, and proactive treatment methods could be offered to allow opportunities to live productive lives.

Technology has changed how crimes are perceived and prosecuted. Some incidents are perpetrated via technology and social media, which are not considered crimes in some states. Technology provides a false sense of realism and normalizes deviant behaviors. Videotaping a fight and posting it on social media, for example, is not considered a crime, but it does contribute to the criminal actions of youth.

During the interview, there were common themes that affected the outcome based on the interviewer's perspective of social media and mental health services which glorified deviant behavior, and the lack of realism can exacerbate adverse effects that can cause social behavior patterns. The interviewee agreed that improvements were needed in many areas to reduce recidivism. Adding more community-based programs for involving youth in positive and reward-based activities is effective. Reenacting and developing

social media legislation is necessary, given that several types of crimes committed by teenagers' stem from social media platforms. There is a prevalence of teenagers utilizing social media as a platform for instigating crimes and making threats that spill out into the real world. When these instances occur, these juveniles do not have the social or interpersonal skills to effectively resolve or deescalate a situation. Resource availability could be more effective in preventive measures, reducing costs, and better allocating limited resources. De-escalation techniques, problem solving, and managed behavior skills would be a wise investment for today's youth and future generations in preventing juvenile recidivism.

Interview #4

The main factor discussed in this interview was the influence of social media and peer pressure on juveniles. Some teenagers live and die by what is liked on their Twitter, Instagram, and Tumblr applications. Teenaged girls believe that if they are not supermodel-sized, they are not beautiful or worthy of love. Additional variables included the following:

1. Race: African Americans are told (before they are offered a chance) what they can achieve. African Americans are believed to live in one-parent households.
2. Education: Once again, African Americans are stereotypically believed to come from homes where their parents are barely high school graduates.
3. Peer Pressure: Social media usage and cyberbullying are common. Once someone starts a rumor, it spreads rapidly, simply by Person A reading Person B's posts, who then forwards it to Persons C, D, and E.

4. **Family Support:** Parents fail their children by not holding them responsible for their actions. For example, if Johnny bullies Mark, then Johnny is simply asked to stop, and this request comes only if the boys are in the presence of a school administrator. Once they are back on the playground, Johnny starts in again on Mark. Johnny's parents are told of his behavior, and nothing is done to correct this problem; Johnny continues to bully other children.
5. **Mental Health:** This area has slightly improved, but more work needs to be done. The stigma associated with seeking help for depression, isolation, anxiety, and other issues related to a person's feelings must disappear. Until stereotypes about mental illness are corrected, we will continue to have juveniles shooting in schools and shopping malls.
6. **Substance Abuse:** Juveniles can easily obtain drugs. There were stories of high schoolers vaping after a dance competition on campus or when a teacher leaves the room or goes to the restroom, leaving deviant youth unsupervised.

Consistent themes were that current laws are either outdated and affected by disparity or antiquated and do not address the issues of juveniles; instead, they focus on the parent's positional grievances, which may be counterproductive when dealing with recidivism. The interviewee agreed that improvements are needed in different areas to reduce recidivism. Parental involvement is key; parents should have an idea of where their children are and pay attention to who they are with and how long. Established rules and conditions, supervised free time, and maintaining situational awareness of their child's social life are effective measures. Questions should include the following: Who

are their friends? Who are their parents? What do their parents do for a living? Are there people in and out of their house at all hours of the day and night? Are their kids unsupervised for days on end? Available resources could be implementing effective preventive measures, reducing cost, and better allocating limited resources, which would be a wise investment for today's youth and future generations to prevent juvenile recidivism.

Interview #5

Factors that juveniles were seriously facing that were discussed in this interview were exposure to the constant bombardment of social media and permanent news headline cycles. Most youth (just like adults) do not have adequate time to process or investigate the in-depth context of news headlines. Thus, accepting "fake news" is more common for them than previous generations who enjoyed more neutral journalism. The top five associated concerns included peer pressure, family unit, community support, sense of belonging, low-income status, and lack of resources (for extracurricular programs).

Consistent themes were that the laws are either outdated, affected by disparity, or antiquated methods that do not effectively address juveniles' issues. The interviewee agreed that improvements were needed in different areas to reduce recidivism. Laws that deal with juveniles and young adults' crimes should be adaptive to the needs and experiences in all sectors. The impression is that laws favor nonminority groups, and African Americans and Hispanic Americans are more harshly punished for the same or

lesser infractions. The disparity in applying laws can create resentment and injustice that perpetuates a cycle of disadvantage for minority groups.

Interview #6

Factors identified previously what juveniles are facing were discussed in this interview that determined causes for concerns over mental health which this debate has intensified over the past few years. Recent reports have shown that more juveniles are committing suicide between the ages of 13 and 18. Another factor that affects youth is lower socioeconomic status, which influences the education quality that one has access to and can be attributed to unstable housing or homelessness. The top five associated concerns were mental health, family support, education, peer pressure, and income status.

Consistent themes were that current laws are usually inconsistent or outdated, which could be attributed to antiquated treatment methods or overlooked direct issues and concerns that juveniles are associated with in treatment techniques and recovery.

Different states still prosecute juveniles in criminal court. Evidence-based research has proven that transferring juveniles into adult criminal court was more harmful to juveniles and society. Laws for transferring juveniles were introduced when crimes committed by juveniles were on the rise; these changes in laws were a quick reaction resolution performed without considering the welfare of or impacts to a juvenile's mental health and safety. Updated research has corroborated requirements for current laws to be modified or changed to reduce recidivism rates.

The interviewee agreed that improvements were needed in many areas to reduce recidivism. Ensuring basic needs are addressed implements a holistic approach. These

basic needs include shelter (home), clothing, food (healthy nutrition), emotional support, and safety or security.

Interview #7

This interview discussed the issue of economic diversity. Economic diversity provides security, health care, and educational opportunities that most economically depressed environments will not achieve; therefore, the window of opportunity is narrow and determines a youth's ability to achieve specific goals and satisfactory achievements to be productive citizens within their communities. The top five associated concerns were economics, *race*, adequate health care, education, and family support.

Consistent themes were the inclusion of mentorship programs designed to reflect community diversity of gender, race, and religion can enhance understanding and acceptable social differences. Specialized training for legal professionals, parents, and juveniles provides the necessary tools and knowledge for establishing social norms consisting of diversity and social acceptance programs. Specialized training can effectively treat juveniles by developing programs and counseling tools for juveniles and their families.

Recommendations including working with parents because they are the initial contact associated with the root causes of juveniles' problems and challenges. Providing tailored, combined, or separate classes specifically designed for parents and targeted youth early is effective in developing preventative measures and reducing costs.

Interview #8

Factors discussed in this interview included the absence of parental guidance due to economic strife or growing up in the absence of a two-parent home and social interaction with noncustodial parents. The top five associated concerns were income, *race*, absence of custodial parents, environment, and conflicting moral values.

Consistent themes were the development of moral or religious beliefs, economic equality, and social programs to educate and occupy juveniles' attention and compete with the lack of social immersion programs and extracurricular activities. Specific training and classes in inclusiveness and tolerance could provide the social skills necessary for social integration and productivity within communities. This specialized training can be effective in providing treatments as well as developing social programs and counseling methods for juveniles and their families.

Recommendations including assisting parents because they are the primary contact with any initial causes and challenges that juveniles face. Providing tailored combined or separate classes to parents and their children could effectively establish preventive measures and reduce costs.

Interview #9

The factors discussed in this interview were social strain based on the illusion of glamour commercial productions and music, and the lack of moral values that have overridden the core fiber of responsibility and productivity in societal contributions. The top five associated concerns were *race*, income, peer pressure, sexual abuse, and substance abuse and mental health services that are missing due to the lack of funding,

social services, and substantive laws that can offer rehabilitative measures for enhancing programs to reduce juvenile recidivism.

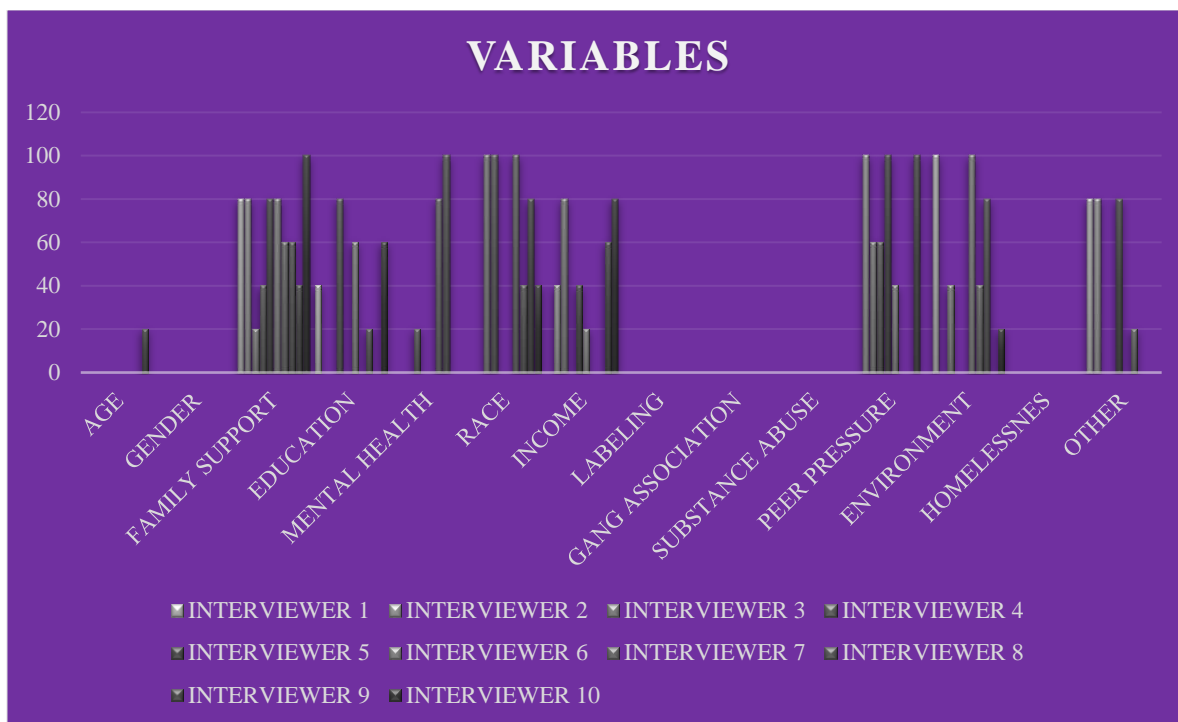
Consistent themes were that there are consistencies with the notion that current laws are either outdated, affected by disparity, or simply antiquated, which may be counterproductive when dealing with recidivism. One of the most prominent suggestions was morality programs that are academic but are introduced via commercialized venues (i.e., television, radio, social media, and mentorship or parent-directed). These resources are not a panacea for all issues facing juveniles; however, an attempt to invest in today's youth and future generations is important for reducing juvenile recidivism rates.

Interview #10

This interview discussed the lack of training for modern jobs. Trade schools and traditional secondary education are not sufficient to prepare youth for factory jobs. Many technological jobs require computer-based training that is not available in low-income schools. The top five associated concerns were family support, income status, education, race, and environment.

Consistent themes were that current laws are considered outdated, affected by disparity, or antiquated to the factual issues when dealing with recidivism. Improvements are needed in many areas when it comes to reducing recidivism. Marijuana, for example, should be legalized and permitted for today's youth or at least for young adults over age 18. Decriminalizing certain types of behavior, such as marijuana usage, reduces the profitability of selling it illegally, thus weakening criminal finances. Offering youth something to look forward to and instilling faith or a positive outlook in the world could

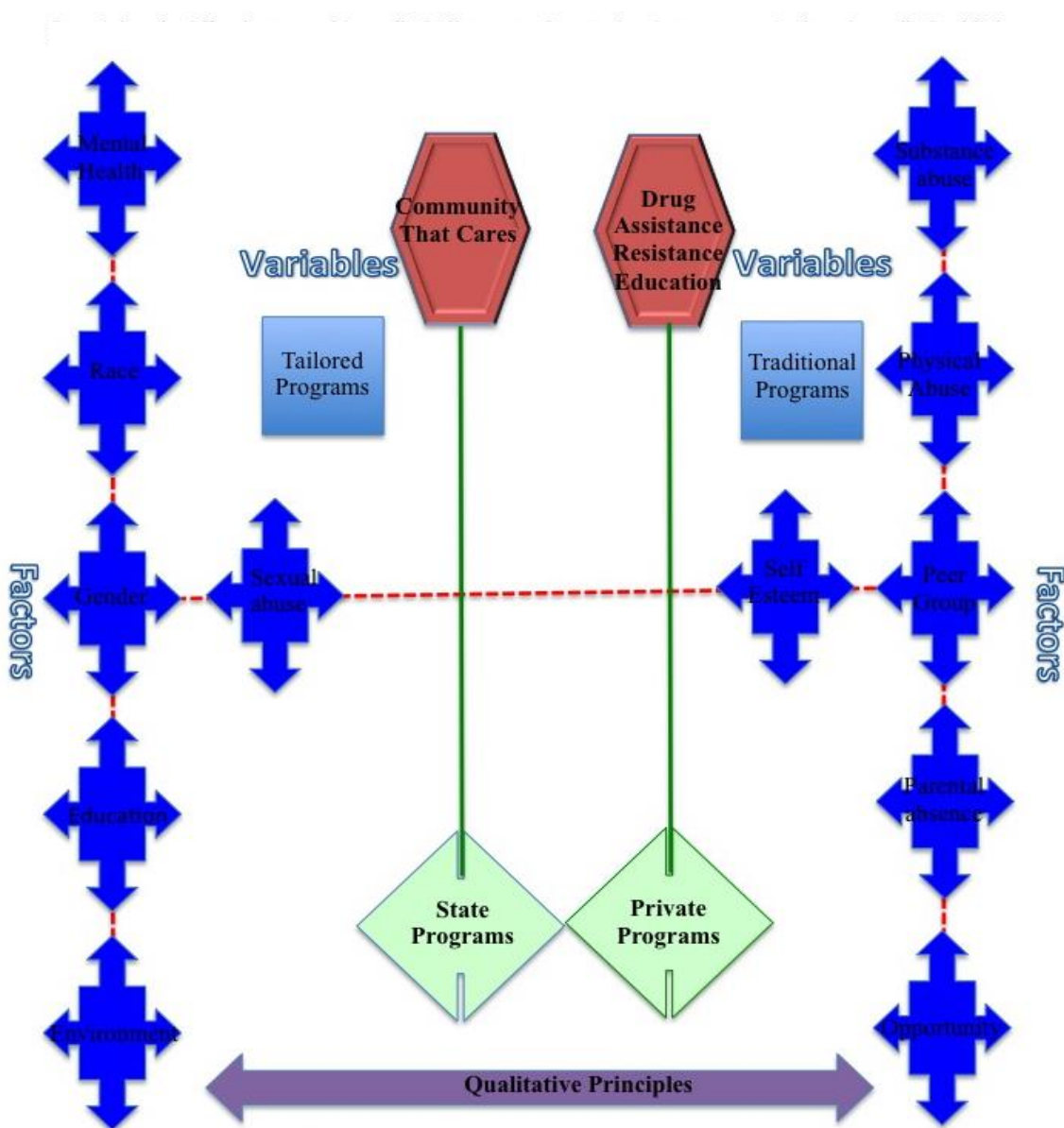
inspire individuals to work hard and have strong moral principles. Today's economy does not provide substantive income or opportunities for most young adults who seek a better future.

Figure 1*Discerned Identified Variables*

Note. This chart reflects the notable themes and variables. This information was taken from 10 volunteers who have related experiences in handle juveniles and are considered as subject matter experts. Response categories mentioned to establish a baseline measurement such as age, gender, family support, education, mental health, race, income labeling gang association, substance abuse, peer-pressure, environment, homelessness, and others. These associated factors are a depiction of a visual display into identified areas of concerns for recommend options in treatment for juveniles and support social change.

Figure 2

Themes Associated with Effective Aftercare Programs



A depiction of state versus private programs as it relates to this research study that have determined related factors associated with juvenile delinquencies and recidivism rates. The identified factors are a representation of responses given by the sample population (10 volunteers) who are considered as subject matter experts, who understand the legal process involving the induction, sentencing, and release/probation.

Summary of Findings

Summary of Findings for Interview Question 1

Participants were asked which aftercare treatment programs for juveniles with which they were familiar. The majority were familiar with several of the recognized state and private aftercare programs. However, state programs are specific to the local and state legal regulations, and private organizations were more prevalent in many counties. Most of the legal professionals have been either exposed to, are a product of, or have volunteered for many aftercare programs. The state-sponsored aftercare programs consisted of Guardian ad Litem, CTC, and Youth Alliances. Private aftercare programs consisted of D.A.R.E., Young Men's Christian Association, Boys and Girls Club of America, Models for Change, Horton's Kids Youth, and other resiliency programs specifically designed to educate and protect disadvantaged youth.

However, these programs are either regulated or directed by shareholders based on current laws, enrollment, and community interests, which may or may not be in the best interest of juveniles; furthermore, these programs may be unable to provide adequate care. Additionally, most staff members are either untrained volunteers or unqualified to assist juvenile, which could have a profound effect of the success rate. However, the overall mission of these programs is to benefit juveniles and support the communities they serve in the prevention of juvenile delinquency and recidivism.

Summary of Findings for Interview Question 2

What factors or concerns do juveniles face today? One of the many concerns facing U.S. youths is social media usage and peer pressure. Most youth are overwhelmed

with the mental understanding and processes dealing with information fatigue that does not depict real-life issues. For example, the entertainment industry does not consider the liability associated with its moral degradation and responsibilities on the social disorder. These young people see the materialistic and financial rewards associated with deviant behavior lifestyles depicted in these forums and aim to emulate what they are viewing.

However, these movies and music often do not describe the consequences associated with these lifestyle choices. The fallacy of what is depicted in entertainment and social media results in many people committing crimes at an early age. However, these numbers are greater in minority communities due to socioeconomic factors that make the glorified lifestyle seem like a means to an end. Another factor of concern is their environment; areas of high crime can endanger impressionable youth, especially given that many youths in these communities do not have financial or emotional stability.

Summary of Findings for Interview Question 3

Participants were asked to name the top five variables (age, gender, family support, education, mental health, *race*, income, labeling, gang association, substance abuse, peer pressure, environment, or homelessness) that contribute to the isolation of youth. Their responses included the following:

1. Race: Most of the minorities are told (before being offered a chance) what they can achieve.
2. Education: African Americans are stereotypically believed to come from homes where their parents are barely high school graduates.
3. Peer Pressure: Social media and cyberbullying.

4. Family Support: Parents are failing their children by not holding them responsible for their actions.
5. Mental Health: This area has improved, but there is a stigma against seeking help for depression, isolation, anxiety, and other issues dealing with a person's feelings.

Summary of Findings for Interview Question 4

Participants stated that additional variables consisted of community involvement programs, parental guidance, and support structures to mentor youth and provide a structured environment. Social acceptance has alluded to either a single-parent household, legal guardians raising children because of biological parent's selfish, materialistic goals, income that does not provide enough support and therefore requires leaving children home alone, or lack of parental support or community involvement. Social media, video games, peer pressure, and lack of environmental controls, as well as technological advancement, have developed a generation of introverts who lack coping skills. Politics and government overreach have invaded homes and provided concrete solutions for how children should be nurtured without adequate support to offset social degradation.

Summary of Findings for Interview Question 5

Participants were asked what type of specialized training they received regarding juveniles. Most of the interviewees were legal professionals and juvenile counselors who participated in treatment programs that aided and assisted juveniles within their communities and surrounding areas. Some of the programs were juvenile immersion

programs that have rehabilitated offenders as productive citizens. Additionally, most participants have been involved and certified in juvenile resilience programs to serve struggling youth who have had to make difficult life choices because of teenage pregnancies, abandonment, severe violence, and disabilities. Finally, due to school violence and mass shootings, many legal professionals have had some level of training or certification in implementing shelter-in-place protocols, active shooter initiatives, mass casualty evacuations, and first aid.

Summary of Findings for Interview Question 6

Are current laws consistent and up to date with generational changes? They are not up to date with generational changes. Current laws and legislation introducing laws have not considered or are not aware of the factual issues. Laws designed to treat all communities and households equally and the current impact of juvenile justice have not been modified since the early 1990s. Additionally, the focus continues to be on parental concerns instead of juvenile problems and initiatives that can be instituted to improve life for juveniles.

Summary of Findings for Interview Question 7

Participants were asked what changes they would recommend reducing juvenile delinquency. They had several suggestions. The first is to collaborate with the parents because they have a significant role in the problem. Parents can mitigate behavioral problems. Another is to enroll parents who cannot control their children in parenting classes along with their children rather than having their children spend time in jail or

juvenile detention. These types of courses could rebuild the relationships between parents and children. These initiatives will develop a culture of change.

Summary of Findings for Interview Question 8

Which are more effective in reducing juvenile recidivism rates: state programs (CTC) or private programs (D.A.R.E.)? Private programs are more structured and geared to shareholders' interests; they do not focus on individual needs. Programs must be tailored to an individual's specific needs. Community programs can have more flexibility in neighborhoods and better understand what is happening and why juveniles display deviant behavior. However, a servicing aftercare program is often better than not having any services provided for juveniles.

Summary of Findings for Interview Question 9

Based on their preferences of aftercare programs, participants were asked to explain why their chosen program is more effective than others. State programs receive funding for prevention efforts to support juveniles. The issue with state funding is that it is driven by a fiscal budget that may limit what it can offer youth, or it may be unable to support depressed neighborhoods with adequate resources. Private programs are usually well funded; however, they may be limited to shareholder interests that may or may not meet youth's individual needs. However, both are effective in most cases in providing programs, resources, and mentorship for youth to allow them the ability to become productive adults.

Summary of Findings for Interview Question 10

Participants were asked what additional resources they would recommend reducing juvenile recidivism (i.e., funding, facilities, specialty care, activities, or retreats).

Their responses included working with expectant parents from all communities by offering parenting classes. If a parent discovers deviant social behavior at an early age and begins to address the issues and seek adequate treatment, they can minimize destructive juvenile behavior. Additionally, they recommended working with local and state law enforcement, medical facilities, courts, and councils to develop sustainable programs or improve the already available ones.

Conclusion

Chapter 4 clarified highlights identified by the main points of this research study based on issues or concerns demonstrated by multiple community prevention programs that were put into place to support the reduction or prevention of juvenile delinquency. However, participants noted that several inconsistencies were discovered since juvenile delinquency rates became a significant issue and outdated techniques became less effective due to outdated laws. According to qualitative data, there is inadequate police training, political atmosphere, funding, and generational changes, which the juvenile justice system and aftercare programs have been proven to be affected by, either by obsolete procedures or antiquated policies. Therefore, it has been determined that effective research techniques or updated methods are required to address the significant gaps in the disposition of juveniles from initial contact through induction, rehabilitation, probation, and aftercare (Rose et al., 2017).

Chapter 5 provides research results compared with a larger body of research literature and evaluates the outcomes by presenting research attributes (i.e., introduction, interpretation of the findings, limitations, recommendations, and implications). It depicts

the finalized, qualitative graphical picture of results, supporting the premise that if this study were replicated under the same conditions, it would produce related results.

Chapter 5: Discussion, Conclusions, and Recommendations

Findings clarified identifiable problems in community prevention programs that support the reduction of juvenile delinquency. I compiled participants' responses into a finalized comprehensive report, determining the reasons for concerns in deviant behavior and providing solutions to improve organizational aftercare treatment programs. The results identified core attributes that maximized the opportunities to reduce juvenile delinquency and influence social change by allowing juvenile offenders an opportunity to have direct access to quality care programs. The overall success of this research was based on the concept design for reducing recidivism; therefore, this study can also influence other areas of methodologies and social, academic programs. Chapter 5 focuses on the interpretation of findings, limitations, implications, and recommendations.

Interpretation of the Findings

Conclusion to Interview Question 1

Interview Question 1: What aftercare treatment programs are you familiar with regarding juveniles? In-state programs are specific to the local and state legal proprieties, and private organizations were more prevalent in many counties. All the legal professionals were SMEs in their current occupational fields who possess corporate knowledge based on first-hand exposure or volunteered for many of these aftercare programs to distinguish what works and what does not without prejudice or biases. State-sponsored aftercare programs included Guardian ad Litem, CTC, and Youth Alliances.

Private sponsored aftercare programs included D.A.R.E., Young Men Christian Association (YMCA), Boys and Girls Club of America, Models for Change, Horton's Kids Youth, and other resiliency programs designed to educate and protect disadvantaged youth.

As mentioned in Chapter 4, based on the comparison of state-sponsored CTC and private sponsored programs D.A.R.E. and other well-known programs, these programs are either regulated or directed by shareholders based on current laws, enrollments, and community interests, which may not be in the best interest of juveniles. Additionally, most staff members are either volunteers or not qualified based on their interests to serve, which could affect the overall success rates. It was also surmised that state programs are ineffective due to limited resources but have regulatory oversight compared to private programs supported by stakeholder's interests, lack of regulatory oversight, and competitive standards. However, the overall mission of these programs is designed to benefit juveniles and support communities that they serve by preventing juvenile delinquency and recidivism.

The findings confirmed the evidence found in the peer-reviewed literature from Chapter 2 related to methods to promote effective treatment programs tailored to meet specific needs for juveniles. By identifying and predicting these behavior characteristics in young offenders, specific treatment strategies can be applied for remarkable results toward reducing recidivism based on strain theory. For example, group environments in treatment and aftercare programs may lead to willingness among young adults to conform to social norms associated with the strain theory (Van den et al., 2018). Treatment

facilities have stringent security measures and open or semi-open protective measures where a child is ordered by competent authority to be constrained or where a child may be permitted to leave for a period based on certain conditions. These proactive measures were examined to determine these factors are options for effective aftercare treatments or if adolescent peer pressure could influence aggressive behavior and noncompliance. These types of secured treatment facilities have experienced the best opportunity for changes in aggressive behavior patterns. Furthermore, research has also suggested that open facilities have had fewer aggressive incidents than semi-secure or secure treatment facilities, though there were no significant changes in adolescent behavior when comparing semi-secure and secure treatment facilities. Furthermore, the longer juveniles are institutionalized, the higher rates the rates of aggressive behavior. These findings are consistent with research questions that addressed specific needs and types of aftercare programs provided for juveniles to reduce juvenile recidivism among young adults.

Analysis in research data and interpretation of findings in context found within the theoretical framework used in the strain theory codifies and aligns the scope of this theory based on the following principles. Multiple community prevention programs have been put into place to reduce or prevent juvenile delinquency, but further research is needed to address gaps in validating these programs' effectiveness. Gained knowledge is critical in helping to improve community-wide problems, legal costs, community safety, and child welfare.

Conclusion to Interview Question 2

Interview Question 2: What factors or concerns do juveniles face today? Based on the participants' responses, the most significant issues facing U.S. youth are the influence of social media platforms and peer pressure. Most interviewees agreed that children are bombarded with information that does not depict real-life issues. Based on similar viewpoints, for example as mentioned in the entertainment industry, being a drug dealer is glorified in music and movies. Young people see materialistic and financial rewards associated with these lifestyles and aim to emulate this reckless behavior. However, movies and the music industry often do not articulate the consequences of these lifestyle choices, which results in many young people committing crimes at an early age. These numbers are also greater in minority communities due to socioeconomic factors. Another concern is the environment; high crime areas can endanger impressionable youth because they do not have financial, emotional support, or stable homes (Interviewee 2).

As mentioned in Chapter 4, goals are an extension of knowledge progression based on how a process reflects a juvenile's behavior patterns and risky disclosures that impacts the outcomes during the initial intake and screening process. It is important to consider the estimated effects of third-party influences and types (i.e., social media) on whether an individual mental capacity is at a maturity level that matches their ages, such as undeveloped cognitive skill levels, psychiatric warning signs, substance abuse, suicidal ideations, and childhood adversities. Other considerations may impact changes in their environments to have influence in a youth's behavior under many favorable conditions (Wright et al., 2014). This study's results determined a direct link to a juvenile's behavior

through an association with social media platforms. Therefore, creating strain is an indirect pathway to disadvantages associated with blocking conventional goals and perceived abilities to obtain them. Affecting outcomes based on long-term exposure to direct social media exposures sets the conditions for deviant behavior and recidivism.

The findings confirmed the peer-reviewed literature from Chapter 2. For example, Connolly et al. (2015) stated that a juvenile's social media usage along with their peers and family relationships are associated environmental risk factors, specifically during adolescence. However, though most researchers have found a considerable link between peer relationships and various behavior factors, there is minimal research on genetic sensory perceptions. The premise examined a correlation between development growth, peer pressure, and self-reporting to explain evidence found that included genetics and environmental influences. Recognizing the correlation between developmental progression, peer pressure, and self-reporting along with genetic and environmental influences support tailored programs offered in juvenile delinquency aftercare and specified treatment programs have on reducing recidivism (Connolly et al., 2015).

Conclusion to Interview Question 3

Interview Question 3: List your top five variables (age, gender, family support, education, mental health, race, income, labeling, gang association, substance abuse, peer pressure, environment, and homelessness). The five variables that attributed to the isolation of youth included the following:

1. Race: Most of the minorities are told (before being given a chance) what they can achieve. Beliefs, stereotypes, and media have determined that minorities are a product of single-parent households.
2. Education. Minorities are stereotypically believed to come from homes where their parents are barely high school graduates.
3. Peer Pressure. Through the increased use of social media/cyberbullying.
4. Family support. Parents are failing their children by not holding them responsible for their actions.
5. Mental Health. This area has shown some improvement but still has a long way to go. The stigma associated with seeking help for depression, isolation, anxiety, and other mental-related issues dealing with a person's feelings must be addressed (Interviewee 4).

There were consistent themes of repeating variables or factors from collected data through interviews from the sample population, which identified race, gender, education, parental guidance, income, mental health, environment, sexual abuse, lack of self-esteem, and opportunity. Qualitative principles conducted collected data analysis for identifying direct and logical links that are expected in associated factors within this research gap analysis, which were deemed relevant to the reference topics and supplemented by secondary resources and peer-reviewed articles within the past five years (Anderson et al., 2016).

The findings confirm and provide additional evidence corroborated through peer-reviewed literature from Chapter 2. Zimmerman and Kushner (2017) asserted that general

strain is created by secondary exposure to violent crimes in homes, communities, or schools limited. However, using the study provided by the Project on Human Development in Chicago Neighborhoods, secondary data in relation to certain variables such as race, ethnicity, drug use, and relationships have been defined as one of the primary gaps in GST based on collected data on the effects of violence and deviant behavior.

The extent of knowledge found through similar research studies through peer review articles depicting in a regression model that considered *race* and ethnicity had consisted of 1,670 juveniles with 51% consisting of females living in 80 neighborhoods indicating the effects of violence had on substance abuse over a sustained period of time; marijuana and drug use; witness to violence without weapons, compared to drug use over a short period of time; and witness to violence with weapons associated with drug use. GST results suggested that prolonged exposure to violence required aggressive intervention methods regarding systematic exposures to all aspects of violent events associated with strain, combined with the identified variables (Zimmerman & Kushner, 2017).

Research data and interpretation of findings within the theoretical framework was the strain theory that codified and was aligned within the scope of this theory based on qualitative principles. There were consistent themes of repeating variables or evidence collected through interviews from a sample population, which identified *race*, gender, education, parental guidance, income, mental health, environment, sexual abuse, lack of self-esteem, and opportunity. Any direct and logical links discovered as associated

factors within this research gap analysis and were deemed relevant to the reference topics and supplemented by secondary resources and peer-reviewed articles within the past five years. Secondary data consisted of relationships to ascertain certain variables such as *race*, ethnicity, drug use, and relationships have been defined as primary gaps in GST (Anderson, Barnes, Campbell, Campbell, & Onifade, 2016).

Conclusion to Interview Question 4

Interview Question 4: Any additional variables? Additional variables consisted of community involvement, funding, and gun control legislation. Community involvement and funding for new intrusive aftercare programs lend support to reduce gun violence. Gun control legislation must explain and control the ease of access and lack of parental responsibility for teenagers who have unsupervised access to guns outside of their homes. With the right to bear arms under the Second Amendment, a huge responsibility comes along with it.

Based on the results, direct and indirect links to the research questions encompassed an individual's mental capacity and their demographical variables within the research sample population, such as school, family, and economic status discovered during this research analysis based on factors contributing to gun control legislation and recidivism. Reviews from multiple community prevention programs utilized their related effects to facilitate rehabilitation programs to reduce or prevent gun violence. Based on the evidence collected research requirements in development, planning, and execution of data analysis, designed research questions yielded analytical data to encompass issues

associated with the criminal justice system and aftercare programs (Anderson et al., 2016).

The findings were confirmed through corroborating evidence in the peer-reviewed literature from Chapter 2. Field (2018) explained weapons offenses within the inmate population utilizing the strain theory. The association of weapons offenses and alcohol abuse has determined a linkage between the two variables into aggressive criminal behavior. While these assertions have been accepted by clinicians in the mental health profession, there has been no explanation for any enduring relationships and social disadvantages experienced by several youth. Finally, whether minor or severe, weapons offenses and incarcerations were related to negative social outcomes. Additionally, the GST provided supplemental factors that determined interrelationships between both social and health factors. Generalizing that strain successfully drew a correlation between weapons violations and substance abuse in several areas of academic legal studies (Field, 2018).

Previous studies found that failure to achieve one's own anticipated goals, wants, or needs will lead to a state of mental discord, which leads an individual to be motivated to engage in criminal activities to achieve one's goals or needs. Corroborated by the author, those from a lower socioeconomic status are more susceptible to strain, and their experiences are more intensified in their inability to obtain one's goals, needs, or wants. Therefore, those incarcerated for weapons offenses may be influenced by strain, including commonly known factors, such as family discord, levels of employment, and lack of education (Field, 2018).

Analysis in research data and interpretation of findings within the theoretical framework is aligned within scope based on these principles. An explanation into weapons offenses, whether minor or severe, by utilizing the strain theory did determine a venue to consider how and why juveniles are fascinated with weapons, and the ease of unsupervised access should be considered in a broader study to analyze increases in juvenile deviate behaviors and their mental capacities. Particularly when age is considered as a factor in some cases involving guns and the determination in sentencing charged as an adult. Criminal behavior, incarceration, and alcohol usage were associated with weapons offenses, whether charged with minor or severe convictions, related to negativity in social outcomes. Generalizing the strain theory successfully drew a correlation between weapons violations and substance abuse in several studies (Field, 2018).

Conclusion to Interview Question 5

Interview Question 5: What types of specialized training have you received regarding juveniles? Most of the juvenile justice legal profession has participated in and led redemption programs that aided and assisted juveniles associated within their communities and surrounding areas. Some of these programs have been juvenile immersion programs that have aided in rehabilitating offenders into the community as productive citizens. Finally, due to school violence and mass murder shootings, many legal professionals have had some level of training or certification in implementing shelter-in-place protocols, active shooter initiatives, mass casualty evacuation, and first aid.

The evidence collected showed consistent themes of repeating variables through interviews from the sample population, which recognized SMEs in their area of occupations. The majority have participated in and led redemption programs that aided and assisted juveniles associated within their communities and surrounding areas. Finally, due to school violence and mass murder shootings, many legal professionals have had some level of training or certification in implementing shelter-in-place protocols, active shooter initiatives, mass casualty evacuation, and first aid. Qualitative principles conducted collected data analysis in identifying any direct and logical links discovered in associated factors within this research gap analysis that was deemed relevant to reference topics; supplemented by secondary resources; and scholastic peer-reviewed articles within the past five years (Anderson, Barnes, Campbell, Campbell, & Onifade, 2016).

The findings were corroborated in the similar peer-reviewed literature from Chapter 2. Watson (2018) asserted that legal professions such as probation or correctional officers and volunteers in the criminal justice system have mentioned ongoing issues. More could be done to reduce juvenile recidivism. Reduction in drug offenses, providing adequate medical care and adequate treatment facilities, psychological support, accommodations, and employment opportunities are significant factors to reducing juvenile recidivism.

The extent of knowledge in peer review articles included newer innovations and approaches for correctional employees, probation officers, and volunteers with expectation to reducing the age of juvenile deviant behavior. Therefore, reducing crime

and recidivism rates consistent with supporting research questions in the types of aftercare programs to meet specific needs of juvenile offenders (Watson, 2018).

Research data and subsequent interpretation found within the theoretical framework used was the strain theory that codified and is aligned within scope of the theory based on these principles. Some of these programs have been juvenile immersion programs that have rehabilitated offenders back into the community as productive citizens. Furthermore, most have participated and been certified in juvenile resilience programs to assist struggling youth who have had to make difficult life choices. There are still issues that need to be researched, mostly among professionals who are considered SMEs in their areas of expertise, such as probation or correctional officers and volunteers in the criminal justice system. More could be done to reduce juvenile recidivism. Recommendations consist of extensive training and policy changes that support or reflect reducing drug offenses, determining adequate medical and treatment facilities, providing access to psychological support, improving the availability of adequate accommodations, and increasing employment opportunities.

Conclusion to Interview Question 6

Interview Question 6: Are current laws consistent and up to date with generational changes? Juvenile justice legal professionals and counselors have been affected by administrative and legal changes to laws over their careers. Based on the disposition of authority, whether political appointees, a succession of commands, or promotions, these professionals are bound to serve and follow the guidance of whom they are employed with. Therefore, enforcing laws and policies may serve or underserve juveniles based on

staffing, funding, or the enforcement of laws. Current laws and legislatures have introduced laws that are unaware of innate issues faced by juveniles. Laws that are designed to treat all communities and households the same and current outcomes related to external controls beyond the reach of juvenile offenders. Research has determined that an overhaul or an in-depth change in juvenile justice has not been modified since the early 1990s. Additionally, juveniles with no previous juvenile recorded offenses were more attractive for hire than those with juvenile offenses. In addition, the focus continues to be on parental concerns instead of juvenile problems and what initiatives can be instituted to make things better and improve the lives of juveniles (Taylor & Spang, 2017).

The evidence has shown that policies such as “Get Tough on Crime” have eroded many of the protections afforded to juveniles in the past. Therefore, past discretions are not likely to be expunged, making them available for public access when employment opportunities arise. An experimental research study with fictitious resumes comparing involvement or non-involvement past in the juvenile court system has determined the likelihood of unemployment and increase causes for recidivism (Taylor & Spang, 2017). Consistent themes of repeating variables or factors collected through interviews from the sample population have aided and assisted juveniles associated within their communities and surrounding areas they served. These research requirements aided in the development, planning, and execution of data analysis, designed to resolve research questions that yielded analytical data to encompass any issues associated with the

criminal justice system and aftercare programs (Anderson, Barnes, Campbell, Campbell, & Onifade, 2016).

The findings were corroborated by similar peer-reviewed literature from Chapter 2; according to Taylor and Spang (2017), a young offender's background, criminal records, and employment likelihood determine factors for tailored and effective aftercare treatment programs. Premise for the study is to determine whether Black males who were incarcerated are less likely to earn competitive wages than their White counterparts with similar delinquency backgrounds.

The extent of knowledge in peer-reviewed articles included past discretions, is more than not likely to be expunged and be available for public access when employment opportunities are available. Based on a previous research study, an experimental study with fictitious resumes compared to designed situational involvement or non-involvement scenarios with pre-established past convictions in the juvenile court system has determined a likelihood of declined unemployment opportunities and increased causes of juvenile recidivism (Taylor & Spang, 2017).

Analysis of research data and interpretation in context within the theoretical framework used, the strain theory codified and aligned within the theory's scope based on these principles. However, when the *race* was compared between Black and White offenders, there were no significant differences. The stigma from easier access to juvenile records created challenges for employment and further considerations considered after employer access to juvenile records (Taylor & Sprang, 2017). Therefore, further research based on training and education is considered an outlier when comparing race and

equality based on similar circumstances. When considering a juvenile's criminal records and their likelihood of employment were determining factors or variables noted as significant impacts towards the success and failure of juveniles.

Conclusion to Interview Question 7

Interview Question 7: What changes would you recommend for reducing juvenile delinquency? Several things could be done to reduce juvenile delinquency. First, it was suggested that someone should work with parents because they play an important role in the problems for most cases. Parents can help mitigate behavioral problems. Parents who cannot discipline their children should be required to attend parenting classes with their children rather than spend time in jail or juvenile detention. These types of courses could rebuild the relationship between parents and children. Additional suggestions included mentorship programs designed to reflect community diversity among gender, race, and religious tolerance to enhance understanding and acceptable social differences. Specialized training consists of diversity and social tolerance for legal professionals, parents, and juveniles, providing the necessary tools and knowledge to interact within established social norms. Specialized training can effectively treat juveniles, develop programs, and establish counseling tools for juveniles and their families. One of the most prominent areas of improvement in aftercare programs is to assist parents in child-rearing because they are the initial contact associated with root causes within deviant behavior and challenges facing juveniles. Providing tailored combined or separate classes specifically directed at parents and target youth early into initial phases of deviant

behavior can direct limited resources to specific areas for preventing measures and reduce costs.

The evidence has shown consistent themes of repeating variables or factors based on interviews from the sample population. Which identified the need for economic diversity as a necessity to provide security, health care, and educational opportunities to support economically depressed neighborhoods to offer adequate opportunities and a youth's ability to achieve specific goals to be productive citizens. Other variables considered as the top five associated concerns are economics, *race*, adequate health care, community support structure, and family support. Additional suggestions were mentorship programs designed to reflect community diversity among gender, *race*, and religious tolerance to enhance understanding and acceptable social differences.

Findings were confirmed by the similar peer-reviewed literature from Chapter 2; Henneberger et al. (2016) mentioned that relationships between juvenile families and aggressive adolescent behaviors were noted in past research. However, the study suggested there might be a significant difference based on a juvenile's ethnicity. The importance of recognizing these variables may offer solutions in treatments for effective aftercare programs to reduce juvenile recidivism among young adults and their families. Significant demographic variations were identified to family cohesiveness related to negative physical aggressions by ethnicity, which lends credibility to the importance of tailored aftercare programs that reflect cultural sensitivity for family intervention and prevention of physical aggression (Henneberger et al., 2016).

The extent of knowledge in peer review articles included newer innovations and approaches for correctional employees, probation officers, and volunteers with expectation to reduce the ages of a juvenile's behavior and thus reducing crimes and recidivism consistent with supporting research questions in types of aftercare programs to meet specific needs in juvenile offenders (Watson, 2018).

Analysis of research data and interpretations of findings are within the theoretical framework in strain theory that codified and is aligned within scope based on these principles. Development of juveniles and delinquent behaviors are associated with labeling, lack of confidence, and the inability to establish expected goals that society had established, thereby leaving youth without a gateway or path to moral behavior. Specialized training and counseling methods are critical to meeting the specific needs of juveniles and a positive method to reducing juvenile delinquency.

Conclusion to Interview Question 8

Interview Question 8: Which are more effective in reducing juvenile recidivism rates, state programs (CTC) or private programs (D.A.R.E.)? Private programs are more geared to shareholders' interests and do not focus on an individual's needs. Programs must be tailored to an individual's specific needs. Community programs can have more flexibility, go into local neighborhoods, and utterly understand what is happening and why juveniles display deviant behavior. Nevertheless, it would be a better alternative to not offering anything at all in most cases. Preventing juvenile delinquency is complicated, with many more associated variables and factors that influence the outcomes. Therefore, it has been determined that program reviews and assessments are

critical in the success of any program methods based on successful outcomes and data collected in child welfare analysis.

The evidence collected has shown consistent themes of repeating variables or factors based on interviews from the sample population. Most of them have participated in and led redemption programs that aided and assisted juveniles associated with their communities and surrounding areas. The findings were confirmed by the similar peer-reviewed literature from Chapter 2. Bouchard and Wong (2017) suggested that juvenile delinquency has been on the decline for many years. However, the court system has continued to handle more than 1.5 million cases per year. The authors have found a link between the juvenile criminal justice system and risk factors as a variable in preventing positive youth development. Evidence-based institutional programs have limited access and essential services to divert juvenile offenders from deviant behavior activities. Teen courts are an effective way to divert offenders from the harsh penalties and penal codes. Even though teen courts caseloads are on the rise, it is necessary to understand if this rapid expansion effectively prevented deviant behavior.

The peer-review articles included newer innovations and approaches for correctional employees, probation officers, and volunteers intending to reduce the age of juvenile behavior and thus reducing crime and recidivism rates consistent with supporting the research question in types of aftercare programs to meet the specific needs of juvenile offenders. Despite the types of aftercare programs to reduce delinquency issues, these related programs must have support from federal, state, and local agencies and parental guidance to be successful (Watson, 2018).

Research has determined that even though the intent was to reduce the burden on juveniles, evidence has shown that teen courts were no more effective than formal processing or other programs. Both aftercare treatment techniques would benefit juveniles to reduce recidivism in providing the necessary support into adulthood (Bouchard & Wong, 2017).

Analysis of research data and interpretation of findings found within theoretical framework that codified and aligned within scope based on these principles. The development of social programs to educate and occupy a juvenile's attention in disadvantage or depressed environments considered was the lack of social immersion programs and extrovert behavior activities that clouds the minds and judgments of juveniles where signs of strain has occurred. Related aftercare programs can provide social skills initiatives that are necessary for behavior integration and productivity. Related aftercare programs (state or private) consisted of specialized training that can effectively provide treatments, development in social programs, and counseling methods for juveniles and their families, which is beneficial to both programs (state and private).

Conclusion to Interview Question 9

Interview Question 9: Based on your preferences of aftercare programs chosen, explain why it is more effective? It has been determined that state-sponsored programs appear to offer funds distributed to support child welfare within underserved communities. The issue with state funding was fiscal constraints that may limit specialized programs it can provide for youth. Private programs usually are well funded but may be limited to shareholder interests that may not meet specialized needs for youth.

However, both are effective in most cases to provide programs, resources, and mentorship for youth that will allow them the ability to become productive adults.

Most of the interviewers agreed that private programs offer a variety of funded vocational programs, a higher standard of commitment, and monitoring techniques that are effective in determining “what works and what does not work.” State-funded programs also offer suitable programs but are often affected by budget constraints, staffing, and local governance related to political or self-interest groups that may leave it vulnerable to effective ideology concepts.

The evidence collected has shown consistent themes in repeating variables or factors based on interviews from the sample population, which identified current policymakers and stakeholders in the era of juvenile justice reform programs. As limited resources have been challenged based on the results of recidivism programs and their effects on reducing delinquency rates among juveniles over punitive punishment techniques. Study analyses are based on before, during, and after the era of criminal justice reform, raising considerable questions about the effectiveness of reform strategies (Sankofa et al., 2018).

Findings confirmed and provided additional factors in the similar peer-reviewed literature from Chapter 2. Sankofa et al. (2018) found that rehabilitation in juvenile corrections and aftercare programs for efficiency in aftercare treatment techniques to reduce juvenile delinquency rates. Researchers examined the criminology, sociology, and social welfare disciplines based on methods found in coding determined variables or recognizable factors. The study offered insight into two major components of juvenile

correctional experiences: treatment and evidence-based practices that influence behavior based on identities, masculinities, and preparations for re-entry.

The extent of knowledge in peer review articles included newer innovations and approaches for correctional employees, probation officers, and volunteers with expectation to reduce the ages in juvenile deviant behavior. Therefore, to reduce crimes and recidivism consistent which is consistent with the theme that supports research question one, in the type of aftercare programs required to meet the specific needs for juvenile offenders (Watson, 2018).

Analysis of research data and interpretation context found within the theoretical framework used. Strain theory is codified and is aligned within scope of the theory based on these principles. The determination of factors for state and private aftercare programs in understanding the specialized needs to address concerns that juveniles are facing because of social strain on the allure of glamour based on reality-based commercial productions, music, and lack of moral values that have overridden the core fiber of responsibility and productivity in societal contributions. One of the most prominent is academic morality programs introduced by commercialized venues (i.e., television, radio, social media, and mentorship/parental directed). These resources are not a panacea to all issues facing juveniles; however, they represent an attempt to invest in today's youth and future generations to prevent juvenile recidivism.

Conclusion to Interview Question 10

Interview Question 10: What additional resources would you recommend reducing juvenile recidivism (i.e., funding, facilities, specialty care, activities, retreats)?

One should work with expectant parents from all communities by offering parenting classes and retreats. If program were introduced at an earlier age, there would be fewer issues when they become young adults. Local and state law enforcement, medical, courts, and counselors should be worked with to develop sustainable programs or improve the already available ones. Trade schools and traditional secondary education are insufficient to prepare youth for factory jobs. Many technological jobs will require computer-based training that is not available in low-income schools. The evidence collected has shown consistent themes of repeating variables or factors through interviews from the sample population, which has identified that the longer juveniles are institutionalized is consistent with higher rates of aggressive behavior (Van den et al., 2018).

Findings were confirmed in the similar peer-reviewed literature from Chapter 2. Kempker et al. (2017) suggested that juvenile delinquents have shown signs of higher rates of psychiatric diagnosis and often face improper home displacement care challenges. Evidence has shown the negative effects of juvenile confinements, especially within this sample population. Furthermore, evidence has suggested that the juvenile justice system has also processed sentencing based on gender. Men and women manifest adversity differently and have demonstrated signs and symptoms of psychopathology. Considerations between genders also have shown that psychopathology of a juvenile's gender placement correlates to relationships in the criminal justice system. The research examined the types of aftercare programs offered should consider gender as an identifiable variable determined by externalizing, internalizing, substance abuse, mental disorders are predisposing factors for mental health concerns.

The extent of knowledge found in peer review articles includes legal professionals and court adjudications, which has affected the overall success based on the type of aftercare programs and specific treatment facilities offered to youth which has determined the overall success rate compared to those who did not receive specific care based on gender. However, research studies did not determine if the adjudication process and the aftercare facilities ability to offer psychological health care services which could be an option, but further research would be required to determine if health care services could reduce juvenile recidivism (Kempker et al., 2017).

Analysis of research data and interpretation of the findings are within the theoretical framework used. The strain theory is codified and aligned within the theory's scope based on these principles. Youth should be provided with an optimal environment to foster a brighter outlook in a world that could inspire individuals to develop a stronger moral compass. The available resources could be effective in preventive measures, cost reduction, and better allocation of limited resources, all of which would be a wise investment for youth and minimize strain.

Limitations

The limitations of this research study recruitment criteria require many of those involved in several aspects of the juvenile justice system and their legal interpretations of laws; therefore, the sample results may be limited in comprehensiveness beyond the sample population. The research encompassed those legal professionals identified as SMEs in their field of expertise, who serve either as police officers, intake officers, probation agents, attorneys, judges, and jurors, within the scope of the past five years to

provide the most updated information available due to technology, changes in laws, and generational demographics (Stacks, 2013).

The design theory excluded those who never served as police officers, intake officers, probation agents, attorneys, judges, and jurors or those legal professionals who served within their official capacity of five years or beyond; therefore, the outcome may be limited in a broader context scope. Execution of research has considered previous and current juvenile inquiries for study to establish a baseline comprehension, which may induce false positives within transferability.

There were other limitations identified early in the data collection. Once contact was initiated, it yielded limited responses, including fewer than expected returned phone calls, during the planned timeline of 30 days. Timeline, personnel management, networking, and realistic expectations had to be seriously considered before any investments and research execution.

Finally, all available interviewees were qualified candidates and considered SMEs employed in specific areas of employment working with juveniles, as well as familiar with state versus private aftercare programs in Dallas, Texas, and surrounding counties. Effects of the outcome were less a portrayal of personal views and interpretation based on real-life events or emergencies, funding, personnel issues, departmental protocols, stakeholders' priorities, and weather conditions.

Recommendations

The most significant findings of the literature review identified the recognizable themes, justifications, trends, and variables or factors considered for a comprehensive

research study. The developed concepts aided the validity of the overall outcome and analysis process. Research was grounded in strength by the relationships of these findings within literature reviews were used to ensure the alignment into all the research questions; the current political atmosphere and laws that have transformed over the time frame of this study to determine “what works” and “what does not work” from previous research data (Barrett & Katsiyannis, 2016).

Major themes identified and considered are nested within the problem statement to determine specific needs or limitations towards efficiency and effectiveness of aftercare programs to reduce juvenile delinquency through research topics identified within research: background of juvenile offenders; gender considerations for offenders, male versus females; nature versus nurture; juvenile aftercare programs; effects of strain or labeling; juvenile judicial system, laws, disposition and initial induction.

Research grounded in limitations are based on intended recommendations being adhered to by youth organization’s ability to not only improve youth’s welfare, but the necessary solutions must go well beyond the criminal justice programs and support other related academia interests. By considering first the parents who are the primary caregivers and most trusted cohorts; medical or therapists who can provide adequate health care; adult learning programs on how to be a better parent; and community leaders who can reshape and form laws to serve juveniles more efficiently. These recommendations can be promulgated through research facilities, social media platforms, community flyers, and local mentorship programs. Direct and logical links to the purpose must address associated concerns to reflect the credibility in options and

recommendations for competing limited resources to be applied effectively towards juvenile delinquency aftercare programs. The outcome of this research study will ensure confidence in the criminal justice system, administrators, communities, and all stakeholders so that juveniles are given every opportunity to become productive citizens and reintegrated into society (Barrett & Katsiyannis, 2016).

Implications for Social Change

Significance of the Implications for Social Change

Juvenile delinquency and recidivism are a societal concern at all levels of governments and state vs. private programs. As criminal involvement and recidivism rate are steadily increasing while budgets are consistently decreasing has caused aftercare programs to become less effective with limited resources to offer. The research study has determined that cost-related benefits analysis associated with juvenile delinquency aftercare programs to determine the effectiveness of tailored programs based on an individual's specific needs or streamlined programs to meet common requirements of all juveniles (Anderson et al., 2016).

The independent variables under consideration were school services, economic status, and demographics, all of which may reveal tangible evidence that may contribute to a youth's decision to become a repeat offender. Maximizing the efficiency of aftercare programs to influence social change by allowing juvenile offenders to have direct access to quality care facilities to assist them in responsible decision-making. The overall success in research can influence well beyond the criminal justice disciplines and other research methodologies and social programs.

Social change and research applications can benefit health care, mental health services, special education, and sociology research studies that involve a youth's overall development into behavior modification. Tenable results in this study are exclusive and not inclusive to the complexities of a youth's social aspects in behavior requirements towards positive productivity and adulthood (Anderson et al., 2016).

The study identified core attributes that will maximize the ability to reduce juvenile delinquency and efficiency in recidivism programs to influence social change and allow juvenile offenders an opportunity to have direct access to quality care programs. This access will help discover new pathways to successful and fulfilling opportunities that would lead them away from reoffending, providing options for better life choices through effective moral attributes taught by successfully structured programs. Individual and demographic variables such as school, family, economic status contributed to juvenile delinquency and recidivism. Corporate knowledge was critical to improving community-wide problems, legal costs, community safety, and protection. By identifying effective methods to enhance organizational program efficiencies to reduce juvenile delinquency and recidivism.

Therefore, a thorough gap analysis has determined the deficiencies and offers recommendations or solutions to these social problems that, if applied correctly, can facilitate provisional requirements towards a comprehensive roadmap. Ensuring advancements and contributions to the criminal justice field, addressing any concerns about juvenile delinquency programs' effectiveness, and reducing recidivism rates among young adults (Stacks, 2013).

Description of specific codes, categories, and themes that emerged from collected data during this research consisted of the following. According to Rose, Ambreen, and Fayyaz (2017), coding was used to identify significant gaps that currently existed in the ineffectiveness of two diverse types of aftercare programs offered (i.e., state-sponsored, and school-based programs). Which is centered on antiquated solutions, or the old way of thinking, with little or no tangible improvements in the juvenile justice system and aftercare programs towards effective treatment opportunities. Additionally, the importance of coding captured tangible categories and themes for a reliable research study to apply principal corrective concepts or the ability to replicate this research study in similar conditions and results to benefit social change (Bontinck et al., 2018).

Methodological, Theoretical, and Empirical Implications Related to Positive Social Change

The theoretical implications of this study as it relates to positive social change were based on current issues or concerns demonstrated by multiple community prevention programs designed to support the reduction or prevention of juvenile delinquency concerns. Understanding influences in the ideological research of strain was conceived by a well-known theorist named R. Merton in 1938. Strain theory was categorized as a sociology and criminology theory, which states that societies put pressure on individuals to achieve socially acceptable goals (such as the American dream) though they lack the means, leading an individual to commit crimes (Merton, 1938; Agnew, 2015). However, several inconsistencies were discovered over several decades of recent studies out of concerns over juvenile delinquency rates and outdated

techniques due to current laws. Inadequate police training, political atmosphere, funding, generational changes, the juvenile justice system, and aftercare programs are affected by obsolete procedures or antiquated policies based on qualitative data. Therefore, it has been determined that effective research techniques or updated methods are required to address significant gaps that currently exist in the disposition of juveniles from initial contact, induction, rehabilitation, and probation (Rose et al., 2017).

These fundamental inconsistencies included dependent and independent variables considered for juvenile development, resources, and care in identifying predetermined factors. Based on two diverse types of organizational programs, state vs. private sponsored aftercare programs to aggressively identify “what works” and “what does not work” in treatment facilities to reduce juvenile delinquency (Jagers et al., 2014).

Inconsistencies were related to these common factors to determine predictable tendencies, which should have been incorporated to enhance proactive approaches to reducing juvenile delinquency rates. However, identifying predictable tendencies, a legislative body, whether it reflects local, state, or federal entities, must be cognizant that “one shoe does not fit all.” Considering other opportunities, societal changes, and generational deviance to offer cost-effective applications and identify deviant precursors to assist the criminal justice profession to offer adequate treatment (Jagers et al., 2014).

Within the theoretical framework, the strain theory, positive social change, and economic diversity, secured environment, health care, and educational opportunities, most economic depressed generational gaps will never be achieved; therefore, the window of opportunity is narrow and can determine a youth’s ability to achieve specific

goals and satisfactory achievements to be productive citizens within their communities (Ryan et al., 2013).

Recommendations for Practice of Positive Social Change in Relation to the Study

Practice for positive social changes associated with this study, since the increase in juvenile delinquency concerned parents has advocated for the review of legal procedures through judicial policies within the criminal juvenile justice system. To improved rehabilitation and treatment methods can be offered through aftercare programs starting from initial contact, induction, adjudication, and treatment to identify the root causes and render solutions that have been demonstrated to decrease juvenile delinquency. Due to limited research, competing resources, and a variety of aftercare programs, a gap analysis study was conducted to ensure the utmost aftercare program's success in reducing juvenile delinquency.

Research questions for this study have been specifically designed to analyze and review associated variables to identify comprehensive measures in determining the effectiveness of juvenile delinquency aftercare programs among youths. Also, to ensure that valuable time, money, and limited resources are utilized appropriately by confirming if current judicial procedures, treatments, training, or parenting skills could be improved to create a safe environment and foster social change within society. The availability in prevention techniques, thus changing the mindset from proactive vice reactive legal policies. The initial foundation of this premise was to find the reasons behind deviant behavior issues, consisting of the following: (1) What is the impact of juvenile delinquency programs on reducing juvenile recidivism rates? (2) Are tailored programs

and treatment facilities more effective than traditional programs in reducing juvenile delinquency and recidivism?

The theoretical framework utilized to drive this research was the strain theory that provided an extensive research foundation and intuitive understanding of why juvenile behavior was a sincere concern in the interrelated differences, utilizing a qualitative method combined with a case study approach. Social change implications from this research study are to minimize impacts on the juvenile criminal justice system by offering effective rehabilitation methods that can be implemented through effective juvenile aftercare programs.

Recommendations are to identify core attributes that will maximize the reduction in juvenile delinquency and to increase the efficiency in treatment programs. To influence social change and allow juvenile offenders an opportunity to have direct access to sound and quality care programs. These accesses will help discover new pathways to successful and fulfilling opportunities that can lead youth away from reoffending, providing options for better decisions and life choices by incorporating effective attributes in mentorship programs proven to be successful. Individuals and demographic variables such as schools, families, and economic status have contributed to juvenile delinquency and recidivism (Stacks, 2013).

Conclusion

In conclusion, since the increase of juvenile delinquency, concerned parents have demanded social change in policies within the justice system. Improving rehabilitation and treatment methods offered through aftercare programs starts from initial contact,

induction, adjudication, and treatment to identify the root causes and render solutions that demonstrated a decrease in juvenile delinquency. Therefore, facilitating opportunities for juveniles to take an active role in society through social change. Due to limited research, competing resources, and a variety of aftercare programs, a gap analysis study was conducted to ensure that aftercare programs could be improved to successfully reduce juvenile delinquency.

Research questions for this study were specifically designed to scrutinize and review associated variables, to identify comprehensive measures in determining the effectiveness of juvenile delinquency aftercare programs among youths. Also, to ensure that valuable time, money, and limited resources are utilized appropriately to identify if judicial procedures, treatments, training, or parenting skills could be improved. By creating a safe environment and foster social change within society towards the reduction in deviant behavior.

This study aimed to minimize the impact on all juvenile criminal justice systems by offering effective rehabilitation methods that can be implemented through juvenile aftercare programs. No single solution or method will guarantee effective results and require additional research to provide the utmost aftercare for juveniles. While keeping in mind that human behavior is not a simple equation, unpredictability is ingrained in human behavior and the environment fostered by chance or choice. No matter the variables, factors, or legal professionals involved, the fact remains the same; if there is no safe and secured environment for youth to mature in, society's most precious treasures will always be at risk for "the future of our children."

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Appendix: Research Questions and Survey

Occupation: _____

Research Interview Questions:

These research question(s) are designed to determine the effectiveness of juvenile delinquency programs among youths to ensure time, monies and limited resources are utilized effectively which are:

1. What aftercare treatment programs are you familiar with regarding juvenile youths?
2. What factors or concerns do juvenile youths face today?
3. List your 5 top variables (age, gender, family support, education, mental health, *race*, income, labeling, gang association, substance abuse, peer pressure, environment, and homelessness)
4. Any additional variables?
5. What type of specialized training you received regarding juveniles?
6. Are current laws consistent and up to date with generational changes?
7. What changes would you recommend reducing juvenile delinquency?
8. Which are more effective in reducing juvenile recidivism rates State programs (Community That Cares) or Private programs (Drug Abuse Resistance Education)?
9. Based on your own preference(s) of aftercare programs chosen to explain why it is more effective?
10. What additional resources would you recommend reducing juvenile recidivism (i.e., funding, facilities, specialty care, activities, retreats)?