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Young Adults' Self-Perceptions of Parenting Styles and Attachments Influencing Juvenile Criminality

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This is to certify that the doctoral dissertation by

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Walden University
2025

Abstract

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by

Keristin Scott

MPhil, Walden University, 2020

BA, Florida International University, 2016

Dissertation Submitted in Partial Fulfillment

of the Requirements for the Degree of

Doctor of Philosophy

Developmental Psychology

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Abstract

Parenting styles, parent-to-child attachments, and parental involvements are contributing factors leading to juvenile delinquency. Adolescents are committing offending acts at a younger age, recidivating, and perpetrating with peers or parents. However, there is a lack of empirical research on juvenile perceptions of parenting, juvenile criminality, and desistance implications. The purpose of this interpretive phenomenological study was to explore past juvenile criminal offenders' lived experiences and the corresponding influence parenting styles had on their deviant behaviors. Ainsworth and Bowlby's attachment theory, Baumrind's parenting style theory, and Bandura's social learning theory provided a lens for examining young adults' perceptions of parenting related to their juvenile offending past. The cognitive processing of seven young adult participants was gathered through semi-structured online interviews. The overarching themes discovered were parental engagement in crimes, little parental involvement, parental use of authority, lack of parental engagement in their child's extracurricular activities, paternal influence on participant's criminality, and participant's co-offending with peers. Challenges disclosed by the participants were substance abuse, aggression, depression, anxiety, and social withdrawal. Participant responses were parallel with concepts from attachment, parenting styles, and social learning theory. Findings are consistent with current research for targeted prosocial rehabilitation efforts to achieve desistance and support healthy parent-child relationships. Public policy initiatives, social program development, and resources for juveniles and parents are critical to fostering positive social change, improving public safety through crime reduction by mitigating recidivism.

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Dedication

I would like to thank, first and foremost, my Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, for blessing and keeping me on this journey. My almighty God has given me the strength to work in an educational platform proliferating positive social change. I dedicate my dissertation to my mother, who has supported my journey and encouraged me from beginning to end. Thank you for reminding me that success combines hard work, perseverance, learning, studying, and sacrifice. My husband, I am grateful for the encouragement, love, and support you provided for me to accomplish this dream. My children, I dedicate this dissertation and research to you. You can achieve anything you desire, as I did with my studies. May this research guide me as a new parent to ensure we have positive parent-to-child relationships. This process would not have been possible without the support of my brothers and sister-in-law. I would like to extend my sincerest gratitude to my extended family, closest friends, and colleagues who provided support. All glory is given to my almighty God.

"I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me." —Philippians 4:13

Acknowledgments

I would like to share my love and gratefulness for my God, the Father. He fostered my endurance by encouraging me to persevere throughout this journey. Although life has been met with special personal challenges, God has sought me through this journey with His unyielding grace. God has strengthened me and provided me with this opportunity to accomplish my goals. I am forever grateful for His goodness.

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Chapter 1: Introduction to the Study

Introduction

Juvenile criminality is associated directly with the impact of parents and their parenting styles on adolescent behaviors (Aebi et al., 2022; Lin et al., 2023). Parenting styles, attachments, and involvements are contributing factors that play an effective role in controlling delinquency (Baglivio et al., 2022; Jacobsen & Zaatut, 2022; Sun et al., 2024). Parents influence adolescents by improving or weakening self-control (Gao et al., 2024), and affects self-regulatory capacities (Baglivio et al., 2022; McMillan et al., 2023; Sun et al., 2024). Delinquent behaviors could result from parent-to-child relationships (Aebi et al., 2022; Jacobsen & Zaatut, 2022; Sun et al., 2024). The perceptions of parenting styles, attachments, and involvements influencing criminality vary per individual (Sun et al., 2024). Adolescence consists of rapid biological and psychosocial changes, which impact parent-to-child relationships (Felix, 2024; Jacobsen & Zaatut, 2022; Jeries-Loulou & Khoury-Kassabri, 2022). Effective parenting styles may protect adolescents from deviancy (Felix, 2024; Jeries-Loulou & Khoury-Kassabri, 2022).

Barriers in parenting styles perceived by adults who committed juvenile criminal acts differ on parental influence (Aebi et al., 2022; Baglivio et al., 2022). In some cultures, various parenting styles may encourage positive developmental outcomes (Li et al., 2023; Sun et al., 2024). The prevalence of delinquency increases in late childhood, peaks during teenage years, and subsequently declines throughout early adulthood (Sun et al., 2024). Continuity of criminality into adulthood is higher for individuals who began offending at an early age (Foster et al., 2024; Jouriles et al., 2024). Young adults who

were chronic criminal offenders often engaged in violent behaviors and had poor parental influence (Cuervo, 2023; Jouriles et al., 2024; Yao et al., 2022). Forty to 60 percent of juveniles stop criminally offending by early adulthood with positive influences from parents (Aebi et al., 2022). Parental emotional connectedness with adolescents is associated with less likelihood of risky behavior (Sun et al., 2024), specifically offending, and substance use (Olsen et al., 2023; Yao et al., 2022).

Long-term consequences of parental abuse and neglect are associated with adolescents' involvement in criminality (Sun et al., 2024; Yao et al., 2022). Juvenile offending rates have drastically increased in the last few decades (Aebi et al., 2022; Davis et al., 2022; Zhao et al., 2023). Adolescents are committing offending acts at a younger age, repeating offending behaviors (Aebi et al., 2022), and perpetrating as a group, making juvenile crime a severe social problem (Lin et al., 2023; Vujovic, 2024). Juvenile delinquency has been a public safety issue and developmental strain mitigated by the influences of proper suggested parenting (Aebi et al., 2022; Sun et al., 2024). Research on the perspectives of juvenile offending influenced by parenting may have positive social implications (Aebi et al., 2022; Bryson et al., 2022). Investigating parental styles, influences, and attachments is beneficial for forming developmentally appropriate intervention services (Dellar et al., 2023; Vujovic, 2024). Past juvenile offenders' perceptions of parenting styles, influences, and attachments are necessary for educational program development (Aebi et al., 2022; Bryson et al., 2022). Juvenile criminality has been a public concern (Aebi et al., 2022), necessitating further investigation of interrelated phenomena to improve parenting programs and lessen juvenile criminality

rates (Akbaba et al., 2024). Challenges associated with the perceptions of juvenile criminality influenced by parenting are described in Chapter 1.

Background

Environmental and genetic factors contribute to the development of criminality (Bryson et al., 2022). Adolescents who do not receive affection and protection from parents are susceptible to delinquency as a form of empowerment (Baglivio et al., 2022). The lack of parental involvement, socioeconomic conditions (Kokoravec Povh et al., 2024), and parents with psychopathological conditions influences risky adolescent behaviors (Baglivio et al., 2022; Foster et al., 2024). Environmental risk factors have differential effects on adolescent deviancy, specifically the influences of genetic propensity (Shold et al., 2023). Parent-to-child relationships influence criminal behaviors when there is lack of parental involvement (Jeries-Loulou & Khoury-Kassabri, 2022). Adolescents' expectations for behavioral autonomy facilitated a connection between parenting styles and conflict (Cuervo, 2023; Foster et al., 2024). Additional research is needed on how parent-adolescent relationships correlates to criminality (Sun et al., 2024).

Life changes in family structure is linked with adolescents' deviant behaviors (Jacobsen & Zaatut, 2022). The impact of parental divorce on adolescents has negative consequences: psychological problems, reduced mental health (Wang et al., 2025), reduced academic performance (Şişmanlar et al., 2022), and increased involvement in juvenile delinquency (Foster et al., 2024; Jacobsen & Zaatut, 2022; McMillan et al., 2023). The relationship between parental divorce and juvenile criminality correlates as adolescents are often exposed to family conflict (Foster et al., 2024; Şişmanlar et al.,

2022; Sun et al., 2024). Adolescents who have lived in hostile home environments are likely to experience stress, anxiety, and develop behavioral problems (Davis et al., 2022; Gajos et al., 2023; Lin et al., 2023). Adolescents are likely to engage in offending when there is a lack of parental support, attention, and low socioeconomic status (Baglivio et al., 2022; Foster et al., 2024; Kokoravec Povh et al., 2024; Walters, 2022). Developmental criminology is correlated to styles of parenting (Sun et al., 2024). Academic underachievement, conduct problems, and early criminal participation are the results of minimal parental involvement (Davis et al., 2022; Li et al., 2023).

Intense parental conflict, poor parenting, and early victimization are factors that lead to poor adolescent behaviors (Farrington & Bergstrøm, 2023; Foster et al., 2024; Yao et al., 2022). Adolescents who perpetrate sexual and physical assault-related crimes are often influenced by witnessing violent acts in the home environment (Baglivio et al., 2022; Gajos et al., 2023; Jouriles et al., 2024; Lin et al., 2023). Authoritarian and permissive parenting are attributed to ineffective discipline by parents on children (Lin et al., 2023; Sun et al., 2024; Yao et al., 2022). The effects of authoritarian and permissive parenting are related to children's externalizing and internalizing behaviors (Cuervo, 2023; Jouriles et al., 2024; Lin et al., 2023; Miller & Jacobson, 2023). The influences of negative parenting styles in adolescents presenting externalizing and internalizing problem behaviors differ between genders (Jouriles et al., 2024; Lin et al., 2023; Miller & Jacobson, 2023; Wang et al., 2024). Male adolescents are influenced by authoritarian discipline that results in externalizing problems (Wang et al., 2024; Yao et al., 2022).

There is a correlation between family processes and the development of disruptive behavioral disorders in children (Jouriles et al., 2024; Lin et al., 2023).

The relationship an adolescent has with their parents influences self-reported substance use and risky and criminal behaviors (Foster et al., 2024; Yao et al., 2022). Open and voluntary parent-to-adolescent communication has long-term protective functions on juvenile engagement in criminality (Jacobsen & Zaatut, 2022; Olsen et al., 2023). Adolescents with behavioral problems are associated with individual, family, and social characteristics (Şişmanlar et al., 2022; Sun et al., 2024). Different parenting styles matched varied profiles and the distinctive role of parenting styles on maladjustment (Sun et al., 2024; Wilson & Lipsey, 2024; Wu & Li, 2023). Aggression, conduct issues, delinquency, and substance misuse are greater in adolescents with little parental involvement (Aebi et al., 2022; Lin et al., 2023; Yao et al., 2022). The relationship of perceived parenting styles with self-control capacity and affective self-regulation is related among offending adolescents (Felix, 2024; McMillan et al., 2023; Steinhof et al., 2023). Parent-adolescent connectedness, parenting competence, and parental knowledge influences adolescents (Cuervo, 2023; Walters, 2022).

Parenting styles have an effective role in developing and inhibiting criminal behaviors (Lin et al., 2023; Sun et al., 2024). Authoritative parenting style positively influences, and authoritarian parenting style negatively influences behaviors (Baumrind, 1966; Lin et al., 2023; Yao et al., 2022). Parents who spend quality time with children doing prosocial activities have children who are less likely to be involved in crime (Lin et al., 2023). The parenting to criminal offending relationship status is explored through

socialization variables, including lack of parental supervision, rejection, and limited involvement (Felix, 2024; Foster et al., 2024; Vujovic, 2024). These factors are among the most powerful predictors of juvenile conduct problems and criminality (Aebi et al., 2022; Şişmanlar et al., 2022). Juvenile delinquency is a harmful social and developmental factor to all aspects of communities (Aebi et al., 2022; Felix, 2024). The phenomena of criminality being influenced by parents requires further examination to improve parenting programs (Walters, 2022), and lessen offending rates by seeking the lived experiences of adults' criminal pasts (Aebi et al., 2022; Wilson & Lipsey, 2024).

Problem Statement

Parent-to-adolescent connectedness, competence, and knowledge influence juveniles (Aebi et al., 2022; Sun et al., 2024; Walters, 2022). Juvenile criminality is associated directly with the impact of parents and their parenting styles on adolescents (Aebi et al., 2022; Sun et al., 2024). Certain parental attachments are factors that lead adolescents to become involved in delinquency (Aebi et al., 2022; Sun et al., 2024). Parenting styles may play an effective role in preventing and controlling deviant behaviors (Aebi et al., 2022; Cuervo, 2023). Delinquent actions are likely a result of parent-to-child relationships (Cuervo, 2023; Sun et al., 2024). A key factor influencing juvenile offending is parents during childhood (Aebi et al., 2022; Sun et al., 2024). Adults' perceptions who have a juvenile criminal history can provide insight into the relationship between parenting styles and offending behaviors.

Juvenile criminality is an emergent phenomenon stemming from the complexities of parenting (Aebi et al., 2022; Kokoravec Povh et al., 2024). Criminal behaviors have

negative effects on adolescent lives (Cuervo, 2023; Sun et al., 2024), including health problems, substance addiction (Saladino et al., 2025), and destroyed personal relationships (Sun et al., 2024; Yao et al., 2022). Parenting styles include attitudes, beliefs, and behaviors toward children (Baumrind, 1991). Adolescents' perceptions of parental influence on their criminality are often caused by their parents' involvement and criticism (Cuervo, 2023; Felix, 2024). Adolescents' perception of negligent parenting impacts their psychosocial development (Felix, 2024; van der Put & Assink, 2024). The gap in research is to examine how parenting influences juvenile criminality. The perceptions of participants may present a greater understanding through this research.

Criminal actions may result in harm within parent-to-child relationships (Jeries-Loulou & Khoury-Kassabri, 2022; Steinhof et al., 2023). Parenting influences on adolescents' behaviors and choices can be better understood through further exploration (Aebi et al., 2022; Foster et al., 2024; Walters, 2022). Parental influences on juvenile offenders' lives require additional research (Aebi et al., 2022). Exploration of parenting perceptions from adults who engaged in juvenile criminality can provide insight into how the involvement influenced juvenile offending (Cuervo, 2023; Li et al., 2023; van der Put & Assink, 2024). Juvenile offending is considered a risky behavior and often first occurs in early adolescence (Aebi et al., 2022; van der Put & Assink, 2024). Adolescents often model criminal activities observed from the home environment (Gajos et al., 2023; Sun et al., 2024; van der Put & Assink, 2024). Adolescents who engage in delinquency do not always perceive risky behaviors influenced by parents (Jeries-Loulou & Khoury-Kassabri, 2022; Olsen et al., 2023; Sun et al., 2024).

Purpose of the Study

The purpose of this phenomenological research study is to explore past juvenile criminal offenders' lived experiences and the corresponding influence parenting styles had on their deviant behaviors. Phenomenology is the proposed research paradigm used to explore perceptions of parenting on juvenile criminal behaviors. The lived experiences of adults with a juvenile offending past and perceived parenting influences are the central focus for exploration. This phenomenological study has resulted in describing adults' perceptions of parenting that may have influenced delinquency. This phenomenological study explains juveniles' experiences influenced by their parents. Parental exploration is needed for development of educational programs to address parental influences on juvenile criminality (Foster et al., 2024; Wilson & Lipsey, 2024; Yang et al., 2022). Solutions to develop effective prevention programs and policies are needed on juvenile criminality (Kokoravec Povh et al., 2024; Wilson & Lipsey, 2024).

Impact in qualitative research signifies data from participants, who voluntarily express first-hand experiences in their own words (Al Yahyaei et al., 2024; Smith, 1996). Participants express how they have been impacted by a particular phenomenon (Smith, 1996). The intent of the exploration was for participants to describe their perceptions of how parenting styles influenced their juvenile criminal behaviors. Descriptions of self-perceptions are based on participants' experiences aligning with the phenomenological research approach (Smith, 1996). Specific concepts investigated are the influences of parenting styles, involvements, and attachments. The primary objectives were to develop an understanding of how self-perceptions of parenting impact juveniles. Research on

factors related to parenting influencing criminal behaviors is crucial in formulating successful programs and knowledge for professionals.

Research Questions

RQ1: How do young adults perceive the relationship between parental involvement and their juvenile offending past?

RQ2: How do the lived experiences of young adults with an offending past inform the ability to desist future offending behaviors?

Theoretical Framework for the Study

Attachment theory was the main framework for the study (Ainsworth & Bowlby, 1991). The concepts of parenting styles served as a supportive framework (Bowlby, 1988; Sun et al., 2024). Attachment is the unique emotional relationship that involves exchange of pleasure, care, and comfort (Bowlby, 1988). Early experiences in childhood influences development and behavior (Bowlby, 1988). Attachment theory is used to explain the development of children's relationships with caregivers and others (Adams et al., 2023; Sun et al., 2024; Yang et al., 2022). Children's behavioral, emotional, and relational patterns that are carried into adolescence or adulthood is explained in attachment theory (Şişmanlar et al., 2022; Sun et al., 2024; Yang et al., 2022). Parenting styles play an effective role influencing and motivating criminality (Aebi et al., 2022; Cuervo, 2023; Sun et al., 2024; van der Put & Assink, 2024).

Nature of the Study

The exploratory approach applied was a phenomenological design (Cuervo, 2023). Interpretive understanding is a phenomenological approach method to uncover and

deconstruct the meanings of a phenomenon (Shahmari et al., 2023; Woodgate et al., 2023). Interpretive phenomenological analysis (IPA) research is conducted primarily through in-depth interviews (Al Yahyaei et al., 2024; Shahmari et al., 2023). Additional data collection in a study is incorporated through observations the interviewer has of participants (Shahmari et al., 2023; Woodgate et al., 2023). Interpretive phenomenological analysis is a qualitative methodological approach that treats participants as the experts of their own personal and social worlds (Al Yahyaei et al., 2024; Shahmari et al., 2023; Woodgate et al., 2023). A phenomenological study was chosen to use open-ended interview questions that allowed participants to fully describe their experiences from viewpoint and memory (Al Yahyaei et al., 2024; Shahmari et al., 2023; Woodgate et al., 2023). The goals of explorational research were aligned with the phenomenological design, utilizing IPA as an analytical method.

Juvenile criminality and parenting were the phenomena being investigated. Offending behaviors influenced by parenting require discovery for the purpose of gaining intellect in this field (Aebi et al., 2022). Possible desistance barriers and parental education programs can be developed with participant feedback (Jasni et al., 2023; Wilson & Lipsey, 2024; Zedaker et al., 2023). The exploration focused on descriptive accounts in participant recollection relating to personal understanding of phenomena experienced (Al Yahyaei et al., 2024; Shahmari et al., 2023; Woodgate et al., 2023). Interpretive phenomenological analysis is an iterative inductive process that ensures an in-depth and systematic examination of participants' experiences (Al Yahyaei et al., 2024; Shahmari et al., 2023). This method was selected because it is consistent to focus

on exploring people's experiences and the meanings they attach to them (Al Yahyaei et al., 2024; Le Boutillier et al., 2022; Shahmari et al., 2023).

Young adults with former experiences of criminal behaviors during adolescence were used for the sampling frame. Flyers for participant recruitment were placed at consenting local locations or through online advertisements. Voluntary participants were recruited after responding to flyers. Semi-structured interviews and informalized conversation techniques were used to increase detailed descriptions for thematic interpretation (Le Boutillier et al., 2022; Shahmari et al., 2023). Data were interpreted using IPA methodology to find thematic components defining the factual essence of phenomena (Le Boutillier et al., 2022; Shahmari et al., 2023). Interpretive phenomenological analysis methodology was used to identify the overall impact of parenting on juvenile delinquency. Positive and negative effects caused by lived experiences were identified using an interpretive phenomenological approach (Al Yahyaei et al., 2024; Le Boutillier et al., 2022; Shahmari et al., 2023).

Definitions

Authoritative parental styles: Authoritative parenting offers balance and support while implementing constructive and flexible discipline (Baumrind, 1966; Li et al., 2023). Authoritative parents teach children self-control and engage in bi-directional communication (Li et al., 2023; Yao et al., 2022).

Authoritarian parental styles: Authoritarian parenting utilizes rigid discipline, little to no flexibility, and a highly structured environment (Li et al., 2023; Sun et al.,

2024). Authoritarian parents are usually strict and highly controlling, with less receptivity to children's preferences (Li et al., 2023; Sun et al., 2024).

Co-offending: The act of committing a crime with more than one accomplice (Bryson et al., 2022; Foster et al., 2024).

Chronic offender: A chronic offender is any juvenile offender responsible for at least five offenses between the ages of 10 and 18 (Yao et al., 2022).

Criminality: Criminal behaviors resulting from complex interactions between cognitive, emotional, personality, and biological risk factors (Foster et al., 2024; Kokoravec Povh et al., 2024; Li et al., 2023).

Criminogenic risk: Criminogenic risk factors are theoretically and empirically the most predictive influences for offending behavior (Dellar et al., 2023; Kokoravec Povh et al., 2024). Criminogenic risk factors include criminal history, education/employment, family/marital, leisure/recreation, antisocial associates, substance abuse, pro-criminal attitudes/orientation, and antisocial patterns (Foster et al., 2024; Freemon et al., 2023).

Delinquency: Delinquency is generally antisocial and illegal actions committed by persons under the age of 18 (Li et al., 2023). Delinquency is behavior that does not conform to prescribed laws and societal norms (Li et al., 2023; Widmer et al., 2023).

Desistance: Successful disengagement from offending (Bryson et al., 2022; Foster et al., 2024; Prop et al., 2025; Zedaker et al., 2023). The cessation of engaging in anti-social criminal behaviors (Bryson et al., 2022; Foster et al., 2024; Jasni et al., 2023).

Juvenile offenders: Juvenile offenders are persons under the age of 18 who commit illegal crimes (Barra et al., 2022; Cuervo, 2023; Kokoravec Povh et al., 2024).

Neglectful parental styles: Neglectful parents lack supervision, are emotionally detached, and provide a minimal response to children's needs (Lin et al., 2023; Sun et al., 2024; Vujovic, 2024; van der Put & Assink, 2024; Yao et al., 2022).

Parenting: Parenting refers to behaviors directed toward children that include practices such as punishment, monitoring, affection, and communication (Adams et al., 2023; Freemon et al., 2023; Oerther, 2023; Wu & Li, 2023).

Parental attachment: Attachment refers to the love, affection, bond, and communication that an individual has with their parent or caregiver (Adams et al., 2023; Freemon et al., 2023; Sun et al., 2024). Attachments can be extended the level of supervision parents have with children (Adams et al., 2023; Freemon et al., 2023).

Parental styles: Four parenting styles – authoritarian, authoritative, permissive, and neglectful (Lin et al., 2023; Yao et al., 2022).

Permissive parental styles: Permissive parents are often supportive, approachable, and lenient (Cuervo, 2023; Lin et al., 2023; Sun et al., 2024). Permissive parents do not set boundaries and seldom reinforce rules (Cuervo, 2023; Lin et al., 2023; Sun et al., 2024). Permissive parents teach children self-control and engage in bi-directional communication (Cuervo, 2023; Lin et al., 2023; Sun et al., 2024).

Protective risk factors: Protective factors alleviate risks and reduce negative impacts on future behavior (Foster et al., 2024; Shold et al., 2023; Walters, 2022).

Recidivism: The Washington State Juvenile Court Assessment (WSJCA) defines recidivism as one or more new convictions within 18 months after committing a crime (Shold et al., 2023; van der Put & Assink, 2024).

Young adult: An individual between the ages of 18 and 29 (Jasni et al., 2023).

Assumptions

Assumptions critical to the study were that adults with prior experiences of juvenile criminality would correctly identify themselves for participation eligibility. Parenting is assumed to impact criminal behaviors. Supportive relationships are most beneficial to juveniles when they receive guidance and comfort from a parent or caregiver (Sun et al., 2024). Juvenile delinquency is less likely to occur with a positive parent-mentor relationship (Paquette et al., 2024; Sun et al., 2024). Positive parenting mentorship often effectively assists children with regulating emotions and behaviors (Paquette et al., 2024; Sun et al., 2024). Adolescents with neglectful parents have high levels of behavioral dysfunction (Lin et al., 2023; Vujovic, 2024). Children with neglectful parenting styles are likely to engage in criminal behaviors (Lin et al., 2023; Vujovic, 2024).

Assumptions were based on collective study findings relevant to the investigated phenomena and essential for investigational context. Participants may not all have had the same experiences or perceptions of parenting styles, attachments, and influences. Participant information may not have been entirely verifiable, and reported responses were assumed to be truthful. Participant honesty was promoted by preserving anonymity, confidentiality, and understanding that withdrawal from the study was optional at any time without ramifications (Al Yahyaei et al., 2024). Credibility was further enhanced by using four to 10 participants to reach adequate levels of data saturation (Al Yahyaei et al., 2024; Shahmari et al., 2023; Woodgate et al., 2023). The results of the study were made

credible based on member checks, mutual engagement, and using direct quotes for data analysis (Shahmari et al., 2023; Woodgate et al., 2023; Vujovic, 2024). Assumptions were essential in conducting this study to explore the perceptions of juvenile criminality being impacted by parenting styles, influences, and attachments.

Scope and Delimitations

The scope of the study was based on how young adults perceive parenting styles to have influenced their past juvenile criminal behaviors. The scope of the study development assisted with implications for determining desistance barriers. Juvenile delinquency has been connected directly to parents' impact and parenting styles on adolescent behaviors (Sun et al., 2024; Wu & Li, 2023). Parenting styles may play an effective role in impacting and controlling criminal behaviors (Sun et al., 2024; van der Put & Assink, 2024; Wu & Li, 2023). The research questions addressed the perceptions of parenting styles, influences, and attachments associated with juvenile criminality. The purpose of the study was selected based on a current gap in knowledge. The gap in knowledge resulted from little existing research pertaining to perceptions of parenting styles, influences, and attachments to offending (Bryson et al., 2022).

The study focused on the effect of parenting styles, influences, and attachments on juvenile offending. This kind of study can provide insight into how parents' parenting choices and behaviors influence juvenile offending (Sun et al., 2024; Wu & Li, 2023). Additional research can provide information on possible desistance barriers (Jasni et al., 2023; Zedaker et al., 2023). A phenomenological inquiry was selected to address unearthed phenomena based on participants' experiences (Al Yahyaei et al., 2024; Le

Boutillier et al., 2022; Woodgate et al., 2023). Studies with quantitative methodology have been exhaustively used to quantify concepts of juvenile delinquency, parenting styles, and attachments (Al Yahyaei et al., 2024; Woodgate et al., 2023). The phenomenological inquiry resulted in an enhanced depth of data not obtainable through using a quantitative methodology (Al Yahyaei et al., 2024; Le Boutillier et al., 2022; Woodgate et al., 2023). Interpretive phenomenological analysis methodology was used to identify the overall impact of parenting on juvenile criminality.

Participant recruitment was accomplished through self-voluntary responses to advertisements placed in public spaces (see Appendix A). Participants were young adults ages 18 to 29 who engaged in offending behaviors as juveniles. Participants were young adults to prevent cognitive bias in memory recollection. Young adult participants were chosen to maintain homogeneity to produce more accurate thematic data. Participants were geographically diverse across Cayman Brac, which resulted in differential impacts on individual experiences, perceptions, and interpretations of phenomena (Oerther, 2023). Recruitment methods did not purposefully target vulnerable populations such as pregnant women, prisoners, mentally ill, or physically unwell (Al Yahyaei et al., 2024). Adolescents were not included in the study due to being a vulnerable population.

Attachment theory was selected to ground the study and expand upon undiscovered phenomena (Ainsworth & Bowlby, 1991). Attachment theory was used instead of other theories as it is most relevant to the purpose and approach. Attachment theory theorizes that children's behavioral, emotional, and relational patterns are strongly influenced by their relationship with early primary caregivers (Adams et al., 2023; Sun et

al., 2024). The characteristics children develop in childhood are carried on into adolescence and adulthood (Sun et al., 2024; van der Put & Assink, 2024). Attachment theory rationalizes the investigation of parenting styles, attachments, and influences. Young adults' perceptions of attachment impacting juvenile offending behaviors were explored. Baumrind's parenting styles theory was used throughout the study to support attachment theory (Sun et al., 2024; Yao et al., 2022).

Limitations

There were several limitations considered throughout the research. Limitations in phenomenological studies include that data depend on observations and participants' interpretations of their experiences (Al Yahyaei et al., 2024; Woodgate et al., 2023). Possible challenges in verifying information may be present within this study from participants' feedback (Oerther, 2023). Limitations of the study can be caused by bias existing within IPA research data interpretation (Shahmari et al., 2023; Woodgate et al., 2023). Subjectivity and interpretation of lived experiences must be based solely on participants' accounts to ensure reliability (Shahmari et al., 2023; Woodgate et al., 2023). Validity in the study is based primarily on participants' lived experiences and expressions (Shahmari et al., 2023; Yang et al., 2022). The terminology used throughout the interview process may not have been clear to all participants.

Generalizability is improbable in phenomenological research used to examine attributions of specific phenomena (Woodgate et al., 2023). The findings may be useful within similar contexts by using rigorous methodology to produce transferability in comparable qualitative studies (Shahmari et al., 2023; Yadav, 2022). Transparency and

objectivity are important to result in conclusions based solely on participants' perceptions without data contamination or unreliable or invalid interpretation (Oerther, 2023). Transferability in qualitative studies is consistent with rigor established through trustworthiness, credibility, and auditability (Al Yahyaei et al., 2024; Yadav, 2022). Thorough descriptions from participants are required to establish the transferability of findings (Al Yahyaei et al., 2024; Woodgate et al., 2023). Semi-structured interviews are commonly utilized to achieve the depth of data needed for transferability (Shahmari et al., 2023; Woodgate et al., 2023). Transferability is enhanced by connecting participants' accounts and claims in extant literature (Shahmari et al., 2023; Woodgate et al., 2023).

Reasonable measures to address rigor were utilized in other qualitative studies (Al Yahyaei et al., 2024; Shahmari et al., 2023). Five or more participants were included in the study to ensure the total was sufficient (Oerther, 2023; Shahmari et al., 2023). Voluntary participation in response to advertisements may mitigate any ethical risk of coercion. Rigorous methodology is useful in qualitative research for performing exploratory studies on phenomena lacking examination (Al Yahyaei et al., 2024; Woodgate et al., 2023). Rational measures to address limitations are comparable with consistency applied in other qualitative studies. Consistency used to address methodological limitations encompassed data triangulation, cautious documentation, saturation, and reflexivity (Al Yahyaei et al., 2024; Shahmari et al., 2023).

Significance

Challenges associated with parenting influencing juvenile criminality require exploration to understand barriers to healthy caregiver and child relationships (Sun et al.,

2024). There was an urgent need for research on the lived experiences of adults with juvenile offending pasts (Sun et al., 2024). The results of this study have expanded existing knowledge pertaining to how adolescents perceive relationships with their parents. The most effective parenting style attributed to promoting prosocial behaviors can be revealed by adolescents' perceptions of parental influences and attachments (Jeries-Loulou & Khoury-Kassabri, 2022). Past juvenile delinquents' perceptions of parenting styles influencing offending behaviors are crucial for avoiding similar repetitive child-rearing practices (Baumrind, 1972; Sun et al., 2024). Exploration can benefit professional practices who work with parents and juvenile offenders (van der Put & Assink, 2024; Wilson & Lipsey, 2024). Proper information to influence intervention planning and program development can result in substantial positive implications (van der Put & Assink, 2024; Wilson & Lipsey, 2024). Early intervention applied parenting programs and access to supportive resources have been associated with reduced recidivism (Shold et al., 2023; van der Put & Assink, 2024; Wilson & Lipsey, 2024).

New information was gained on how past juvenile criminals in the Cayman Islands perceive their parents' influences on their criminal offending, as no similar research has been conducted in the geographic region in the Caribbean. Future development of educational parenting programs and desistance barriers will result from the responses shared by participants. This study will be the basis for professionals to address cultural and environmental factors associated with parental influences on juvenile offending. Other information gathered from participants in the study may explain how the adolescent population was affected. Future education programs may be developed using

research for low- and high-risk young adult offenders. The understanding of parenting styles affecting offending behavior may present positive social change. The community, parents, and future parents will be informed that their choices as childcare takers can influence children's risk of engagement in offending behaviors.

Summary

Juvenile offending rates have increased compared to the last few decades (Akbaba et al., 2024; Foster et al., 2024; Lin et al., 2023). Juvenile offending is a major social and developmental problem warranting investigation into perceptions of parental influences (Foster et al., 2024; Ray & Park, 2024; Sun et al., 2024). There is a correlation between parenting and the development of disruptive behavior disorders in children (Foster et al., 2024; Ray & Park, 2024; Sun et al., 2024). Adolescents with insecure attachment styles demonstrate greater difficulties with emotional, behavioral, cognitive regulation, and intimacy later in life compared to others with secure attachments (Adams et al., 2023; Sun et al., 2024; Widmer et al., 2023). Insecure attachments are linked with high rates of aggressive behaviors, have empathy deficits, and are at increased risk of engaging in delinquency (Adams et al., 2023; Sun et al., 2024; Widmer et al., 2023). The perception of parenting influencing juvenile criminality requires more exploration for future educational program development (Foster et al., 2024; Sun et al., 2024; Walters, 2022). Additional research collected will provide information on possible desistance barriers (Ray & Park, 2024; Sun et al., 2024; Zedaker et al., 2023).

Attachment theory is used to understand the perceptions of lived experiences on how parenting impacts delinquency (Baglivio et al., 2022; Foster et al., 2024; Sun et al.,

2024). Juvenile delinquency is influenced by parent-to-child relationships rather than genetics or biological factors (Jeries-Loulou & Khoury-Kassabri, 2022; Sun et al., 2024;). Juvenile criminality behaviors are associated with incompetent parenting, harsh punishment, poor supervision, and limited positive family influences (Farrington & Bergstrøm, 2023; Jasni et al., 2023). Authoritative parenting is effective in inhibiting juvenile behaviors (Felix, 2024; Yao et al., 2022). Adolescents of authoritarian parents display conduct problems and early criminal engagement (Farrington & Bergstrøm, 2023; Lin et al., 2023; Sun et al., 2024). Adolescents of divorced parents are more likely to engage in criminal actions (Adams et al., 2023; Wang et al., 2024; Zhao et al., 2023). Separated, blended, and remarriages of parents have significant influences on adolescent risky behavior (Sun et al., 2024; Wang et al., 2024; Zhao et al., 2023).

Parental influence and attachment are related to juvenile criminality (Felix, 2024; Foster et al., 2024; Sun et al., 2024). Both correlate due to security, emotional, and physical connections (Foster et al., 2024; Sun et al., 2024). The association between attachment with criminality in juveniles provides reason to explore lived experiences of juveniles (Foster et al., 2024; Sun et al., 2024). The purpose is to explore perceptions past juvenile offenders have of their parents and the influences parental involvement has on offending behaviors (Foster et al., 2024; Wu & Li, 2023). Outcomes of this study may result in information necessary for educational parental program development. Results of the study will gain intellect on possible desistance barriers and guide future research. There is a thorough review of scholarly content, justification for exploration, and significant research gap development provided in Chapter 2.

Chapter 2: Literature Review

Introduction

The specific problem addressed is the impact parenting styles, attachments, and influences have on juvenile offending behaviors. Research gathered from participants helped identify desistance barriers based on the impact of parenting on adolescent criminality. Parenting styles lead adolescents to become involved in criminality (Foster et al., 2024; Sun et al., 2024). Offending behaviors will likely result from parent-child relationships (Foster et al., 2024; Sun et al., 2024; van der Put & Assink, 2024). Adolescents' perceptions of parenting influences prompting their offending are often parental involvement and criticism (Sun et al., 2024; Wu & Li, 2023). Delinquent behaviors negatively affect adolescent lives (Jacobsen & Zaatut, 2022; Sun et al., 2024). Negative effects include health problems, substance abuse addiction (Saladino et al., 2025), and destroyed personal relationships (Sun et al., 2024; Wu & Li, 2023).

The perceptions of parenting styles influencing criminal behaviors using IPA methodology are unestablished (Shahmari et al., 2023). The purpose of this study was to explore collective factors of how adolescents perceive parenting to influence their criminal behaviors and desistance barriers. Interpretive phenomenological analysis (IPA) was used to examine and describe undiscovered phenomena with participant cognition as a central focus for the study (Shahmari et al., 2023). Qualitative methodology is not limited to obtaining deeper information through IPA approaches (Shahmari et al., 2023; Yadav, 2022). Criminal behaviors influenced by parenting collectively require discovery

to gain intellect on possible desistance barriers (Prop et al., 2025), and future development of parental education programs (Jasni et al., 2023; Wilson & Lipsey, 2024).

Juvenile delinquency has been studied extensively (Pryce et al., 2025), and yet remains a substantial problem (Sun et al., 2024). Juvenile criminality has commonly resulted in experiences of poor academic achievement (Jasni et al., 2023), social withdrawal, and social shyness (Li et al., 2023). Juvenile offenders often report obsessive-compulsiveness, depression (Zhao et al., 2023), interpersonal sensitivity, hostility, phobic anxiety, and psychotic symptomology compared to adolescents not engaged in criminal activities (Akbaba et al., 2024; Lin et al., 2023). Increased impulsivity, lack of self-control (Sun et al., 2024), and anti-social beliefs in adolescents are associated with juvenile criminality (Foster et al., 2024). Juvenile offenders who have experienced traumas such as parental loss are likely to engage in substances like alcohol, drugs, and tobacco (Akbaba et al., 2024; Vujovic, 2024). Juvenile delinquency has been shown as a preexisting factor for young adult offending behaviors (Foster et al., 2024; Sun et al., 2024). The impact of parenting may have lifelong implications for positive parental influences and lessened criminal behaviors (Foster et al., 2024; Sun et al., 2024).

This chapter includes a research review on adolescent risky behaviors, parenting influencing juvenile delinquency, child-rearing styles, and the impact of adolescent criminal acts. Published research was reviewed in this chapter to describe constructs and previously used methodology that led to an identified gap in knowledge being determined. The literature search strategy includes databases utilized, and details describing research techniques pursued are shared in this chapter. The theoretical

framework section in this chapter was used to rationalize attachment theory and parenting styles theory guiding logic for the impacts child-rearing practices have on juvenile criminality. Perceived parenting styles associated with influencing criminal behaviors among adolescents were explored with self-control capacity and affective self-regulation (Barra et al., 2022; Foster et al., 2024; McMillan et al., 2023). Parenting to criminal relationship status is explored through socialization variables, including parental supervision (Foster et al., 2024), rejection (Cuervo, 2023), and involvement (Lin et al., 2023; Vujovic, 2024). Scholarly research particular to the specific phenomena resulted in the development of constructs, insights, and significance.

Literature Search Strategy

Library database variations narrowed parameters for content relevant to specific fields of study, topics, and concepts. Google Scholar Database, ProQuest Central, PsycARTICLES, PsycINFO, Thoreau Multi-Database, Sage Journal, ScienceDirect, and Elton B. Stephens Company (EBSCO*host*) were utilized to discover scholarly studies on concepts of interest across a variation in specializations. Key term combinations of interest were searched, along with synonyms, across various databases, aligning with previously used methods for literary synthesis. Articles were filtered by those published between 2022 and 2024. Key term combinations searched in Thoreau Multi-Database, Sage Journal, and ScienceDirect include *parental influences on juveniles, juvenile offending behaviors,* and *correlation between parent-to-child relationships with offending.* Key term combinations searched in ProQuest Central, PsycARTICLES, PsycINFO, Thoreau Multi-Database, Sage Journal, and ScienceDirect to develop the

theoretical framework were *parental influences on adolescents, parental influences on juvenile delinquency, and factors of juvenile criminality, parenting styles on juvenile offending, juvenile criminality, and parenting styles, parental influence,* and *parental attachment.* Key term combinations searched in PsycARTICLES, PsycINFO, Thoreau Multi-Database were *influences of parents' behaviors across adolescence, parenting on deviant behavior,* and *parenting influence on conduct behaviors*.

Key term combinations on relevant concepts were searched in the utilized databases with study parameters encompassing peer review and full text, published between 2022 and 2024. Key term combinations searched in Google Scholar Database, ProQuest Central, PsycARTICLES, PsycINFO, Thoreau Multi-Database, Sage Journal, ScienceDirect, and Elton B. Stephens Company (EBSCO*host*) were *juvenile delinquency, juvenile offending, parental influence, parenting styles, parental attachment, deviancy, deviant behaviors, adolescent behaviors, adolescent attachment, adolescent offending,* and *criminal behaviors.* Additional combinations searched were *relationships and child development, relationships and adult outcomes, relationships and criminal behaviors,* and *attachment theory.* Terms selected for searches specific to Criminal Justice searched in ProQuest Central, PsycARTICLES, PsycINFO, Thoreau Multi-Database, Sage Journal, and ScienceDirect were *juvenile delinquency, juvenile deviant behaviors, and parenting influence on juveniles,* and *juvenile recidivism.* Additional combinations were searched for *juveniles' relationships with parents* and *juvenile offending behaviors.* Key terminology used solely in the Thoreau Multi-Database with filter specifications applied for scholarly were *parenting, parenting styles, parental attachment, juvenile offending,*

parental influence, *attachment theory,* and *social learning theory.* Databases accessed to incorporate into this review were accessed through Walden University Library, commercial search engines, and the World Wide Web.

Current and peer-reviewed articles were utilized to conduct the literature review later in Chapter 2. Scholarly journals relevant to attachment theory were located using Boolean operators 'and,' 'or,' 'not,' synonyms, and combinations of key terms. Key concepts were explored with scholarly journals using *Boolean* operators 'and,' 'or,' 'not,' synonyms, and combinations of key terms. A systematic literature review identified and integrated existing studies through rigorous methodology practices. Searches performed on *juvenile criminality, juvenile delinquency being influenced by parenting styles, juvenile offending behaviors, parent-to-child relationships, recidivism, desistance, social learning,* and *attachment* resulted in locating a knowledge gap. Possible desistance barriers and methods to decrease recidivism rates were identified from the knowledge gap. Discovery of information from the knowledge gap can contribute to parenting program development focused on criminality.

Theoretical Foundation

Attachment Theory

Attachment is the unique emotional relationship that involves the exchange of pleasure, care, and comfort (Bowlby, 1988). Early experiences in childhood influence development and behavior (Bowlby, 1988). Attachment theory is widely applicable to the development of all relationships (Farrington & Bergstrøm, 2023), mental health, emotion regulation, and personality (Lin et al., 2023; Sun et al., 2024). Attachment theory focuses

on parent-to-child relationships (Farrington & Bergstrøm, 2023) and the attachment system over the entire life course (Lin et al., 2023; Sun et al., 2024). Parenting styles play an effective role in the prevalence and control of juvenile delinquency (Sun et al., 2024; Wu & Li, 2023). Parent-to-child attachment perceptions require additional research for a better understanding of attachment theory (Sun et al., 2024; Wu & Li, 2023). Parent-to-child attachment perceptions will reveal possible impacts parenting has on offending (Sun et al., 2024; van der Put & Assink, 2024; Wu & Li, 2023).

The origin of attachment theory is attributed to Bowlby's personal experiences (Sun et al., 2024). Bowlby was persuaded by his experiences of the effects early family relationships have on personality development (Sun et al., 2024). Bowlby developed attachment theory by first observing children who were hospitalized or institutionalized and separated from their parents (Sun et al., 2024). Bowlby initially focused on the nature of children's bond with mothers (Farrington & Bergstrøm, 2023; Lin et al., 2023; Sun et al., 2024). Bowlby then observed a child's dramatic response to separation, labeled as separation anxiety (Lin et al., 2023), and the mourning experienced during early childhood (Farrington & Bergstrøm, 2023; Sun et al., 2024). Bowlby concluded that inconsistent nurturing from a caregiver may result in abnormal child behavior (Lin et al., 2023) and lead to psychopathology (Farrington & Bergstrøm, 2023). Attachment theory remains outstandingly relevant today, nearly half a century after Bowlby's philosophy was formally introduced (Sun et al., 2024; Wu & Li, 2023).

Bowlby is considered an assumed expert in juvenile offending who emphasized the relationship between attachment and caregiving (Adams et al., 2023; Sun et al.,

2024). Attachment theory is a useful framework applicable within the parenting and criminological context (Sun et al., 2024). The impacts of parenting on delinquency and the parent-to-adolescent relationship history are linked through attachment theory (Sun et al., 2024). Implications for how criminality affects adolescence or early adulthood can also be examined using attachment theory (Sun et al., 2024; van der Put & Assink, 2024). Illegal behaviors during adolescence have adverse effects and consequences (Foster et al., 2024; Gajos et al., 2023; van der Put & Assink, 2024).

Attachment has been shown to impact a wide assortment of biopsychosocial phenomena (Foster et al., 2024; Sun et al., 2024). Adolescents' social functioning, coping, stress response, psychological well-being (Foster et al., 2024), health behavior, and morbidity are impacted (Adams et al., 2023; Sun et al., 2024). Parent to adolescent relationships affected by juvenile delinquency result in conflict (Foster et al., 2024), depression, and distanced relationships (Jeries-Loulou & Khoury-Kassabri, 2022). Depression as a risk factor for criminality in juveniles indicates feelings of low self-esteem (Cuervo, 2023), hopelessness, and anger (Gajos et al., 2023; Zhao et al., 2023). Depression caused by attachment issues can lead to adolescents engaging in recklessness (Cuervo, 2023; Gajos et al., 2023). Antisocial behaviors are influenced by adolescents' attachments to their parents (Lin et al., 2023; McMillan et al., 2023; Sun et al., 2024). Attachment is associated with criminality in juveniles (Sun et al., 2024), and there is a need to explore the lived experiences of adolescents (van der Put & Assink, 2024).

Juveniles are at risk for negative parental influence on their overall developing life outcomes, including crime victimization (Foster et al., 2024; Jeries-Loulou &

Khoury-Kassabri, 2022; Sun et al., 2024). The influence of parenting on crime victimization has been sparingly investigated in empirical research (Foster et al., 2024; Miller & Jacobson, 2023). Mental health problems (Wang et al., 2025), delinquent peer association, and criminality are effects of crime victimization (Foster et al., 2024; McMillan et al., 2023). Deviant peer association is a motivating factor of juvenile offending in the western, middle eastern, and eastern cultures (Foster et al., 2024; Kokoravec Povh et al., 2024). Protective factors against peer victimization include close parental monitoring supervision, high involvement, and support (Foster et al., 2024; Miller & Jacobson, 2023; Sun et al., 2024). Parenting facilitates adolescents' well-being by promoting their affiliation with prosocial peer groups (Foster et al., 2024; Freemon et al., 2023). Parents are encouraged to guide adolescents away from deviant subculture groups (Foster et al., 2024; Kokoravec Povh et al., 2024; Miller & Jacobson, 2023).

Research on attachment theory and the effects of parenting influencing criminal behaviors requires further exploration (Foster et al., 2024). Young adults' perceptions and lived experiences can assist with exploring the relation of attachment (Foster et al., 2024). The current examination is guided by the premise that parenting influences juvenile offending, impacting adolescents' biological and psychosocial factors (Felix, 2024; Sun et al., 2024; Yao et al., 2022). Attachment theory was developed by integrating research to understand the characteristics of the connection between parents and children (Sun et al., 2024). Attachment forms are strongly associated with all types of criminality (Sun et al., 2024). Attachment influences biopsychosocial phenomena that require further research to identify other influencing factors (Foster et al., 2024; Sun et al., 2024).

Experiences and perceptions of young adults with a delinquent past were the focus for this study. The purpose of the exploration was to describe how parenting influenced challenges, experiences, and perceptions faced by young adults who engaged in criminality. The research questions were designed using a phenomenological approach. The research questions were designed to explore adolescents' perceived influences of parenting prompting delinquency through attachment theory. The research questions were designed for participants to express how they believe their parents influenced their juvenile offending behaviors. The research questions were designed for participants to describe possible desistance barriers. Young adults' experiences can assist with developing parenting programs (Walters, 2022; Wilson & Lipsey, 2024).

Literature Review Related to Key Variables and/or Concepts

Juvenile delinquency, parenting styles, attachments, and recidivism were the core constructs for investigation. Juvenile criminality is a complex issue (Akbaba et al., 2024), and great social concern throughout the world (Kokoravec Povh et al., 2024; Sun et al., 2024). The physiological and biological perspectives of young adults can assist in explaining offending (Akbaba et al., 2024; Foster et al., 2024; Kokoravec Povh et al., 2024). Parenting styles influence the prevalence and control of behaviors (Foster et al., 2024; Jeries-Loulou & Khoury-Kassabri, 2022; Sun et al., 2024). Certain parenting styles and parental attachments lead adolescents to re-engage in criminal behaviors and increase recidivism (Shold et al., 2023; Sun et al., 2024). An exhaustive review of scholarly works on juvenile criminality, parenting styles, attachments, and recidivism follows to exemplify contemporary significance with a knowledge gap.

Juvenile Criminality

Juvenile criminality may refer to illegal actions that result in prosecution (Barra et al., 2022; Cuervo, 2023). Delinquency refers to juveniles' behavioral patterns characterized by repeated offending (Barra et al., 2022; Cuervo, 2023). Criminal actions include robberies, assaults, rape, homicide involvement, and drug abuse (Barra et al., 2022; Cuervo, 2023). Delinquency includes non-criminal behaviors (Barra et al., 2022; Cuervo, 2023). Running away from home, school dropouts, and disobeying authority figures are considered non-criminal behaviors (Barra et al., 2022; Cuervo, 2023). Juvenile offending has become an emergent phenomenon (Pryce et al., 2025), a complex and arising subject in the juvenile justice system (Barra et al., 2022; Cuervo, 2023; Kokoravec Povh et al., 2024). Delinquency is considered an extemporaneous and impulsive pattern of juvenile misbehaviors (Cuervo, 2023; van der Put & Assink, 2024).

The juvenile justice system was created with the primary focus of rehabilitation in a treatment willing population (Foster et al., 2024; Jouriles et al., 2024). Juvenile offenders have been treated differently than adults in legislation (Foster et al., 2024; van der Put & Assink, 2024). The result of developmental differences between adults and adolescents makes juveniles more favorable to treatment amenability (Jasni et al., 2023; van der Put & Assink, 2024). Punitive punishment practices are used in juvenile populations to deter delinquency (Jasni et al., 2023), and increase public safety (Foster et al., 2024; Jouriles et al., 2024). The juvenile justice system assesses offenders' criminality and risk factors (Foster et al., 2024; van der Put & Assink, 2024; Zhao et al., 2023). The juvenile justice system offers services for the risks and needs of adolescent

offenders (Foster et al., 2024; van der Put & Assink, 2024). The juvenile justice system was designed to prevent further criminal acts (Eastman et al., 2024), labeled as cessation of criminal behaviors (Jasni et al., 2023; Jouriles et al., 2024; Wilson & Lipsey, 2024).

Risk factors for juvenile criminality

Individual, social, and environmental risk factors are likely to increase the probability of criminality (Wilson & Lipsey, 2024; Zhao et al., 2023). One risk factor is likely to influence another (Dellar et al., 2023; Yao et al., 2022). Juvenile offenders rarely have a sole risk factor when engaging in risky behaviors (Olsen et al., 2023; Yao et al., 2022). Individual risk factors include personal predispositions, routines, cognitions, attitudes, and emotions (Yao et al., 2022). Social risk factors include criminal influences from family, peers, and their social environments (Bryson et al., 2022; Jeries-Loulou & Khoury-Kassabri, 2022; Kokoravec Povh et al., 2024). Environmental risk factors include surroundings such as known criminogenic neighborhoods (Wilson & Lipsey, 2024; Zhao et al., 2023). The most significant contribution to criminal behaviors comes from environmental factors (Bryson et al., 2022), such as the home environment (Gajos et al., 2023; Yao et al., 2022; Zhao et al., 2023).

As explained in social learning theory, criminal behaviors are observed and learned (Bryson et al., 2022). Motivations, impulses, rationalizations, and attitudes reflecting criminality are learned through observations (Cuervo, 2023; Wu & Li, 2023). The adolescent population is observant, explaining why they are influenced by their environmental surroundings (Bryson et al., 2022; Wu & Li, 2023). Through social learning theory, operant conditioning, and repeated coercive cycles (Wu & Li, 2023),

problem behaviors are developed in children (Lin et al., 2023). Parents and peers often model offending (Jeries-Loulou & Khoury-Kassabri, 2022; Lin et al., 2023). Juveniles often witness offending behaviors within their familial units (Baglivio et al., 2022; Lin et al., 2023). Criminal peers often engage in offending often to gain social status amongst others (Freemon et al., 2023; Kokoravec Povh et al., 2024).

A criminogenic risk factor for juveniles is their association with fellow deviant peers (Foster et al., 2024; Freemon et al., 2023; Kokoravec Povh et al., 2024). Juvenile offenders often co-offend (Kokoravec Povh et al., 2024), whereas adults are likely to commit crimes by themselves (Foster et al., 2024). Peers also aid with committing crimes, including offering planning advice, acting as a lookout during the act, and being a source to obtain illegal substances or items (Bryson et al., 2022; Foster et al., 2024; Kokoravec Povh et al., 2024). Peer offending signifies the portion of a child's friendship network that engages in illegal acts (Foster et al., 2024; Freemon et al., 2023; Kokoravec Povh et al., 2024). Nonparticipation in extracurricular activities have been linked to delinquency and substance use among peers (Foster et al., 2024; Kokoravec Povh et al., 2024; Sun et al., 2024). Juveniles who reported having delinquent peers had a rate of offending almost four times greater than adolescents who reported minimal or no criminal peers (Foster et al., 2024; Freemon et al., 2023; Kokoravec Povh et al., 2024). Juveniles with strained parental relationships often engage in risk-taking behaviors with peers (Foster et al., 2024; Jouriles et al., 2024; Ray & Park, 2024).

Eight collective risk factors in juveniles are identified as antisocial attitudes, antisocial personality patterns, antisocial peers, history of previous offenses, low-income

family circumstances, lacking education, low employment opportunity, substance abuse, leisure, and recreation (Lin et al., 2023; McMillan et al., 2023; Şişmanlar et al., 2022; Wilson & Lipsey, 2024). Risk factors specific to juvenile criminality are neighborhood factors, family functioning, gang involvement (Li et al., 2023), substance misuse (Zhao et al., 2023), and poor academic achievement (Olsen et al., 2023; Şişmanlar et al., 2022; Yao et al., 2022; Wilson & Lipsey, 2024). Problematic early relationships in adolescence increase the propensity for juveniles to engage in crimes (Zedaker et al., 2023). Child abuse (Baglivio et al., 2022) and domestic violence are risk factors for juvenile delinquency (Cuervo, 2023; Yao et al., 2022). Increased substance abuse rates correlate with parent-to-child conflict and peer offending (Jeries-Loulou & Khoury-Kassabri, 2022; Sun et al., 2024; Yao et al., 2022). Juvenile risk behaviors result in higher crime rates identified as antisocial behavior, substance abuse, less education engagement, and lack of employment (Foster et al., 2024; Lin et al., 2023). Juveniles who struggle with multiple risk factors of offending face harm to self and suicidal ideation (Adams et al., 2023; Foster et al., 2024; Steinhof et al., 2023).

Family-based risk factors of juvenile offending occur before birth and continue throughout childhood (Jeries-Loulou & Khoury-Kassabri, 2022; Şişmanlar et al., 2022). Family related risk factors include genetic factors, parent behaviors during pregnancy, disruptive parenting, and observing parental conflict (Foster et al., 2024; Şişmanlar et al., 2022). Parental mental illness, substance abuse, and criminality are risk factors for juvenile criminality (Foster et al., 2024; Zhao et al., 2023). Parental neglect and abuse increase the likelihood of juvenile criminality or recidivism (Şişmanlar et al., 2022; Yao

et al., 2022). Maltreatment in youth is significantly associated with higher rates of juvenile crimes (Aebi et al., 2022; Baglivio et al., 2022; Farrington & Bergstrøm, 2023; Yao et al., 2022). Youth maltreatment has resulted in increased violence among families and peers (Aebi et al., 2022; Baglivio et al., 2022; Jouriles et al., 2024; Yao et al., 2022). Parents who model aggression within their household influence juveniles to display aggressive behaviors toward others (Aebi et al., 2022; Lin et al., 2023).

Effects of juvenile criminality

Juveniles who commit crimes face long-term and short-term effects (Barra et al., 2022; Cuervo, 2023; Sun et al., 2024). Some offending juveniles' behaviors may be monitored by the system, whether through juvenile probation or an incarceration period (Dellar et al., 2023; Olsen et al., 2023). Criminal behaviors affect parent-to-child relationships, familial relationships, and social relationships (Jeries-Loulou & Khoury-Kassabri, 2022; Sun et al., 2024). Juvenile criminality affects adolescents' characteristic development by increasing the chances of bullying (Saladino et al., 2025), and displaying aggressiveness (Akbaba et al., 2024; Cuervo, 2023; Lin et al., 2023; Walters, 2022). The consequences of juvenile delinquency may affect an adolescent's education, varying from not completing high school or attending university (Zhao et al., 2023). Juvenile criminality affects societies because adolescents are the community's future (Yao et al., 2022). Juveniles contribute to an unsafe environment that affects the crime rate of a geographic location (Sun et al., 2024; Zhao et al., 2023).

Environmental, situational, and functional factors impact juvenile criminality (Bryson et al., 2022; Yao et al., 2022). Various familial structures may impact offending

differently (Sun et al., 2024). A child's age, biological or stepparents' criminality, and the nature of sibling relationships can impact delinquency (Adams et al., 2023; Sun et al., 2024). Changes in the structure of familial arrangements that result from separations, divorces (Zhao et al., 2023), parental death, unemployment, or other reasons such as a parent becoming incarcerated, may all have consequences on adolescents (Adams et al., 2023; Jacobsen & Zaatut, 2022). Children of separated or divorced parents often experience guilt and low self-esteem (Adams et al., 2023; Zhao et al., 2023). Adolescents who live in single parent homes disrupted by divorce or separation are more likely to display a range of illegal behaviors than children from two parent families (Adams et al., 2023; Jacobsen & Zaatut, 2022; Wang et al., 2024; Zhao et al., 2023). There is a significant association between adolescents in broken homes and adolescents engaging in deviant behaviors (Adams et al., 2023; Zhao et al., 2023).

Parental divorce can impact juveniles which may have short-term or long-term effects (Sun et al., 2024; Wang et al., 2024; Zhao et al., 2023). The short-term effect of parental divorce indicates that parental divorce has prominent effects on conduct problems (Aebi et al., 2022; Şişmanlar et al., 2022; Zhao et al., 2023). Conduct problems include misbehavior, aggression, and offending (Aebi et al., 2022; Akbaba et al., 2024; Şişmanlar et al., 2022; Lin et al., 2023). Adolescents may experience psychopathology, substance misuse (Zhao et al., 2023), and emotional difficulties after their parents' divorce (Adams et al., 2023; Jacobsen & Zaatut, 2022; Wang et al., 2024). Juveniles are psychologically and physically strained from parental divorce (Zhao et al., 2023), which increases the likelihood of engaging in deviancy (Adams et al., 2023; Jacobsen & Zaatut,

2022). Adolescents may also experience difficulties in social relations, problems adapting, and poor school performance compared to peers who are not a product of divorced families (Jacobsen & Zaatut, 2022; Kokoravec Povh et al., 2024). Parental divorce can influence felonious behaviors into young adulthood, across the lifespan, and other adverse life outcomes in adulthood (Foster et al., 2024; Gajos et al., 2023).

There are known adverse effects of juvenile misconduct on critical life-course transitions such as marriage, parenthood, and relationship quality (Foster et al., 2024; Gajos et al., 2023). Criminality affects adolescent developmental patterns of relationship quality and can affect future partner relationships (Zedaker et al., 2023). Other effects of delinquency on individuals as they grow into adulthood are lower financial status (Sun et al., 2024), poor lifestyle habits, and worsened interpersonal relationships (Foster et al., 2024; Vujovic, 2024). Juvenile offending increases the likelihood of becoming adults involved in criminality and violence (Cuervo, 2023; Jouriles et al., 2024). Criminality can result in juveniles experiencing stress-related changes in brain development and structure (Foster et al., 2024; McMillan et al., 2023). Stress-related changes in brain development can impact adolescents during late adolescence and adulthood (Sun et al., 2024). Stress-related changes in brain development predispose adolescents to depression and other mental health problems (Foster et al., 2024; McMillan et al., 2023).

Criminal behaviors harm adolescents' physical development and adversely impact their psychosocial adaptation (Foster et al., 2024; Gajos et al., 2023; Steinhof et al., 2023). Adolescents' psychosocial function is negatively affected (van der Put & Assink, 2024). Juveniles cannot properly regulate their affections as a factor of delinquency (van

der Put & Assink, 2024). Adolescents' psychosocial development consists of personality formation, morals, values, social conduct, and capacity for relationships with other individuals (van der Put & Assink, 2024). The psychosocial development of children impacts parent-to-child relationships, often causing major conflict with parents (Foster et al., 2024; Sun et al., 2024; van der Put & Assink, 2024). Unlawful behaviors impact adolescents' psychosocial development and are heavily influenced by their parents' parenting styles (van der Put & Assink, 2024). Deficit attention to children's psychosocial well-being underscores the critical role of parenting styles in adolescence (Foster et al., 2024; van der Put & Assink, 2024).

Adolescent maltreatment contributes to criminality (Aebi et al., 2022), including physical punishment, withdrawal of parental love, emotional abuse, and parental absence (Baglivio et al., 2022; Farrington & Bergstrøm, 2023; Walters, 2022). Adolescents with a history of maltreatment are at increased risk for engaging in juvenile offending behaviors (Aebi et al., 2022), and severely violent juvenile offending (Baglivio et al., 2022; Yao et al., 2022). Parents' negative emotions, such as anger, anxiety, and depression, contribute to maltreatment (Aebi et al., 2022; Şişmanlar et al., 2022). Parents who abuse or maltreat their children are likely to have been maltreated as children themselves (Aebi et al., 2022; Yao et al., 2022). Adolescents who experience maltreatment often display low self-esteem, poor emotional regulation, and self-efficacy (Aebi et al., 2022; Cuervo, 2023; Felix, 2024). A history of maltreatment in juvenile offenders often experience insecure attachments with their parents or caregivers (Aebi et al., 2022; Baglivio et al., 2022). Adolescents with positive relationships or attachments

with parents are known to develop practical communication skills, better regulate emotions, and behaviors (Jacobsen & Zaatut, 2022; Yao et al., 2022).

Juvenile criminality affects adolescents' interactions and experiences in the educational setting (Foster et al., 2024). Adolescents who engage in offending behaviors lack school readiness (Jeries-Loulou & Khoury-Kassabri, 2022; Lin et al., 2023), and display aggression towards peers (Akbaba et al., 2024; Chen et al., 2024). Deviant behaviors within the school setting may result in adverse short-term outcomes, including truancy, peer isolation, and teacher rejection (Foster et al., 2024; Kokoravec Povh et al., 2024; Lin et al., 2023; Wilson & Lipsey, 2024). Deviancy within the school setting may also result in low academic achievements, sexual harassment, and early substance misuse (Li et al., 2023; Kokoravec Povh et al., 2024; Yao et al., 2022). Offending adolescents reported sex-related offenses in educational settings (Foster et al., 2024). Sex-related offenses committed on peers within the school setting include molestation, pulling on clothing roughly, catcalling, and making indecent remarks (Yao et al., 2022). These factors lead to school failure and eventual dropout (Sun et al., 2024).

Parenting

Parenting Influence

Parental influences are strongest during childhood (Sun et al., 2024). Parent-to-child relationships are vital and play an essential role in the development of behavioral disorders (Jeries-Loulou & Khoury-Kassabri, 2022; Şişmanlar et al., 2022; Sun et al., 2024). Behavioral disorders such as offending are more likely to result from parent and child relationships rather than from genetics or biological factors (Cuervo, 2023;

Şişmanlar et al., 2022). Parents' misconduct often influences juvenile offending (Baglivio et al., 2022; Cuervo, 2023). Research supports the significant connection between parenting and juvenile behavioral problems (Cuervo, 2023; Şişmanlar et al., 2022; Sun et al., 2024). The availability and presence of parental figures determines how family structure influences delinquency (Freemon et al., 2023; Sun et al., 2024). Juveniles with additional monitoring from other relatives with authority often demonstrate increased self-control (Freemon et al., 2023; Sun et al., 2024).

Parenting is considered a powerful shaping factor in developing antisocial behaviors throughout the lifespan (Cuervo, 2023; Foster et al., 2024; Lin et al., 2023; McMillan et al., 2023). Parental influences are strongly related to various types of adolescent deviances and behaviors (Baek et al., 2023; Freemon et al., 2023). Parenting impacts low self-control, misperception, and delinquency (Baek et al., 2023; Freemon et al., 2023). Self-control abilities are implemented by parental styles in the early stages of a child's life (Baek et al., 2023; Freemon et al., 2023). Parental monitoring of children encompasses recognizing deviant behaviors and discipline delinquency (Baek et al., 2023). Parents who demonstrate interest and affection towards their child, often have children with high levels of self-control (Baek et al., 2023; Miller & Jacobson, 2023). The influence of parenting styles on juvenile offending is considered a risk factor for juvenile criminality (Foster et al., 2024; Steinhof et al., 2023; Zhao et al., 2023).

Parenting styles and parental attachments do influence adolescents to become involved in criminality (Cuervo, 2023; Sun et al., 2024). Parenting styles encompass attitudes, beliefs, and behaviors of parents that measure total intimacy and control over

children (Foster et al., 2024; Sun et al., 2024). Parenting styles are the expression of parents' behaviors and attitudes towards their children in an emotional climate (Foster et al., 2024; Sun et al., 2024). Parenting styles are based on responsiveness and demandingness (Lin et al., 2023; Sun et al., 2024). Parenting styles include various parenting dimensions (Foster et al., 2024; Sun et al., 2024). Parenting consists of a parents' influence on nutrition, physical activity, sleeping, playing, and education (Foster et al., 2024; Sun et al., 2024). Parenting styles are divided into four categories: authoritative, authoritarian, permissive, and neglectful (Lin et al., 2023; Yao et al., 2022).

Theories for Parenting

Attachment theory describes connecting elements of parent-to-child relationships (Ainsworth, 1964; Bowlby, 1988). Attachment is a unique emotional relationship that involves exchanging pleasure, care, and comfort (Bowlby, 1988; Sun et al., 2024). Attachment theory explains how the attachment style related to a child influences behavior and development (Ainsworth, 1964; Bowlby, 1988). The development of attachment in infancy and early childhood occurs through caregiver response and attending to children's needs (Sun et al., 2024; Wu & Li, 2023). Attachment theory has been further developed to include issues of adulthood including romantic partner relationships and relationships with people in the workplace (Sun et al., 2024; Wu & Li, 2023). Behavioral issues may arise in children, adolescents, and adults who are insecurely attached (Adams et al., 2023; Şişmanlar et al., 2022; Zedaker et al., 2023). Research suggests that without intervention, individuals may remain insecurely attached across their lifespan (Adams et al., 2023; Sun et al., 2024).

Parenting is the psychological concept representing the quality of time the parents spend child-rearing (Baumrind, 1972; Sun et al., 2024). Baumrind's parenting styles theory involves child-rearing methods that include control and supervising children's behaviors (Sun et al., 2024). Parenting styles are dependent on the level parents monitor children's actions, provide support, influence attitudes and behavior (Sun et al., 2024). Parenting styles represent how parents respond to and make demands on their children (Sun et al., 2024). Parenting styles contribute to children's self-esteem (Sun et al., 2024), self-confidence (Felix, 2024), and self-control (McMillan et al., 2023). Parenting styles influences children's ability to develop meaningful relationships with others outside the family circle (Sun et al., 2024). Parenting styles are influential in preventing and controlling juvenile criminality (Sun et al., 2024; van der Put & Assink, 2024).

Parenting Styles

Authoritative parenting style is characterized as high in responsiveness and demandingness (Lin et al., 2023; Sun et al., 2024). Authoritative parenting styles use structured guidance with children's desires in mind (Yao et al., 2022). Authoritative parents provide support, warmth, defined rules, and consistent discipline (Lin et al., 2023; Sun et al., 2024; Yao et al., 2022). Parents who practice authoritative parenting aim to educate their children to become progressively more autonomous (Yao et al., 2022). Authoritative parents and children exercise open communication and reciprocal dialogue (Yao et al., 2022). Authoritative parenting often results in healthy parent-to-child relationships (Wu & Li, 2023). Authoritative parenting style is associated with low levels of conflict frequency and intensity (Lin et al., 2023; Wu & Li, 2023).

Authoritarian parenting style is characterized as low in responsiveness and high demandingness (Lin et al., 2023; Sun et al., 2024). Authoritarian parenting style takes the approach of strict parental guidance (Lin et al., 2023). Authoritarian parents subjectively use negative control or harsh punishment to gain compliance (Farrington & Bergstrøm, 2023; Lin et al., 2023). Authoritarian parents rarely provide explanations for their parental choices and choose to engage in little communication with their children (Lin et al., 2023; Sun et al., 2024). Children of authoritarian parents have little independence and frequently confront intense conflicts with their parents (Lin et al., 2023; Sun et al., 2024). Adolescents tend to develop aggressive tendencies from having authoritarian parents (Lin et al., 2023). Adolescents with authoritarian parents display conduct problems and early offending behaviors (Cuervo, 2023; Farrington et al., 2022).

Permissive parenting style is characterized by low demandingness and high responsiveness (Cuervo, 2023; Lin et al., 2023; Sun et al., 2024). Permissive parenting style has few guidelines with increased freedom (Cuervo, 2023). Children of permissive are allowed to express their opinions freely and behave as they want without intervention (Cuervo, 2023; Vujovic, 2024). Permissive parents aim to act in a nonpunitive manner and accept choices made by children (Cuervo, 2023; Lin et al., 2023). Permissive parenting transpires as parents fail to set consequences (Cuervo, 2023; Lin et al., 2023). Permissive parents do not expect developmentally appropriate behaviors from their children (Cuervo, 2023; Lin et al., 2023). Permissive parents tend to have children that participate in criminality compared with nonoffending adolescents parented by other parenting styles (Cuervo, 2023; Lin et al., 2023; Sun et al., 2024).

Neglectful parenting style is characterized by low responsiveness and demandingness (Lin et al., 2023; Sun et al., 2024). Neglectful parents are parent-centered and rarely engage in child-rearing practices (Lin et al., 2023; Sun et al., 2024). Neglectful parents neither provide warmth nor set rules for their children (Lin et al., 2023; Sun et al., 2024). Despite being physically present, neglectful parents are greatly uninvolved, leading to destructive parent-to-child relationships (Jeries-Loulou & Khoury-Kassabri, 2022). The parent-to-child relationship is hindered by emotional isolation (Aebi et al., 2022; Jeries-Loulou & Khoury-Kassabri, 2022). Emotional isolation results in children being at risk for internalizing feelings of rejection (Jouriles et al., 2024; Lin et al., 2023; Wang et al., 2024). Adolescents of neglectful parents display conduct problems and early criminal behaviors (Aebi et al., 2022; Lin et al., 2023).

A key influencing factor for juvenile offenders and unlawful actions are parenting styles used among the adolescent population (Bryson et al., 2022; Dellar et al., 2023). Parenting styles and children's psychosocial development have corroborated that effective parenting combines demandingness with responsiveness (Aebi et al., 2022; Lin et al., 2023; Sun et al., 2024). Effective parenting styles could protect adolescents from risky relationships, situations, and behaviors (Felix, 2024; Jeries-Loulou & Khoury-Kassabri, 2022; Olsen et al., 2023). Erratic, inconsistent, low monitoring, poor recognition, and nonexistent sanctioning of child misbehaviors describe poor parenting (Cuervo, 2023; Li et al., 2023; Miller & Jacobson, 2023). Poor parenting explains the early onset of offending behaviors (Li et al., 2023; Miller & Jacobson, 2023). The authoritative parenting style has been found effective in inhibiting juvenile criminality

(Freemon et al., 2023; Yao et al., 2022). Adolescents of authoritative parents are associated with having better life outcomes (Lin et al., 2023; Yao et al., 2022).

Parenting styles associated with a higher level of monitoring are associated with the reduced risky behaviors displayed by juveniles (Li et al., 2023; Miller & Jacobson, 2023; Olsen et al., 2023; Sun et al., 2024). Research conducted in Asian countries suggested that parents' firm, restrictive, and controlling behaviors have led to positive behavioral outcomes among children (Baek et al., 2023; Sun et al., 2024; Wu & Li, 2023). Permissive parents found that their children are likely to engage in misconduct (Sun et al., 2024). Deficient parenting styles and attachments are linked to juveniles spending time in criminogenic settings (Sun et al., 2024). Adolescents with lenient parents are likely to engage in deviancy (Lin et al., 2023; Sun et al., 2024). Juveniles with permissive parents are more likely to be aggressive (Chen et al., 2024), and express hostile behaviors than juveniles who have authoritative or authoritarian parenting styles (Lin et al., 2023; Sun et al., 2024). Children of permissive parents are often unwilling to follow structural guidance set by parents (Lin et al., 2023; Sun et al., 2024).

Parenting styles influence adolescent's psychosocial development and outcomes in their lives (Aebi et al., 2022). Adolescents of authoritarian parents are likely to have low self-esteem, negative attitudes about the world, and less content with their overall lives (Lin et al., 2023). Children of authoritarian parents are usually obedient to standards set by parents and other authority figures (Lin et al., 2023; Sun et al., 2024). Adolescents with permissive parents are likely to display narcissistic tendencies, social irresponsibility, and self-centered motivation (Lin et al., 2023; Sun et al., 2024).

Authoritarian and permissive parenting styles have consistently been linked with various adverse developmental outcomes (Sun et al., 2024), including adolescent behavioral problems (Gajos et al., 2023; Lin et al., 2023). Children of authoritarian and permissive parents tend to become hostile, have trouble dealing with somatic distress, or develop psychological issues under high stress situations (Lin et al., 2023; Sun et al., 2024; Yao et al., 2022). Adolescents of permissive parenting are associated to increased affiliation with deviant peers (Cuervo, 2023; Foster et al., 2024; Sun et al., 2024).

Parental Attachment

Attachment is the primary bond that infants form with their caregiver (Sun et al., 2024). Attachment is a significant sensitive connection that bonds one person to another, providing emotional and physical support that increases their sense of security (Sun et al., 2024). Attachment serves infants with security as they need to explore their environment despite experiencing anxiety when separated from caregivers (Jouriles et al., 2024; Sun et al., 2024). Parents or caregivers assist with emotional regulation and self-regulation (McMillan et al., 2023; Sun et al., 2024). Parental and genetic factors in early adolescent development can lead to individual differences in patterns of attachment behaviors (Bryson et al., 2022). Children's behaviors are often uncertain due to many factors and influences (Sun et al., 2024). There are four types of attachment: secure, ambivalent, avoidant, and disorganized (Paquette et al., 2024; Widmer et al., 2023).

Children with secure attachment styles have parents who respond promptly and sensitively to their child's needs (Sun et al., 2024). Securely attached parents provide children with appropriate room for exploration (Sun et al., 2024). Children who possess

secure, stable attachment relationships are more likely to develop self-confidence, learning motivation, and courage while exploring their physical world (Li et al., 2023; Sun et al., 2024). Securely attached children who develop emotional stability, independence, and a high tolerance for intimacy usually have securely attached parents (Sun et al., 2024). Securely attached parents have similar interpersonal and caregiving capacities toward their children (Sun et al., 2024). Secure children are usually content and engaged (Sun et al., 2024). Securely attached children typically are more trusting in others and are confident they can depend on others (Sun et al., 2024).

Children with avoidant attachments have consistently unavailable caregivers and are forced to manage their needs independently (Sun et al., 2024). Avoidant attached infants show little distress when separated from caregivers (Sun et al., 2024). Children with avoidant attachments are usually withdrawn, quiet, and anxious (Sun et al., 2024). Children with avoidant attachments tend to express hostile and rejecting behaviors (Lin et al., 2023; Sun et al., 2024). Children of avoidant attachment may taunt or bully other children for no reason (Lin et al., 2023; Sun et al., 2024). Avoidant attached children usually feel uncomfortable becoming close to or trusting others in their surroundings (Sun et al., 2024). Childhood maltreatment is associated with elevated rates of avoidant attachment (Cuervo, 2023; Sun et al., 2024), and criminality (Eastman et al., 2024).

Children with insecure-ambivalent attachments are usually anxious, insecure, and unfocused (Adams et al., 2023; Sun et al., 2024). Insecure-ambivalent attached children are often beaten by depressed mothers and have experienced trauma (Adams et al., 2023; Sun et al., 2024). Children with insecure-ambivalent attachments typically either stay in

one location while playing with toys immediately within that location or follow the parent (Adams et al., 2023; Sun et al., 2024). Insecure-ambivalent attached children do not engage in play that their peers find interesting (Foster et al., 2024; Sun et al., 2024). Insecure-ambivalent attached children often have difficulty separating from their parents and are hard to console by others (Sun et al., 2024; Widmer et al., 2023). Insecure-ambivalent attached children struggle to work through challenging tasks, are easily frustrated, and impatient (Sun et al., 2024; Widmer et al., 2023). Insecure-ambivalent attached children insecurely exhibit poor emotional self-awareness and have a low capacity to self-regulate (McMillan et al., 2023).

Disorganized attached children are poor in emotional regulation and reactivity (Paquette et al., 2024). Disorganized attached children are usually angry, find it difficult to follow directions, and challenged with making friends (Paquette et al., 2024). Disorganized attached children lack clear and mixed attachment (Paquette et al., 2024). Disorganized attached children often have parents or caregivers who are frightening, atypical, and display disrupted behaviors (Krasanaki et al., 2022; Paquette et al., 2024). Disorganized attached children in the presence of a caregiver display confused behaviors or react apprehensively (Paquette et al., 2024). A disorganized-insecure attachment style may result from lacked consistency in behavior from a child's parent (Paquette et al., 2024). There is an association between disorganized attachment and externalizing conduct problems (Krasanaki et al., 2022; Wang et al., 2024).

Securely attached children are more likely to be socially competent throughout childhood than insecurely attached children (Adams et al., 2023; Sun et al., 2024).

Securely attached children are more likely to have higher quality friendships characterized by increased harmony, intimacy, and empathy than insecurely attached children (Paquette et al., 2024; Sun et al., 2024). Secure attachment is positively associated with high levels of educational achievement, lowered attention deficit disorder rates, and less juvenile offending engagement (Adams et al., 2023; Cuervo, 2023; Sun et al., 2024). Ambivalent insecure attachment is strongly associated with all types of criminality and involvement in the criminal justice system (Paquette et al., 2024; Sun et al., 2024; Widmer et al., 2023). Insecure attachments can create vulnerabilities in an adolescents' emotional, neurological, and cognitive processing (Adams et al., 2023; McMillan et al., 2023; Sun et al., 2024). Insecure attachments cause emotional disconnectedness from others, reduce the ability to control emotions, and are challenged with maintaining inhibitions (Paquette et al., 2024; Sun et al., 2024). Insecure attached individuals are more likely to display aggression across all age groups and limited empathy or concern for others (Aebi et al., 2022; Lin et al., 2023).

Children's perceptions represent a reasonable way to measure parenting styles and their impact on behaviors (Foster et al., 2024; Sun et al., 2024). Juvenile offenders with a higher perceived authoritative parenting style had more favorable affective self-regulatory abilities (Sun et al., 2024; Yao et al., 2022). Juveniles with lower perceived permissive and authoritarian parenting styles had more advantageous self-regulatory abilities (Wu & Li, 2023; Yao et al., 2022). Juvenile offenders' self-control capacity will improve through increasing levels of perceived authoritative parenting style (McMillan et al., 2023), and reducing authoritarian parenting style (Felix, 2024; Lin et al., 2023).

Perceived authoritarian parenting style can predict juvenile delinquents' self-regulating and self-controlling behaviors (Lin et al., 2023; McMillan et al., 2023; Sun et al., 2024). Juveniles with perceived permissive parents had sufficient self-control capacities (Cuervo, 2023; McMillan et al., 2023; Sun et al., 2024). There is a positive association between authoritative parenting and secure attachments (Wu & Li, 2023), whereas negligent parenting predicts avoidant attachment (Cuervo, 2023; McMillan et al., 2023).

Recidivism

Juvenile Recidivism

Juvenile recidivism without intervention leads to criminal offenses that are progressively more severe and frequent (Farrington & Bergstrøm, 2023; Olsen et al., 2023; Shold et al., 2023). Juvenile recidivism is often officially reported by the police or the court through arrests, convictions, or self-reported offending (Jasni et al., 2023; Shold et al., 2023). Juvenile institutionalizations (i.e., incarceration, detention, or other secure settings) may increase recidivism rates among juvenile offenders (Jasni et al., 2023; Olsen et al., 2023; Shold et al., 2023). Juvenile institutionalizations have other long-lasting adverse effects on adolescents or their families (Foster et al., 2024; Gajos et al., 2023). Internalizing and externalizing symptoms act as factors that contribute to juvenile's engagement in recidivating behaviors (Baglivio et al., 2022; Krasanaki et al., 2022; Wang et al., 2024). Juveniles who are released from correctional facilities often experience high levels of community supervision and surveillance through parole or probation (Olsen et al., 2023; Shold et al., 2023; van der Put & Assink, 2024). Probation officers, social workers, therapists, and other treatment providers prioritize offenders with

higher recidivism risk to address criminogenic needs that motivate criminal behaviors (Olsen et al., 2023; van der Put & Assink, 2024).

Higher levels of community supervision have resulted in decreased imprisonment for low-level offending or technical violations (Sun et al., 2024). Recidivism causation factors and rates have changed throughout developmental transitions (Baglivio et al., 2022). Examples of noninstitutional psychosocial interventions are cognitive behavioral therapy (CBT) (Baglivio et al., 2022), functional family therapy (FFT), multidimensional treatment foster care (MTFC), and multisystemic therapy (MST) (Olsen et al., 2023). Noninstitutional psychosocial interventions can prevent recidivism among juveniles aged 12 to 17 were found effective (Vujovic, 2024). Corrective education, such as children's self-reliance support facilities (CSRSF) treatment for high-risk juveniles, is essential in reducing subsequent recidivism (Shold et al., 2023; Vujovic, 2024). Juveniles in CSRSF and MTFC increased their academic performance and improved school attendance rates (Olsen et al., 2023; Shold et al., 2023). Juveniles participating in FFT were found to have reduced recidivism levels, diminished problem behaviors, and improved overall familial relationships (Olsen et al., 2023; Shold et al., 2023).

Juveniles released from correctional facilities are often assessed as high risk to reoffend (Dellar et al., 2023). Post release juveniles continue criminal behavior into adulthood without immediate reentry service delivery (Dellar et al., 2023). Juvenile offender recidivism rates are often reported by the police, courts, or self-reported offending behaviors (Jasni et al., 2023; Olsen et al., 2023; van der Put & Assink, 2024). Juveniles who experienced or witnessed abuse during incarceration are associated with an

increased likelihood of depressive symptoms (Yao et al., 2022), posttraumatic stress reactions (Akbaba et al., 2024), and recidivism upon release (Zhao et al., 2023). Factors related to criminal offending patterns or dynamic criminogenic risks of juveniles, necessitate additional discovery for developing effective post release intervention services (van der Put & Assink, 2024; Vujovic, 2024). Empirical reviews of juvenile offender treatment programs reveal community-based options are more effective at reducing recidivism than standard incarceration interventions (Shold et al., 2023; van der Put & Assink, 2024; Wilson & Lipsey, 2024). There is limited research on the extent of which interventions are matched to risk/need assessment results affect subsequent recidivism (Dellar et al., 2023; Shold et al., 2023; van der Put & Assink, 2024).

Parenting styles, attachments, and involvements contribute to juveniles engaging in offending behaviors (Sun et al., 2024; van der Put & Assink, 2024). Parents who are taught interventions with the CBT model learn responses to delinquent youth, positive parenting behaviors, and alternative strategies (Baglivio et al., 2022; Vujovic, 2024). Parents who set appropriate limits for their offending teens report reduced juvenile recidivism (Shold et al., 2023; van der Put & Assink, 2024). Impulse control (Cuervo, 2023), parental supervision (Foster et al., 2024), and pro-social peers are essential for reducing recidivism (Felix, 2024; Shold et al., 2023). Juveniles of parents that exercise psychological, coercive, or restrictive control are associated with externalizing behaviors (Krasanaki et al., 2022; Wang et al., 2024; Wu & Li, 2023). Lack of parental supervision (Foster et al., 2024) or conflict after juvenile's recent offending increases the likelihood to recidivate (Felix, 2024; van der Put & Assink, 2024). Interventions designed to

enhance parenting skills for criminal youth result in fewer future juvenile offending (Sun et al., 2024; van der Put & Assink, 2024; Wang et al., 2024).

Social Theories for Crime

Individuals who lack social bonds are likely to develop offending tendencies and engage in criminal activities (Sun et al., 2024; Wu & Li, 2023). Social control plays a significant role in criminality patterns and offending behaviors (Krasanaki et al., 2022; Zedaker et al., 2023). Parents occupy an important external social control mechanism for juveniles (Krasanaki et al., 2022; Ray & Park, 2024). Social control theory is a rationale for juvenile offending behaviors and crime prevention within specific contexts (Ray & Park, 2024; Zedaker et al., 2023). Social control theory involves conventional activities, conventional belief systems (Gao et al., 2024), and strong attachments to institutions or individuals holding these beliefs that predict criminal patterns (Ray & Park, 2024; Zedaker et al., 2023). Delinquent behaviors can be restrained through social bonding (Felix, 2024; Sun et al., 2024). The likelihood of juvenile criminal behaviors is affected by the strength of social bonds (Felix, 2024; Wu & Li, 2023).

Social control theory is used to emphasize criminality or offenders' motivation to offend (Zedaker et al., 2023). Social control theory is used to hypothesize that familial attachment prevents adolescents from engaging in deviant behaviors (Miller & Jacobson, 2023; Ray & Park, 2024). Motivations are provided with juvenile bonds and their parental figures conforming to societal rules and regulations (Miller & Jacobson, 2023). Parenting is emphasized as a critical factor influencing youth delinquent behavior (Lei & Beach, 2024). Various cultures often result in distinctive mechanisms of social control

that may play a role in influencing family processes (Freemon et al., 2023). Social control (Gao et al., 2024), self-control, and social learning theories are frequently used in criminological research as behavioral predictors of crime (Freemon et al., 2023). Delinquency weakens social control (Gao et al., 2024), and increases strain on the social learning process that reinforces criminal behaviors (Felix, 2024; Wu & Li, 2023).

Age-graded theory of informal social control is a developmental theory for unlawful behavior and criminality (Jasni et al., 2023; Zedaker et al., 2023). Age-graded theoretical aspects apply to informal social control theory (Zedaker et al., 2023). Age-graded theory shows the adverse effects of family structural context that may directly impact juvenile offending behaviors (Foster et al., 2024; Zedaker et al., 2023). Age-graded theory of informal social control relates to the social control theory for crime (Zedaker et al., 2023). Age-graded theory of informal social control helps explore correlations between familial relationships and juvenile criminal behaviors (Zedaker et al., 2023). Age-graded theory concluded that informal social controls significantly explain variances in criminality more than structural background factors (Zedaker et al., 2023). The age-graded theory proves that weak adult attachments to informal social controls, not childhood risk factors, are most important for developing persistent offending in early adulthood (Steinhof et al., 2023; Zedaker et al., 2023).

Age-graded theory of informal social control suggests that family structural variables influence juvenile substance abuse, violence, and other offending behaviors (Gajos et al., 2023; Zedaker et al., 2023). Age-graded theory of informal social control focuses on juveniles with parents who are alcohol dependent, come from single parent

homes, and have low economic status (Vujovic, 2024; Zedaker et al., 2023). According to age-graded theory, juveniles are more conducive to criminality (Zedaker et al., 2023). Juveniles living in poverty and disadvantaged neighborhoods are often exposed to criminal behaviors (Foster et al., 2024). Parental education and monitoring are informal control variables that influences juvenile delinquency (Miller & Jacobson, 2023; Vujovic, 2024). Informal control factors propose that transitions such as attending school, gaining employment (Prop et al., 2025), or getting married can initiate a process of desistance in juvenile offenders (Jasni et al., 2023; Zedaker et al., 2023). Parent-to-child relationship quality is paramount in predicting juvenile criminality patterns (Sun et al., 2024).

Social learning theory is the concept of children learning new behaviors, values, or attitudes through observation, imitation, and modeling parents (Baek et al., 2023; Bryson et al., 2022; Lin et al., 2023). Social learning theory is a practical approach in criminology, sociology, and the behavioral sciences (Baek et al., 2023; Lei & Beach, 2024). Social learning theory can be used to explain criminal motivations (Baek et al., 2023; Lei & Beach, 2024). Social learning theory is utilized to explore human relational motivation for crime or deviance (Baek et al., 2023; Wu & Li, 2023). Social learning theorists state that through observational learning (Baek et al., 2023), children and adolescents who obtain a basis for future relationship engagements can have positive or negative outcomes (Bryson et al., 2022; Lei & Beach, 2024). Social learning theorists state that individuals may develop prosocial or antisocial behaviors, attitudes, and beliefs through reinforced observational learning (Bryson et al., 2022; Lin et al., 2023; McMillan et al., 2023). Reinforced socially learned problematic interactions in adolescence may

cause replication of unhealthy actions in friendships or relationships with others during late adolescence and adulthood (Bryson et al., 2022).

The most significant contribution to juvenile criminality emanates from the environment, through observations at home, and peer interactions (Lei & Beach, 2024; Yao et al., 2022). Social processes contribute to involvement in deviant activities (Bryson et al., 2022), as delinquent behaviors can be justified or associated with social learning of crime (Wu & Li, 2023). Risk factors associated with social learning theory include delinquent peers, peer rejection, and few role models who demonstrate prosocial behaviors (Lin et al., 2023; Steinhof et al., 2023; Zhao et al., 2023). Social learning theory is an approach that assists with the understanding of the motivations behind criminality (Baek et al., 2023; Wu & Li, 2023). Criminal attitudes and beliefs learned through association are the primary premises of social learning theory (Baek et al., 2023; Bryson et al., 2022; Wu & Li, 2023). Social learning theorists proved that individuals learn and model the observations of their environment (Bryson et al., 2022; Lin et al., 2023). People learn through imitation (Baek et al., 2023), personal values (Wu & Li, 2023), differential association, and differential reinforcement (Bryson et al., 2022).

Future of Juvenile Offenders

Current juvenile criminality can be the cause and foundation of future adult unlawful behaviors (Foster et al., 2024). Juvenile offenders are at risk of committing future crimes such as sexual related offenses (Aebi et al., 2022), violent or aggressive related offenses (Yao et al., 2022), and display antisocial behaviors (Farrington et al., 2022; Lin et al., 2023; McMillan et al., 2023). Adolescents with a delinquent past may

experience future drug or substance abuse (Gajos et al., 2023), and may be involved in selling illegal drugs (Foster et al., 2024; Lei & Beach, 2024). Juveniles may engage in risky sexual behaviors (Olsen et al., 2023), and attempt suicide while in late adolescence or adulthood (Foster et al., 2024; Steinhof et al., 2023; Wang et al., 2025). Child abuse and child maltreatment are predictive factors for juveniles to engage in future offending (Aebi et al., 2022; Baglivio et al., 2022; Farrington & Bergstrøm, 2023). Abused juvenile offenders are found to have low self-control and poor decision making (McMillan et al., 2023; Sun et al., 2024). Abused juvenile offenders engage in deviant and criminal actions (Gajos et al., 2023; Şişmanlar et al., 2022; Yao et al., 2022).

Familial dysfunction is where there is little parental monitoring and parent-to-child nurturance (Lin et al., 2023; Şişmanlar et al., 2022; Vujovic, 2024). Familial dysfunction is a predictive factor of future criminality in later adolescence or adulthood (van der Put & Assink, 2024; Vujovic, 2024). Juveniles with inadequate parental supervision and the absence of close parent-to-child relationships are predictive factors for recidivism (Felix, 2024; Shold et al., 2023; van der Put & Assink, 2024). Individual inclination to commit delinquency or crime is highly predicted by parental supervision and control (Freemon et al., 2023; Li et al., 2023). Parental supervision and involvement have the strongest effect on children's future involvement in antisocial behaviors (Freemon et al., 2023; Li et al., 2023). Increased provision of parental supervision and control should have a constraining effect inhibiting delinquent involvement among criminal adolescents (Li et al., 2023). Responsive parents are less likely to engage in parental rejection and child neglect or abuse (Freemon et al., 2023; Li et al., 2023).

Juvenile offending and incarceration have been associated with poor adult health (Shold et al., 2023). Adolescents incarcerated between the ages of 15 and 18 have an increased recidivism risk in late adolescence or early adulthood (Shold et al., 2023). Incarcerated male adolescents between the ages of 13 and 18 years often demonstrate elevated psychopathic and paranoia traits (Barra et al., 2022; Freemon et al., 2023). Psychopathic traits should be screened for as early as possible to prevent future criminal engagement (Barra et al., 2022; Freemon et al., 2023). Alternative means for interventions (Prop et al., 2025), rehabilitation, and treating underlying risk factors of juvenile offending are recommended (Vujovic, 2024; Walters, 2022). Prosocial and protective factors in youth would benefit interventional planning (Felix, 2024; Lei & Beach, 2024). Juvenile offenders who do not receive proper intervention are dangerous to themselves and others (Adams et al., 2023; Freemon et al., 2023; Lei & Beach, 2024).

Protective Factors for Juveniles

Juvenile protective factors have been positively correlated to decreased recidivism (Felix, 2024; Lei & Beach, 2024; Walters, 2022). Protective factors vary from cognitive processes to social skills, family, school, and relationships (Felix, 2024; Lei & Beach, 2024). Protective factors are often applied to comprehend the mechanisms of resilience when juvenile offending risk is high (Felix, 2024; Freemon et al., 2023). Male delinquents often engage in more criminality due to higher exposure to risk factors (Pryce et al., 2025), and less engagement in protective factors (Foster et al., 2024; Steinhof et al., 2023). Protective factors for juveniles are favorable educational opportunities, prosocial peer relations, positive attitudes, personality typology, and positive recreational activities

(Foster et al., 2024; Lei & Beach, 2024). Risk and protective factors may be considered to develop optimal interventional planning targeting youth recidivism (Foster et al., 2024; Lei & Beach, 2024). Juvenile delinquent recidivism is reduced when dynamic risk factors are intervened (Prop et al., 2025), and there is an increase or improvement in protective risk factors (Foster et al., 2024; Shold et al., 2023; Sun et al., 2024).

Social support and close parent-to-child relationships are known as protective factors for decreased juvenile recidivism (Sun et al., 2024). Family interventions or education to improve familial conflict management, communication, decreased negativity or blame, and increased motivation for change are protective factors for juveniles (Lei & Beach, 2024). Antisocial and procriminal family members are substantial risk factors for juvenile recidivism (Foster et al., 2024), whereas healthy parent-to-child relationships acts as an influential protective element (McMillan et al., 2023). Improved parent-to-child relationships is strengthened by increased of parental warmth (Lin et al., 2023; Sun et al., 2024). Single-parent homes may also serve as a protective factor in some cases (Freemon et al., 2023; Paquette et al., 2024). Juveniles often demonstrate conduct problems when fathers are absent from the home (Freemon et al., 2023; Paquette et al., 2024). Juveniles demonstrate conduct problems when observing fathers who engaged in high levels of anti-social behaviors (Freemon et al., 2023; Paquette et al., 2024).

Protective factors have been as moderators and variables that alleviate risk (Walters, 2022). Protective factors are used to reduce the negative impact of the risk factor on future behaviors (Walters, 2022). Parenting is a commonly studied protective factors in delinquency research (Walters, 2022). Interventional planning incorporating

other known protective factors has reduced juvenile recidivism likelihood (Vujovic, 2024). Future research on predictive risk and protective factors specific to juvenile delinquents could improve interventional programming targeting recidivism (Shahmari et al., 2023; van der Put & Assink, 2024). Identifying protective factors can decrease juvenile recidivism and adult criminality (Foster et al., 2024). Criminogenic needs are target change levers that treatment programs should address (Wilson & Lipsey, 2024).

Summary and Conclusions

Criminal behaviors are observed and learned by adolescents who witness criminality of parents (Wu & Li, 2023). Children and adolescents who experience vast exposure to criminality are likely to engage in delinquency (Lin et al., 2023; Wu & Li, 2023). Juvenile offending is associated directly with the impact of parenting patterns and parenting styles on adolescent behaviors (Lin et al., 2023). Certain parenting styles and attachments lead adolescents to re-engage in delinquency and increase juvenile recidivism (Sun et al., 2024). Parenting styles theory includes elements of control and supervising children's behaviors (Baumrind, 1971). Parenting styles associated with a higher level of monitoring reduce risky actions by juveniles (Freemon et al., 2023). Deficient parenting styles and attachments are linked to juveniles spending time in criminogenic settings that influence delinquency (Baumrind, 1971; Sun et al., 2024).

The juvenile justice system was created with the primary focus on rehabilitation in a treatment-willing population to prevent recidivism (Jouriles et al., 2024). Within the juvenile justice system, criminality and risk factors of offenders are assessed to provide proper interventions (Jouriles et al., 2024). Risk factors are individual, social, and

environmental elements that are likely to increase the probability of criminal behaviors (Foster et al., 2024). Risk factors in juveniles identified as antisocial attitudes, antisocial personality patterns, antisocial peers, history of previous offenses, low-income family circumstances, lacking education, low employment opportunities, substance abuse, leisure, and recreation (Foster et al., 2024). Juvenile criminality has commonly resulted in experiences of poor academic achievement, social withdrawal, and shyness (Akbaba et al., 2024). Juvenile delinquents report obsessive-compulsiveness, depression, interpersonal sensitivity, hostility, phobic anxiety, and psychotic symptomology compared to adolescents who do not engage in criminal behaviors (Akbaba et al., 2024; Zhao et al., 2023). Juvenile criminality increases the likelihood of juveniles becoming adults involved in criminality and violence (Jouriles et al., 2024; Sun et al., 2024).

Juvenile misconduct has been studied extensively and remains a substantial problem (Foster et al., 2024; Sun et al., 2024). Previous research attempts to measure parenting and criminality have largely encompassed quantitative methodology. Quantitative methodologies are limited to obtaining deeper information through IPA approaches (Shahmari et al., 2023). Further exploration is needed to determine how adolescents perceive their relationship with parents (Sun et al., 2024). Identifying factors motivating delinquency can decrease juvenile recidivism and adult criminality (Lin et al., 2023; Sun et al., 2024). Through exploration using IPA methodology, awareness of delinquent behavioral patterns and barriers is critical for successfully preventing juvenile recidivism (Li et al., 2023; Sun et al., 2024). Explications on qualitative methodology establishing rigor for investigating unexplored phenomena is in Chapter 3.

Chapter 3: Research Method

Introduction

Experiences and perceptions of young adults with a delinquent past were the focus for this phenomenological exploration. The purpose of the exploration was to describe how parenting influenced challenges, experiences, and perceptions faced by young adults who engaged in criminality. This study was performed to describe possible desistance barriers and provide information for developing parental education programs. Little is known about parent-to-child relationships that influence delinquent behaviors across different populations and contexts (Sun et al., 2024). Parenting styles, attachments, and involvements contribute to juveniles engaging in delinquent behaviors (Sun et al., 2024; van der Put & Assink, 2024). Delinquency negatively affects adolescent lives, including health problems (McMillan et al., 2023), substance abuse addiction (Foster et al., 2024), destroyed personal relationships, and risk of recidivating (Lin et al., 2023). The investigational intent of the current study is to address criminality influenced by parents by exploring and describing the participants' lived experiences.

The methodological processes used to follow the phenomenological investigation are presented in Chapter 3. The procedure details listed encompass purposeful sampling, semi-structured interviewing, informalized conversation techniques, and coding strategies (Al Yahyaei et al., 2024; Shahmari et al., 2023). Credibility is established by utilizing research methodology consistent with previous studies (Al Yahyaei et al., 2024; (Shahmari et al., 2023; Woodgate et al., 2023). Concerns within the study are carefully documented in detail to demonstrate trustworthiness (Brailas et al., 2023; Woodgate et

al., 2023). Bias is addressed through detailed procedures on reflexivity (Oerther, 2023; Woodgate et al., 2023). Ethical predicaments were addressed through the provision of informed consent and transparency (Oerther, 2023; Woodgate et al., 2023). Common ethical procedures were followed to decrease moral concerns (Al Yahyaei et al., 2024; Shahmari et al., 2023; Woodgate et al., 2023).

Research Design and Rationale

RQ1: How do young adults perceive the relationship between parental involvement and their juvenile offending past?

RQ2: How do the lived experiences of young adults with a delinquent past inform the ability to desist future offending behaviors?

The central concepts explored were juvenile criminality, parenting styles, attachments, effects of juvenile delinquency, and recidivism. Parenting styles and parental attachments lead adolescents to become involved in criminal behaviors (Sun et al., 2024). Juvenile offenders who commit crimes often face long-term and short-term effects (Sun et al., 2024; Wu & Li, 2023). Criminal behaviors affect parent-to-child relationships, familial relationships, and social relationships (Sun et al., 2024; Wu & Li, 2023). Criminal behaviors are observed and learned, as explained by Bandura, who developed social learning theory (Baek et al., 2023; Wu & Li, 2023). The most significant contribution to delinquency is environmental factors, such as the home environment (Gajos et al., 2023). Research is necessary on the perceptions of parenting styles, attachments, and involvements influencing delinquency for program development (Jeries-Loulou & Khoury-Kassabri, 2022; Sun et al., 2024; Wu & Li, 2023).

Interpretive phenomenological analysis is the method that was used for interpreting data in this study (Le Boutillier et al., 2022; Shahmari et al., 2023). Thematic information was derived from a few participants' accounts (Le Boutillier et al., 2022). Few participants are selected for IPA studies to focus on their in-depth experiences (Le Boutillier et al., 2022). This methodology will further result in understanding the subjective essence underlying an experience with participant cognition as a central analytical focus (Le Boutillier et al., 2022; Shahmari et al., 2023). Interpretive phenomenological analysis requires considering the positive and negative impacts caused by the participants' lived experiences (Shahmari et al., 2023). The perceptions of parenting styles influencing delinquent behaviors using IPA methodology are unestablished (Shahmari et al., 2023; Sun et al., 2024).

The rationale for the research tradition aligns with the stated exploratory purpose (Smith, 1996). Interpretive phenomenological analysis is commonly used to understand new phenomena through participants' experiences and should assist in a better understanding of undiscovered phenomena (Shahmari et al., 2023; Smith, 1996). A phenomenological qualitative method was chosen over quantitative or other qualitative designs primarily for the research opportunities phenomenology offers (Shahmari et al., 2023; Yadav, 2022), including the use of open-ended interview questions (Shahmari et al., 2023; Woodgate et al., 2023). Open-ended questions allow participants to fully describe their experiences from their viewpoint and memory (Shahmari et al., 2023; Woodgate et al., 2023). Phenomenological research provided methodological originality for the study concepts (Smith, 1996). The meaning derived from human experiences

should result in detailed descriptions and interpretations that guide future research (Shahmari et al., 2023; Woodgate et al., 2023).

Role of the Researcher

The researcher's role is to operate as an instrument for data collection purposes through observations of participants (APA, 2020), and they often use the IPA tradition to maximize the potential opportunities for understanding deeply rooted causes of phenomena through producing descriptive accounts (Le Boutillier et al., 2022; Shahmari et al., 2023). Interpretive phenomenological analysis methods consist of mutual interactions between researcher and participant throughout data interpretation processes for accuracy (Shahmari et al., 2023; Woodgate et al., 2023). Participants' cognitions may be interpreted (Woodgate et al., 2023), and robust observations may be gathered through mutual engagements during interview processes (Shahmari et al., 2023). Bias reduction and bracketing are essential in the role of an IPA researcher (Woodgate et al., 2023). Interpretive phenomenological analysis accuracy depends on a researcher's ability to effectively bracket (Oerther, 2023). The use of bracketing produces results regarding participants' experiences subjective experiences (Oerther, 2023; Woodgate et al., 2023).

Participants were recruited by online advertising and responding to flyers at consenting locations. Purposeful self-recruitment ensured that my relationships with the participants were based entirely on voluntary volition. Supervisory relationships did not apply to the current study. Power differentials were effectively managed through methodology congruent with standard qualitative techniques (Oerther, 2023). Effective strategies used to reduce power differentials within qualitative research were neutrality,

mutual engagement, and transparency (Oerther, 2023). Power differentials are reduced when researchers express value for participant contributions (Oerther, 2023; Woodgate et al., 2023). Empowerment and rapport establishment effectively reduced power differentials in the study (Oerther, 2023; Woodgate et al., 2023).

Participants were provided with an opportunity to personally verify pieces of my interpretations to reduce interpretation bias and feel empowered as researcher bias may corrupt data (Oerther, 2023; Woodgate et al., 2023). Methods for effectively reducing researcher bias within data interpretation were bracketing, journaling, and reflexivity (Oerther, 2023; Woodgate et al., 2023). Interpretive phenomenological analysis researchers must express any personal relation with phenomena and avoid imposing prejudgments (Shahmari et al., 2023). Participants were offered an avenue to communicate experiences without fear of distortion and judgment (Shahmari et al., 2023). Transparency in reflection is essential for the role of a researcher (Shahmari et al., 2023). Journals and analytic memo logkeeping effectively managed bias to provide transparency and enhance objectivity (Shahmari et al., 2023; Woodgate et al., 2023).

Ethical dilemmas under consideration in the study involved the unforeseeable recruitment of sensitive populations. Sensitive or vulnerable populations specified by the Institutional Review Board (IRB) are prisoners, mentally ill, physically ill, pregnant women, or children (Al Yahyaei et al., 2024). Recruitment involved purposeful voluntary self-selection. Advertisements listed vulnerable population exclusions to mitigate harm. Procedures for avoiding harm and uneasiness to participants entailed immediately ending the interview with the presence of obvious discomfort. Researchers use interpretive

phenomenological analysis methods for harm reduction through protecting rights, dignity, and privacies (Al Yahyaei et al., 2024). Ethical difficulties involving the presence of personal bias were carefully managed through bracketing, reflexivity, and documentation (Oerther, 2023; Woodgate et al., 2023).

Methodology

Participant Selection Logic

The population selected for exploration was young adults ages 18 to 29 years who participated or engaged in juvenile delinquency. Young adults who committed criminal behaviors, including sexual and physical assault-related offenses, were considered for the study. Participants who engaged in repeat offending behaviors as juveniles or young adults met the criteria to participate in the study. Participants who perpetrated as a group were considered for the study. Running away from home, dropping out of school, and disobeying authority figures were considered delinquent non-criminal behaviors (Jacobsen & Zaatut, 2022). Participants understood to be vulnerable, including prisoners or children younger than 18, were excluded for ethical reasoning and harm avoidance (Al Yahyaei et al., 2024; Le Boutillier et al., 2022). The sampling methodology used traditional IPA research approaches (Le Boutillier et al., 2022; Shahmari et al., 2023).

The sample size in comparative IPA research consists of four to 10 participants (Le Boutillier et al., 2022). The sampling size was contingent on satisfying theoretical data saturation and not generalizability (Al Yahyaei et al., 2024; Shahmari et al., 2023). Data saturation is the conceptual measure for approximating qualitative sample sizes used to develop appropriate sample sizes when additional participants do not produce new

emergent thematic data (Shahmari et al., 2023; Woodgate et al., 2023). Preliminary analysis during the interviewing stage should detect data redundancy (Woodgate et al., 2023). Data saturation and categorical redundancy were further utilized during the coding process, determining the appropriate sample size (Shahmari et al., 2023; Woodgate et al., 2023). Sampling was purposeful, and participants met specific criteria relevant to investigational requirements aligning with IPA methodology (Boutillier et al., 2022; Shahmari et al., 2023). Criteria-specific and purposeful sampling techniques provided rich data to investigate undiscovered phenomena from participants' perspectives (Le Boutillier et al., 2022; Woodgate et al., 2023).

Criteria requirements for participant selection aligned with the stated study intent, purpose, methodology, and ethical considerations. Participants who could address the research questions with personal experiences participated in the study. At the time of the interviews all participants were at least 18 years of age. Participants who engaged in delinquent behaviors during adolescence were chosen for the study. Participants between 18 and 29 years old with a history of criminality were chosen for thematic consistency and accuracy in recall. Recruited participants were not incarcerated during the recruitment and interview process. Participants expressed personal experiences of offending behaviors during adolescence and the direct parental impact.

Participants were literate and had at least a fifth-grade level education. Participants were fluent in English to ensure complete comprehension of informed consent. Participants were not required to have been citizens of the Cayman Islands during adolescence or the interviews. Verification of participant age was conducted by

reviewing government-issued identification cards, an official birth certificate, a passport, or a driver's license, if questionable. Participants were inquired about personal relations to the eligibility criteria listed in recruitment advertising. Participants described parenting influences on criminality, parental involvement, and recidivism per the operational definitions. All participants were interviewed to express whether educational or parenting programs would have reduced their juvenile recidivism.

Four to 10 participants sufficed following comparative techniques and approaches utilized (Le Boutillier et al., 2022; Shahmari et al., 2023). Interpretive phenomenological analysis study sample size recommendations are four to 10 participants or three to six participants (Al Yahyaei et al., 2024; Shahmari et al., 2023). Six participants have been used in IPA studies with similar methodologies and techniques (Le Boutillier et al., 2022; Shahmari et al., 2023). Additional participants could enhance overall credibility by ensuring data saturation was met (Al Yahyaei et al., 2024; Woodgate et al., 2023). Thematic data were based on rich descriptions from participant accounts obtained through interviewing techniques used in similar IPA studies (Al Yahyaei et al., 2024; Woodgate et al., 2023). The participants were asked analytical questions to fully understand their perspective on the phenomenon (Shahmari et al., 2023; Woodgate et al., 2023). All participants underwent an audio recorded or online synchronized interview to avoid data misrepresentation (see Appendix B).

Participant recruitment involved the use of flyers and online advertising (see Appendix A). Flyers were placed at consenting locations, on social media advocacy groups, and support groups should result in effective self-voluntary participant

recruitment (Al Yahyaei et al., 2024; Le Boutillier et al., 2022). Consent was initiated before placing flyers in public spaces (see Appendix C). Details listed on flyers were used to advertise for participants with juvenile delinquent histories under 18 years old. Exclusionary criteria based on IRB review of sensitive populations were included within the advertisement. Exclusionary criteria were that participants who are not fluent in English, under 18 years old, do not have at least a fifth grade reading level, illiterate, currently detained, or required a legal guardian. Participants who do not consent to synchronized online or audio recorded interviews would be excluded (see Appendix B).

Advertisements contained information on electronic mail (email), Zoom, and telephone numbers to facilitate a reply from respondents. Study inclusion or exclusion decisions were based on specified eligibility requirements discussed during initial contact. Participants were fully informed of the study and individual rights, then provided with an informed consent copy following initial contact. Informed consent copies were sent or delivered through mail, in-person, or email, based on participant preference. Comprehension and agreeance to informed consent were obtained verbally, face-to-face, or through email before administering audio recorded interviews (Al Yahyaei et al., 2024). Discussion with the participant established a date and time for an audio recorded interview as the next step (Al Yahyaei et al., 2024). Confirmation email, phone call, or Google text message before the scheduled interview were shared with the participants.

Credibility can be obtained in a study through data saturation (Shahmari et al., 2023; Woodgate et al., 2023). Interpretive phenomenological analysis methodology was utilized for studying phenomena (Woodgate et al., 2023), and human experiences where

sample size relates to adequately reaching data saturation (Le Boutillier et al., 2022; Shahmari et al., 2023). Data saturation was contingent on the lack of new emergent and developing thematic information within a defined category (Shahmari et al., 2023; Woodgate et al., 2023). Four participants could adequately reach data saturation with IPA (Le Boutillier et al., 2022; Shahmari et al., 2023). Adding four more participants could ensure that new thematic data would not be missed (Le Boutillier et al., 2022). Researchers who use IPA methodology regularly add participants after saturation is met to exhaust rigor in data saturation (Shahmari et al., 2023; Woodgate et al., 2023).

Instrumentation

Data collection encompassed the utilization of interview protocols, transcripts, audio recordings or online synchronized interviews. Further data were collected by recording observations in a journal. The interview protocol was researcher produced. The protocol was reviewed by an expert panel comprised of selected Walden University faculty to ensure that research questions engender adequate responses. The instrument was pretested on family members to enhance instrumentation validity and address questions during development. The developed protocol was formed through referencing comparative IPA studies, research on attachment theory (Ainsworth & Bowlby, 1991), conceptual measurement scales (Bowlby, 1988; Sun et al., 2024), relevant qualitative protocol (Shahmari et al., 2023), and collective scholarly research for methods. Standard techniques for rapport development were incorporated into the interview protocol (Oerther, 2023; Shahmari et al., 2023). The developed interview protocol included space to note observations and add verified participants' interpretations.

Participant verification enhances accuracy and empowers participants (Al Yahyaei et al., 2024; Le Boutillier et al., 2022). Verifying participants allows for rapport establishment (Le Boutillier et al., 2022). Audio recordings have been utilized in other contemporary IPA studies (Al Yahyaei et al., 2024; Le Boutillier et al., 2022). The telephonic audio recordings could ensure anonymity and convenience for geographically diverse participants (Le Boutillier et al., 2022; Shahmari et al., 2023). Participant preferences for different formatting and recording options may enhance in-depth responses (Al Yahyaei et al., 2024; Le Boutillier et al., 2022). Reflection through observation journals is a standard tool utilized in IPA studies (Al Yahyaei et al., 2024). Reflection allows researchers to effectively bracket, enhance analysis, and mitigate bias (Al Yahyaei et al., 2024; Woodgate et al., 2023).

Participants' lived experiences were addressed through specifically designed research questions (Le Boutillier et al., 2022). Interpretive phenomenological analysis methods were used to explore phenomena through participants' cognitions as a central focus (Le Boutillier et al., 2022). Communal data collection instruments used in IPA are interview transcripts and observational notes (Le Boutillier et al., 2022). Observations and transcripts were reread for the purpose of becoming fully immersed in the data (Le Boutillier et al., 2022). Audio recordings of the interviews were relistened with the intent to become immersed in the data (Al Yahyaei et al., 2024; Le Boutillier et al., 2022). Observations and transcripts were carefully reviewed to locate participant repetition, rationalization, explanation, rhetorical questions, pronoun changes, laughter, or unusual

phrasing (Al Yahyaei et al., 2024). Collective observations should result in understanding participants' thought processes regarding phenomena (Le Boutillier et al., 2022).

Semi-structured interview protocol development was based on collective scholarly sources and comparative studies to answer the stated research questions (see Appendix D). Attachment theory (Ainsworth & Bowlby, 1991) and parenting styles theory (Baumrind, 1991) were the theoretical basis to guide interview protocol question development. Attachment theory is a theoretical explanation of children's relationships influencing behavioral, emotional, and relational patterns that are carried into adolescence and adulthood (Bowlby, 1988). Qualitative methodology sources were examined to further enhance the interview protocol (Al Yahyaei et al., 2024). Interview protocol assists with alignment, rigor, and adequate assessment of research questions (Al Yahyaei et al., 2024; Oerther, 2023). Scholarly research on interpretive phenomenological interviewing was used to develop interview protocol questions and incorporate techniques (Oerther, 2023). Rapport protocol from comparative studies was incorporated into the interview protocol allowing participants to feel comfortable exchanging sensitive matters regarding personal experiences (Le Boutillier et al., 2022).

Content validity was established in the interview protocol by reflecting traditional IPA methodology through development and referencing comparative studies (Woodgate et al., 2023; Yang et al., 2022). Content validity was secured with comparative techniques for obtaining detailed information (Woodgate et al., 2023; Yang et al., 2022). Validity in qualitative research is obtained through careful measures to avoid distortion of reported observation (Woodgate et al., 2023; Yang et al., 2022). Interviews were transcribed word

verbatim. Participant verification for observational sections enhanced overall rapport (Le Boutillier et al., 2022). Rapport development resulted in participant empowerment (Al Yahyaei et al., 2024; Le Boutillier et al., 2022). Interpretational accuracy should increase participant verification (Le Boutillier et al., 2022; Woodgate et al., 2023).

Interview protocols were developed to adequately address research questions (Yang et al., 2022). The interview protocol was developed to derive rich descriptions fitting IPA methodology purposes (Le Boutillier et al., 2022; Yang et al., 2022). Interview questions were semi-structured to adequately answer research questions (Al Yahyaei et al., 2024; Le Boutillier et al., 2022; Yang et al., 2022). The interview protocols promoted an open-ended conversational style aligned with IPA studies (Al Yahyaei et al., 2024; Le Boutillier et al., 2022; Yang et al., 2022). The designed protocol instrument allowed for prompting more information as necessary, establishing rapport, and saturating data to answer research questions effectively (Le Boutillier et al., 2022; Yang et al., 2022). Semi-structured questions are designed for directing open-ended conversations (Al Yahyaei et al., 2024; Woodgate et al., 2023). Semi-structured questions are commonly utilized to explore topics in-depth, identify plausible causes of observation, and understand processes (Al Yahyaei et al., 2024).

Procedures for Recruitment, Participation, and Data Collection

Data were collected through online recruitment and on the ground flyer placement at consenting locations in Cayman Brac, Cayman Islands (see Appendix A). Internet use for data collection should enhance efficiency, practicality, and allow participants the flexibility to consider responding. Locations for data collection encompassed local

supermarkets. Recruitment required permission to post advertisements on local supermarkets. Participant variability enhanced data saturation for the study, and explorational endeavors remain homogeneous where possible (Al Yahyaei et al., 2024). The recruitment of participants and subsequent data collection lasted six months. Participant verification in interpretational observations during the interview will ensure data saturation and accuracy (Al Yahyaei et al., 2024; Woodgate et al., 2023).

Data were recorded with an electronic recorder during online interviews (Al Yahyaei et al., 2024; Le Boutillier et al., 2022; Woodgate et al., 2023). Observational notes will transpire during the interview to use for data interpretation (Al Yahyaei et al., 2024; Shahmari et al., 2023; Woodgate et al., 2023). Preference for audio recorded calls, synchronized online interviews, or recorded face-to-face interviews were offered to participants. Participants' choices can result in enhanced confidentiality and substantiality of information exchange. Semi-structured interviews were estimated to last 30 to 60 minutes (Al Yahyaei et al., 2024; Le Boutillier et al., 2022; Shahmari et al., 2023). The inability to gain enough participants may have resulted in consulting with related members as a representative resource. Informed consent was offered during initial recruitment and at the beginning of audio recorded interviews.

Participants were debriefed immediately following the interview. Debriefing involved communicating specific details of the study and taking time to answer any additional questions. Time was allotted in the interview protocol to answer participants' questions following informed consent and debriefing provisions. Information and consent for possible email or follow-up phone calls were discussed after the interview concludes.

Follow-up was attempted to confirm the preliminary interpretation of analysis. Participants can provide preferences for follow-up via email, Google Voice text, synchronized online communication, recorded phone call, or mail. All participants were provided a detailed summary of results through their preference.

Data Analysis Plan

Audio recorded in-person or telephonic semi-structured interviews were the primary data source to transcribe verbatim. The interview protocol will consist of semi-structured questions that address concepts aligned precisely with RQ1 and RQ2. Transcripts of interviews are commonly used to gain insight into participant perspectives aligned with stated research questions and comparative IPA methods (Al Yahyaei et al., 2024; Le Boutillier et al., 2022; Shahmari et al., 2023; Woodgate et al., 2023). Phenomenological methods involve interpreting human experience through an ideographic and inductive approach (Oerther, 2023; Shahmari et al., 2023; Woodgate et al., 2023; Yang et al., 2022). Transcripts developed from semi-structured interviews should result in understanding thematic elements of how participants construct meaning on phenomena (Al Yahyaei et al., 2024; Le Boutillier et al., 2022; Oerther, 2023; Woodgate et al., 2023). Semi-structured, conversational style interviews are recommended to gain highly descriptive information on participant perspectives and maintain focus (Al Yahyaei et al., 2024; Shahmari et al., 2023; Woodgate et al., 2023). Interpretive phenomenological analysis methodology involves using transcripts to develop thematic data for basing conclusions and answering research questions (Al Yahyaei et al., 2024; Shahmari et al., 2023; Woodgate et al., 2023).

Data analysis proceeded through the six steps of thematic analysis (a) familiarizing self with data, (b) generating initial codes, (c) search for themes, (d) review themes, (e) define and name themes, and (f) produce report (Shahmari et al., 2023; Woodgate et al., 2023; Yang et al., 2022). Data collection began with conducting semi-structured audio recorded interviews or text-based online interviews. Observational notes were recorded for data analysis. Additional phases in data analysis were bracketing, clustering, and comparing cases to locate overarching themes (Le Boutillier et al., 2022; Oerther, 2023; Shahmari et al., 2023; Woodgate et al., 2023). Data analysis began immediately following the completion of semi-structured interviews. Audio tape recorded interviews were manually transcribed verbatim for increased accuracy measures (Al Yahyaei et al., 2024). Transcripts were compared to audio recordings to ensure accuracy before analysis and interpretation (Le Boutillier et al., 2022; Woodgate et al., 2023).

Managing Data and Carefully Reviewing Data

Transcripts underwent rigorous repetitive review to enhance familiarity with the data (Shahmari et al., 2023; Woodgate et al., 2023). Observations recorded in a journal were reviewed multiple times to familiarize with the data (Woodgate et al., 2023; Yang et al., 2022). The transcripts were examined further in depth, paying close attention to participant descriptions and motivations for word choice (Woodgate et al., 2023; Yang et al., 2022). Common patterns were bracketed within a Microsoft Word coding chart to isolate meaning in data (Woodgate et al., 2023; Yang et al., 2022). Commonalities in meaning were clustered to develop reoccurring underlying thematic elements of data (Le Boutillier et al., 2022; Yang et al., 2022). Attention to participant dialect in areas of

contradiction, explanation, rhetorical questions, rationalization, repetition, significant phrases, pronoun usage, and laughter was noted for coding (Woodgate et al., 2023). Codes were manually developed based on identifying reoccurring themes located through bracketing and clustering (Le Boutillier et al., 2022; Woodgate et al., 2023).

Recording Analytic Memos Based on the Review, Descriptive Coding of Data for Interpretation, and Locating Overarching Thematic Data

Observations from the analytic journal and transcripts were labeled with categorical information developed (Woodgate et al., 2023). Cases were compared for reoccurring thematic elements to group together (Al Yahyaei et al., 2024; Le Boutillier et al., 2022). Interconnections between concepts were located through case comparisons (Woodgate et al., 2023). Reoccurring thematic elements were grouped to locate overarching themes (Al Yahyaei et al., 2024; Le Boutillier et al., 2022). Overarching themes were labeled for developing descriptions of collective representative emergent themes to base conclusions (Le Boutillier et al., 2022; Oerther, 2023). A Microsoft Word coding chart will visually represent data organization, illustrate reflexivity, display analytic memos, and demonstrate the coding process.

Issues of Trustworthiness

Credibility

Internal validity was established using traditional rigor in comparative studies (Le Boutillier et al., 2022; Yang et al., 2022). Comparative strategies for establishing credibility were triangulation, audit trials, member checks, mutual engagement, saturation, and reflexivity (Boutillier et al., 2022; Shahmari et al., 2023; Woodgate et al.,

2023). Member checks were accomplished through observational verification in the interview or follow-up to ensure interpretational accuracy (Le Boutillier et al., 2022; Woodgate et al., 2023). Data triangulation is a method used to ensure credibility by exhausting multiple sources of data for evidence (Woodgate et al., 2023). Data triangulation is demonstrated by incorporating multiple pieces of information through interview transcripts, audio recordings, and reflexivity audit trials (Woodgate et al., 2023). Follow-up conversations were included in the data triangulation process. Direct participant quotes were utilized in the coding procedure to increase the reliability of interpretations (Shahmari et al., 2023; Woodgate et al., 2023).

Transferability

External validity is presented using interviewing techniques understood to produce thick and rich descriptions for analysis (Yang et al., 2022). Semi-structured interviews enhanced rich information exchange, increasing transferability (Al Yahyaei et al., 2024; Shahmari et al., 2023; Woodgate et al., 2023). Qualitative research conclusion validity is contingent upon researchers' ability to interpret meaning based on deriving detailed descriptions from participant accounts (Woodgate et al., 2023; Yang et al., 2022). Documentation of persistent observation resulted in increased transferability (Al Yahyaei et al., 2024; Le Boutillier et al., 2022). Contextual and setting information were made available to enhance transferability. Audit trails should result in enhanced transparency, and readers may determine the applicability to other settings for replicability (Oerther, 2023; Woodgate et al., 2023). Methods and techniques

incorporated reflect traditional IPA methodology, enhancing transferability for the following studies (Al Yahyaei et al., 2024; Shahmari et al., 2023).

Dependability

Dependability or reliability is the degree to which a study can be replicated (Shahmari et al., 2023). Based on the observations of the research members, a study could be replicated (Shahmari et al., 2023; Woodgate et al., 2023). Dependability is possible through careful documentation (Shahmari et al., 2023; Woodgate et al., 2023). Audit trials, data triangulation with multiple sources, and reflexivity is presented, which resulted in increased dependability of findings (Shahmari et al., 2023; Woodgate et al., 2023). Data triangulation ensures that supporting methodology is used by conferring multiple sources (Woodgate et al., 2023). Limitations in methodology are predicted to be mitigated through careful data triangulation of multiple sources (Shahmari et al., 2023). Repetition or consistency in methodology, interviewing techniques and questioning enhanced the dependability of findings (Shahmari et al., 2023).

Confirmability

The conclusion of the research is based entirely on data collected and not assumptions. Transparency in researcher bias or predisposition was documented, discussed, and carefully addressed to exemplify reflexivity (Oerther, 2023; Woodgate et al., 2023). Results are based on participant accounts, and member checking ensures confirmability within interpretation (Le Boutillier et al., 2022; Woodgate et al., 2023). Meticulous documentation of all processes enhances auditability to ensure confirmability (Woodgate et al., 2023). Outcomes and decisions were confirmed through review

auditing (Woodgate et al., 2023). Review auditing can result in the confirmability of findings (Woodgate et al., 2023). Descriptions and explanations of conclusion outcomes were offered in explicit detail for readers throughout subsequent chapters.

Ethical Procedures

Collaborative methods for protecting participants ensured that ethics were used in data gathering, interpretations, and representation of findings. A committee and University Research Reviewer reviewed the supporting documents for quality assurance. Agreement to gain participant access and data were obtained by the IRB before research commenced. The approval number is reflected in consent forms upon receiving approval from the IRB. The IRB protects the safety and interests of human participants in research (Oerther, 2023). The IRB provides oversight on research integrity and maintenance that research meets all standards in quality (Al Yahyaei et al., 2024; Oerther, 2023). IRB evaluation results in the careful assurance that research processes meet United States federal research regulations, ethical standards, and Walden University compliance measures (Al Yahyaei et al., 2024; Oerther, 2023).

American Psychological Association (APA) principles for guiding research are respecting human participants, autonomy, justice, and beneficence (APA, 2020). Foreseeable ethical dilemmas in recruitment materials or processes were accounted for and addressed by taking necessary steps to mitigate harm (Al Yahyaei et al., 2024). Careful deliberation that research benefits outweigh the cost of any foreseeable harm or exploitation were accounted for in the study design (APA, 2020; Al Yahyaei et al., 2024). Devices, techniques, and strategies were used with full consent and approval of

participants in adherence to IRB human protection requirements (Al Yahyaei et al., 2024). Participants' rights were protected by recognizing the right to withdraw at any time, informed consent, and maintaining participation is entirely voluntary (Al Yahyaei et al., 2024). Confirmation of oral and written consent with reflected comprehension pertaining to voluntary withdrawal without penalty were obtained prior. A procedural checklist was used to ensure all participants were fully informed and assisted with guiding ethics compliance in data collection (see Appendix F).

Internet uploads and password protected computers were utilized to store data upholding confidentiality. Strategies for protecting anonymity in research are password protected data storage and replacing identifiable details of information with pseudonyms or code names (Al Yahyaei et al., 2024). Organization names, participant names, and other pieces of identifiable information were omitted or altered with alias information to protect participant anonymity (Woodgate et al., 2023). Audio recordings were deleted after transcription is checked for accuracy to enhance confidentiality measures. Participants were made aware that only researcher would have data access. Stored data will be destroyed upon university instruction after a period of five years. Study findings will not be utilized against participants in legal proceedings through confidentiality.

Ethical considerations include confidentiality measures, anonymity, informed consent, and researching vulnerable populations (Al Yahyaei et al., 2024). Avoidance of harm to participants were carefully considered throughout this research by noting vulnerable participants (Al Yahyaei et al., 2024). Ethical reflexivity resulted in careful consideration for maintaining that study benefits outweigh foreseeable harm (Oerther,

2023). Potential harm to participants was identified with appropriate steps for addressing possible concerns during the research (Oerther, 2023). Justice in practice was upheld by taking necessary steps to ensure potential biases will not cause unjust outcomes (APA, 2020). Power differentials were successfully managed through necessary steps to establish rapport and transparency (Al Yahyaei et al., 2024). Careful attention to ethics regarding informed consent and voluntary withdrawal for participants involved in the criminal justice system maintained that coercion would be avoided (Oerther, 2023).

Summary

Interpretive phenomenological analysis methodology on juvenile criminality being influenced by parenting and recidivism in early adulthood, are collectively insufficient (Walters, 2022). Interpretive phenomenological analysis is used to understand lived experiences' true essence (Al Yahyaei et al., 2024). Interpretive phenomenological analysis is used for original contribution to knowledge (Al Yahyaei et al., 2024). Participants were allowed to express their own thoughts on the research topic using an IPA methodology approach (Al Yahyaei et al., 2024; Woodgate et al., 2023). The researcher's role will operate as an instrument of data collection and subjectively interpreting participant accounts (Al Yahyaei et al., 2024; Shahmari et al., 2023). Participant sampling will encompass self-recruitment (Woodgate et al., 2023). A purposeful methodology based on criteria-specific eligibility requirements aligned with ethical IPA methodology (Shahmari et al., 2023; Woodgate et al., 2023).

Data collection involved the use of researcher developed semi-structured interviews (Woodgate et al., 2023). Semi-structured interviews will reflect IPA

techniques to gain data rich information for interpretation (Al Yahyaei et al., 2024; Woodgate et al., 2023). Rigor was established by incorporating methods used in comparative studies (Al Yahyaei et al., 2024; Woodgate et al., 2023). Rigor produces credibility, transferability, dependability, conformability, reliability, and ethical practice (Al Yahyaei et al., 2024; Woodgate et al., 2023). Multiple pieces of data will encompass audio recorded interviews, interview protocols, manual verbatim transcripts, and relevant scholarly content (Woodgate et al., 2023). Journaled analytic memos based on observation were reviewed to provide a written follow-up (Brailas et al., 2023; Shahmari et al., 2023). Dependable techniques used in previous studies designed through repetition, iteration, and consistency of methodology (Shahmari et al., 2023).

Ethics are a foundation for conducting research with human participants (APA, 2020; Shahmari et al., 2023; Woodgate et al., 2023). Ethical considerations in procedures, methods, informed consent, disclosure, recognizing participants' rights, foreseeable risk were carefully addressed (Brailas et al., 2023; Woodgate et al., 2023). Permission granted by the IRB was obtained before data collection to ensure ethicality compliances were met (Woodgate et al., 2023). Methodological procedures, full informed consent, autonomy, confidentiality, and anonymity were all accounted for (APA, 2020; Jeries-Loulou & Khoury-Kassabri, 2022; Shahmari et al., 2023; Watts et al., 2023). Rigor and transparency were achieved through careful documentation of all research procedures (Shahmari et al., 2023). Information on setting, demographics, data collection, analysis, and results were explicated to enhance trustworthiness (Al Yahyaei et al., 2024; Woodgate et al., 2023). The results are described and depicted throughout Chapter 4.

Chapter 4: Results

Introduction

Juvenile criminality directly associated to parenting is the topic of this research. Juvenile offending, parenting styles, and parental attachments or involvement were the main axes of investigation and were discussed through the interviews. Participants shared their past lived experiences through a scientific scope. Participants who are now young adults were asked to share whether they were involved in juvenile delinquent behaviors without providing specific details. Participants were asked a series of questions to describe their past relationships as juveniles with their parents. Experience presentation through the young adults' lens requires an interpretive approach application (Le Boutillier et al., 2022; Shahmari et al., 2023; Yang et al., 2022). Research questions were formulated to explore and describe unearthed phenomena (Le Boutillier et al., 2022; Shahmari et al., 2023; Woodgate et al., 2023; Yang et al., 2022).

RQ1: How do young adults perceive the relationship between parental involvement and their juvenile offending past?

RQ2: How do the lived experiences of young adults with an offending past inform the ability to desist future offending behaviors?

Research findings are portrayed throughout this chapter. Data collection, setting, and procedures are described. Participant characteristics and demographics are presented in this chapter. Issues of trustworthiness management, including credibility, transferability, dependability, and confirmability, are explained throughout this chapter. The interpretive phenomenological analysis applied is illustrated and supported by

participants' quotations and excerpts. Tables and figures are used to demonstrate research findings. Participant responses are presented in this chapter to explain the parental impact and influence on juvenile criminal behaviors.

Setting for Study

The Walden University IRB provided approval number 02-16-24-0735716 for authorization of research. The Cayman Islands Ethics Committee approved via email on November 08, 2023, for this research to be conducted within the Cayman Islands. Recruitment was completed by placing flyers at consenting public places in Cayman Brac, Cayman Islands. Semi-structured interviews through audio-recorded Zoom calls were the approved method for data collection. Gift Certificates valued $20 were approved by the Walden University IRB and Cayman Islands Ethics Committee. Participants who completed interviews received a $20 Gift Certificate as research participation incentive. A private office was used for all research interview meetings. Interviews were scheduled in the absence of others to ensure privacy.

Meetings were all performed using the Zoom teleconferencing platform. All participants were familiar with the Zoom platform before the interviews. All seven interviews were completed without any technical difficulties or barriers. Participants received their invitations via e-mail, and each interview was scheduled for one hour. All interviews were conducted during the hour allotments. Introductions and familiarization with the research were performed for approximately 10 minutes before each interview during the protocol. Participants had opportunities to ask questions on the topic before, during, and following each interview meeting.

Demographics

Invitation flyers resulted in seven candidates for study participants. Candidates were all young adults, aged 18 to 29, during the time of the interviews. All candidates committed a crime while under the age of 18, as required for data relevance. Candidates were not incarcerated during data collection and did not require a legal guardian. Candidates were all fluent in English. All candidates had a fifth-grade reading level or higher. Relevant demographical information was the participant applied code, code name, gender identity, and age (see Table 1).

Table 1

Demographic Data

Code	Code Name	Gender	Age
P1	"Sam"	Male	28
P2	"Kerry"	Female	26
P3	"Kyle"	Male	28
P4	"Sally"	Female	27
P5	"Ruth"	Female	26
P6	"Fred"	Male	21
P7	"Greg"	Male	23

Data Collection

Approval was obtained by Walden University's Institutional Review Board on February 16, 2024. The flyer inviting potential participants (Appendix A) was posted on the bulletin boards of local grocery stores from February 17, 2024, to May 8, 2024. Candidate participants contacted noted their interest through private text messaging to the cellular phone number provided on the recruitment advertisement. Participants who were interested in participating were e-mailed the consent forms and asked whether they preferred in-person or teleconferencing. Participants were asked for preference on

teleconference platform after they had provided participation consent. All seven participants selected teleconferencing communication via Zoom. Meetings were scheduled upon mutual availability.

Interviews and meetings for member-checking were conducted through Zoom teleconferencing platform at a private home office. Privacy and confidentiality were ensured. Interviews were audio-recorded using a private phone and tablet. Cellular phone audio recordings were deleted after ensuring the tablet's files were recorded entirely. Deleted files were ensured to be destroyed from regular and recycling bin locations. Transcriptions were performed with the Microsoft Office Word pane and monitored for transcription accuracy. The transcripts were locked with a password immediately following the completion of the audio-to-script. Every participant received an email with their individual transcript for the purpose of member checking.

Table 2

Participant Interviewing and Member Checking

Participant	Date of Interview	Date of Email Member Checking	Date of Meeting Member Checking
1	03/17/2024	03/20/2024	03/23/2024
2	03/25/2024	03/27/2024	03/29/2024
3	04/16/2024	04/18/2024	04/20/2024
4	04/17/2024	04/20/2024	04/22/2024
5	05/03/2024	05/04/2024	05/06/2024
6	05/06/2024	05/07/2024	05/09/2024
7	05/08/2024	05/14/2024	05/17/2024

Data Analysis

Potential participants contacted me via the contact details provided on the flyer. Potential participants were informed of the study during initial contact. Informed consent

forms and a consent to audio record were provided for participants. Consent was obtained verbally or through email before screening participants. Interviews were scheduled based on participant preference, following completed screening to ensure eligibility. Consent and procedures were carefully explained to participants before the audio recording occurred. Eligible persons were asked to disclose their preferences for receiving informed consent copies, summary of results, and gift certificate incentives.

Purposeful criteria sampling was utilized to ensure thematic consistency (Le Boutillier et al., 2022). Purposeful sampling prevented possible data contamination through bias (Le Boutillier et al., 2022; Woodgate et al., 2023). Purposeful sampling resulted in a thorough analysis of the phenomenon based on persons with direct experience (Le Boutillier et al., 2022). Interpretative phenomenological methodology allows participants to describe the meaning of an experience (Shahmari et al., 2023; Woodgate et al., 2023). An interpretative phenomenological analysis was applied to explore how parents influenced delinquent behaviors by disclosing participants' lived experiences (Al Yahyaei et al., 2024). Interpretative phenomenological analysis effectively contributes to understanding sensitive topics (Al Yahyaei et al., 2024; Woodgate et al., 2023). Interpretative phenomenological analysis methods were used to understand participant experiences through the interpretive interplay between researcher and participant (Al Yahyaei et al., 2024; Woodgate et al., 2023).

The second phase of research was initiated through audio-recorded interviews utilizing a conversational style, guided by a semi-structured protocol format (see Appendix D). Data analysis measures were put into place to enhance methodological

rigor (Shahmari et al., 2023; Woodgate et al., 2023). Data analysis commenced following the completed interviews. Reflection notes were recorded to enrich reflexivity, allow audibility, and use in data triangulation (Shahmari et al., 2023; Woodgate et al., 2023). Interviews were transcribed both through speech to text and manually, word verbatim (Shahmari et al., 2023). The transcripts and audio recordings were reviewed multiple times for accuracy. Memos were recorded through each review to clarify thought processes and promote transparency (Brailas et al., 2023).

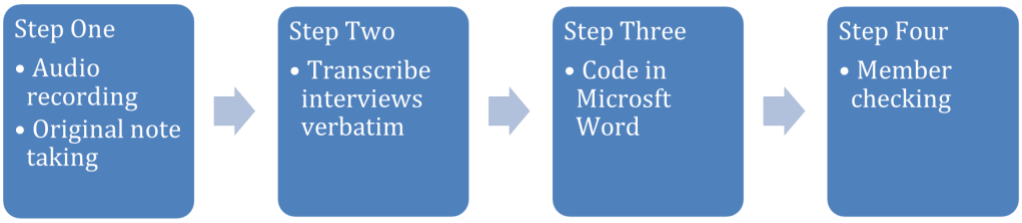
Participants answered all questions listed in the interview protocol. Participants were presented with an opportunity to provide additional information. Interviewees were keenly engaged and asked to verify certain pieces of information to enhance interpretational accuracy (Shahmari et al., 2023; Woodgate et al., 2023). Interpretive phenomenological analysis methods primarily encompass an interpretive approach to understanding the ideographic nature of participant experiences through the interpretive interplay between researcher and participant (Shahmari et al., 2023; Woodgate et al., 2023). Interpretive phenomenology served as a guiding philosophy and methodology (Shahmari et al., 2023; Woodgate et al., 2023). The audio recordings were stopped upon the participants' completion of the responses. Participants were debriefed and provided with an opportunity to ask additional questions.

Interview transcripts were broken down and sorted in a Microsoft Word coding chart for visual organization. Interview transcripts, Microsoft Word coding charts, and initial observational reflections were reviewed for multiple analyses. Commonalities, repetition, and significant phrases were distinguished through coding cycles to develop

categorical information for locating overarching themes across each interview. Researcher bracketing was documented throughout data analysis to enhance validity, reduce bias, and auditability (Woodgate et al., 2023). Transcripts and preliminary findings were sent to participants for member checking with a 100% response rate. All participants verified the interpretations and accuracy of transcripts. Two of the seven participants provided more information for inclusion in data triangulation.

Figure 1

The Technology Acceptance Model



Note: Figure 1 demonstrates the steps of data analysis for each participant and the procedures toward the outcome. Each step was combined and performed simultaneously throughout.

Evidence of Trustworthiness

Credibility

Data triangulation and sampling methods generally used for increasing rigor resulted in data saturation, enhancing the credibility of findings (Le Boutillier et al., 2022; Woodgate et al., 2023; Yang et al., 2022). Multiple devices were used to ensure the accuracy of evidence between interviewing and analysis. Member checks or observational verifications were established through offering participants' transcripts and

preliminary findings for review (Woodgate et al., 2023). Direct participant quotes were used to develop categorical data to increase overall interpretational accuracy (Woodgate et al., 2023). Interviews were recorded and transcribed verbatim to ensure overall accuracy of interpretations (Shahmari et al., 2023). Documentation was compiled to illustrate the inductive movement of data units for enhancing the overall credibility of findings (Shahmari et al., 2023). A discrepant case and direct quotes were purposefully included to produce credibility (Woodgate et al., 2023).

Transferability

Qualitative studies cannot be replicable as they are normally based on the interpretative skills of each researcher (Adler, 2022). Evident transferability is usually not achievable, while demonstrated data can inform diverse aspects of a phenomenon (et al., 2023). The findings of this research can be transferable to an extent in various settings. Transferability was established through production of descriptive rich data using common semi-structured interviewing techniques to interpret meaning (Woodgate et al., 2023). Transferability was enhanced through careful documentation of observations (Al Yahyaei et al., 2024; Shahmari et al., 2023). Contextual and setting information were carefully documented utilizing a procedural checklist to promote transferability (see Appendix F). Audit trials were compiled during data collection processes and interpretation for determining applicability in replication (Al Yahyaei et al., 2024).

Dependability

Audit trials increased dependability through careful documentation of all processes for enhanced transparency (Al Yahyaei et al., 2024; Oerther, 2023). Thought

preservation and memos resulted in explicated analytical processes that served as an audit tool. Dependability in findings was evidenced by demonstrating use of participant quotes (Shahmari et al., 2023). Common IPA methods were used repetitiously with meticulous documentation of processes. A detailed coding system enabled the detection of several specifics in data. Interpretive phenomenological analysis was utilized to scientifically attribute the participants lived experience through explanations. Repetition or consistency in methodology, interviewing techniques and questioning enhanced the dependability of findings (Shahmari et al., 2023; Woodgate et al., 2023).

Confirmability

Research findings were based on interviewee responses. The use of participants' quotes was explicated and illustrated to produce confirmability in thematic findings (Shahmari et al., 2023). Original data and direct quotations in the results section support confirmability (Shahmari et al., 2023). Original interviews were transcribed, emailed, and reviewed by the participants. Transcripts were discussed with the researcher in a short meeting during member checking. Participants' feedback on their responses was affirmative. Data were reviewed repetitiously to limit bias from contaminating data, enhance reflexivity through consensus discussions, and produce credible unanimity for thematic conclusions (Al Yahyaei et al., 2024; Shahmari et al., 2023).

Ethical Procedures

The present study applied American Psychological Association guidelines for research ethics. The APA research ethics code encompasses participants' informed consent, confidentiality respect, and multiple roles management (Watts et al., 2023).

Multiple roles are manageable for professionals, although efforts were made to avoid entirely. Participants were informed about the topic, purpose, and research procedure through a participation invitation form. Interested candidates were presented with the opportunity to ask questions before their participation. Participants' consent for research participation and recording approval was obtained before data collection began. Consent documents were formulated in the participants' language.

A primary ethical consideration includes confidentiality measures and anonymity (Jeries-Loulou & Khoury-Kassabri, 2022; Shahmari et al., 2023; Watts et al., 2023). Participants' rights were protected by reminding they had the right to withdraw at any time. Data of participants who would have voluntarily withdrawn from the study would be kept confidential. The semi-structured interview questions were designed for participants to not share specific details. Responses revealing any personal details pertaining to potential identity recognition would be deleted immediately. Participants received a code and code name that was used throughout the research. Consent forms were designed to not ask for with participants' personal details.

Participants' protection was a priority in this research. Data are stored in the researcher's personal office until their destruction. Participants were informed during the consent process and before interviewing about their right to withdraw from the research. Participants were informed their data would have been deleted immediately should they withdraw from the study. Participants had the right to withdraw within five days after data collection ended for any reason. No participants chose to withdraw from the study. Data beyond this period will be kept for five years, as specified by Walden University

research ethics, and conduct standards.

Additional participant documents were not required for this research. Participants were not expected to experience discomfort by the topic or during processes. Ethics approval was first required from the Cayman Islands Ethics Committee. Walden University enforced ethical standards via the Institutional Review Board. The Institutional Review Board assessed compliance with ethical and deontological guidelines. IRB feedback was provided to reach maximum ethical research conduct. IRB approval resulted in the beginning of data collection.

Study Results

Table 3

Participants' Criminal and Judicial Involvement

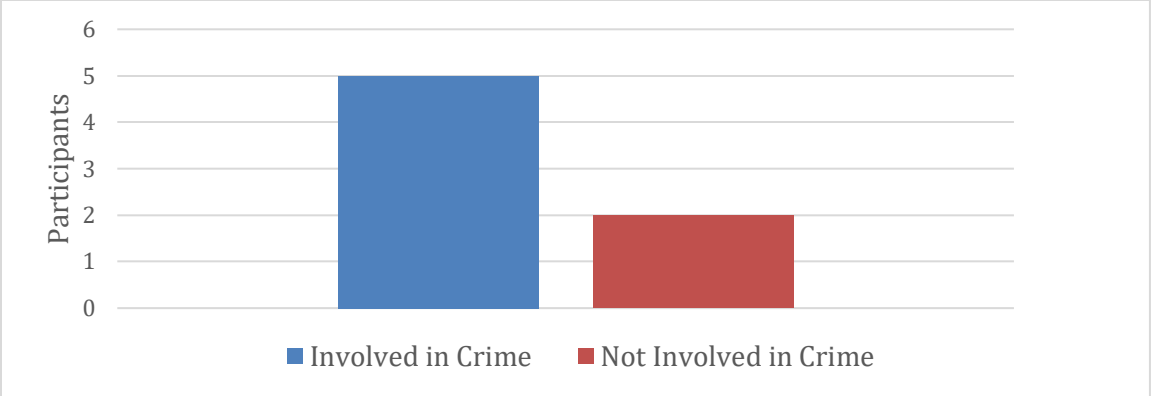
Code Name	Caught by Authorities	Court Summoned or Convicted
Sam	No	Not applicable
Kerry	No	Not applicable
Kyle	Yes	No
Sally	Yes	Yes
Ruth	Yes	No
Fred	No	Not applicable
Greg	Yes	Yes

A requirement of the study was to have committed or engaged in criminal behaviors as juveniles. All participants of the study participated in criminal behaviors as juveniles, under 18 years old. Inclusion criteria for the study did not require being caught by authorities. Participants under the code names Kyle, Sally, Ruth, and Greg were caught by authorities for their juvenile criminal engagement. Sam, Kerry, and Fred were not caught by authorities. Only two participants, Sally and Greg were either summoned to

court and or convicted for their juvenile criminality. Kyle and Ruth were simply spoken to by authorities and warned, with no court summons being actioned.

Figure 2

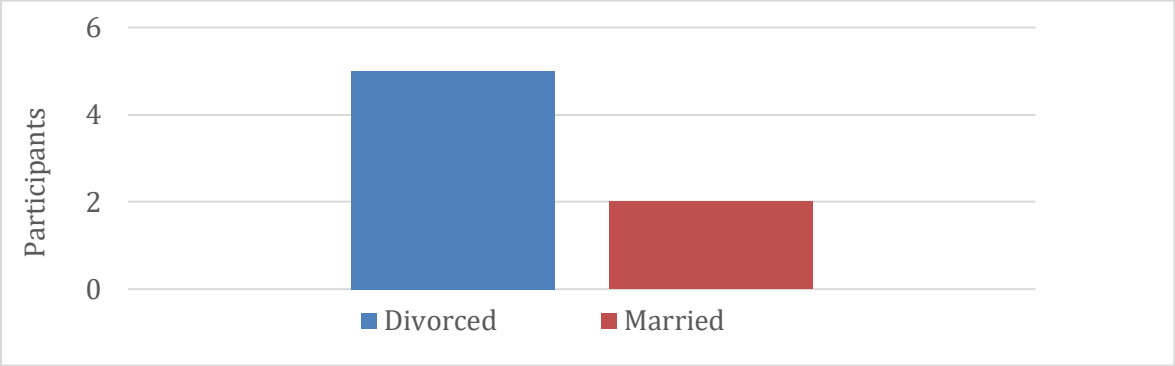
Parent's Criminal Engagement



Inclusion criteria for the study did not require the parents of past juvenile offenders to have also engaged in criminal behaviors. Criminal behaviors are observed and learned (Baek et al., 2023; Bryson et al., 2022; Farrington & Bergstrøm, 2023; Lin et al., 2023; Wu & Li, 202). Juveniles often witness criminal behaviors within their familial units (Baglivio et al., 2022; Farrington & Bergstrøm, 2023; Gajos et al., 2023; Lin et al., 2023; Sun et al., 2024). Parents frequently model offending behaviors. Five participants, Sam, Kerry, Kyle, Sally, and Greg disclosed in the study their parents engaged in criminality. Two participants, Ruth and Fred divulged their parents never engaged in criminal behaviors. Ruth described her parents to have been prosocial individuals, both educated and worked in the medical fields.

Figure 3

Parental Marital Status During Adolescence



Inclusion criteria for the study did not require participants to have been raised by both parents. The parents of all participants were married at one point during child rearing years. Two participants, Sam and Fred, did not know their biological fathers during adolescence. Sam and Fred were raised by their stepfather. The parents of five participants got divorced while they were juveniles. Sam's parents divorced when he was 17 old, Kerry's parents divorced when she was 13 years old, Kyle's parents divorced when he was 16 years old, Fred's parents divorced when he was two years old, and Greg's parents divorced when he was 14 years old. Ruth's parents are still married, and Sally's parents remained married until her father was deceased.

Table 4

Parenting Styles

Code Name	Mothers' Parenting Style	Fathers' Parenting Style
Sam	Authoritative	Authoritative
Kerry	Authoritative	Neglectful
Kyle	Authoritative	Neglectful
Sally	Neglectful	Permissive
Ruth	Permissive	Authoritarian
Fred	Authoritarian	Authoritative
Greg	Authoritarian	Permissive

The parenting styles used by parents on past juvenile offenders were examined. Parenting styles were determined by Baumrind's matrix of (high/low) warmth/responsiveness and (high /low) demandingness/control. Five participants had parents who used authoritative parenting style. Three participants had parents who used permissive parenting style. Three participants had parents who used authoritarian parenting style. Three participants had parents who used neglectful parenting style. Parenting styles were explored through investigating the lived experiences of parents' overall involvement in childrearing, comfort received, discipline, and rewards.

Participants were asked to describe the lived experiences and perceptions of their parents' overall involvement during childhood. Six participants disclosed their fathers were not involved in their upbringing. Two participants, Sam and Fred, despite not knowing their biological father, was raised by a stepfather since they were children. Sam and Fred expressed their stepfather was very present and involved in their upbringing. All seven participants stated their mother was involved in their upbringing. Participants expressed verbatim about the maternal involvement, Sam "my mom was extremely involved" and Kyle said, "she was so involved". Ruth, Fred, and Greg expressed their mother was "very involved" in their upbringing. Sally voiced despite her mother being involved, "she was not there emotionally" for her.

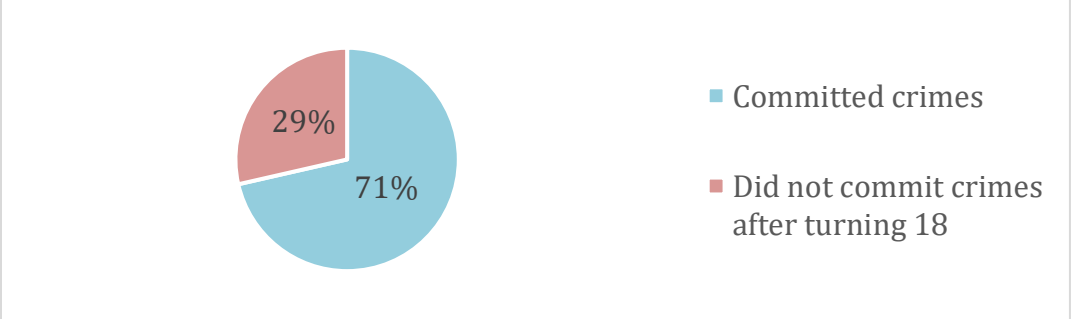
Sam and Fred both reported their stepdads rewarded and provided them both with comfort. Sam and Fred both shared their biological fathers did not provide comfort as there was no initial relationship with them. Kerry, Kyle, and Sally expressed their fathers showed little to no comfort. Ruth shared her father provided little comfort or closeness.

Greg expressed his father provided no comfort. Sally and Fred stated their mothers provided slight comfort and little affection. Fred expressed despite his mother not showing affection, he knew his mother loved him. Sam, Kerry, Kyle, Ruth, and Greg expressed their mothers provided comfort.

Sam, Ruth, and Fred's fathers were all significantly involved in their schoolwork and extracurriculars. Sally reported her father seldom helped with her schoolwork and never attended her extracurriculars. Greg's father sometimes attended extracurriculars and did not show interest nor assisted with schoolwork. Kerry and Kyle's father did not assist with schoolwork or attend extracurriculars. Sam, Kerry, Kyle, Ruth, Fred, and Greg all had maternal support who assisted with schoolwork and attended extracurriculars. Sally shared that her mother did not assist with schoolwork nor her extracurriculars.

Figure 4

Past Juvenile Offenders Who Committed Crimes Since Turning 18

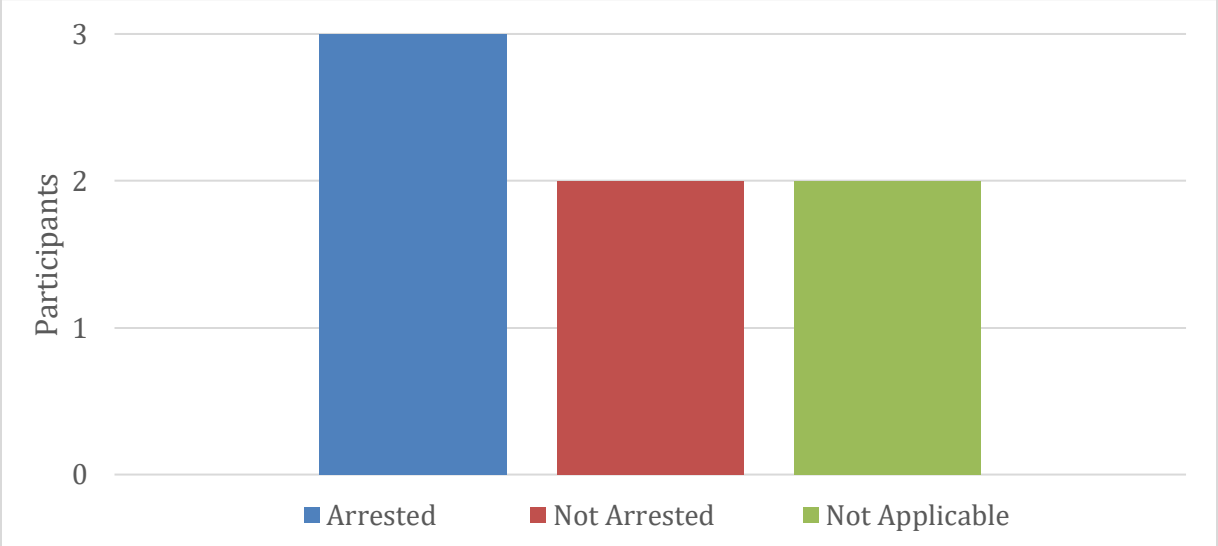


A requirement of the study was to have committed or engaged in criminal behaviors as juveniles. There was no requirement to have committed crimes as a legal adult. Juvenile criminality may be the foundation of future adult criminal behaviors (Foster et al., 2024; Jasni et al., 2023). Most adult offenders have participated in criminal

behavior beginning in adolescence (Foster et al., 2024; Jasni et al., 2023). Five participants, Kyle, Sally, Ruth, Fred, and Greg reported they have engaged or committed crimes since becoming a legal adult. Sam and Kerry shared they have not engaged or committed crimes since turning 18 years of age.

Figure 5

Arrested as an Adult?



A requirement of the study was to have committed or engaged in criminal behaviors as juveniles. There was no requirement to have been arrested for any crime as an adult. Juveniles who continue committing crimes into adulthood are likely to be arrested and prosecuted as adults **(**Baglivio et al., 2022). Three participants, Sally, Fred, and Greg were arrested for their engagement in criminal activities. Two participants, Kyle and Ruth have not been caught or arrested for their engagement in criminal activities. Two participants, Sam and Kerry were not applicable for this category as they did not engage in criminal activities since becoming an adult.

Table 5

Who Were Crimes Committed With?

Code Name	Who were crimes committed with?
Sam	Friends
Kerry	Alone, Friends
Kyle	Alone, Parents, Friends, Cousin
Sally	Alone, Parents, Friends, Cousin
Ruth	Alone, Friends
Fred	Alone, Friends
Greg	Alone, Parents, Friends, Brother

A requirement of the study was to have committed or engaged in criminal behaviors as juveniles. There was no requirement to have co-offended. Deviant peer association is a motivating factor of juvenile criminality (Foster et al., 2024; Jeries-Loulou & Khoury-Kassabri, 2022). Kerry, Kyle, Sally, Ruth, Fred, and Greg committed crimes as juveniles by themselves. Sam, Kerry, Kyle, Sally, Ruth, Fred, and Greg committed crimes with peers. Kyle, Sally, and Greg committed crimes with parents. Kyle, and Sally committed crimes with other family members, cousins.

Table 6

Participants' Perceptions of Parents Influencing Juvenile Criminality

Code Name	Perception Excerpt
Sam	I followed my dad.
Kerry	I followed my father's criminal behaviors.
Kyle	I was influenced most by my father, most of my crimes as a juvenile was committed with him.
Sally	The lack of involvement from my parents and freedom I had to do whatever, for sure influenced my criminal behaviors. My father allowed me to watch him offend so I eventually joined him.
Ruth	My parents were strict, so I rebelled.
Fred	My stepdad and mother were strict with me.
Greg	My mom was the strict one. Eventually I joined my dad because that was how he spent time with me.

The perception of parenting styles, attachments, and involvement on criminal behaviors varied per individual (Felix, 2024; Jacobsen & Zaatut, 2022; Jeries-Loulou & Khoury-Kassabri, 2022; Sun et al., 2024; Woodgate et al., 2023). Sam, Kerry, Kyle, Sally, and Greg perceived their parents to have influenced juvenile criminality. Sam, Kerry, Kyle, Sally, and Greg's parents all engaged in offending. Ruth and Fred perceived their criminality was a direct influence from their parents' strict household. Sally and Greg perceived their parents' lack of involvement in her upbringing influenced them to begin committing crimes. Kyle, Sally, and Greg perceived their parents to have influenced their offending as a direct parental influence.

Table 7

Identified Themes

Themes	Responses	Code Name	Excerpt
Parental engagement in crimes (P1, P2, P3, P4, P7)	5	Sally	Both of my parents committed crimes
Little parental involvement (P2, P3, P4, P7)	4	Sally	Neither parent involved in upbringing
Parental authority (P5, P6)	2	Ruth	Both parents were extremely strict and limited my freedom causing me to rebel
Parental engagement in child's extracurriculars (P2, P3, P4, P7)	4	Kerry	Mom was present, father always absent and never showed up
Paternal influence on criminality (P2, P3, P4, P7)	4	Kyle	Influenced most by my father, crimes as a juvenile were committed with him
Co-offending (P1, P2, P3, P4, P5, P6, P7)	7	Sam	I only offended with friends
Recidivate (P3, P4, P5, P6, P7)	5	Greg	Continued to offend as an adult

Commonalities, repetition, and significant phrases were identified through the cycles of coding to develop categorical information for locating overarching themes across each interview. Direct participant quotes from interviews were used in the coding process to formulate categories and emergent themes. Identified themes were parental engagement in crimes, little parental involvement, parental use of authority, lack of parental engagement in their child's extracurricular activities, paternal influence on criminality, and participant's co-offending with peers. Parental engagement in crimes was found to be a common factor amongst juvenile offenders. Fathers were found to be the most significant influence on juvenile criminality and delinquency. Participants accentuated they observed their fathers' criminal behaviors and began to offend with their fathers. Juvenile offenders reported their primary caregivers were uninvolved parents during adolescence. Parents who did not engage in their child's extracurriculars or school served as an influencing factor for their child to engage in criminal offending behaviors.

Strict parental authority did not prevent offending behaviors, it served as an influence of engaging in deviant behaviors. Participants highlighted that, now as adults, they recognized their parents' efforts to provide discipline; during adolescence, it influenced them to rebel and engage in criminal activities. Co-offending was the most prominent arising theme by participants. All participants co-offended with friends, parents, siblings, or other family members. Juveniles were found to co-offend more than offending on their own. The majority of participants recidivated as juveniles and continued to offend as into their young adulthood. Participants emphasized lack of resources, support, and authority as a factor for their engagement in recidivating.

Table 8

Challenges Encountered Resulting from Juvenile Criminality

Code Name	Summary from Excerpt
Sam	Hangs out with criminal friends and acquaintances.
Kerry	Chooses poor friendships with those who offend. Socially withdrawn. Clinically anxious and depressed.
Kyle	Withdrawn. Clinically anxious and depressed. Continues to engage in illegal behaviors. Friends with criminals.
Sally	Poor adult decisions. Could not obtain scholarship to go to college. Continues to engage in illegal activities. Has a criminal record. Friends with criminals.
Ruth	Continues to use illegal substances. Clinically depressed. Friends are engaged in criminal activities. Strained relationship with family. Anger issues.
Fred	Struggled academically. Addicted to alcohol and illegal substances. Difficulty obtaining employment. Has a criminal record. Strained relationship with family. Closest friends are criminals.
Greg	Did not graduate high school. Difficulty obtaining employment and staying employed. In and out of jail. Commits crime to maintain illegal substance use. Has a criminal record. Do not have relationship with family. No prosocial friends, only criminals friends. Mental health problems. Aggressive.

Juvenile criminality has been shown as a preexisting factor for young adults (Aebi et al., 2022; Foster et al., 2024; Sun et al., 2024). Criminal behaviors have negative effects on adolescent lives (Sun et al., 2024) including health problems, substance addiction, and destroyed personal relationships (Adams et al., 2023; Jeries-Loulou & Khoury-Kassabri, 2022; Sun et al., 2024; Yao et al., 2022). Sam, Kerry, Kyle, Sally, Ruth, Fred, and Greg reported to having antisocial friends now as adults, a result from juvenile criminality. Kyle, Ruth, and Greg reported juvenile criminality contributing to mental health problems now as adults. Sally, Fred, and Greg shared juvenile criminality negatively impacted their academics. Fred and Greg disclosed juvenile and young adult

criminality negatively impacts their employment abilities. Ruth, Fred, and Greg disclosed that juvenile criminality has resulted in strained relationship with their families.

Table 9

Needed Protective Factors and Resources

Code Name	For Self – with Excerpt	For Parents – with Excerpt
Sam	Mandatory classes	Mandatory parenting education
Kerry	Counselor or teachers teaching what offending is, the risks, and long-term effects.	Support from the counselors, teachers, and principal would have been a good resource.
Kyle	Easier access to support to deal with issues and stricter laws that could have dealt with my father.	My mother could have benefited from support from the school.
Sally	Good school support: it would have been great to get support from a teacher or mentor.	Parents didn't know how to be parents. They should have gotten enforced parenting classes.
Ruth	Education.	Parental education.
Fred	Stricter rules for juveniles would have been a deterrent for me to not offend again.	My parents should have received better ways to parent me, being strict and beating me didn't help.
Greg	Bootcamp or Life Skills classes about offending.	Education for parents.

RQ2 was formulated to gain insight directly from participants for informing desistance future juvenile offending behaviors. All participants shared receiving some sort of support would have been beneficial to them as juveniles and their parents. All participants expressed parenting education would have been useful to their parents. Kyle and Fred referenced stricter rules or laws would have reduced juvenile and their parents' offending. All participants were in secondary school during the time of their offending. Past juvenile offenders reported if they were informed of offending consequences from the school system, they may not have recidivated. Participants expressed a need for access to support from school or community.

Summary

The exploration of juvenile delinquency associated directly to parenting was this study's purpose. Juvenile criminality, parenting styles, and parental attachments or involvement were the main axes of investigation. Juvenile offending, parenting styles, and parental attachments or involvements were explored through semi-structured interviewing techniques. Participants shared their past lived experiences through a scientific scope. Commonalities, repetition, and noteworthy phrases were acknowledged throughout the procedures of coding. Direct participant quotes were used in the coding process to identify categories and themes. Identified themes were parental engagement in crimes, little parental involvement, parental use of authority, lack of parental engagement in their child's extracurricular activities, paternal influence on criminality, and participant's co-offending with peers.

Juvenile offending remains an intricate and significant social issue throughout the world. The adolescent population continues to remain observant and heavily influenced by their environmental and social surroundings. Social learning theory was used to guide the understanding of juvenile criminality being influenced by parenting styles, parental attachments, and parental involvements. Parental attachment forms were strongly associated with all types of juvenile criminality patterns. Parental figures significantly influence juveniles to engage in criminal behaviors. All seven participants reported co-offending with peers despite parenting being the primary focus of this research. Deviant peer association continues to be a motivating factor of juvenile criminality in the western, middle eastern, eastern, and Caribbean cultures.

All participants associated their parents o have influenced their juvenile criminality during adolescence. All participants were in secondary school during the time of their juvenile offending. Challenges disclosed by participants were substance abuse, aggression, depression, anxiety, and social withdrawal. Additional challenges disclosed by participants were health problems, destroyed personal relationships, antisocial peer association, and strained familial relationships. Participants disclosed their academics and employment opportunities during late adolescence to early adulthood were impacted as a direct result from juvenile criminality. Participants expressed the greatest protective factor would have been accessible support from their school or relevant agencies for themselves and their parents. Past juvenile offenders stated they may not have recidivated as adults had they received support and guidance during adolescence.

Chapter 5 includes a comprehensive analysis and presentation of findings as it emerged from the study results. The themes were developed based on participants' firsthand personal lived experiences. Associations made within the study and recent research are discussed in detail throughout Chapter 5. Limitations are presented, as they constitute an extensive report on restrictions, enhancing the credibility, and transparency of findings. Future research suggestions are presented, guiding other researchers into exploring the unknown of this topic. Suggestions for future research will assist the expansion of knowledge pertaining to juvenile criminality being influenced by parenting. Implications and positive social change are raised in detail toward possible methods that would promote positive parenting with an objective of reducing recidivism for persons influencing the criminal justice community.

Chapter 5: Discussion, Conclusions, and Recommendations

Introduction

Juvenile criminality has been studied extensively and remains a substantial problem (Aebi et al., 2022; Li et al., 2023; Sun et al., 2024). Undiscovered phenomena with participant cognition were central focus for the study (Le Boutillier et al., 2022; Shahmari et al., 2023; Woodgate et al., 2023). The association between parenting, juvenile criminality, and desistance implications has been underexplored in the Cayman Islands. The purpose of this study was to explore how parenting styles, parent-to-child attachments, and parental involvement influenced juvenile criminality. The study utilized a phenomenological design to explore and describe the true lived experience of participants (Foster et al., 2024; Shahmari et al., 2023). Interpretive phenomenological analysis was used to analyze data derived from participant accounts (Shahmari et al., 2023; Sun et al., 2024). Chapter 5 was developed to demonstrate integration, synthesis, and evaluation of results with relevant literature.

The influence of parenting on juvenile criminality was explored using objective measures. Attachment theory (Ainsworth, 1989; Ainsworth & Bowlby, 1991) was the theoretical basis for developing interview protocol questions. Baumrind's parenting styles theory was used throughout the study to support attachment theory (Baumrind, 1991; Sun et al., 2024). Young adults between the ages of 18 and 29 were the participants in this study. Semi-structured interviewing techniques were developed to understand participants' lived experiences (Al Yahyaei et al., 2024; Le Boutillier et al., 2022;

Shahmari et al., 2023; Woodgate et al., 2023). Chapter 5 includes conclusions and recommendations for further research to mitigate this ongoing phenomenon.

Semi-structured interviewing techniques served to understand the cognitive processing of seven adult participants (Al Yahyaei et al., 2024; Shahmari et al., 2023). Semi-structured interviews and informalized conversation techniques were utilized to expand detailed descriptions for thematic interpretation (Al Yahyaei et al., 2024; Shahmari et al., 2023; Woodgate et al., 2023). A researcher-developed interview protocol was created to target juvenile criminality and parenting. Recruitment was completed by placing flyers at consenting public places in Cayman Brac, Cayman Islands. Data from interviews were collected through Zoom. Participants disclosed during the interview ways in which their parents influenced their juvenile criminality. Participants were allowed to express other influencing factors for their juvenile offending.

Juvenile criminality remains an emergent phenomenon stemming from the complexities of parenting (Aebi et al., 2022; Barra et al., 2022; Cuervo, 2023; Kokoravec Povh et al., 2024). Juvenile criminality influenced by parenting in the Cayman Islands has not been recently studied. Themes, subthemes, and key findings indicate a need for additional resources in the Cayman Islands. The overarching themes discovered were parental engagement in crimes, little parental involvement, parental use of authority, lack of parental engagement in their child's extracurricular activities, paternal influence on criminality, and participant's co-offending with peers. Dilemmas with resource accessibility could be resolved with the assistance of parent and juvenile educators. Researchers are encouraged to broaden awareness of juvenile criminality influenced by

parenting. Researchers are encouraged to highlight and target the negative impacts juvenile criminality has on an individual, family, and society.

Interpretation of the Findings

An interpretive phenomenological approach was appropriate to address this ongoing social issue. Phenomenology allows participants to share their perspectives through lived experiences (Shahmari et al., 2023; Woodgate et al., 2023). Data was obtained through participants' responses (Le Boutillier et al., 2022), yielding codes and themes (Woodgate et al., 2023). Qualitative data were extracted from participant interviews and observations. Data were organized according to participant identifiers and key words located in their responses. Codes and themes were established from interview response similarities reported by study participants (Shahmari et al., 2023; Woodgate et al., 2023). Categories were concluded from the same responses aligning with codes and themes (Shahmari et al., 2023; Woodgate et al., 2023).

Young adults who engaged in juvenile criminality as study participants confirmed that parenting styles, parent-to-child attachments, and parental involvements were contributing factors leading to delinquency. Study participants confirmed and attributed their adult criminality to have been influenced by parents (Foster et al., 2024; Jasni et al., 2023; Sun et al., 2024). These participants also confirmed a significant lack of resources offered to themselves and their parents for reducing recidivism (Foster et al., 2024; van der Put & Assink, 2024). Participants confirmed criminal behaviors had negative effects on their lives (Li et al., 2023; Sun et al., 2024; Yao et al., 2022; van der Put & Assink, 2024). The results are applicable to key themes and concepts identified. The central

concepts explored were juvenile criminality, parenting styles, attachments, effects of juvenile delinquency, and recidivism. Key overarching themes found were parental engagement in crimes, little parental involvement, parental use of authority, lack of parental engagement in their child's extracurricular activities, paternal influence on criminality, and participant's co-offending with peers.

Attachment theory was the theoretical framework identified for this study. Attachment theory was used to relate the development of children's relationships with caregivers and behaviors (Adams et al., 2023; Sun et al., 2024; van der Put & Assink, 2024). Specific concepts investigated were the influences of parenting styles, involvements, and attachments. Parental attachments and parenting styles were factors that encourage adolescents to become involved in delinquency (Li et al., 2023; Sun et al., 2024; van der Put & Assink, 2024). The concept that young adult participants would be more susceptible to juvenile criminality because of poor parenting was confirmed. Participant responses were parallel with concepts from attachment, parenting styles, and social learning theory. Investigation of parenting styles, influences, and attachments was beneficial to confirm negative impacts (Dellar et al., 2023; Vujovic, 2024).

RQ1: How do young adults perceive the relationship between parental involvement and their juvenile offending past?

The scope of the study was based on how young adults perceive parenting styles to have influenced their past juvenile criminal behaviors. This research question was developed to explore underlying experiences of how young adults perceive the relationship between parental involvement and their juvenile offending past. Perceived

parenting styles associated with influencing criminal behaviors among adolescents was explored with self-control capacity and affective self-regulation are related among offending adolescents (Foster et al., 2024; McMillan et al., 2023). Adolescents who engage in delinquency do not always perceive risky behaviors to be influenced by parents (Jeries-Loulou & Khoury-Kassabri, 2022; Olsen et al., 2023). P1, P2, P3, P4, P5, P6, and P7 in this study attributed parenting to their juvenile criminality. All participants described various methods parenting influenced their juvenile offending.

Environmental and genetic factors contribute to the development of misconduct in juveniles (Bryson et al., 2022; Foster et al., 2024; Wilson & Lipsey, 2024; Zhao et al., 2023). The absence of parental involvement influences risky adolescent behaviors (Baglivio et al., 2022; Foster et al., 2024; Kokoravec Povh et al., 2024). Overall parent-to-child relationships influence criminal behaviors (Foster et al., 2024; Jacobsen & Zaatut, 2022; Jeries-Loulou & Khoury-Kassabri, 2022). All participants reported parental involvement to have influenced their criminal behaviors. P1, P2, P3, P5, P6, and P7 had maternal support who assisted with schoolwork or attended extracurriculars. Majority of participants, P2, P3, P4, and P7, did not have positive paternal involvement from assisting with schoolwork or attending extracurriculars. Negative paternal involvement was found to be the most prevalent factor influencing criminality.

Attachment theory is used to describe bonding elements of parent and child relationships (Ainsworth, 1964; Bowlby, 1988). Attachment is the unique emotional relationship that involves care and comfort (Bowlby, 1988). Adolescents who lack affection and protection from parents were susceptible to delinquency (Baglivio et al.,

2022). Juveniles with inadequate closeness with parents were likely to engage in criminality (Shold et al., 2023; van der Put & Assink, 2024). Social support and close parent-to-child relationships are known as protective factors for decreased juvenile recidivism (Foster et al., 2024; Sun et al., 2024). P1, P2, P3, P4, and P7 reported receiving affection, nurture, and comfort from their mothers. None of the study participants had close biological paternal relationships.

Criminal behaviors are observed and learned (Baek et al., 2023; Bryson et al., 2022; Wu & Li, 2023). Juveniles often witness criminal behaviors within their familial units by parents (Baglivio et al., 2022; Jeries-Loulou & Khoury-Kassabri, 2022; Jouriles et al., 2024; Lin et al., 2023). Five participants, P1, P2, P3, P4, and P7 divulged in the interview their parents engaged in criminality. Two participants, P5 and P6, disclosed their parents never engaged in criminal behaviors. P3, P4, P5, and P7 were caught by authorities for their juvenile criminal engagement. P1, P2, and P6 engaged in criminal behaviors but were not caught by authorities. Only two participants, P4 and P7 were summoned to court and convicted as juveniles.

Adolescents of divorced parents are more likely to engage in criminal behaviors (Adams et al., 2023; Wang et al., 2024; Zhao et al., 2023). Separated, blended, and remarriages of parents have significant influences on adolescent risky behavior (Adams et al., 2023; Sun et al., 2024; Wang et al., 2024; Zhao et al., 2023). P1, P2, P3, P6, and P7's parents were divorced. The parents of all participants were married at one point during their child-rearing years. The parents of P1, P2, P3, P5, and P7 divorced while the participants were adolescents. Two participants, P1 and P6, did not know their biological

father, hence raised by their stepfather. P4 and P5 were not raised in a separated or blended family as their parents remained married.

Deviant peer association is a motivating factor of juvenile criminality (Foster et al., 2024; Jeries-Loulou & Khoury-Kassabri, 2022). Juveniles who reported having delinquent peers were expected to have a rate of offending almost four times greater than adolescents who reported minimal or no criminal peers (Foster et al., 2024; Freemon et al., 2023). Juveniles with strained parental relationships often engage in risk-taking behaviors with peers (Foster et al., 2024; Jouriles et al., 2024; Ray & Park, 2024). Six participants committed crimes as juveniles by themselves. Seven participants committed crimes with peers. Three participants committed crimes with parents. Two participants committed crimes with other family members, cousins.

RQ2: How do the lived experiences of young adults with an offending past inform the ability to desist future offending behaviors?

Juvenile recidivism without intervention leads to criminal offenses that are progressively more severe and frequent (Farrington & Bergstrøm, 2023; Olsen et al., 2023; Shold et al., 2023). Recidivism causation factors and rates have changed throughout developmental transitions (Baglivio et al., 2022; Olsen et al., 2023; Shold et al., 2023). Certain parenting styles and attachments lead adolescents to re-engage in criminal behaviors and increase recidivism (Lin et al., 2023; Shold et al., 2023; Sun et al., 2024). Positive parent-to-child relationships is a protective factor for decreased recidivism (Felix, 2024; Lei & Beach, 2024; Sun et al., 2024). Delinquency negatively affects adolescent lives and increases risk to recidivate (Foster et al., 2024; Lin et al.,

2023; McMillan et al., 2023). Juvenile institutionalizations may increase recidivism rates among juvenile offenders (Jasni et al., 2023; Olsen et al., 2023; Ray & Park, 2024; Shold et al., 2023). Juvenile institutionalizations have long-lasting adverse effects on adolescents and their families (Foster et al., 2024; Gajos et al., 2023; Ray & Park, 2024).

Juvenile criminality may be the foundation of future adult criminal behaviors (Foster et al., 2024; Jasni et al., 2023; Sun et al., 2024; van der Put & Assink, 2024). Most adult offenders have participated in criminal behavior beginning in adolescence (Foster et al., 2024; Jasni et al., 2023; Sun et al., 2024). Five participants, P3, P4, P5, P6, and P7, reported they have engaged or committed crimes since becoming a legal adult. Juveniles who continue committing crimes into adulthood are likely to be arrested and prosecuted as adults (Baglivio et al., 2022; Foster et al., 2024; Sun et al., 2024; Vujovic, 2024). Three participants, P4, P5, and P6 were arrested as adults for their crimes. P7 was the only participant who served a custodial sentence. Despite committing crimes as adults, P3 and have not been caught or arrested.

Early intervention applied parenting programs, and access to supportive resources, have been associated with reductions in recidivism (Ray & Park, 2024; Sun et al., 2024; van der Put & Assink, 2024; Wilson & Lipsey, 2024; Zedaker et al., 2023). Participants emphasized lack of resources, support, or authority as a factor for both juvenile and adult recidivism. All participants expressed they would have appreciated receiving support from their educational institution or community. All participants expressed parenting education would have been useful for their parents. Participants expressed the need for stricter juvenile laws in the Cayman Islands. Participants

expressed stricter rules and educational programs would have reduced their recidivism. Participants expressed desire for support from school or community.

Limitations of the Study

Transferability is an innate limitation in qualitative studies (Al Yahyaei et al., 2024; Le Boutillier et al., 2022; Shahmari et al., 2023; Woodgate et al., 2023). Transferability can be reduced by utilizing methodology to produce quality data (Al Yahyaei et al., 2024; Shahmari et al., 2023; Woodgate et al., 2023). Qualitative studies cannot be precisely replicable as they are normally based on the interpretative skills of each researcher (Adler, 2022; Al Yahyaei et al., 2024; Woodgate et al., 2023). Semi-structured interviewing techniques, corresponding to traditional IPA methodology, alleviated issues with transferability (Al Yahyaei et al., 2024; Le Boutillier et al., 2022). Data saturation results and rich descriptions based on participants' lived experiences resulted with enhanced transferability in this study (Al Yahyaei et al., 2024; Woodgate et al., 2023). Transferability was enhanced through careful documentation of observations (Al Yahyaei et al., 2024; Shahmari et al., 2023). Sampling encompassed purposeful criteria to adhere with IPA methodology and enhanced transferability (Le Boutillier et al., 2022; Shahmari et al., 2023; Woodgate et al., 2023).

Rapport establishment effectively reduced power differentials in the study (Al Yahyaei et al., 2024; Le Boutillier et al., 2022; Oerther, 2023; Woodgate et al., 2023; Yang et al., 2022). Positive rapport was established between the researcher and participants. Rapport was necessary to ensure comfortability with participants. Participant comfortability was vital for honest responses to interview questions (Al Yahyaei et al.,

2024; Woodgate et al., 2023). Assumptions made were that participants expressed honesty in disclosure of their accounts. Rapport was also important to ensure comprehension of research questions relating to the study. The short duration of interviews caused some concern with fully establishing complete rapport.

Methods for effectively reducing researcher bias within data interpretation were bracketing, journaling, and reflexivity (Oerther, 2023; Shahmari et al., 2023; Woodgate et al., 2023). Interviewer bias was eliminated by ensuring limited standardized participant interactions (Al Yahyaei et al., 2024; Shahmari et al., 2023; Woodgate et al., 2023). The only direct contact with participants was during interview sessions. This limited interviewer bias. Absence of physical presence aided with minimizing bias. Participant discussions regarding specific criminal offenses were not permitted. Interviews were transcribed verbatim interpreting data as it were recorded. Transcriptions were discussed with participants eliminating researcher judgement and confirming interview responses.

A phenomenological study was chosen for the use of open-ended interview questions that allowed participants to fully describe their experiences from viewpoint and memory (Al Yahyaei et al., 2024; Shahmari et al., 2023; Woodgate et al., 2023). The quality of qualitative research is dependent on accuracy in participant recall. Participants were intently chosen based on strict selection criteria to maintain accuracy in recall. Age restrictions were put in place to mitigate memory bias or inaccuracies of memory recall from contaminating outcomes. Participants were young adults aged between 18 and 29. Participants did not express uncertainty with interview questions caused from lack of memory. Gender differences did not impact memory recall for this study.

Findings may not be generalizable across further diverse populations (Shahmari et al., 2023). Generalizability is an essential restriction within qualitative designs composed of smaller sample sizes (Al Yahyaei et al., 2024; Pearson et al., 2022; Shahmari et al., 2023). The sampling size was contingent on satisfying theoretical data saturation and not generalizability (Al Yahyaei et al., 2024; Shahmari et al., 2023; Woodgate et al., 2023). Reasonable measures to address limitations were comparable with other qualitative studies. Rigorous methodology is useful in qualitative research for performing exploratory studies on phenomena lacking examination (Al Yahyaei et al., 2024; Shahmari et al., 2023; Woodgate et al., 2023). Consistency used to address methodological limitations encompassed data triangulation, cautious documentation, saturation, and reflexivity. Subjectivity and interpretation of lived experiences were based solely on participants' accounts to ensure reliability.

Recommendations

Recommendations for further qualitative research include resource accessibility for those impacted by juvenile criminality. Expansive survey implementation and interview questions could have generated greater responses regarding lived experiences. There is a clear impact criminality has on juveniles and parents. The observed impacts between these paradigms are worth further exploration. Negative criminality impacts can be mitigated. Mitigation of juvenile criminality may reduce upcoming generations from engaging in crimes. These new generations could produce a new cultural norm within the Cayman Islands. Comparisons between older adults and juveniles may be worthy of further exploration or research.

Participant inclusion criteria for this study were minimal. The current study allowed for participants to be past juvenile criminals from Cayman Brac, Cayman Islands. Future studies can extend to participants from Little Cayman and Grand Cayman. Similar research can be extended to other Caribbean countries. The total sample size obtained for this study was seven local participants in Cayman Brac. Inclusion criteria could be modified in future studies to include more participants and obtain a larger sample size. Future studies with larger sample sizes may be able to improve generalizability results across the young adult population.

The academic community would benefit by expanding their knowledge of juvenile delinquent populations. This community needs to expand their knowledge of juvenile criminality impacts across the Caribbean regions. Past juvenile criminals' lived experiences through semi-structured interviewing are not well documented. Future research efforts focused on generalizability and larger participant sample size may be beneficial for understanding negative effects influenced by juvenile criminality. The current study may be replicated with other populations to enhance validity of findings. Interventions may be developed based on further investigational efforts. Additional investigation efforts on parenting influencing juvenile criminality would be helpful to develop properly tailored educational programs for professionals.

Specific participant information related to their crimes may inform the results of future studies. Participants serving a custodial sentence deemed as a vulnerable participant may impact how they perceive parenting to have impacted delinquency. Participants who are still classified as a juvenile may inform the results of future studies.

Future studies focusing specifically on types of crimes may provide additional insight. Narrowed inclusion criteria for participants in single parent households may inform the results of future studies. Environmental and social factors contribute to the development of criminality (Ray & Park, 2024). Future studies focused specifically on peer influencing juvenile criminality may provide additional insight.

The impact of parental divorce on adolescents has negative consequences (Foster et al., 2024; McMillan et al., 2023). Parental divorce or separation increases juvenile delinquency (McMillan et al., 2023). Future studies with inclusion criteria focusing on participants from a broken home may provide additional discernment. The relationship between parental divorce and juvenile criminality correlates as adolescents are often exposed to family conflict (Foster et al., 2024; Sun et al., 2024). Future studies with inclusion criteria focusing on participants who witnessed family violence or conflict may provide additional insight. Study participants expressed with limited details having parents who were divorced. Future research should build upon the findings of this study by examining unique factors that link parenting to offending.

Implications

Juvenile criminality remains an emergent phenomenon, stemming from complexities of parenting (Aebi et al., 2022; Kokoravec Povh et al., 2024). Criminal behaviors have negative effects on adolescent lives (Sun et al., 2024). This social phenomenon has also destructively influenced safety concerns within their communities. Juvenile delinquency is a harmful social and developmental factor to all aspects of communities (Felix, 2024). Findings may be used to illustrate negative impacts

developed from parental influences. Conclusions may be utilized for guiding future research, informing policy regarding alternative sanction practices, and development of enhanced services. Recidivism reduction of juvenile offenders would be beneficial for society (van der Put & Assink, 2024; Wilson & Lipsey, 2024).

Parenting was explored within a forensic context, through young adult accounts of their delinquent history. Exploration resulted in enhanced understanding of how parenting styles, parent-to-child attachments, and parental involvements are contributing factors leading to juvenile delinquency. Further exploration resulted in enhanced understanding of the possibility to desist criminality. Many participants expressed personal challenges, which resulted from poor parenting influencing criminality. Specific challenges disclosed by participants were substance abuse, aggression, depression, anxiety, and social withdrawal. Juveniles subjected to poor parental influences, often resulted in criminal engagement. Juveniles experiencing detrimental results of poor parenting could continue to experience negative effects.

Association with fellow deviant peers is a criminogenic risk factor for juveniles (Foster et al., 2024; Freemon et al., 2023; Kokoravec Povh et al., 2024). Antisocial peer associations have been understood as a significant recidivism risk factor for youth (Lin et al., 2023; Wilson & Lipsey, 2024). Many participants explicated association with antisocial peers throughout adolescence. All study participants revealed their offending occurred with peers. Juveniles with strained parental relationships engage in risk-taking behaviors with peers (Foster et al., 2024; Jouriles et al., 2024; Ray & Park, 2024). Continued exposure to poor parenting and peers resulted in exacerbated recidivism risk

(Lin et al., 2023; McMillan et al., 2023; Wilson & Lipsey, 2024). Early intervention applied parenting programs, and access to supportive resources, have been associated with reductions in co-offending recidivism (Lin et al., 2023; McMillan et al., 2023; van der Put & Assink, 2024; Wilson & Lipsey, 2024).

Theoretical Implications

Attachment theory with support from parenting styles theory and social learning theory was utilized to ground the current investigation. Exploration on parenting influencing juvenile criminality may enhance understanding of desistance barriers (Jasni et al., 2023; Wilson & Lipsey, 2024; Zedaker et al., 2023). Participants were all young adults who had engaged in delinquency influenced by parenting. Criminal behaviors have negative effects on adolescent lives (Li et al., 2023; Lin et al., 2023; Sun et al., 2024; Wilson & Lipsey, 2024). Juvenile offenders who commit crimes often face long-term and short-term effects (Cuervo, 2023; Sun et al., 2024; Zhao et al., 2023). Criminal behaviors affect parent-to-child relationships, familial relationships, and social relationships (Kokoravec Povh et al., 2024; Sun et al., 2024; Wilson & Lipsey, 2024). Study findings were compiled from analyzing participant accounts and experiences of parenting influencing deviancy which often resulted with negative effects.

Parents model behaviors which children observe and mimic (Ray & Park, 2024; Wu & Li, 2023). Criminal behaviors are witnessed and learned by parents or caregivers (Bryson et al., 2022; Kokoravec Povh et al., 2024; Wu & Li, 2023). Participants expressed that parenting styles, parent-to-child attachments, and parental involvements were contributing factors leading to juvenile delinquency. Participants expressed lack of

supervision or involvement influenced motivation for crime. Many participants communicated challenges as a direct result from poor parenting influencing criminality. Challenges disclosed by participants were substance abuse, aggression, depression, anxiety, and social withdrawal. Participants' poor academics and social relationships were influenced and impacted by criminality.

The present investigation resulted in information regarding criminally involved youth influenced by parents. The findings may be utilized to exhibit how poor parenting negatively impacts adolescents and behavior. Additional findings may be utilized to guide successful long-term desistance in young adulthood. Participants revealed deviant peer influence was induced by poor parenting. Studies on criminality influenced by parenting is lacking in substantiality across the Caribbean region. Research on parenting styles, parent-to-child attachments, and involvements require further investigation to optimize reducing recidivism. Further research is needed for the development of programs designed to encourage proper parenting and promote prosocial youth.

Positive Social Change Implications

Positive social change can arise in countless means. Study findings can be used to develop a framework geared toward mitigating juvenile criminality influenced by parenting. Positive social change implications include improving public safety and mitigating recidivism. Interpretations of the results can be used to inform policies for parenting programs and the juvenile justice system. Researchers may initiate further investigations into juvenile criminality influenced by parenting. Further understanding the impacts of this population with regards to attachment and social learning theory

should be strongly considered. Effective services targeting parenting and juvenile criminality may reduce recidivism risk, enhancing overall public safety.

Adolescence is a critical stage in life, where behavioral observances profoundly influence future criminal behavior (Sun et al., 2024; van der Put & Assink, 2024). The importance of effective parenting practices in the early years can prevent future criminal activities (Lin et al., 2023; Sun et al., 2024; van der Put & Assink, 2024). Inadequate parental attachment was identified as a significant precursor to adolescent criminality (Foster et al., 2024; Sun et al., 2024; van der Put & Assink, 2024). Parenting impacts on juvenile criminal behavior is vital for fostering public safety (Wilson & Lipsey, 2024). Researchers can use the findings from this study for service development targeting youthful offenders (Shahmari et al., 2023). Combatting recidivism or at-risk youth behaviors through implementation of appropriately tailored programs may increase overall community safety (van der Put & Assink, 2024). Positive social change based on enforcing recommended practice may have widespread societal implications by proactively addressing delinquent challenges in youth.

Practice Implications

There is a substantial amount of work needing to be completed before juvenile criminality and poor parenting can be improved. Additional labor must be completed to ensure the effects of juvenile criminality concerns are fully addressed. Future research endeavors should have directed focus on impacts of juvenile criminality influenced by parenting. Research on juvenile criminality and parenting within the Caribbean region are underdeveloped (Sun et al., 2024). Studies on parenting styles, parent-to-child

attachments, and parental involvements are crucial for understanding how to address the juvenile criminal population. Research efforts with larger samples of forensic populations across the region would yield more generalizable results. The results from this study may be utilized to guide future research and inform professional practice.

Highly educated professionals must have significant experience with delinquent and parenting populations. Professionals must be familiar with juvenile criminology and effective parenting practices. Understanding these various dynamics will influence social change implications. Stakeholders may require information to consider assisting with these populations. Laws across the Cayman Islands and Caribbean region must be revised and enforced to mitigate poor parental influence and juvenile criminality. Equivalent resources and groundbreaking techniques from other regions should be considered by the Cayman Islands. Research across remaining islands of the Cayman Islands and Caribbean region is mandated to ensure data transferability.

Alternative enforcement efforts on youthful offenders should be promoted to reduce physical, mental, and societal impacts of criminality. Further research recommendations may be used to enhance service delivery targeting adolescents and parents within a forensic context. Appropriately tailored services may mitigate poor parenting and increase likelihood for long-term successful criminal desistance. Further research with another sample size could substantiate claims and inform policy regarding parenting programming for parents of youthful offenders. Participants expressed desire for juvenile offender education and parenting courses for their parents. Effective evidenced-based juvenile offender and parenting courses may be beneficial to cease

offending. Successful recidivism reduction and treating underlying key determinants of criminal behavior would benefit society (Farrington & Bergstrøm, 2023; Olsen et al., 2023; Shold et al., 2023; Sun et al., 2024; van der Put & Assink, 2024).

Conclusion

There are many benefits that can be drawn from this qualitative study. Phenomenological information that has been gathered from past juvenile offender participants is academically beneficial. Future researchers studying current juvenile offender populations would be beneficial. Research on juvenile criminality and parenting within the Caribbean region are underdeveloped. Lack of research has prevented individuals from describing parenting influencing offending in the past. The desire to prevent further juvenile offending and parenting impacts are of grave importance for participants. Inability to conduct specific research on this topic has prevented progress with addressing this social phenomenon. Ethics and vulnerability with offending juveniles could have prevented advancement with concentrating on this topic.

Data collection was a learning experience. Participants were tasked with expressing how parenting styles, parent-to-child attachments, and parental involvements were contributing factors leading to their delinquency. Juveniles subjected to poor parental influences, often resulted in criminal engagement. Many participants experienced substance abuse, aggression, depression, anxiety, and social withdrawal, which resulted from parenting influencing offending. There are strong possibilities that additional information will be sought for examination by researchers. Further

examination could unlock new ways of forming positive juvenile offender and parenting programs. These programs can be used by professionals to promote prosocial behaviors.

Young adults' perceptions of parenting influencing juvenile delinquency is an underexplored phenomenon. Young adults' experiences and perceptions of delinquency was the focus. Seven participants were purposefully selected based on specific inclusion criteria to obtain profound empirical insight aligned with IPA methodology (Foster et al., 2024). Semi-structured interviewing techniques served to understand the cognitive processing of adult participants (Shahmari et al., 2023). Participants underwent audio recorded semi-structured interviews that were transcribed verbatim (Al Yahyaei et al., 2024; Shahmari et al., 2023). Participants were reminded data from the interviews would be kept confidential and no specific details of crimes would be disclosed (Al Yahyaei et al., 2024). All thematic data were compared to significant quotes and commonalities across cases for basing final conclusions (Shahmari et al., 2023; Woodgate et al., 2023).

Juvenile offender perspectives on parenting influencing delinquency are provided from this research. These findings contribute to the existing knowledge of researchers, scholars, and practitioners. These results could significantly impact desistance improvement and parenting program development. These impacts may provide training and education opportunities for professionals. Juvenile delinquents and parents of adolescents could yield greater understanding. The ability to address parenting impacts on juveniles would be part of the positive social change. Well-educated generations could emerge from understanding the importance of parenting styles, parent-to-child attachments, and parental involvements are contributing factors leading to criminality.

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Appendix A: Recruitment Advertisements

Lead Researcher: Keristin Scott

My name is Keristin Scott, a doctoral student at Walden University, under the direction of Dr. Sandra Caramela-Miller. I am recruiting interviewees for a research study about young adults who committed crimes under the age of 18.

The interview will be an hour or less and the follow-up interview (if needed) would be 20 minutes or less. Interviews will be audio-recorded and can be done in person or phone/Zoom.

This study may help me to better understand and describe ways that juvenile offending behaviors were influenced by parents, types of offending behaviors that were participated in, and how the results can assist developing parenting programmes.

You are eligible to participate in this study if you:

- committed a crime while under the age of 18
- are currently 18 to 29 years of age

If you participate in my study, you will receive a $20 Gift Certificate to a local store.

If you are interested in participating in this study, please contact me.

Contact Details:
Keristin Scott
xxx-xxx-xxxx

Appendix B: Consent to Audio Record

INFORMED CONSENT FORM (AUDIOTAPE)

Consent Form for Audio taping and Transcribing Interviews

Study Title: Young Adult's Self-Perceptions of Parenting Styles and Attachments Influencing Juvenile Criminality

Researcher: Keristin Scott, Walden University, Under the Direction of Dr. Sandra Caramela-Miller

This study involves the audio taping of your interview with Keristin Scott. Neither your name nor any other identifying information will be associated with the audiotape or the transcript. Only the research team will be able to listen to the tapes.

The tapes will be transcribed by the Keristin Scott and erased once the transcriptions are checked for accuracy. Transcripts of your interview will be reproduced in whole or in part for use in presentations or written products that result from this study. Neither your name nor any other identifying information (such as your voice) will be used in presentations or in written products resulting from the study.

Immediately following the interview, you will be given the opportunity to have the tape erased if you wish to withdraw your consent to taping or participation in this study.

By signing this form, you are consenting to:

 having your interview taped;

 to having the tape transcribed;

 use of the written transcript in presentations and written products.

This consent for taping is effective five years from the date signed. On or before that date, the tapes will be destroyed.

Participant's Signature _____ Date_____

Appendix C: Consent to Advertise

Keristin Scott

Date

Dear Owner(s) of Public Space,

I am requesting permission for placing an advertisement flyer to conduct the study entitled Young Adult's Self-Perceptions of Parenting Styles and Attachments Influencing Juvenile Criminality. Individuals' participation will be voluntary and at their own discretion.

The organization's responsibility would include placing a flyer to advertise for voluntary recruitment in a doctoral study. You have the right to withdraw from the study at any time or take down the flyer(s). I will not be naming your organization in the published doctoral project report.

If you agree to these terms please read the provided letter, fill in the appropriate information, and you may provide consent via electronic signature (typed name, email, or identifying information) or handwritten signature. Please note that the data collected will remain entirely confidential and may not be provided to anyone outside of the student's supervising faculty/staff without permission from the Walden University IRB.

Letter of Cooperation from a Research Partner

Community Research Partner Name

Date

Dear Keristin Scott,

Based on my review of your research proposal, I give permission for you to conduct the study entitled Young Adult's Self-Perceptions of Parenting Styles and Attachments Influencing Juvenile Offending within the Insert Name of Community Partner. As part of this study, I authorize you to place flyers (put specific location). Individuals' participation will be voluntary and at their own discretion. We understand that our organization's

responsibilities include allowing you to place flyers at (location). We reserve the right to withdraw from the study at any time if our circumstances change.

Appendix D: Interview Protocol

1. Are you currently incarcerated?
2. How old are you now?
3. Are you fluent in English?
4. Do you have a fifth grade reading level or higher?
5. Are you over the age of 18?
6. Do you require a legal guardian?
7. Are you in agreement with doing an audio recorded interview or Zoom recorded interview?

(RQ1): How do young adults perceive the relationship between parental involvement and their juvenile offending past?

1. Without sharing specific details, did you participate in offending behaviors when you were a juvenile?
2. Without sharing specific details of your past offending behaviors, were you caught by authorities for your offending?
3. Did you have to go to court for your offending behaviors?
4. Without sharing specific details, when you were a juvenile, did your parents engage in criminal behaviors?
5. Tell me about your parents. How did they make a living to provide for you?
6. Were your parents active in raising you? How were your parents involved in your upbringing?
7. How did they provide you with rewards or comfort? How were your parents involved in your schoolwork or extra curriculars?
8. How did they discipline you or deal with your misbehavior(s)?
9. How do you perceive your parents' involvement to directly have influenced your offending behaviors?

(RQ2): How do the lived experiences of young adults with an offending past inform the ability to desist future offending behaviors?

10. Have you engaged in criminal activities since turning 18 years of age?
11. Were you caught by authorities for your criminal involvement?
12. Did you commit criminal behaviors as a young adult alone, with parents, or others (without sharing exactly with who)?
13. What is your relationship like now with your parents?
14. Please describe any challenges you may have faced as a young adult that may have been caused from your juvenile offending behaviors, if any.
15. How have you been able to overcome any challenges with being involved or tempted by illegal behaviors now as a young adult?
16. What types of resources or support do you think would have been helpful for you as a juvenile?

17. What types of resources or support do you think would have been helpful for your parents?
18. Thank you for your time. Is there anything else that you would like to tell me?

Appendix E: Procedural Checklist

1. Obtain permissions for advertising at a public space (see Consent if applicable):
2. Obtain permissions for advertising on online support/advocacy groups:
3. Voluntary Response Details (document date, time, medium):
4. Was Consent provided at initial contact (how was consent provided and obtained):
5. Screening at initial consent:
6. If questionable, how was age verified (face-to-face or postal mail):
7. Scheduled interview, preference of medium, preference for confirmation (Date, time, preference for medium, preference for receiving informed consent copy):
8. When and how was informed consent copy sent:
9. When and how confirmation was sent (list any responses or lack of response):
10. Was an interview rescheduled:
11. Did Consent get communicated prior to interview administration?
12. When/how did interview take place and how long did it take (starting from discussing informed consent, conducting the interview, debriefing, establishing follow-up preference, and ending with postal mail or email preferences for summary of results)?
13. Were participants debriefed (explain study purpose and answer questions)?
14. Did participant receive a $20 Gift Certificate?
15. Was follow-up preference established (write details for follow-up preference):
16. Was follow-up established (details):
17. What was the result of follow-up (were results verified or altered)?
18. Was a 1-2-page summary of results sent to participants?
19. Any additional concerns brought up in the process (including participant withdrawal or reportable events)?
20. If applicable, were any events reported to the IRB within one week? What was the resolution?