

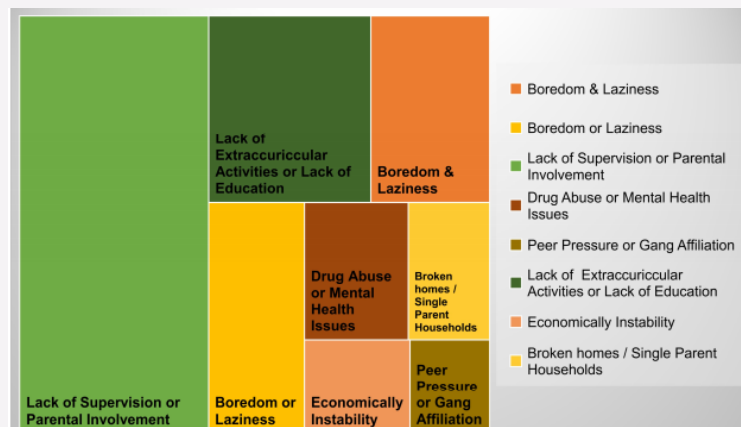
WHAT PARENTS THINK



...PROTECTIVE & RISK FACTORS AGAINST JUVENILE DELINQUENCY IN TEXAS

Many risk factors increase teens’ vulnerability to juvenile delinquency. Texan parents indicated that primary causes of juvenile delinquency included a lack of parental supervision or involvement in the adolescent’s life and a lack of extracurricular activities or education. Other causal factors included boredom, laziness, drug abuse or mental health issues, broken homes or single-parent households, economic instability, peer pressure, and gang affiliation. Most of the parents stated their belief that increasing protective factors can guard against juvenile delinquency and identified some of them including the church (religious involvement), home life (parents and family), and school (education). Nevertheless, more parents indicated that home life has the most influence on reducing juvenile delinquency. These parental perceptions are supported by empirical research conducted by Baglivio et al. (2014)[1] and later expanded by SAMHSA, which examined risk and protective factors that impact communities.

Figure 1:
Parents’ Perceptions of the Major Causes of Juvenile Delinquency



For example, SAMHSA described some risk factors, including child abuse inadequate supervision, household substance abuse, and parental separation, and recommended that effective parenting could mediate many of these risk factors [2] and protect children from their negative effects.

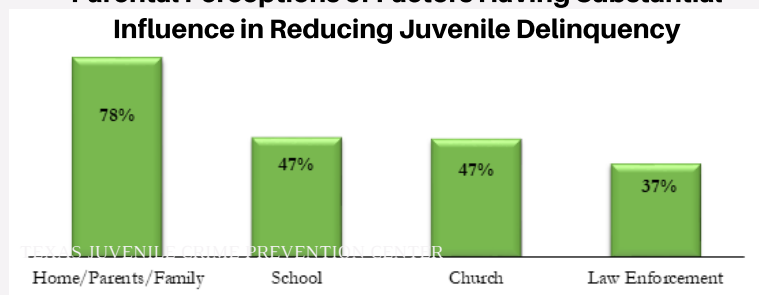
[1] Baglivio, M., Epps, N., Swartz, K., Sayedul Huq, M., Sheer, A., & Hardt, NS. (2014). The prevalence of Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACE) in the lives of juvenile offenders. *Journal of Juvenile Justice*, 3, 1-23.

[2] SAMHSA <https://www.samhsa.gov/sites/default/files/20190718-samhsa-risk-protective-factors.pdf>



Figure 2:

Parental Perceptions of Factors Having Substantial Influence in Reducing Juvenile Delinquency



WHAT CAN YOU DO?

- Practice effective parenting by providing a safe space for your child and involving yourself more in your teen’s life <http://www.yessafechoices.org/parents/tips-and-tools/get-involved-your-child%E2%80%99s-life>
- Participate in more family-centered activities and have regular talks with your child.
- Collaborate with your teen’s school by joining Parent-Teacher meetings or Parent Training and Information Centers in your State <https://www.parentcenterhub.org/find-your-center/>

WHERE CAN YOU GET MORE INFORMATION?

- Prairie View A&M University, the Texas Juvenile Crime Prevention Center <https://www.pvamu.edu/cojpp/texas-juvenile-crime-prevention-center/>
- Texas Department of Family and Protective Services <https://www.dfps.state.tx.us/>
- Texas Juvenile Justice Department (TJJJD) <https://www.navigatelifetexas.org/en>
- PACE Youth <https://paceyouth.org/>
- Department of Juvenile Justice Alternative Education Program <https://www2.tjjd.texas.gov/services/jjaep.aspx>
- SAMHSA family support <https://www.samhsa.gov/families/resources>

Did you know that...?

The Texas Statewide Juvenile Needs Assessment 2018 report used a representative sample to show parental perceptions about crime and the causes of delinquency, as well as their suggestions to reduce crime in their communities.

- The majority (78%, n=481) of parents indicated that home life (parents and family) can have considerable influence in reducing juvenile delinquency.
- Fewer than half believed that school (47%, n=286) or church (47%, n=278) have a substantial influence.
- Almost forty percent of parents (37%, n=228) indicated that law enforcement had minimal influence

The Texas Juvenile Crime Prevention Center is committed to the reduction of juvenile delinquency and crime in the State of Texas. Through the creation of the Center and the College, Prairie View A&M University supports this mission as it strives to attain national recognition in the areas of education, research, and service. For more information about the Statewide Needs Assessment Survey go to: <https://www.pvamu.edu/cojpp/texas-juvenile-crime-prevention-center/research/>