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Chapter 2: Defining and Measuring Offenses By and Against Juveniles

Test Bank

Multiple Choice

1. _____ definitions of delinquency hold that only those who have been officially labeled by the courts are offenders.
A. Behavioral
B. Legal
C. Standard
D. Federal
Ans: B
Learning Objective: 2-3: Discuss legal and behavioral definitions of delinquency.
Cognitive Domain: Knowledge
Answer Location: Legal Definitions
Difficulty Level: Easy

2. _____ definitions of delinquency hold that those whose behavior violates statutes applicable to them are offenders whether or not they are officially labeled.
A. Behavioral
B. Legal
C. Standard
D. Federal
Ans: A
Learning Objective: 2-3: Discuss legal and behavioral definitions of delinquency.
Cognitive Domain: Knowledge
Answer Location: Legal Definitions
Difficulty Level: Easy

3. One of the most persistent roadblocks to juvenile justice reform across the country is _____.
A. media reports of youth violence
B. societal belief in a punitive approach
C. definitions of delinquency
D. resistance to change
Ans: D
Learning Objective: 2-1: Understand and discuss the importance of accurately defining and measuring delinquency.
Cognitive Domain: Comprehension
Answer Location: Legal Definitions
Difficulty Level: Medium

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4. With respect to the minimum age at which children should be afforded court protection changed with the emergence of _____ and _____, both of which may have serious prenatal effects.
A. crack, methamphetamine
B. heroin, prescription pills
C. controlled substances, case law
D. case law, runaway children
Ans: A
Learning Objective: 2-1: Understand and discuss the importance of accurately defining and measuring delinquency.
Cognitive Domain: Knowledge
Answer Location: Age Ambiguity
Difficulty Level: Easy

5. In general, researchers prefer a _____ definition of delinquency because it provides a more realistic picture of the extent and nature of offenders and victims.
A. legal
B. standard
C. federal
D. behavioral
Ans: D
Learning Objective: 2-1: Understand and discuss the importance of accurately defining and measuring delinquency.
Cognitive Domain: Comprehension
Answer Location: Behavioral Definitions
Difficulty Level: Medium

6. _____ definitions focus on juveniles who offend or are victimized even if they are not officially adjudicated.
A. Legal
B. Standard
C. Behavioral
D. Federal
Ans: C
Learning Objective: 2-3: Discuss legal and behavioral definitions of delinquency.
Cognitive Domain: Knowledge
Answer Location: Behavioral Definitions
Difficulty Level: Easy

7. A problem with legal definitions has been the ambiguity reflected with respect to:
A. gender.
B. age.
C. crime definition.
D. behavior.
Ans: B
Learning Objective: 2-2: Understand the impact of differences in definitions of delinquency.

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Cognitive Domain: Comprehension
Answer Location: Age Ambiguity
Difficulty Level: Medium

8. Many states have encountered opposition to blanket laws to decriminalize _____ among underage youth because this would undermine the ability of police to intervene and exert their authority over the youth.
A. prostitution
B. status offenses
C. drug use
D. property crimes
Ans: A
Learning Objective: 2-2: Understand the impact of differences in definitions of delinquency.
Cognitive Domain: Knowledge
Answer Location: Age Ambiguity
Difficulty Level: Medium

9. Because _____ definitions depend on official adjudication, they lead us to concentrate on only a small portion of those actually involved as offenders and victims.
A. behavioral
B. standard
C. legal
D. statutory
Ans: C
Learning Objective: 2-2: Understand the impact of differences in definitions of delinquency.
Cognitive Domain: Comprehension
Answer Location: Inaccurate Images of Offenders and Victims
Difficulty Level: Medium

10. Because the _____ definition of delinquency includes many juveniles who do not become part of official statistics, we need to rely on unofficial, and sometimes questionable, methods for assessing the extent and nature of unofficial or "hidden" delinquency and abuse.
A. behavioral
B. standard
C. legal
D. statutory
Ans: A
Learning Objective: 2-2: Understand the impact of differences in definitions of delinquency.
Cognitive Domain: Comprehension
Answer Location: Behavioral Definitions
Difficulty Level: Hard

11. Numbers of children suffering from abuse and neglect remain _____ in the United States.
A. low
B. moderately low
C. high

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D. unchanged
Ans: C
Learning Objective: 2-4: Discuss official and unofficial sources of data on delinquency and abuse and the problems associated with each.
Cognitive Domain: Knowledge
Answer Location: Official Delinquency Statistics
Difficulty Level: Medium

12. The _____, as a source of crime data, are based upon reports to law enforcement agencies.
A. NCVS
B. UCR
C. self-reports
D. metadata
Ans: B
Learning Objective: 2-4: Discuss official and unofficial sources of data on delinquency and abuse and the problems associated with each.
Cognitive Domain: Knowledge
Answer Location: Official Delinquency Statistics
Difficulty Level: Easy

13. Black and Reiss (1970) found that in urban areas, only about _____ of police encounters with juveniles involved alleged felonies.
A. 25%
B. 2%
C. 6%
D. 5%
Ans: D
Learning Objective: 2-4: Discuss official and unofficial sources of data on delinquency and abuse and the problems associated with each.
Cognitive Domain: Knowledge
Answer Location: Official Delinquency Statistics
Difficulty Level: Medium

14. _____ is/are major error(s) with the UCR.
A. Underreporting
B. Overreporting
C. Definitional differences
D. Both underreporting and definitional differences
Ans: D
Learning Objective: 2-4: Discuss official and unofficial sources of data on delinquency and abuse and the problems associated with each.
Cognitive Domain: Comprehension
Answer Location: Official Delinquency Statistics
Difficulty Level: Hard

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15. The _____, as a source of crime data, are collected from victims instead of law enforcement agencies.
A. NIBRS
B. NCVS
C. self-reports
D. metadata
Ans: B
Learning Objective: 2-4: Discuss official and unofficial sources of data on delinquency and abuse and the problems associated with each.
Cognitive Domain: Knowledge
Answer Location: National Crime Victimization Survey
Difficulty Level: Easy

16. _____ is/are a major error with the NCVS.
A. Underreporting
B. Overreporting
C. Crime definitions
D. Both overreporting and crime definitions
Ans: D
Learning Objective: 2-4: Discuss official and unofficial sources of data on delinquency and abuse and the problems associated with each.
Cognitive Domain: Comprehension
Answer Location: National Crime Victimization Survey
Difficulty Level: Hard

17. Which of the following are reasons why crimes are not reported to the police?
A. fear of reprisal
B. too inconvenient
C. lack of proof
D. all of these
Ans: D
Learning Objective: 2-4: Discuss official and unofficial sources of data on delinquency and abuse and the problems associated with each.
Cognitive Domain: Knowledge
Answer Location: National Crime Victimization Survey
Difficulty Level: Medium

18. _____, as a source of crime data, are gathered from offenders themselves.
A. NIBRS
B. NCVS
C. Self-reports
D. Police observational studies
Ans: C
Learning Objective: 2-4: Discuss official and unofficial sources of data on delinquency and abuse and the problems associated with each.
Cognitive Domain: Knowledge

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Answer Location: Self-Report Studies
Difficulty Level: Medium

19. _____ studies, however, are subject to criticism on the basis that respondents may underreport or overreport delinquency or abuse as a result of either poor recall or deliberate deception.
A. NIBRS
B. NCVS
C. Police observational
D. Self-report
Ans: D
Learning Objective: 2-4: Discuss official and unofficial sources of data on delinquency and abuse and the problems associated with each.
Cognitive Domain: Comprehension
Answer Location: Self-Report Studies
Difficulty Level: Medium

20. _____, as a source of crime data, are gathered by trained observers who ride with police officers.
A. NIBRS
B. NCVS
C. Self-reports
D. Police observational studies
Ans: D
Learning Objective: 2-4: Discuss official and unofficial sources of data on delinquency and abuse and the problems associated with each.
Cognitive Domain: Knowledge
Answer Location: Police Observational Studies
Difficulty Level: Medium

21. Nearly 60% of child victims suffered from _____, the most common form of child maltreatment.
A. physical abuse
B. neglect
C. sexual abuse
D. bullying
Ans: B
Learning Objective: 2-4: Discuss official and unofficial sources of data on delinquency and abuse and the problems associated with each.
Cognitive Domain: Comprehension
Answer Location: Official Statistics on Abuse and Neglect
Difficulty Level: Medium

22. A source of statistical information on children missing due to criminal behaviors, parental kidnapping, and juvenile gang crimes would be found in the _____.
A. UCR

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B. NIBRS
C. NCVS
D. self-reports
Ans: B
Learning Objective: 2-4: Discuss official and unofficial sources of data on delinquency and abuse and the problems associated with each.
Cognitive Domain: Comprehension
Answer Location: Official Statistics: Sources and Problems
Difficulty Level: Medium

23. Victimization surveys do not include interviews with children under the age of _____.
A. 11
B. 12
C. 13
D. none of these
Ans: B
Learning Objective: 2-4: Discuss official and unofficial sources of data on delinquency and abuse and the problems associated with each.
Cognitive Domain: Knowledge
Answer Location: National Crime Victimization Survey
Difficulty Level: Medium

24. In their study using self-reports of delinquent behavior, Short and Nye found _____.
A. no difference between the extent and nature of delinquent acts committed by non-institutionalized youth and those committed by institutionalized youth
B. little difference between the extent and nature of delinquent acts committed by non-institutionalized youth and those committed by institutionalized youth
C. a large difference between the extent and nature of delinquent acts committed by non-institutionalized youth and those committed by institutionalized youth
D. a major disjunctive between the extent and nature of delinquent acts committed by non-institutionalized youth and those committed by institutionalized youth
Ans: B
Learning Objective: 2-4: Discuss official and unofficial sources of data on delinquency and abuse and the problems associated with each.
Cognitive Domain: Comprehension
Answer Location: Self-Report Studies
Difficulty Level: Hard

25. Black juveniles were more likely to receive harsher dispositions in areas where the proportion of _____ was high.
A. Whites
B. Hispanics
C. Blacks
D. Asians
Ans: A

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Learning Objective: 2-4: Discuss official and unofficial sources of data on delinquency and abuse and the problems associated with each.
Cognitive Domain: Knowledge
Answer Location: Official Statistics: Sources and Problems
Difficulty Level: Medium

True/False

1. Without specific definitions, accurate measurement is impossible, making development of programs to prevent and control delinquency and offenses against juveniles extremely difficult.
Ans: T
Learning Objective: 2-1: Understand and discuss the importance of accurately defining and measuring delinquency.
Cognitive Domain: Comprehension
Answer Location: Legal Definitions
Difficulty Level: Medium

2. Using the behavioral definition, a juvenile who committed a relatively serious offense but was not apprehended would not be classified as delinquent.
Ans: F
Learning Objective: 2-1: Understand and discuss the importance of accurately defining and measuring delinquency.
Cognitive Domain: Comprehension
Answer Location: Legal Definitions
Difficulty Level: Medium

3. There is a dark figure of delinquent activity where a substantial amount of illegal behavior committed by youth is not detected.
Ans: T
Learning Objective: 2-1: Understand and discuss the importance of accurately defining and measuring delinquency.
Cognitive Domain: Knowledge
Answer Location: Inaccurate Images of Offenders and Victims
Difficulty Level: Easy

4. A basic difficulty with legal definitions is that they differ from time to time and from place to place.
Ans: T
Learning Objective: 2-3: Discuss legal and behavioral definitions of delinquency.
Cognitive Domain: Comprehension
Answer Location: Legal Definitions
Difficulty Level: Medium

5. An act that is delinquent at one time and in one place might not be delinquent at another time or in another place.
Ans: T

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Learning Objective: 2-3: Discuss legal and behavioral definitions of delinquency.
Cognitive Domain: Comprehension
Answer Location: Legal Definitions
Difficulty Level: Medium

6. Estimates of the extent of delinquency and abuse based on a legal definition are far lower than those based on a behavioral definition.
Ans: F
Learning Objective: 2-3: Discuss legal and behavioral definitions of delinquency.
Cognitive Domain: Knowledge
Answer Location: Behavioral Definitions
Difficulty Level: Medium

7. If we concentrate on juveniles who are not officially labeled, we get a far different picture from that if we include all of those who offend or are victimized.
Ans: F
Learning Objective: 2-3: Discuss legal and behavioral definitions of delinquency.
Cognitive Domain: Comprehension
Answer Location: Behavioral Definitions
Difficulty Level: Medium

8. One of the major problems confronting those interested in learning more about offenses by and against juveniles involves defining the phenomena.
Ans: T
Learning Objective: 2-2: Understand the impact of differences in definitions of delinquency.
Cognitive Domain: Knowledge
Answer Location: Legal Definitions
Difficulty Level: Easy

9. Despite growth in the juvenile population over the past decade, crime and violence by juveniles have not declined.
Ans: F
Learning Objective: 2-4: Discuss official and unofficial sources of data on delinquency and abuse and the problems associated with each.
Cognitive Domain: Knowledge
Answer Location: Official Delinquency Statistics
Difficulty Level: Medium

10. In an attempt to combat some of the reporting problems found in UCR data since 1987, the FBI has been implementing an incident-based reporting system, a modification of the original UCR reporting system, throughout the United States.
Ans: T
Learning Objective: 2-4: Discuss official and unofficial sources of data on delinquency and abuse and the problems associated with each.
Cognitive Domain: Knowledge
Answer Location: Official Delinquency Statistics

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Difficulty Level: Easy

11. A problem with behavioral definitions is the ambiguity reflected with respect to age.
Ans: F
Learning Objective: 2-3: Discuss legal and behavioral definitions of delinquency.
Cognitive Domain: Comprehension
Answer Location: Legal Definitions
Difficulty Level: Medium

12. Use of behavioral definitions necessitates reliance on unofficial methods to assess the extent and nature of hidden delinquency and abuse.
Ans: T
Learning Objective: 2-3: Discuss legal and behavioral definitions of delinquency.
Cognitive Domain: Comprehension
Answer Location: Behavioral Definitions
Difficulty Level: Medium

13. UCR data would be of value if one wanted to know something about the actual extent and distribution of delinquency, or about police handling of juveniles involved in less serious offenses.
Ans: F
Learning Objective: 2-4: Discuss official and unofficial sources of data on delinquency and abuse and the problems associated with each.
Cognitive Domain: Knowledge
Answer Location: Official Delinquency Statistics
Difficulty Level: Medium

14. Official statistics on abused and neglected children are only available from a limited number of sources.
Ans: F
Learning Objective: 2-4: Discuss official and unofficial sources of data on delinquency and abuse and the problems associated with each.
Cognitive Domain: Knowledge
Answer Location: Official Delinquency Statistics
Difficulty Level: Medium

15. Poor recall and deliberate deception are both criticisms of the under- or over-reporting of abuse or delinquency in self-report studies.
Ans: T
Learning Objective: 2-4: Discuss official and unofficial sources of data on delinquency and abuse and the problems associated with each.
Cognitive Domain: Comprehension
Answer Location: Self-Report Studies
Difficulty Level: Medium

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Essay

1. Discuss the issues associated with measuring delinquency amongst juveniles.
Ans: A discussion of the differences between legal definitions of delinquency and behavioral definitions of delinquency, as well as a brief discussion of why they are important. There should be some mention of how delinquency is measured as well.
Learning Objective: 2-1: Understand and discuss the importance of accurately defining and measuring delinquency.
Cognitive Domain: Comprehension | Application
Answer Location: Legal Definitions | Behavioral Definitions | Official Statistics: Sources and Problems
Difficulty Level: Medium

2. Discuss the impact that different definitions of delinquency have on the juvenile justice system.
Ans: A brief discussion of the different definitions of delinquency and their associated policy impacts on the juvenile justice system. There should be at least one policy implication discussed for each definition.
Learning Objective: 2-2: Understand the impact of differences in definitions of delinquency.
Cognitive Domain: Comprehension | Application
Answer Location: Legal Definitions | Behavioral Definitions
Difficulty Level: Hard

3. Discuss legal and behavioral definitions of delinquency. Include specific examples of how a specific offense might be analyzed under each definition as delinquent or not.
Ans: The two different types of delinquency definitions and include specific examples of behavior (offenses) that might be delinquent under one definition and not delinquent under another.
Learning Objective: 2-3: Discuss legal and behavioral definitions of delinquency.
Cognitive Domain: Knowledge | Comprehension
Answer Location: Legal Definitions | Behavioral Definitions
Difficulty Level: Easy

4. Discuss the problems associated with the UCR/NIBRS crime statistic data.
Ans: The evolution of the UCR into the NIBRS and discuss the problems associated with it, such as underreporting, definitional issues, and so on.
Learning Objective: 2-4: Discuss official and unofficial sources of data on delinquency and abuse and the problems associated with each.
Cognitive Domain: Knowledge | Comprehension
Answer Location: Official Statistics: Sources and Problems
Difficulty Level: Medium

5. Discuss the validity of the NCVS when combined with the UCR/NIBRS as a way to get to the dark figure of crime.
Ans: A discussion of the shortcomings of the NCVS but when it is combined with other sources of data, it will uncover more of the dark figure of crime.

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Learning Objective: 2-4: Discuss official and unofficial sources of data on delinquency and abuse and the problems associated with each.
Cognitive Domain: Knowledge | Comprehension | Application
Answer Location: Official Statistics: Sources and Problems
Difficulty Level: Hard

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