

DYNAMICS OF JUVENILE CRIME IN REPUBLIC OF NORTH MACEDONIA WITH AN EMPHASIS ON PHENOMENOLOGICAL CHARACTERISTICS

Assist. Prof. Ebru Ibish, Phd

ABSTRACT

Juvenile crime poses a serious threat to society. Taking into account the fact that when we talk about juvenile crime the “actors” or more precisely the perpetrators are juveniles under the age of 18, it can therefore be concluded that these are children who from a very early age build their criminal career, get acquainted with different types of crimes and mostly commit crimes against property with the target of an easier way of satisfying their material (financial) needs. This process brings another problem such as: building criminal career and becoming a professional criminal. From the phenomenological point of view in order to identify the forms of juvenile crime, it is important to mention the scope, dynamics, structure and characteristics of the juvenile crime in the Republic of North Macedonia in order to obtain a general picture of the situation. The key factor of increasing the number of perpetrators of crimes, apart from the main criminogenic factors, including poverty, wealth and unemployment from an etiological point of view, the most important think is the inefficiency of the system of punishment against juveniles, and not taking preventive measures from an early age towards the juveniles

Keywords: Juvenile crime, juvenile delinquency, phenomenology, statistics of crime, recidivism

**Assist. Prof.
Ebru Ibish, Phd**

*Faculty of Law,
International Vision
University, Gostivar,
N.Macedonia*

e-mail: ebru.ibis
@vizyon.edu.mk

UDK:

343.91-053.2/.6(497.7)

Declaration of interest:

The authors reported no conflict of interest related to this article.

Introduction

Juvenile crime is a problematic phenomenon especially in countries in transition, in this case it is so important to mention the criminogenic factors which directly affects juvenile crime and the role of the state in preventing juvenile crime.

The role of the state has a key point on preventing crime especially when we analyze the main criminogenic factors such as: poverty, wealth and unemployment. In the past period there is a rapid development of the means of communication. Mobile phones, the Internet and computers enable young people to reach the necessary information in a very short time. Their claims are rising day by day, and the crisis in which Republic of North Macedonia is located, does not favor the satisfaction of children's needs.

Dissatisfaction with needs is a sufficient reason for the juvenile to activate his criminal career. Poverty always appears as a major factor in this phenomenon. Children are aware if parents are not able to meet all their demands and because of this they become part of the criminal activities, and most often commit crimes against property. In recent years, wealth as a criminogenic factor has proved to be very dominant in juvenile delinquency.

In this case it is very important to mention that juvenile crime is different from juvenile delinquency. Juvenile crime covers the criminal acts committed by child perpetrators, while juvenile delinquency is more complex and it covers: criminal acts, misdemeanors, social-pathological phenomena.

1. Phenomenological characteristics of juvenile crime

Particular importance to criminal phenomenology is the study of the forms of crime. In criminology, the term phenomenology is used to indicate external manifestations and forms of criminality. Based on contemporary scientific research on juvenile crime, it has been established that: total crime is in rapid growth, but the juvenile crime and delinquency is even more pronounced. In addition to the risk factors affecting juveniles in order to create delinquent behavior, at the same time, there is a greater participation of juveniles in socio-pathological phenomena such as alcoholism, prostitution, drug addiction, begging, vagrancy, suicide etc.

In recent years, juveniles have been increasingly involved in acts of violence and organized crime, there has been an increase in the recidivism of juveniles. Due to the social danger and specificity of the person, juvenile delinquency requires a special intervention of the society and the need to react to the competent authorities of the criminal prosecution. (Velkova, 2006)

In Republic of North Macedonia the statistics for juvenile crime are analyzed by the bodies of internal affairs, the public prosecutor's offices, the state statistical office, the Ministry of Justice, first instance courts and the centers for social work that keep data (statistics) of the juvenile perpetrators of criminal acts and other delinquent behavior according to the criteria of juvenile delinquency. (Josifovski, 1963)

In order to be able to assess this issue, we will analyze the statistics that will cover the period from 2010 to 2021, on the basis of which we will show a general picture of the structure and dynamics of juvenile delinquency.

2. Dynamics and structure of juvenile crime

The totality of crime, is one of the primary quantitative features of this phenomenon. In general, dynamics of crime not only for juvenile crime, but also for every type of crime, is crucial because crime is not a static phenomenon, it is dynamic and variable. (Arnaudovski, 2007)

The economic, social and cultural changes directly affect the dynamics of juvenile. Regarding the forms of juvenile crime within this paper, we will cover following characteristics: gender, age, recidivism and material (financial) situation. The part about the structure of juvenile crime covers the data, types of crimes and the structure of crimes.

2.1 Dynamics of juvenile crime

The dynamics or movement of crime refers to the changes in the volume of crime over a period of time and in a certain area. In general, the dynamics provide an explanation for the decrease or increase of the crime rate in a certain period of time. The totality of juvenile crime can be determined for each year or for longer and shorter periods of time, for the whole country or for one region, etc. The totality of juvenile crime, but also the totality of general crime can be determined by:

- criminal reports against children (reported children in conflict with the law),
- indictments against children (accused children in conflict with the law) and
- convicted children in conflict with the law.

Tables number 1, 2 and 3 show the statistics on reported, accused and convicted children in conflict with the law, as well as the index covering the period 2008-2017. For the purposes of this paper it is important to explain the terms: reported, accused, convicted.

"Reported child" is a child against whom the legal procedure after the filed charges was not raised (the charge was rejected), against whom the proceeding has been stopped or a proposal has been applied for pronouncing a penalty or educational measure. "Accused child" is a child against whom the proceeding in front of the Council has been stopped or no legal sanctions have been pronounced, as well as a criminally insane child against whom a decision for security measures has been pronounced. "Convicted child" is a child perpetrator of crime against whom with a Court decision a legal sanction has been pronounced - child imprisonment or educational measures. (www.stat.gov.mk, 2022)

Table nb.1 Number of reported child perpetrators in the Republic of North Macedonia in the period of 2009-2017

Years	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
Reported	1355	1519	1244	1163	1001	1005	972	772	587	578
Index	0.00	112	81,9	93,4	86,1	109,1	96,7	79,3	81,5	98,3

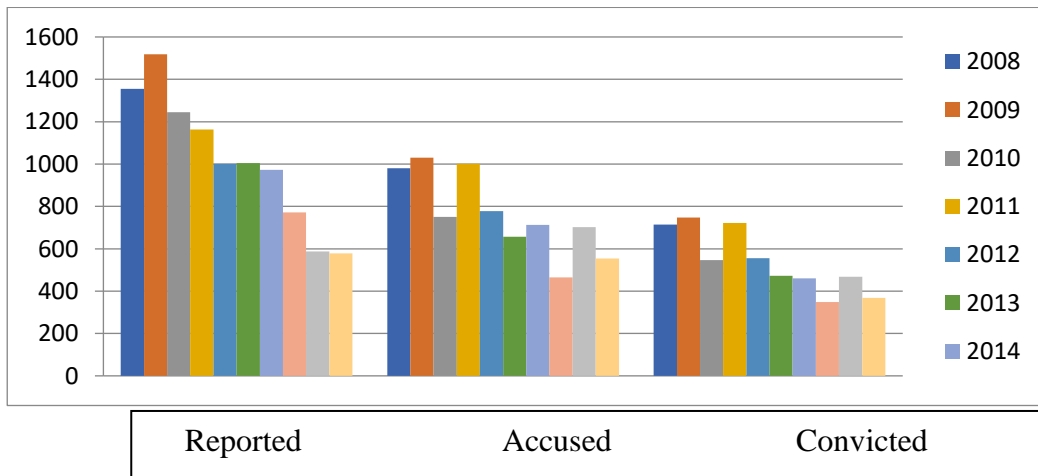
Table nb. 2 Number of accused child perpetrators in the Republic of North Macedonia in the period of 2009-2017

Years	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
Accused	981	1030	750	1002	778	657	712	465	702	554
Index	0.00	101	75,6	113	77,6	91,8	108	64,9	161	78,8

Table nb. 3 Number of convicted child perpetrators in the Republic of North Macedonia in the period of 2009-2017

Years	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
Convicted	715	748	547	722	556	473	461	348	468	368
Index	0.0	104	73,1	131	77,1	92,1	97,4	75,5	142	78,4

Graph nb. 1 Total number of reported, accused and convicted child perpetrators in the Republic of North Macedonia in the period of 2009-2017



2.2 Characteristics of juvenile crime

The characteristics of juvenile crime are perceived through certain variables: gender, age, material (financial) situation etc. All of the above variables as factors directly influence the development of the juvenile. The contemporary juvenile crime is characterized by the organization of young people in juvenile groups or gangs for the commission of criminal offenses. In different countries, juvenile gangs have different names, so in England they are called "teddu nays", in the United States "teenagers" in France "blausos noires" in Japan "tao zoku". (Dinitz, 1969)

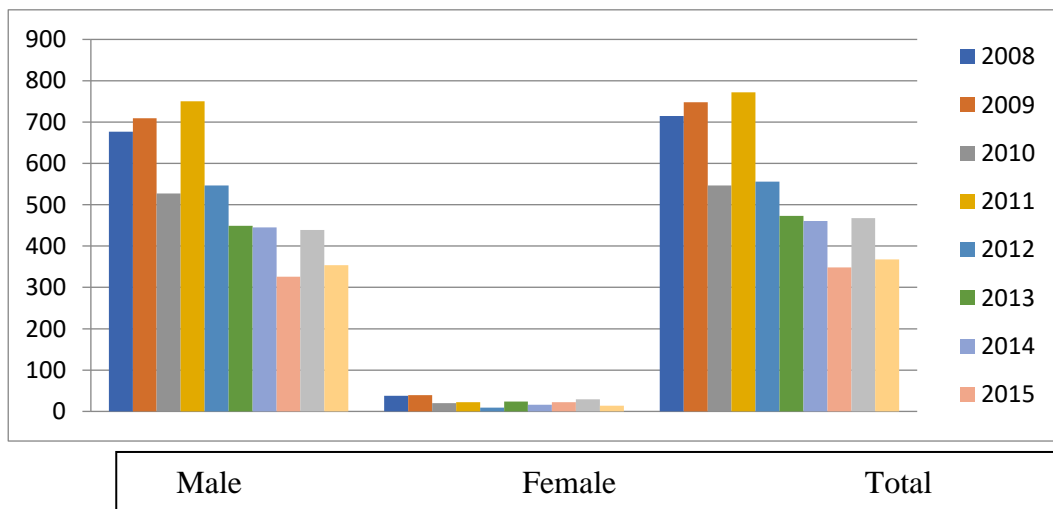
2.2.1 Gender

Juvenile crime in general is still characterized as a male phenomenon. The participation of female juveniles in crime is much lower than male juveniles. But if we make a classification regarding the participation of juveniles in criminal acts by gender, then it is important to mention that, male juveniles are more involved in violent crime, while female juveniles mostly participate in prostitution as a socio-pathologic phenomenon. In general female adults and juveniles are more involved in prostitution than male adults and juveniles. Youth prostitution is usually the result of family conflicts or involvement with other socio-pathological activities. It turns out that the number of underage prostitutes is constantly increasing. (Arnaudovski L. , 1983)

Table nb. 4 Number of convicted child perpetrators by gender in the Republic of North Macedonia in the period of 2009-2017

Years	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
Male	709	527	750	547	449	445	326	439	354
%	94.7%	96.3%	97.1%	98.3%	94.9%	96.5%	93.6%	93.8%	96.1%
Female	39	20	22	9	24	16	22	29	14
%	5.2%	3.6%	2.8%	1.6%	5%	3.4%	6.3%	6.1%	3.85
Total	748	547	772	556	473	461	348	468	368

Graph nb. 2 Number of convicted child perpetrators by gender in the Republic of North Macedonia in the period of 2009-2017



2.2.2 Age

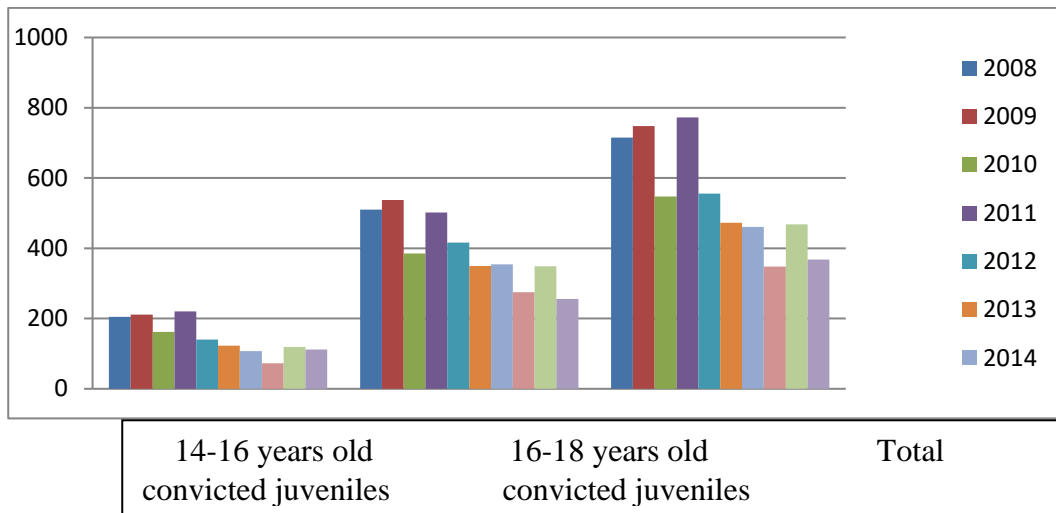
Age plays an important role within the framework of juvenile crime. The childhood psychology is also interested in the age of juveniles as a special conception of research. About the developmental stages of child, it is very important to mention characteristic such as: abilities,

motivational-emotional dispositions, social dispositions, cognitive factors (intelligence, communication and character) and temperament. (Stankovska Gordana, 2011) It is interesting that children from 4 to 12 years of age are more likely to participation in begging, in the category of children from 14 to 16 years of age, there is a change in behavior and character, and children mostly become a part of: fights, vagrancy and most of the juveniles commits a crimes against property. In the case of older juveniles, (16-18 years old), criminal acts are commonly reported against: property, public transport security, life and body and public order.

Table nb. 5 Number of convicted child perpetrators by age in the Republic of North Macedonia in the period of 2009-2017

Years	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
14-16	211	162	220	140	123	107	73	119
%	28.2%	29.6%	28.4%	25.1%	26%	23.2%	20.9%	25.4%
16-18	537	385	502	416	390	354	275	349
%	71.7%	70.3%	65%	74.8%	82.4%	76.7%	79%	74.5%
Total	748	547	772	556	473	461	348	468

Graph nb. 3 Number of convicted child perpetrators by age in the Republic of North Macedonia in the period of 2009-2017



2.2.3 Recidivism

The rising number of recidivism, is an important indicator of the negative effects of sanctions and the criminal politics. The application of penalties shows that it does not give the expected results. It has been noted that most of recidivists started their criminal career as juveniles. Factors that influence the reduction of repetition among juveniles are the following: school success and abilities, the style of learning, the ability to empathy and establishing relationships, the will to change behavior, the motivation for resolving life problems, etc. (Kovachevikj Ranko, 2014) Recidivism is a specific problem to which special attention is paid from criminological, criminal, legal and criminal-political aspects. Recidivism among juveniles statistically is not so high, because four years (14-18) is a relatively short period of time for recidivism. (Drakulevski)

2.2.4 Material (financial) status of delinquent

In the Republic of North Macedonia, the material (financial) status of families is a variable category. Unemployment and poverty become one of the reasons for the disruption of the relationship between the child and

the parent. The low socio-economic status of the family is the main reason for deviant, asocial and anti social behavior of juveniles. The relationships between parents and children, and total supervision over the child can overcome the poor economic situation.

Conclusion

Children do not feel the changes in society, because they have lots of new things around them that attract their attention, such as the environment, the school, the activities they do in their free time.

Taking into account the data the main reasons of juvenile crime are: poor primary upbringing by the family, insufficient parenting and especially criminogenic factors such as unemployment and poverty that directly affect family and children.

The development of the national legal framework in the field of juvenile justice and the adoption of different international conventions are not enough to reduce the juvenile crime. Society and social institutions should always assume the reasons and taking into account all assumptions to prepare programs before the problem arises.

In field of preventing juvenile crime it is so important to create "programs for the prevention of juvenile crime" that have proved to be very effective in developed countries through the education of juveniles, their families and the social context

References

1. Арнаудовски, Љупчо (2007),“Криминологија, 2-ри Август – Штип, Скопје
2. Арнаудовски, Љупчо (1983),“Социјална Патологија“, Студентски збор, Скопје
3. Велкова, Татјана (2006), “Феноменологија на малолетничкиот криминалитет во Република Македонија во периодот 1982-2000 година“, 2-ри Август Ц-Штип, Скопје
4. Груевска-Дракулевски, Александра (2008), “Рецидивизам код малолетничког криминалитета у Републици Македонији као индикатор за (не)ефикасност казнене политике“ у Зборник радова Двадесет и првог сусрета на тема: Право и индивидуалне вредности, Правни живот, часопис са правну теорију и праксу, Копаоничка школа природног права Удружења правника Србије, Београд
5. И, Јосифовски(1965), “Криминалитетот и другите облици на девијантно поведење како израз на отуѓеност на човекот, Докторска дисертација, Љубљана
6. И. Јосифовски, Љ. Арнаудовски (1963),“За статистиките за криминалитетот“ Институт за социјални и политичко правни истражувања, Скопје
7. Ковачевиќ, Ранко, Суљагиќ, Семир, Љуца, Џенита, Муфиќ, Един (2014), “Рецидивизмот по третман во дисциплински центар за малолетници“, Факултет за специјална едукација и рехабилитација, Тузла
8. Љ.Чонева, В.Чачева, Љ.Арнаудовски, М.Станкова, М.Марковиќ, Г.Станковска (2007),“Малолетничкиот криминалитет во транзицијата во Република Македонија“, Институт за социолошки и политичко-правни истражувања, Скопје

9. Љубичик, Станко, “Малолетнички криминалитет“, Конзулт студио, Нови Сад
10. Станковска, Гордана, Руси, Муќереме (2011), “Медицинска психологија“, Пергамент публик, Скопје
11. Dinitz, Simon, Dynes, Rowe Russell, Clarke, Alfred (1969), “Deviance; studies in the process of stigmatization and societal reaction”, Oxford University Press, London
12. УНИЦЕФ(2004),“Ефикасноста на мерките што се применуваат спрема малолетните лица“, Институт за социолошки и политичко правни истражувања, Скопје
13. <http://www.stat.gov.mk>