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## **Delinquent-Prone Communities**

Despite a century of effort, criminologists do not yet fully understand the relationship between disadvantage and crime. The balance of evidence suggests that economic and social stress increase the risk of involvement in crime by increasing the motivation to offend. But there are a number of empirical anomalies that cannot easily be reconciled with this interpretation of the evidence. Weatherburn and Lind argue that the transmission mechanism linking economic and social stress to crime is not offender motivation but disruption to the parenting process. They put forward an epidemic model of the genesis of delinquent-prone communities and show how this model resolves the empirical anomalies facing conventional interpretations of the disadvantage/crime relationship. This book offers compelling new evidence which will stimulate debate in this area of criminology and will also interest academics, policy makers and practitioners in the field.

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Don Weatherburn

and

Bronwyn Lind

*New South Wales Bureau of Crime Statistics and Research*



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## Contents

<i>List of figures and tables</i>	<i>page</i> viii
<i>Acknowledgements</i>	x
Overview	1
1 The ESIOM paradigm and its problems	6
2 The insidious effects of economic and social stress on parenting	28
3 Parenting, peers and delinquency	46
4 Delinquency generation at the individual level	67
5 Delinquency generation at the aggregate level	78
6 An epidemic model of offender population growth	102
7 Theories of crime and place	126
8 Prevention	157
<i>Notes</i>	184
<i>References</i>	189
<i>Index</i>	207

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## Figures and tables

### Figures

5.1	Rates of juvenile participation in crime and neglect in urban postcodes of New South Wales	<i>page</i> 87
5.2	Average rates of juvenile participation in crime in groups of urban postcodes of New South Wales	87
5.3	Path diagram for juvenile participation in crime	94
5.4	Path diagram for juvenile participation in property crime	95
5.5	Path diagram for juvenile participation in violent crime	96
5.6	Aggregate crime rates and rates of juvenile participation in crime in urban postcodes of New South Wales	98
5.7	Average rates of juvenile participation in crime in groups of urban postcodes	98
6.1	An epidemic model of offender population growth	103
6.2	State transitions in the epidemic model	111
6.3	Offender population growth for different values of $B_t$	115
6.4	Offender population growth for different values of $B_t$	116

### Tables

4.1	Involvement in crime: Model with family type and family income as predictors	70
4.2	Estimated percentage of juveniles involved in crime: Family type, family income	70
4.3	Supervision: Model with family type and family income as predictors	71

FIGURES AND TABLES **ix**

4.4	Estimated percentage of juveniles poorly supervised: Family type, family income, family type by family income	72
4.5	Estimated percentage of juveniles involved in crime: Supervision	73
4.6	Involvement in crime: Model with supervision as predictor	74
4.7	Involvement in crime: Model with supervision and neighbourhood type as predictors	74
4.8	Estimated percentage of juveniles involved in crime: Supervision by neighbourhood type	75
4.9	Involvement in crime: Model with supervision and family type as predictors	76
4.10	Estimated percentage of juveniles involved in crime: Supervision by family type	76
5.1	Pearson correlation coefficients for New South Wales urban postcodes	83
5.2	Pearson correlation coefficients for 10 per cent of New South Wales urban postcodes with highest proportions of low-income households	84
5.3	Juvenile participation in crime (262 urban postcodes): Models with socioeconomic measures as predictors	85
5.4	Neglect and abuse (262 urban postcodes): Models with socioeconomic measures as predictors	86
5.5	Juvenile participation in crime (262 urban postcodes): Models with neglect and socioeconomic measures as predictors	88
5.6	Juvenile participation in crime (262 urban postcodes): Models with abuse and socioeconomic measures as predictors	89
5.7	Juvenile participation in property crime (262 urban postcodes): Models with neglect and socioeconomic measures as predictors	90
5.8	Juvenile participation in property crime (262 urban postcodes): Models with abuse and socioeconomic measures as predictors	91
5.9	Juvenile participation in violent crime (257 urban postcodes): Models with neglect and socioeconomic measures as predictors	92
5.10	Juvenile participation in violent crime (257 urban postcodes): Models with abuse and socioeconomic measures as predictors	92
5.11	Adult participation in crime (261 urban postcodes): Models with neglect and socioeconomic measures as predictors	97
5.12	Aggregate crime rates (259 urban postcodes): Model with juvenile and adult participation in crime as predictors	99

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