

Delinquents often outgrow life of crime

Study: Juvenile programs rarely work

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United Press International WASHINGTON — A six-year government-backed study of juvenile delinquency and adult crime shows it is generally impossible to predict which youngsters will grow up to be criminals.

And, it found, imposing sanctions on juvenile delinquents and the intervention of social workers and social programs is frequently ineffective in deterring misbehaving teenagers.

The study, released Sunday, tracked the criminal careers of more than 6,000 people in Racine, Wis. It was funded by

grants from the Justice Department, the Fleischman Foundation and the University of Iowa.

"Much of the concern about juvenile delinquency has been based on the premise that it leads to adult crime," said study director Lyle Shannon, head of the Iowa Urban Community Research Center at the University of Iowa.

He said, however, the study found that many adults who became criminals had no police records as youths, and many juveniles with five or more police contacts became law-abiding citizens.

Shannon said although studies have shown some relationship between adult criminals and juvenile delinquency, it is insufficient "to permit prediction from juvenile misbehavior of who will become adult criminals."

Law-abiding adults who had been juvenile delinquents said they changed their behavior after concluding what they thought was fun as a youngster "was no longer appropriate behavior" — not out of fear of being arrested, the study said.

"With considerable regularity," the study said, "male juveniles increased the frequency and seriousness of their misbehavior immediately after sanctions were imposed against them. The increase in seriousness of misbehavior was not true for female juveniles."

"The few who continue to have police contacts with an increase in seriousness (and finally a decline) are those who become well known to the adult justice system and thus create the impression of continuity and increasing seriousness in delinquent criminal careers," he said.

The study found that only those studied in the inner city of

Racine showed any evidence of a link between juvenile and adult behavior.


Of the group born in 1942, he said, 11.7 percent lived in the inner city and had continuous police contacts up to age 18. More than 53 percent of those had "high seriousness scores" as adults, he said.

The study focused on the de-

linquency and criminal careers of three groups of people. One group was born in 1942 and their contacts with police were traced from age 6 to 32. A second group, born in 1949, had their police contacts were traced

from age 6 to 25. The third group was born in 1949 and traced from age 6 to 21.

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Foreign cars gain in business market

United Press International DETROIT — U.S. businesses have followed the lead of private motorists by buying more imported cars — giving foreign automakers a 13.2 percent share of the fleet customer market last year, a study shows.

Foreign car manufacturers substantially increased their market share of the fleet customer market between 1979 and 1981, said a Hertz Corp. survey released Sunday.

The survey also showed the number of cars rented and leased last year rose 1.1 percent to 5.068 million, up from 5.015 million a year before. The vehicle rental-lease industry recorded a 16.8 percent increase in revenues, the study found.

In the past 15 years, Hertz estimated, nearly half of all new cars sold in the United States were purchased by corporations, government agencies, small businesses and leasing and

rental agencies. U.S. automakers consider these fleet sales almost their "bread and butter."

Business customers get deliveries of new models before they arrive in retail showrooms. Often the use of new models by a rental agency or corporation can lead customers and employees to purchase them for their own use.

But Hertz found an increasing number of foreign-made cars are being purchased for non-personal use. In 1981, imports made up 13.2 percent of those sales, up from 12.1 percent in 1980.

In 1979, the imports' share of this market was just 8.2 percent. In 1970, it stood at under 3 percent of business vehicles.

"In short, American business has now done what private motorists have been doing for 10 to 20 years — buying imports," said a Hertz spokesman.



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ATTENTION AGGIELAND STAFF MEMBERS

The first staff meeting will be Thursday September 2 in the Aggeland office at 7 p.m. Staff members are also urged to call the Aggeland office as soon as possible to inform us of any new phone number. Aggeland office 845-2681, 845-2682.

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