

Session I: Juveniles as perpetrators and victims

“What helps to prevent recidivism of male juvenile delinquents?”

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Abstract

The presentation provides central results of a study with detained juvenile delinquents, which was conducted in Hesse, Germany, between 2006 and 2011. The research project incorporated the examination of official government records on recidivism and intensive interviews with juvenile delinquents and their probation officers. The presentation focusses on the interview data. A comparison of those former prisoners who were reconvicted one year after their release with those without further convictions (desisters, n = 16) shows that desisters express a higher degree of critical reflection upon the own offence, are more often in touch with non-delinquent people and abandon relationships with delinquent peers, show a stronger structuring of their time in general and leisure time in particular, are more interested in education, abandon drug consumption and tend to reject violence more strongly. Implications for imprisonment of juvenile delinquents are discussed.