

Current Situation of Juvenile Delinquency in Chengdu and Suggestions for Preventive Countermeasures

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Abstract

In recent years, the number of crimes committed by minors and the proportion of late-adult offenders to the total number of criminal offenders in Chengdu City have shown a year-on-year decline, but the problem of late-adult crime is still serious. Through the discussion of the white paper on the work of the Procuratorate for Minors in Chengdu City in 2021-2023, we summarize and analyze the current situation and main features of juvenile crimes of urbanites, as well as the influencing factors and subjective and objective reasons for crimes committed by late-adults, put forward aspects of juvenile crimes in Chengdu City that are worth paying attention to at present, and put forward countermeasures and suggestions for the prevention of crimes committed by late-adults from the levels of families, schools and societies.

Keywords

Juvenile delinquency, main features, crime prevention, juvenile justice.

1. Introduction

The total number of crimes committed by minors in Chengdu city. The fluctuating phenomenon of the total amount of crime reflects the overall trend of juvenile crime. From a general perspective, the number of juvenile crimes in Chengdu City has remained high for many years. The curbing effect of the current situation of juvenile crimes in Chengdu City is generally effective since the amendment of the Criminal Law of the People's Republic of China (XI) (hereinafter referred to as "Amendment of the Criminal Law of the People's Republic of China (XI)"), which lowered the age of criminal responsibility[Chengdu Municipal People's Procuratorate White Paper on Prosecution of Minors (2021-2023): "From 2021-2023, the number of people approved by the city's procuratorial organs to be arrested for crimes against minors rose by an average of 13.39% per year; the number of people prosecuted for crimes against minors rose by an average of 20.04% per year."]. On May 31, 2024, the Supreme Prosecutor issued a "White Paper on Prosecution of Minors (2023)"[White Paper on Prosecution of Minors by the Supreme People's Procuratorate (2023): "Procuratorial organs nationwide approved the arrest of 26,855 juvenile criminal suspects, and the prosecution of 38,954 juvenile criminal suspects, up respectively by 73.7% and 40.7% respectively."], which shows that the juvenile delinquency rate is declining year by year, clearly reflecting the effectiveness of crime prevention in Chengdu City in the past few years.

2. Characteristics of Juvenile Delinquency in Chengdu

2.1. Age Characteristics of Minors Involved in Crimes in Chengdu

Referring to the data of Chengdu Procuratorate from 2021 to 2023, the age structure of juvenile crime reflects the characteristic that the age of crime mainly concentrates in the age of sixteen to eighteen. According to the data of Chengdu Procuratorate from 2021 to 2023, among the minors involved in crimes transferred for examination and prosecution, those who had reached the age of sixteen and were not yet eighteen accounted for 86.81%, 87.60%, and 89.64%

respectively; and those who had reached the age of fourteen and were not yet sixteen (excluding this number) accounted for 13.19%, 12.40%, and 10.36% respectively. It can be seen that the proportion of crimes committed by underage minors is decreasing year by year.

According to the data of Chengdu City Procuratorate, it can also be observed that the trend of juvenile delinquency recidivism in Chengdu City has been curbed to a certain extent: from January 2021 to December 2023, the number of minors who had been subjected to criminal punishment and reoffended among the minors who were accepted for examination and prosecution accounted for 5.48%, 5.33%, and 4.51% of the total number of people who had committed crimes during the same period, respectively, with a decreasing trend year by year.

2.2. Identity Characteristics of Minors Involved in Crime in Chengdu

Analyzing the data from the Chengdu City Procuratorate, it can be seen that in the period from 2021 to 2023, foreign minors involved in crime accounted for a large proportion of the crimes committed by minors in Chengdu. The data shows that 56.64% of the total number of minors involved in crimes prosecuted in Chengdu were non-Chengdu residents. It is important to note that the data reveals that the proportion of minors who committed crimes in school is not low, accounting for 17.26% of the total number of offenders. The above data shows that nearly 60% of the minors who committed crimes in Chengdu City were foreigners, and more than half of them were from non-crime areas (city) or county household registration.

2.3. Cultural Characteristics of Minors Involved in Crime in Chengdu

In terms of cultural traits, according to the minors involved in crimes investigated, those with an education level of less than high school accounted for 71.58% of the total. Among them, 80% of the total were middle school educated; 20% of the total were elementary school and middle school dropouts who had not completed their compulsory education; and 51.71% of the total were unemployed, awaiting work, or jobless. It can be seen from this that the literacy level of juveniles involved in crime is generally low, and is concentrated mainly at the primary and secondary school levels, with junior high school being the section with the largest number of juveniles involved in crime. By comparing the data, it can also be found that the literacy level of the minors involved in the crime is closely related to the actual crime. Gathered mainly in the junior high school and below the cultural range of minors involved in crime, the type of traditional crimes, mainly concentrated in the violation of citizens' personal rights, property rights, and disrupt the social order of the three major categories, far more than the cultural level of high school as well as secondary school minors involved in crime. Therefore, it can be concluded that the low cultural quality of minors involved in crime is more likely to commit robbery, theft, rape, gang fighting, and other crimes.[1]

2.4. Personality Characteristics of Offenders in Chengdu

Data research shows that the proportion of minors involved in crime who have negative character traits in their early life reaches about half of the total number of minors involved in crime. Among the specific proportions of negative personalities (see Fig. 1): the data also reflect another trait of personality, with a significant proportion of negative personalities of crime-involved male minor suspects focusing on irritability, paranoia, coldness, and low self-esteem, while the negative personalities of crime-involved female minor suspects converge mainly on paranoia, irritability, and loneliness.[2]

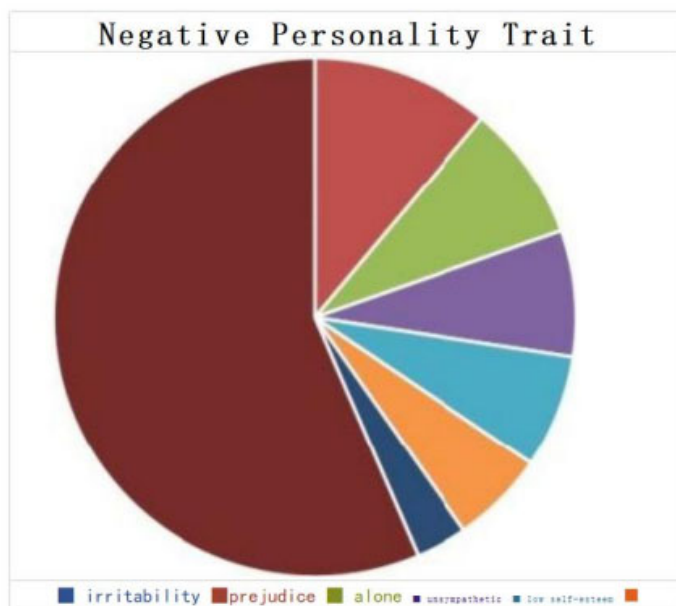


Figure 1. Characteristics of the criminal personalities of minors accepted for examination and prosecution from 2021 to 2023

2.5. Behavioral Characteristics of Offenses Involving Minors in Chengdu

By analyzing the data from the Chengdu procuratorate, see Fig. 2.

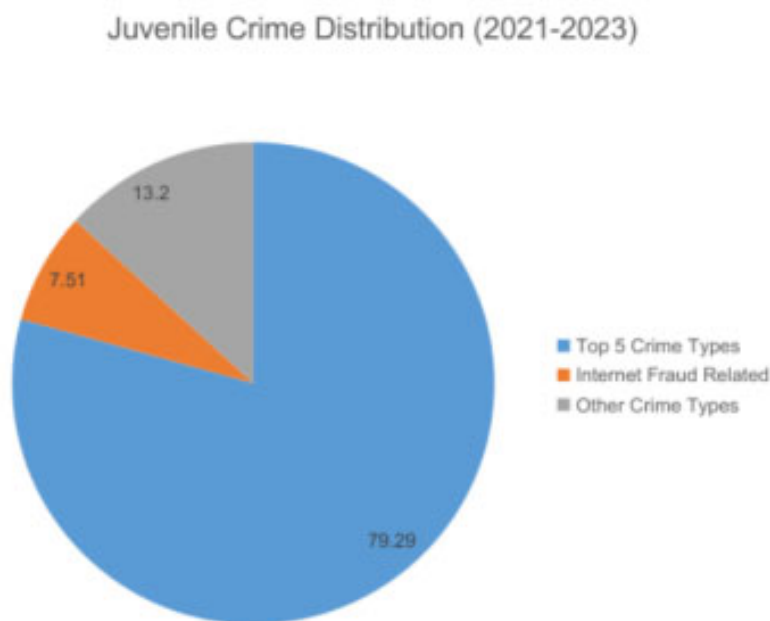


Figure 2. Main offenses for which minors were accepted for examination and prosecution from 2021 to 2023

It can be clearly observed that the types of crimes involving minors are mainly concentrated, with the top five crimes being theft, robbery, rape, mobbing, and provoking trouble, in that order, accounting for 79.29% of the total, presenting the characteristic that crimes committed by minors in Chengdu have a centralized nature. The reason why there will be this characteristic, the author believes that the minors involved in crime because of their age,

psychophysiology is still in the stage of growth, minors compared to adults, the ability to distinguish right and wrong and self-control ability is completely insufficient, emotional ups and downs, the lack of self-rationality, so that the minors involved in the physiology and psychology of the growth of the growth stage of the contradictory conflicts, this contradiction leads to the group in the commission of crimes This contradiction causes this group to show extremely obvious violent colors and impulsiveness when committing crimes. The data also show that the phenomenon of juvenile offenders committing multiple offenses at the same time is on the rise. A juvenile offender may commit different offenses at the same time. The types of offenses committed by minors involved in crime show a composite quality.[3] For example, some minors commit the crime of violating the legal benefits of property, but also mixed with rape, intentional injury, and intentional homicide. Some minors commit rape, intentional homicide, and intentional injury, but also violate property. In addition to the above two cases, there are also some minors involved in crime in order to achieve their own criminal purpose, using any means, and at the same time violating a variety of legal interests. The social harm of committing several criminal acts for a single criminal motive is greater than that of a single violation of a single legal interest. This is also a reflection of the irrational nature of minors involved in crime, who are easy to disregard life and legal interests, regardless of the consequences. In addition, it is worth noting that the proportion of crimes involving Internet fraud is rising significantly; the aforementioned minors involved in Internet fraud during the period of 2021-2023 accounted for 7.51% of the total number of people, but the average annual increase in the proportion was 91.50%.

2.6. Characteristics of the means of crimes committed by minors involved in crimes in Chengdu

By analyzing the specific methods used by a suspect to commit a crime, it is possible to observe the height of the subjective malignancy of that suspect and how much damage the act has caused to society. There are three characteristics of crimes committed by minors. The main methods used by minors in committing crimes are violence and theft, among others. The means of crime of minors has a strong violent nature, minors in homicide, robbery, rape, and other vicious violence cases are increasing year by year, reflecting the cruelty of the means of crime of minors involved in crime. Data analysis shows that the minors involved in crime in the means of crime presents more and more complex and to the adult crime method of convergence, this trait shows that the minors involved in crime motives and methods more and more mismatch, the degree of intelligence is deepening, the reason is because of the rapid development of the Internet and the modern communication tools for the minors to learn the means of crime to provide a convenient, coupled with the advent of the era of big data, the minors involved in crime is more and more mismatch, intelligent. The crime methods of minors involved in crimes are becoming more intelligent and secretive, and their anti-detection ability and escape techniques are also rising,[4] reflecting the intelligence of the crime methods of minors involved in crimes. As mentioned earlier, the contradictions and imbalances in the psychophysiological development of juvenile delinquents make this group commit crimes with a high degree of improvisation and more sudden criminal acts. This shows that the subjective malignancy of the minors involved in crime is relatively small, so the minors involved in crime have a relatively good attitude of confession and repentance, and the casual nature of their criminal behavior is obvious.

2.7. Characteristics of criminal organizations of juveniles involved in crimes in Chengdu

Through the analysis of the data, among the minors involved in crimes, the proportion of joint crimes occupies a large proportion, compared with the proportion of joint crimes among adults, which is far more than the proportion of adults involved in crimes. Of the minors prosecuted

under the law, more than half of the total number of minors were involved in crimes committed jointly by two or more persons; among them, minors suspected of committing crimes in a gang accounted for about 20% of the total number of minors. Through conversations with the minors involved in the crimes in question, it was found that most of the minors were susceptible to such undesirable psychological influences as the so-called "righteousness of the jianghu and the knife in both ribs" because of their immature psychological development.

In addition, the number of joint crimes committed by minors is increasing, and the proportion of accomplices and coerced accomplices is also increasing, indicating that some of the minors involved in the crimes have little subjective malice, and that the proportion of minors who are coerced to participate in the crimes is not low. The reason why the proportion of minors involved in crime as the main offender is not low is largely due to the trait of "ruthlessness and righteousness" of the minors involved in crime.

3. The Formation of Juvenile Delinquency in Chengdu City factors

3.1. Family factors of juvenile delinquency in Chengdu

Family is one of the indispensable and important functional units of the society, and it is also the starting point of each person's life education, and one of the significance of its existence is that it has a great influence on the psychological growth and quality of each individual unit, and of course, it is an indispensable influence on the minors involved in crime. One of the causes of juvenile delinquency is a defective family structure. Since 2021, among the juvenile delinquents and minor victims in Chengdu, 29.51% were from single-parent families (single-parent families in Chengdu are basically families with divorced parents, and very few families with one parent dead), under the guardianship of other adults, or with no one to take custody of them.[5] Most of the minors involved in crimes in single-parent families showed that they hated their parents, had a very poor relationship with them, and were very resistant to parental discipline. On the other hand, minors who grew up in left-behind families reported that they had been brought up without parental control, felt lonely, were indifferent and oblivious to their feelings, and generally did not have a sense of the rule of law. Most of the minors from these two types of family backgrounds drop out of school at an early age and, after leaving school, either go to work or play around with their peers, often staying out at night without their parents either knowing about it or disciplining them. In addition, the parents divorced, remarried or discord, further weakened the minors for the holiday that the attachment relationship and emotional ties with parents, the lack of effective supervision, the problem of food and clothing can not be solved is the main factors that lead to this part of the minors who are involved in crime to go astray. The second major factor is formed in the parents' incorrect education mode; there are mainly three kinds of families: authoritative family, spoiled family, and parents' own quality under the influence of the child's family. According to data from the Chengdu Procuratorate, the percentage of incorrect family education methods, such as indulgence, spoiling, scolding, and corporal punishment, is close to 80%. Growing up in an authoritative family minors involved in crime because of self-expression and communication ability is limited by parents, resulting in the formation of adolescent rebellious mentality is more likely; and spoiled home soaked up minors involved in crime because of the lack of discipline and do not know how to respect other people, the lack of correct values so that the law is also no respect for the law, disregard for the law. Parents' own moral quality is very poor in the family, parents' wrong psychological effect and behavioral guidance will make the learning stage of the juvenile delinquents absorb the negative factors, and then breed greater vices.

3.2. School factors of juvenile delinquency in Chengdu

Interpersonal relationships are one of the influencing factors, the most important of which is the teacher-student relationship and how to deal with school violence. The reason is that the focus of the school has always been on the group of outstanding students, and at the same time for the part of the students who do not achieve the results of the school will be negligent attention, sloppy education, do not care about or even to portray them as a negative image of the education of other children, the result will make this part of the relationship between minors and teachers is very poor, so that their hearts are full of negative factors, and thus self-abandonment. Most of the minors involved in the crime are dissatisfied with the teacher-student relationship during their school years. The school's improper handling of school violence is also one of the reasons why most of the minors involved in crime become victims or aggressors during the study period, and this incorrect way of dealing with the problem will also become the triggers and vicious accumulation of this part of the juveniles to go astray in the future. The second factor is the neglect of legal education on campus, the superficial form of legal popularization, and the uninteresting method of publicizing the law, which are the reasons for the students' indifference to the law. Schools that take the initiative to invite law professionals to teach legal courses are mostly municipal and district-level key schools, and most of them go to other ordinary schools to promote the law in response to invitations from the Bureau of Education and the Judicial Bureau. Schools that are passive in listening to lectures are often trying to complete the legal hours assigned by their superiors, and do not pay much attention to the lectures themselves, but organize two or three classes to listen to the lectures at most, and limit the time of the lectures.[6] The inadequacy of legal education makes this part of the minors involved in crime lack legal awareness and disregard the law, and this under-attention to legal education is also one of the reasons that leads these minors involved in crime to go astray.

3.3. Social factors of juvenile delinquency in Chengdu

First, because of the economic and social leap forward and the city reaching an advanced stage, it inevitably leads to people speeding up the migration flow. On the one hand, foreign minors migrate to Chengdu City to study, work and live, and are often separated from family supervision, severing the relationship of dependence with the family, and most of them lack the necessary labor skills and the ability to live independently, so it is easy to be controlled by the desire to go astray and commit crimes. On the other hand, Chengdu City, far suburban districts (cities) and counties due to the export of labor, resulting in left-behind children only by one parent or the elders of the next generation to raise, the lack of one or both parents of the guardianship and education, alienation of affection, family education, easy to lead to the left-behind minors to produce cognitive bias, by the influence of the bad social atmosphere, and then embarked on the road of crime or suffered from criminal infringement. Secondly, the erosion of bad culture. With the diversification and modernization of media channels and the popularization of the Internet, the mass media has become one of the main ways for minors to acquire behaviors, and it is easier for minors to come into contact with bad cultures such as violence and pornography, as well as incorrect worldviews such as gold-worshipping and hedonism, and to identify with them. On the one hand, the promotion of violence and pornography in movies and games makes minors who lack screening ability easily confuse the boundaries between virtual and real, and can be easily imitated by minors. On the other hand, under the erosion of money worship and hedonism, some minors turn to pursue a material life that is higher than their own and their families' affordability, and even crave "overnight riches", which leads them to the road of crime. Third, the illegal operation of entertainment venues for minors. Internet cafes, nightclubs, and other places allow minors to enter, and even provide adult identity information to allow minors to access the Internet for the sake of profit. The

current network environment is not standardized, making it very easy for minors to obtain information on pornography, gambling, and drugs etc. KTVs, nightclubs, and other places of entertainment for minors are open illegally, which is very easy to turn into hotbeds of breeding crime, and entice minors into the abyss of desire.[7]

3.4. Individual factors of juvenile delinquency in Chengdu

Minors are in a special stage of growth, the ability to distinguish right from wrong, self-restraint, behavioral control and the ability to resist undesirable temptations is weak, which is the primary subjective reason leading to minors' delinquency or infringement, the contradiction between physiological exuberance of energy and lack of psychological control, the conflict between rapid development of sexual function and delayed development of sexual mentality, the imbalance between the enhancement of independent will and the unripe adaptability of mentality are all the subjective causes of minors' possible delinquency. Subjective psychological factors that may lead minors to commit crimes. In addition, the role of "adolescent peer psychology" should not be overlooked. Minors are eager to realize their self-identity in interpersonal interactions, and when they are unable to obtain such self-identity at home or at school, they are prone to embarking on the wrong path of undesirable interactions, committing illegal and criminal activities in groups, or having their selves violated by illegal and criminal activities.

4. Preventive Measures for Minors' Involvement in Crime in Chengdu

1. From the family level: parents are the most suitable educators for their children, they should take up the obligation of guardianship and education, pay attention to the psychological upbringing of minors, psychologically give them a sense of security and fulfillment, and improve the quality of upbringing of minors, the so-called "family and everything prosper", a good family environment promotes the children's healthy physical and mental development. Parents' supervision of their children is strengthened, and the standard of family education of guardians is raised, enhancing the positive effects of guardianship in family education. Secondly, the government can play a role in providing social support for family education by contacting schools and society. It is also necessary to strengthen the construction of family culture and the education of behavioral norms, to cultivate good behavioral habits, and to educate and correct the bad behavior of minors in a timely manner. It is important to oppose and eliminate domestic violence, provide a warm family atmosphere for minors to grow up healthily, and further develop the "parenting education" that the Chengdu Municipal Procuratorate implemented in 2017, drawing on Shanghai and other places and combining it with the actual situation in Chengdu, so as to make more contributions to the advancement of parenting education. It is appropriate for the education administration department to set up parenting classes, form a curriculum system suitable for parents of all school ages, and strengthen the popularization of parenting education for guardians of left-behind children, guardians of children with serious bad behaviors, and guardians of broken marriages, who are in the greatest need of parenting education.[8]

2. At the school level, legal education is strengthened, and education on the rule of law is carried out in a variety of ways, such as through mock courts, rule of law scenarios, rule of law lectures, keynote speeches, and knowledge contests, followed by adolescent education. The focus of each stage is different. In elementary school, the emphasis is on physical health education, as well as the popularization of knowledge about sexual safety and the prevention of sexual abuse. In junior high school, it is necessary to correctly guide the emotional relationships of minors at this stage. Entering high school is to strengthen the shaping of the values of responsibility of the minors, so that they have the correct values of marriage and love in adulthood. Strengthen the values education, help minors positively, love the country, care for others; publicize the

correct and good code of conduct, promote the children to have excellent moral standards and role models. To promote mental health education to be equipped with the use of professional psychological teachers, to provide students with mental health courses and psychological counseling, especially to educate minor students on how to cope with irritability, paranoia, and other negative emotions. Specialized school education should be developed, and underage students with serious bad behaviors should be sent to specialized schools to receive education and corrective treatment, to achieve early prevention and focus on prevention, and to prevent juvenile delinquency from the source .[9]

3. From the social level: we should make efforts to build a zero-crime community, build a good community environment for the healthy growth of minors, give timely material and spiritual help to minors who are in trouble and lost in the community, and safeguard the legitimate rights and interests of these minors. To optimize the community environment, it is necessary to improve the supervision of for-profit entertainment venues in the community and strictly limit the entry and exit of underage children to for-profit entertainment venues. Additionally, a healthy network environment and a network civilization protection project should be established to safeguard the legitimate rights and interests of minors. Suppose the state can introduce specific regulations for the protection of minors on the Internet. In that case, it will provide an important guarantee for the protection of the legitimate rights and interests of minors. It is necessary to build a community environment free of labeling and actively help minors who have been punished to return to society and help them grow up healthily.

5. Conclusion

The significance of studying juvenile delinquency lies not only in reducing the rate of criminal offenses, but also in preventing today's minors from falling into tomorrow's criminals and falling into the dreadful abyss. The work of preventing juvenile delinquency is not only a practical, exploratory work, but also contains a strong comprehensive, only in conjunction with the actual situation, from the family, the school, the community and other three-dimensional multi-level active construction of innovative mechanisms, in order to effectively do a good job, the implementation of this work.

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