

CHAPTER 2

2.1 Self Check page 29

What factors help explain the elusive nature of juvenile delinquency in the United States?

Several factors affect the realities and perceptions surrounding delinquency. One is that the various methods of data collection for juvenile statistics are different and sometimes contradictory. For instance, self-report surveys show that social class does not affect delinquency, but official statistics state that it does. This, in turn, creates problems for those who wish to define the causes of juvenile delinquency before they attempt to fight it.

2.2 Self Check page 43

1. Explain the concept of victimless crime.

Victimless crimes are crimes that are said to not have a victim because the victim is a willing participant, such as in the crimes of prostitution or drug use.

2. Why do you think the report percentage for crimes involving juveniles is low compared to that of crimes involving adults?

Factors may include the juvenile's perceived sense of helplessness, fear of being in trouble with school or family, and a belief that they should handle it themselves.

2.3 Self Check page 48

Between 1985 and 1995, what was the percentage of juvenile victims in the number of violent crimes?

According to Figure 2-8 on page 46, 25 percent of all victims of violent crime were juveniles. However, there are difficulties involved in determining crime and victimization rates.

2.4 Self Check page 67

What is the difference between a causal factor and a risk factor?

A **causal factor** is one that causes a juvenile to be delinquent. A risk factor is a variable that, by its presence or absence, is correlated with a youth becoming delinquent. Even the presence of several risk factors, however, does not guarantee that delinquent behavior will emerge.