

**INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE on "Working with Juveniles and Young Adult offenders"**  
**6th – 7th June, Barcelona, Catalonia**

# CRIMINAL HISTORY AND TRAJECTORIES OF YOUNG ADULT OFFENDERS

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# Outline

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- ❖ The youth crime: here and now
- ❖ Crime Prevention Models
- ❖ Develop. Criminology and Trajectories
- ❖ Risk and JJ
- ❖ Conclusions

# Thanks to...

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## GEAV Team

- (Mauricio, Lorena, Carolina and Thuy)

## CEJFE Team

- (Marta, Manel...)

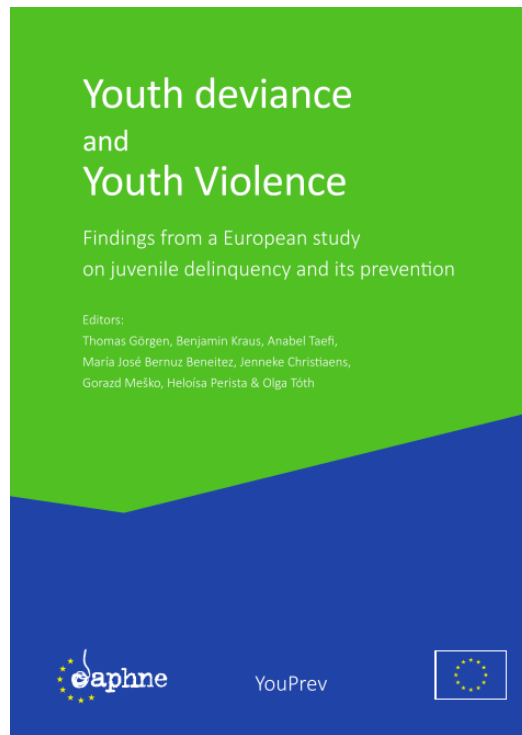
# The youth crime: here and now

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# European Youth crime (2013)

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YouPrev Report: results emphasize ...

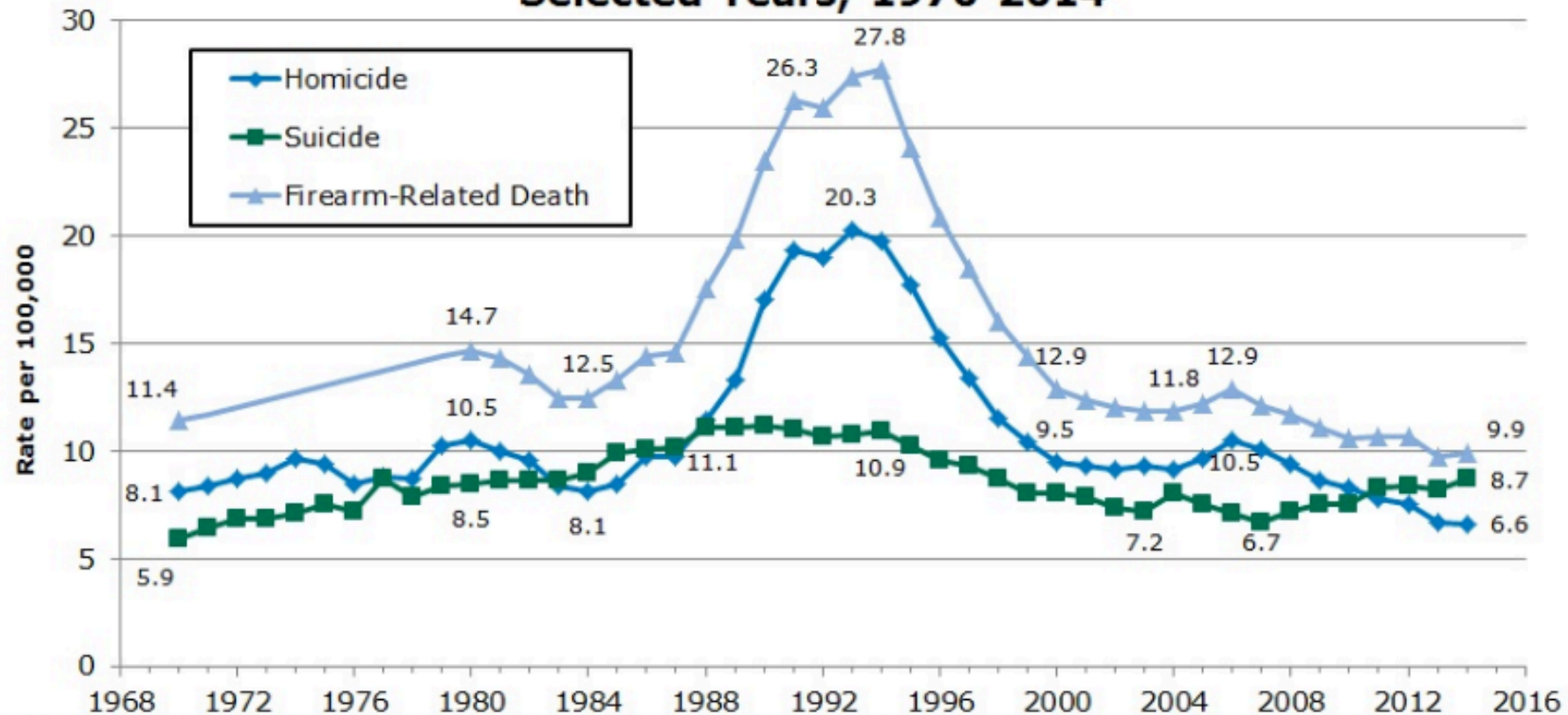
...that juvenile delinquency is on the one hand a **universal developmental phenomenon**.

... **Breaking rules** is part of the process of growing up, and most adolescents commit some offences during their adolescence.

...For the majority of young persons, **involvement in delinquency is bio-graphically limited** to a certain span of time and rarely goes beyond petty offences.

Figure 1

# Rates (per 100,000) for Homicide, Suicide, and Firearm-Related Deaths of Youth, Ages 15-19: Selected Years, 1970-2014



Data for 1970 and 1980: National Center for Health Statistics. (2002) *Health United States, 2002 With Chartbook on Trends in the Health of Americans*. National Center for Health Statistics. Tables 46, 47, and 48. Data for 1971-1979: Child Trends calculations from: National Center for Health Statistics {various years} Vital statistics of the United States, volume II, mortality, part B.

[http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/products/vsus/vsus\\_1965\\_1979.htm](http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/products/vsus/vsus_1965_1979.htm). and U.S. Census Bureau. Population estimates: National estimates by age, sex, race: 1900-1979 (PE-11).

<http://www.census.gov/popest/data/national/asrh/pre-1980/PE-11.html> Data for 1981-2014: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. *Web-based Injury Statistics Query and Reporting System (WISQARS)* [Online]. (2015).

National Center for Injury Prevention and Control, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (producer). Available at [www.cdc.gov/injury/wisqars/fatal.html](http://www.cdc.gov/injury/wisqars/fatal.html)

.....I'm eighteen and I don't know  
what I want

Eighteen I just don't know what I  
want

Eighteen I gotta get away

I gotta get out of this place

I'll go runnin' in outer space, oh  
yeah

I got a baby's brain and an old  
man's heart took

eighteen years to get this far

Don't always know what I'm  
talkin' about feels like

I'm livin' in the middle of doubt'

Cause I'm eighteen I get confused  
every day eighteen

I just don't know what to say

Eighteen I gotta get away

# I' m Eighteen"

(Alice Cooper, 1970,1990)



# The “myth” of 18 years old in criminal law

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- ✓ It's scientific based?
- ✓ When start and finish adolescence?
- ✓ 18 years old today it's not what legal tradition believe it to be ?

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# Developmental Neuroscience, Crime and 18 yrs.

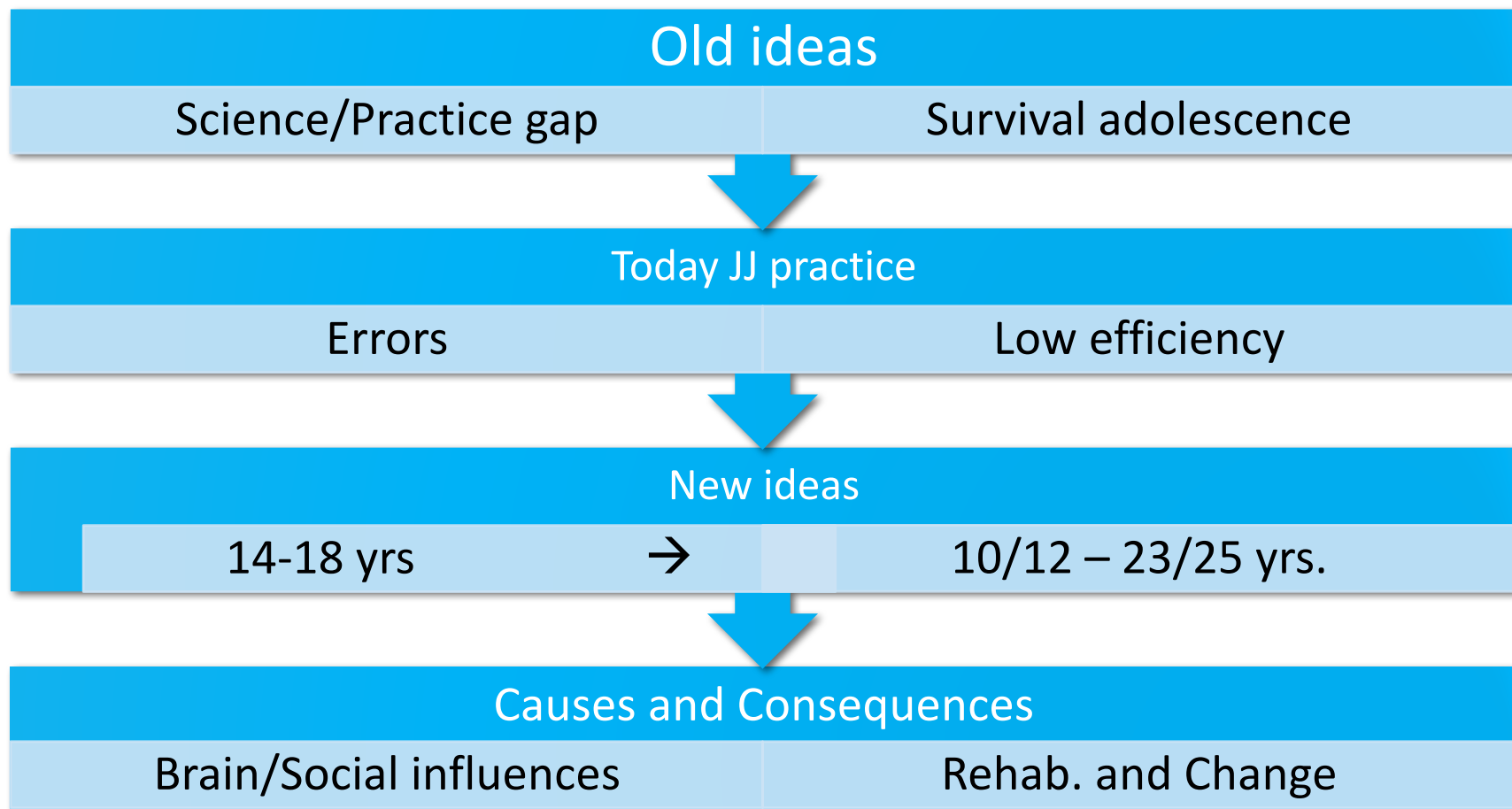
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..... in many respects, young adult offenders aged 18 to 25 are **more similar to juveniles than to adults** in individual factors such as executive functions, maturity, impulse control, risk taking and decision making focused on immediate rather than future consequences....

(Study Group of Juvenile Offenders. Farrington, 2016)

# Adolescents and JJ: new vision

(L. Steinberg, 2014)



The future..... ?????



PREVENTION

# Crime Prevention Models

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# History of criminal intervention in youth crime...

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Punishment

Rational election  
Welfare

Rehabilitation

Social-Learning  
models  
Tx.

Prevention

Risk and Protection  
factors

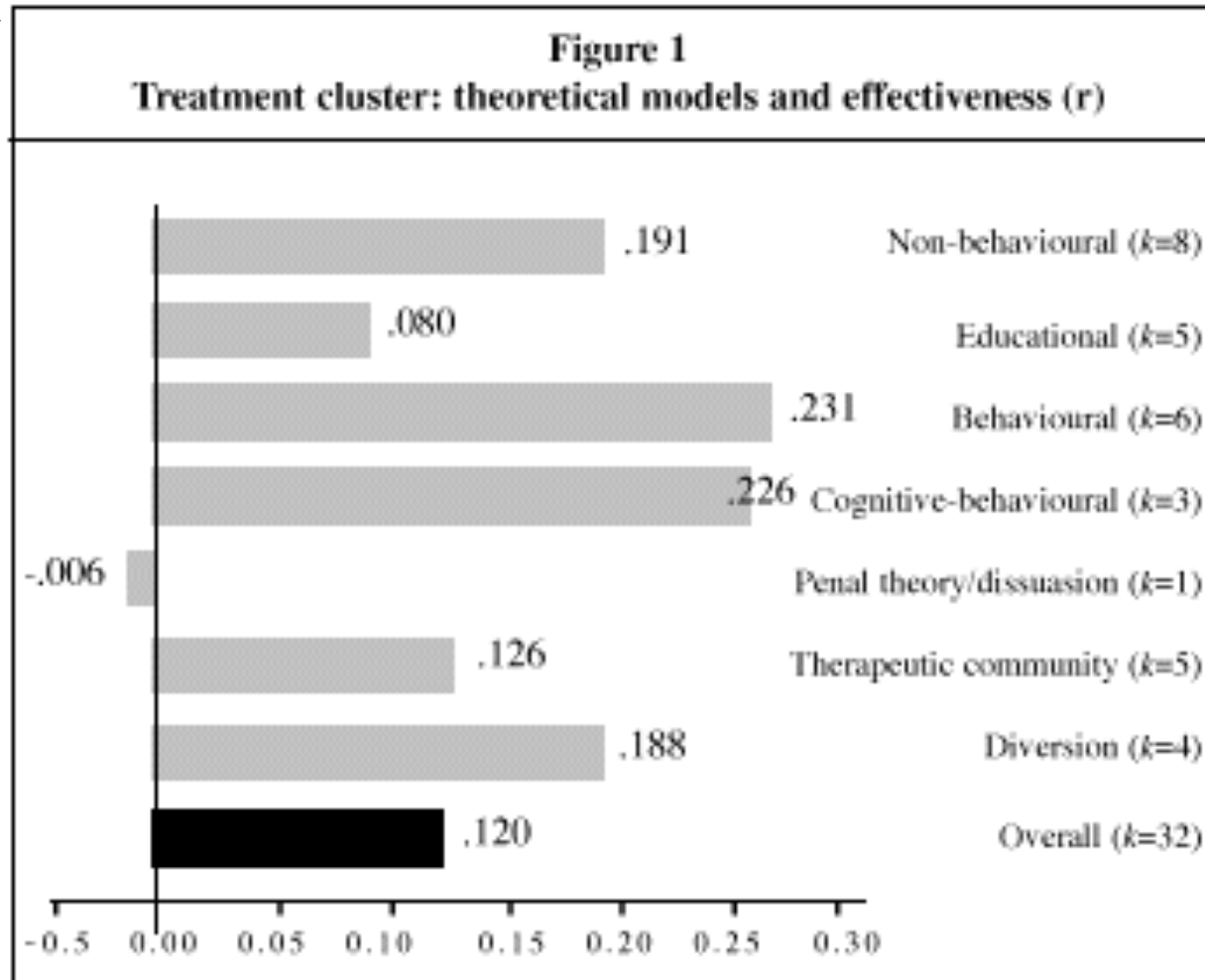
# Main approach...

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## What works ?

- Education
- Treatment

# What works (low effects)



# Rehabilitation Programs Generally

The most prevalent rehabilitation principle is the **Risk-Need-Responsivity [RNR] model** of crime prevention and correctional rehabilitation, formulated by Andrews and Bonta (1994). This model rests on three core principles, which are believed to influence correctional rehabilitation outcomes:

Respon  
sivity

The *risk* principle indicates that treatment intensity should be adjusted to the extent to which there is risk for re-offending.

Needs

The *need* principle asserts that correctional programs should address criminogenic needs, i.e. dynamic characteristics that have shown to be directly related to re-offending rates.

Risk

And finally, the *responsivity* principle suggests that interventions should match an offender's characteristics, such as an offender's motivation to engage in treatment.

In other words, the model gives direction to *who* should be treated (risk), *what* should be treated (need) and *how* it should be treated (responsivity).



# A new technology added..

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## What works ?

- Education
- Treatment

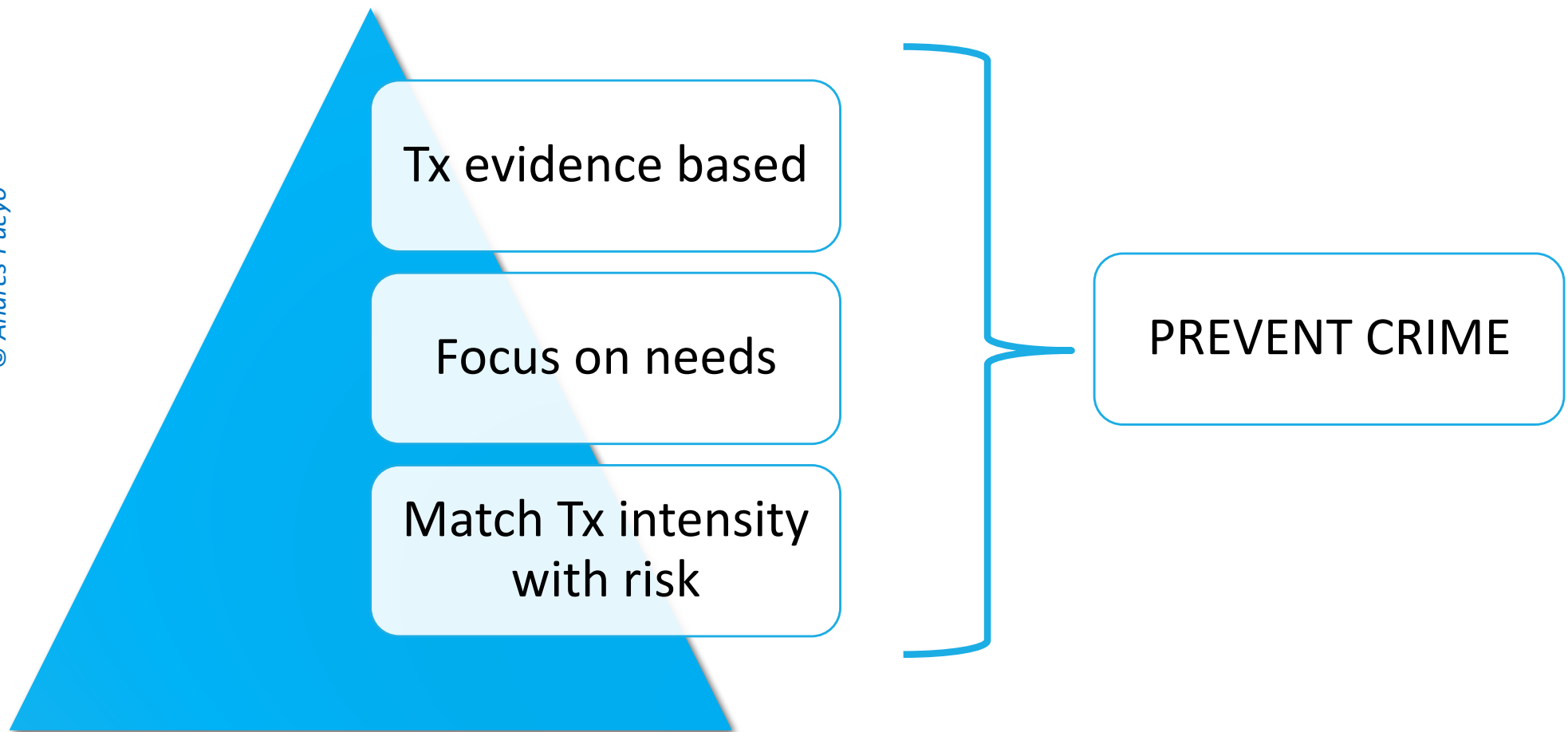
## Risk

- Assessment
- Management

# Crime reduction programs more successful....

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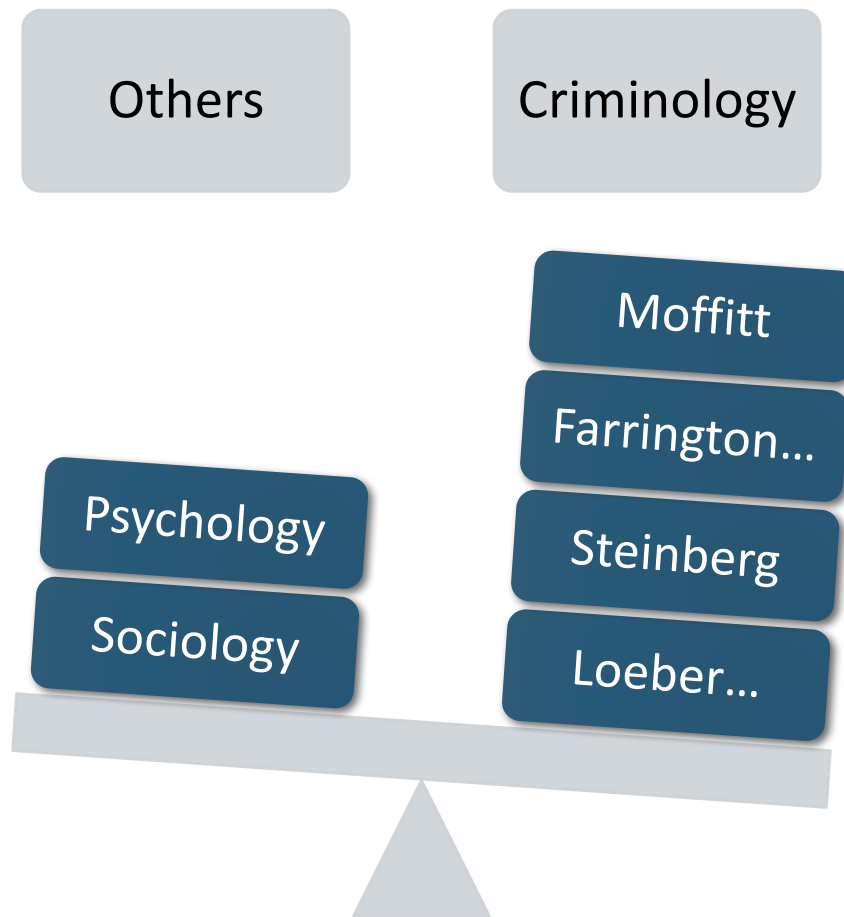


# Developmental Criminology and Trajectories

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# Developmental criminology vs. other disciplines

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# Longitudinal Studies on Crime



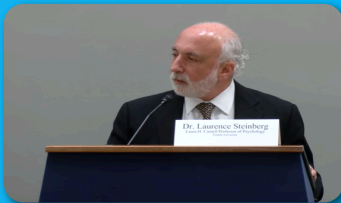
## Cambridge Study of Delinquent Development

- D. Farrington



## Dunedin Multidisciplinary Health and Developmental Study

- T. Moffitt et al.



## Pathway to desistance

- L. Steinberg et al.



## Boston Study of Delinquency

- R. Sampson and J. Laub

## Table 1. Examples of Risk and Protective Factors

RISK FACTORS	PROTECTIVE FACTORS
CHILDHOOD FACTORS	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Low birth weight</li> <li>• Insecure attachment</li> <li>• Poor social skills</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Attachment to family</li> <li>• Social skills</li> <li>• School achievement</li> </ul>
FAMILY FACTORS	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Poor parental supervision and discipline</li> <li>• Parental substance abuse</li> <li>• Family conflict and domestic violence</li> <li>• Social isolation/lack of support networks</li> <li>• Trauma</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Supportive, caring parents and extended family members</li> <li>• Parental employment</li> <li>• Access to support networks</li> </ul>
SCHOOL FACTORS	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• School failure</li> <li>• Negative peer influences</li> <li>• Poor attachment to school</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Positive school climate</li> <li>• Sense of belonging</li> <li>• Opportunities for success at school and recognition of achievement</li> </ul>
COMMUNITY FACTORS	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Neighborhood violence and crime</li> <li>• Lack of support services</li> <li>• Social or cultural discrimination</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Community networking</li> <li>• Access to support services</li> <li>• Participation in community groups</li> </ul>

# Risk and Protective Factors

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1. How many and what factors
2. The nature of these factors
3. The different weight
4. The time in which they act
5. Their complex interactions
6. ...
7. And, in most of RF... how to prevent

# Criminal trajectories variables

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Prevalence

Frequency

Motivation

Co-authors

Starting

Versatility

Length

Desistance

SAFETY  
REASONS

Seriousness

Violence

Recidivism





# From Piquero (main findings-1)

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Misbehavior STARTS early in life ....

Careers are marked by INTERMITENCY

Risk/Protection Factors (RPf) of ONSET, PERSISTENCE, DESISTANCE may vary with age

Individual and environmental RPf have different effects in different life-course stages

- (marriage -> desistance; be in prison-> recidivism !!!)

Paradox of ROBBINS (most adults offenders were juveniles offenders, but most juveniles offenders will not become adult offenders)

Crime is common in adolescent and early adulthood but more uncommon in adulthood

# From Piquero (main findings-2)

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Age of onset typically: 8-14

Age of desistance: 20-29

Prevalence peaks: 15-19

Early onset predicts: long duration of criminal career and more offenses

Few people commit a large fraction of all crimes (5% for 50%)

Continuity: child-adolescent-young adult is the worse combination

Offending is more versatile than specialized

Offending is a part of a more larger “syndrome” of antisocial behavior (drink, sex, driving...)

# From Piquero (main findings-3)

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Most crime to late teens are committed by others; crimes after age 20 are committed alone

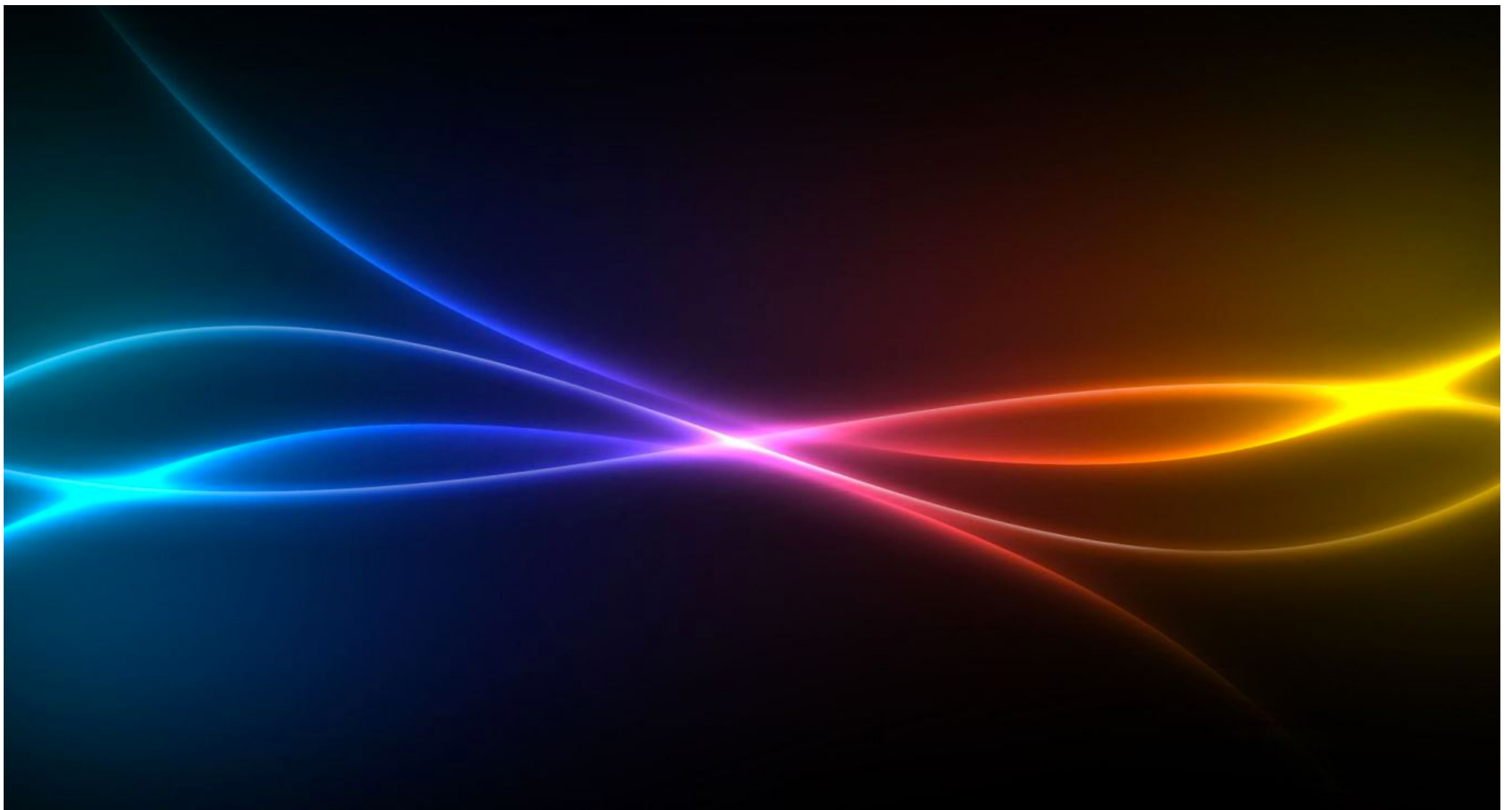
Reasons for offending

- Before 20: excitement/boredom
- After 20: utilitarian motives

Different types of offenses tend to be first committed at different ages

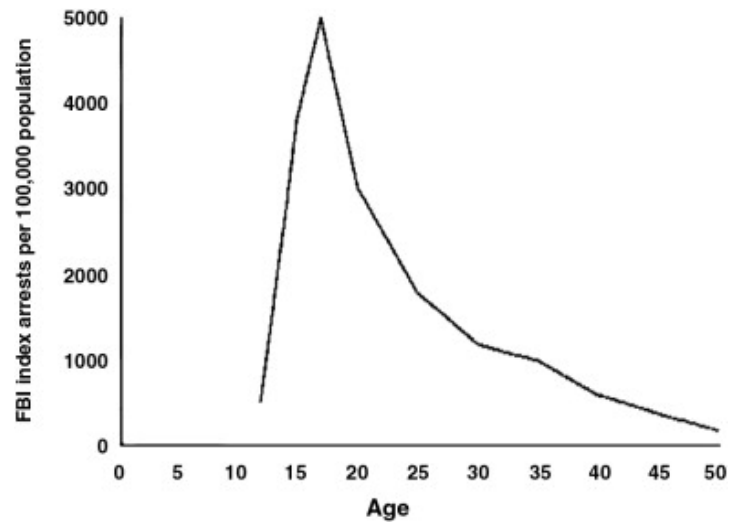
Diversification increases up to age 20, but after age 20 specialization increases.



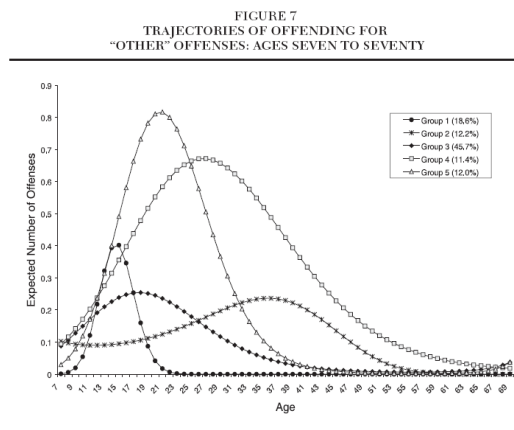


# Criminal Trajectories

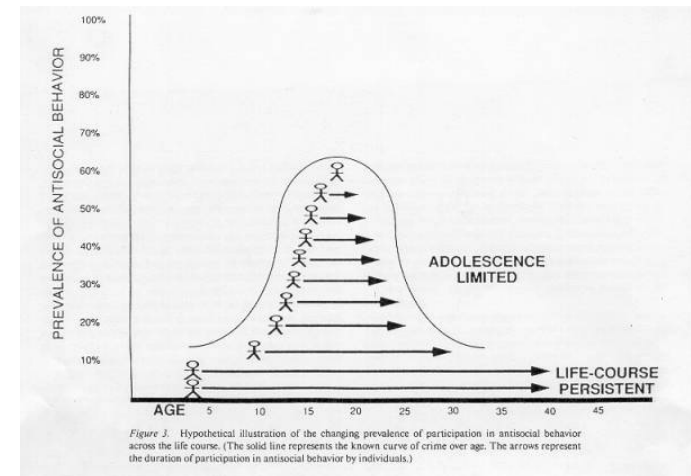
# Age curve x Crime Models



Classic ...



Sampson & Laub (2005)



Moffitt (1993..)

144

KEY ISSUES IN CRIMINAL CAREER RESEARCH

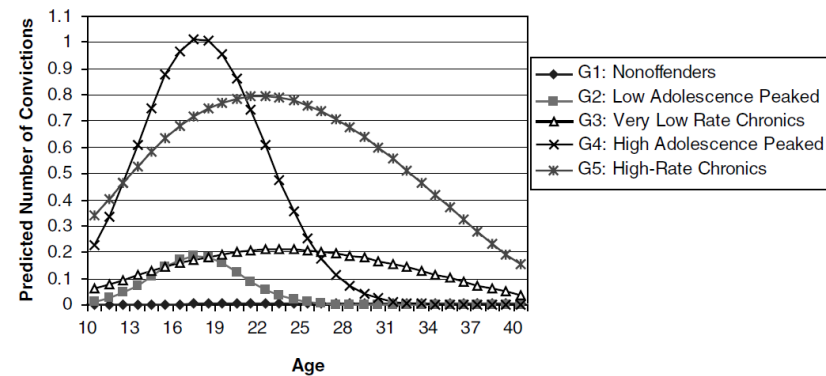
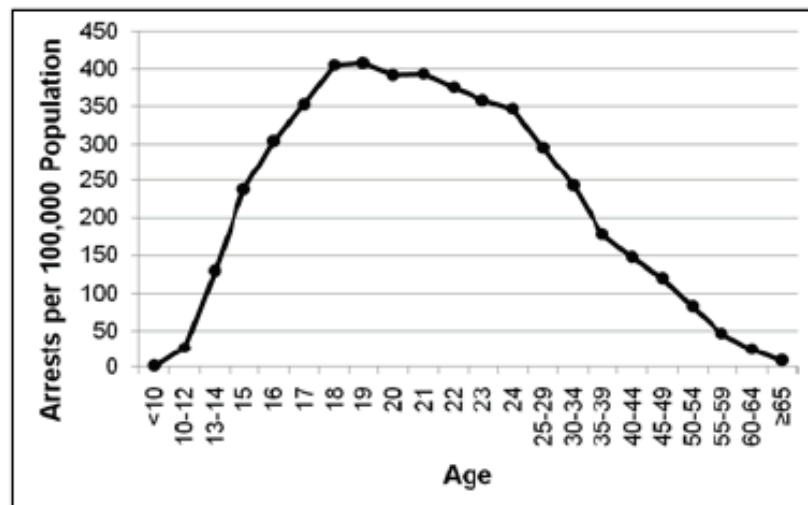


Figure 10.1a. Five-Group Predicted Conviction Trajectories

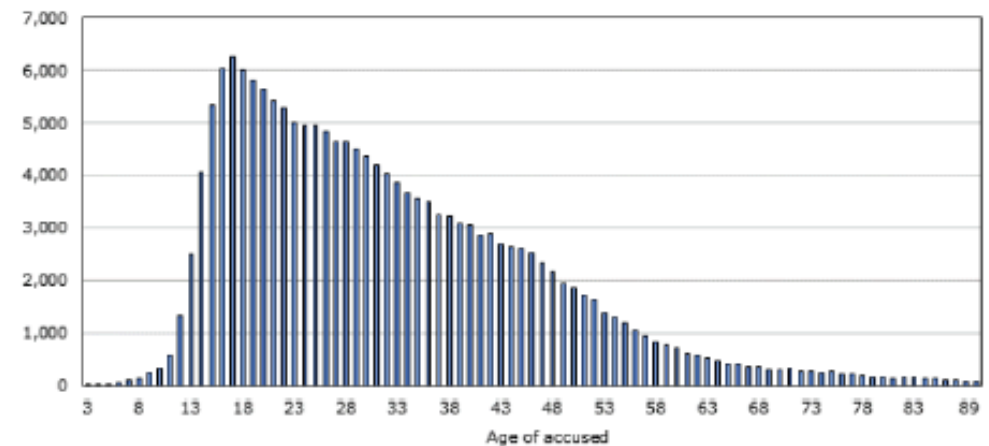
Farrington/Piquero (2011)

# Age-Crime Curve

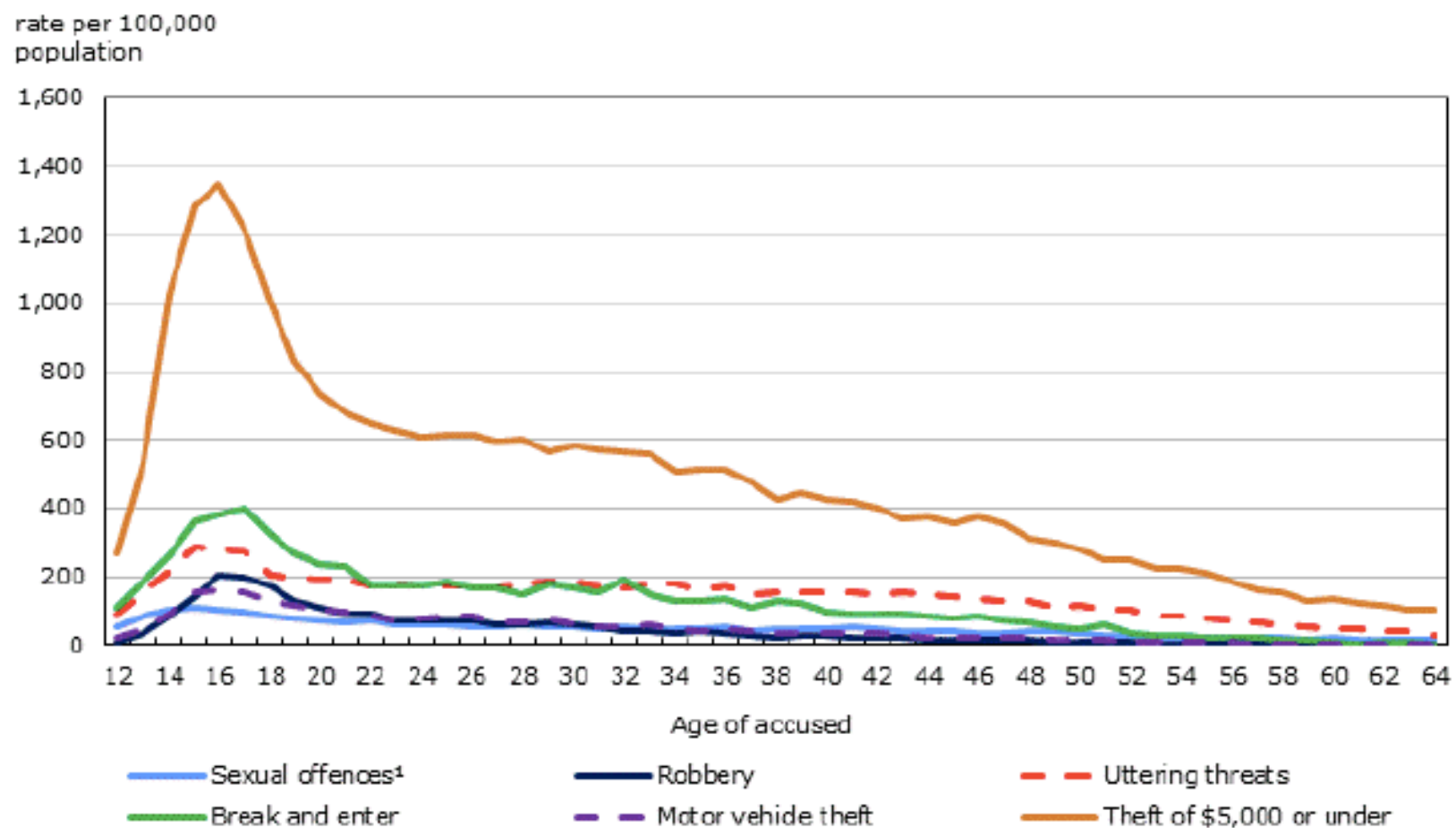


Rate of persons accused, by age, 2014

rate per 100,000  
population

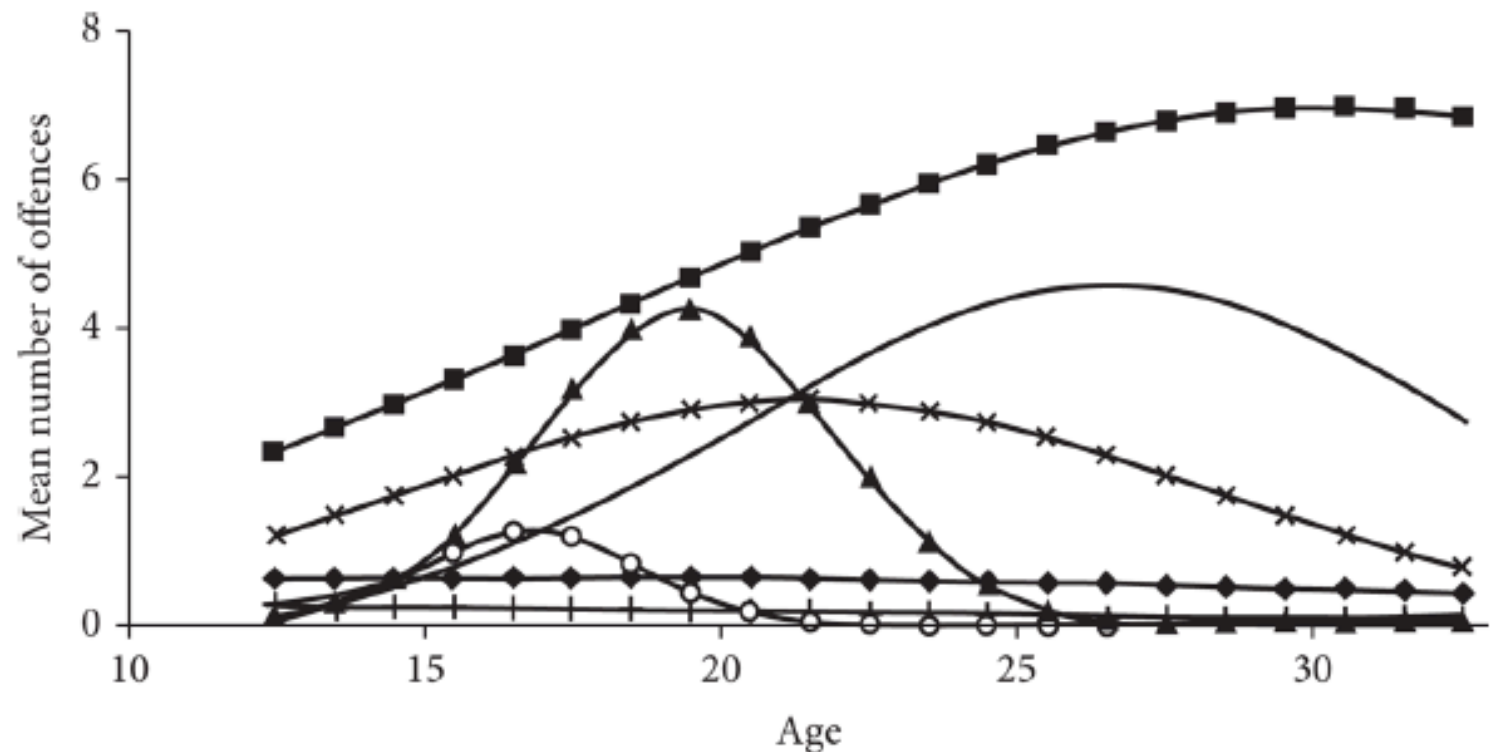


# Age-Crime Curve, By Offense



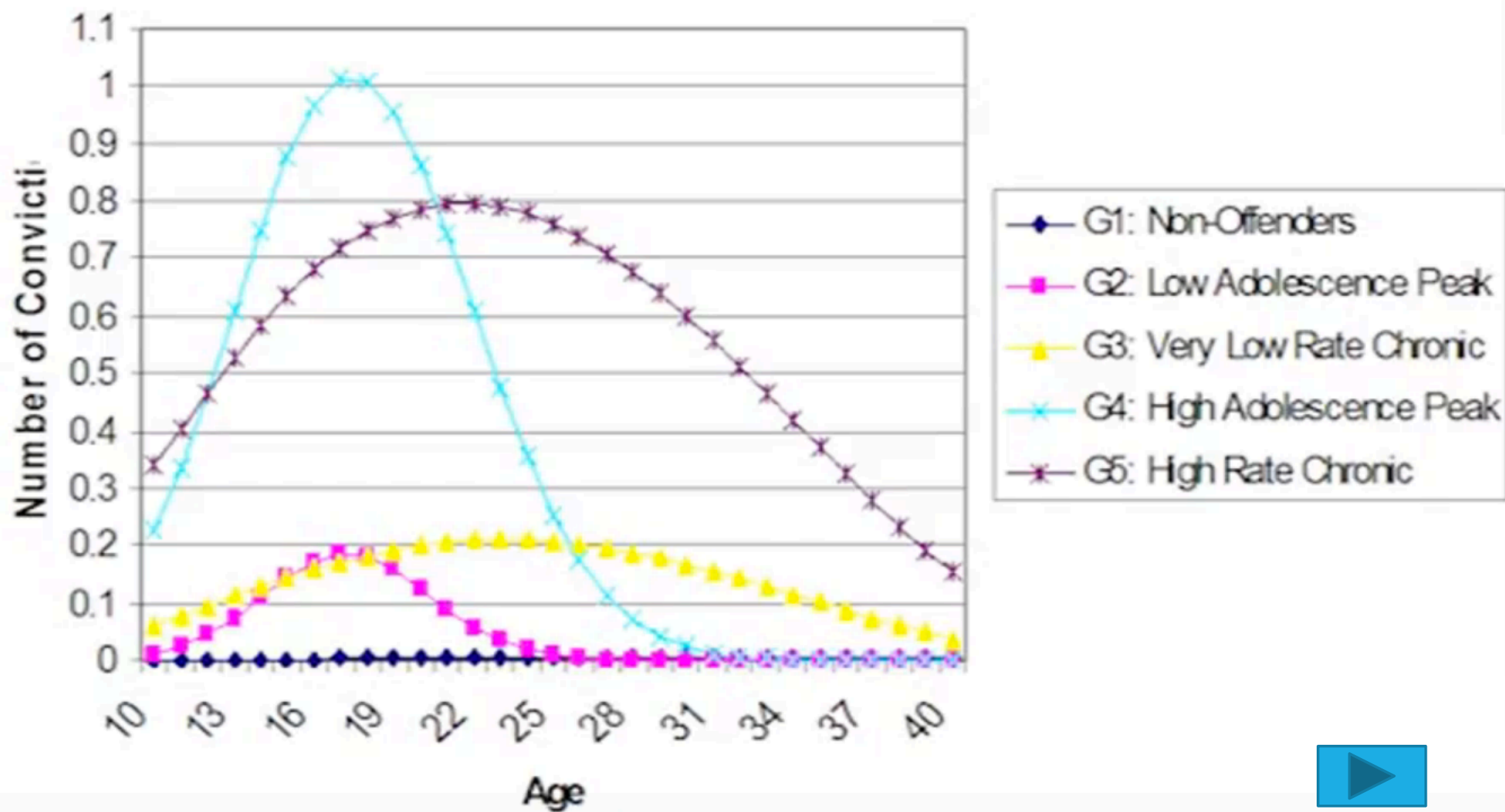


# Age-Crime Curve, By Trajectory



—+— Sporadic offenders  
—◆— Low level chronics  
—×— Medium level chronics  
—■— High level chronics

—○— Adolescence-limited offenders  
—▲— High level desisters  
— Late bloomers



# Valdivia & Andres-Pueyo (in press)

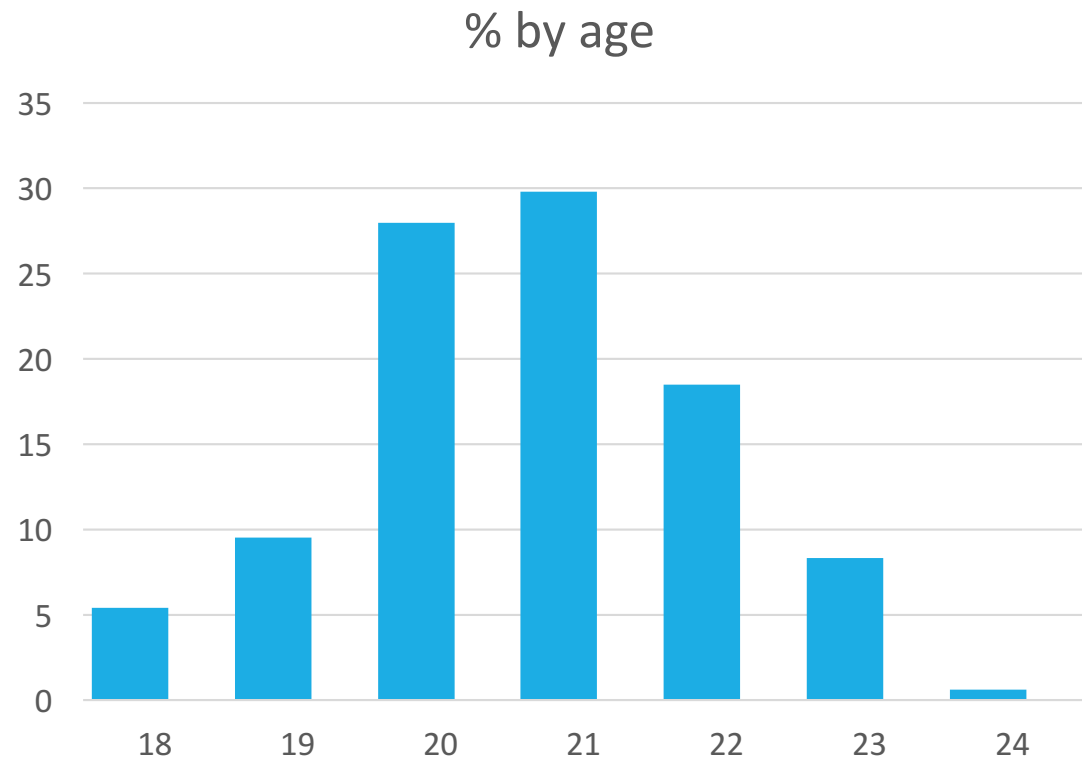
- 168 males in youth inmates facility.

- Age: 20,7 (1,3) yrs.

- 81% Foreigners

- 45,3% low Educational Level

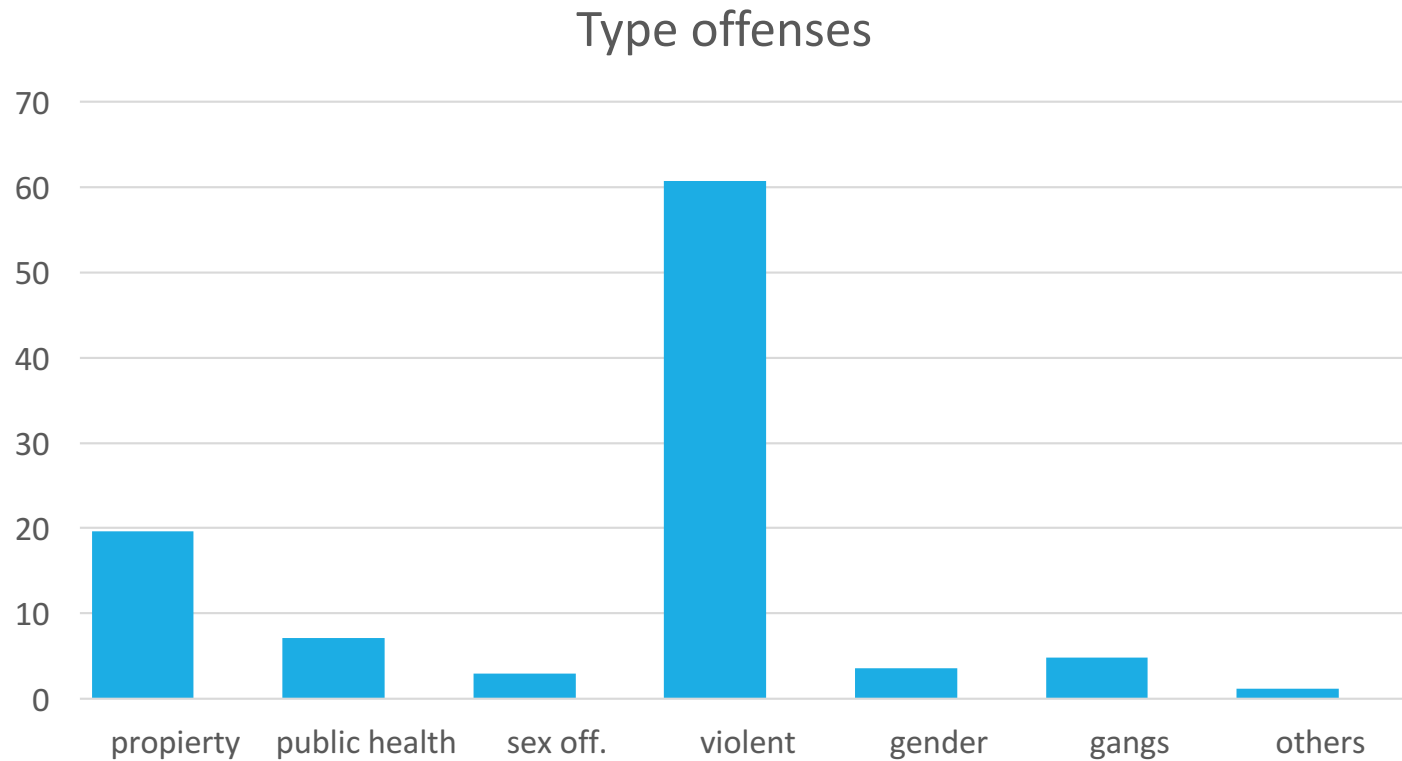
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# By type offenses

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# Source of Data (168 ss)

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## Hx. of Antisocial Development

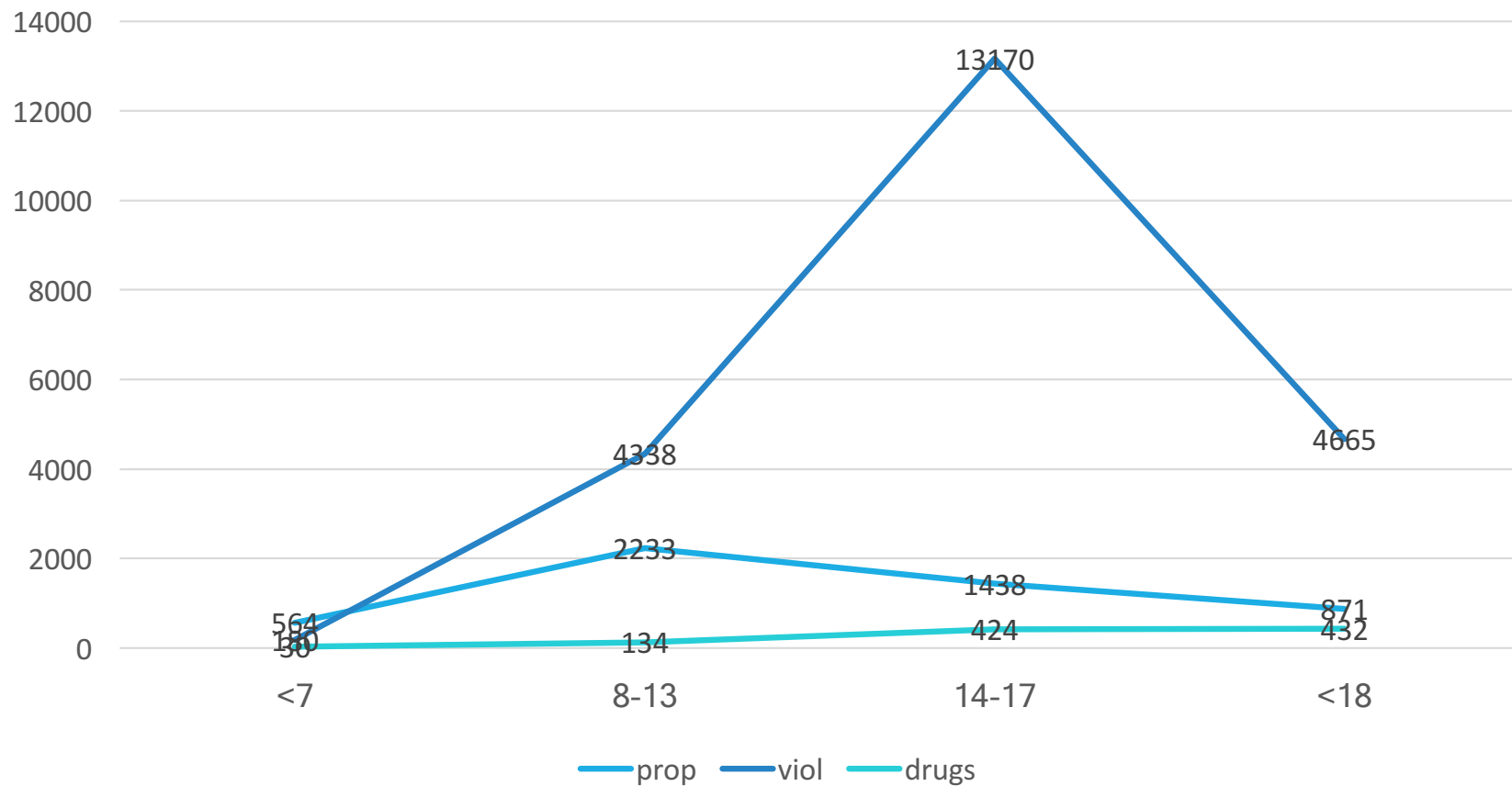
- Self-report (from 5 yrs. to 18 yrs.)

## Trajectories

- Semi-structured Interview

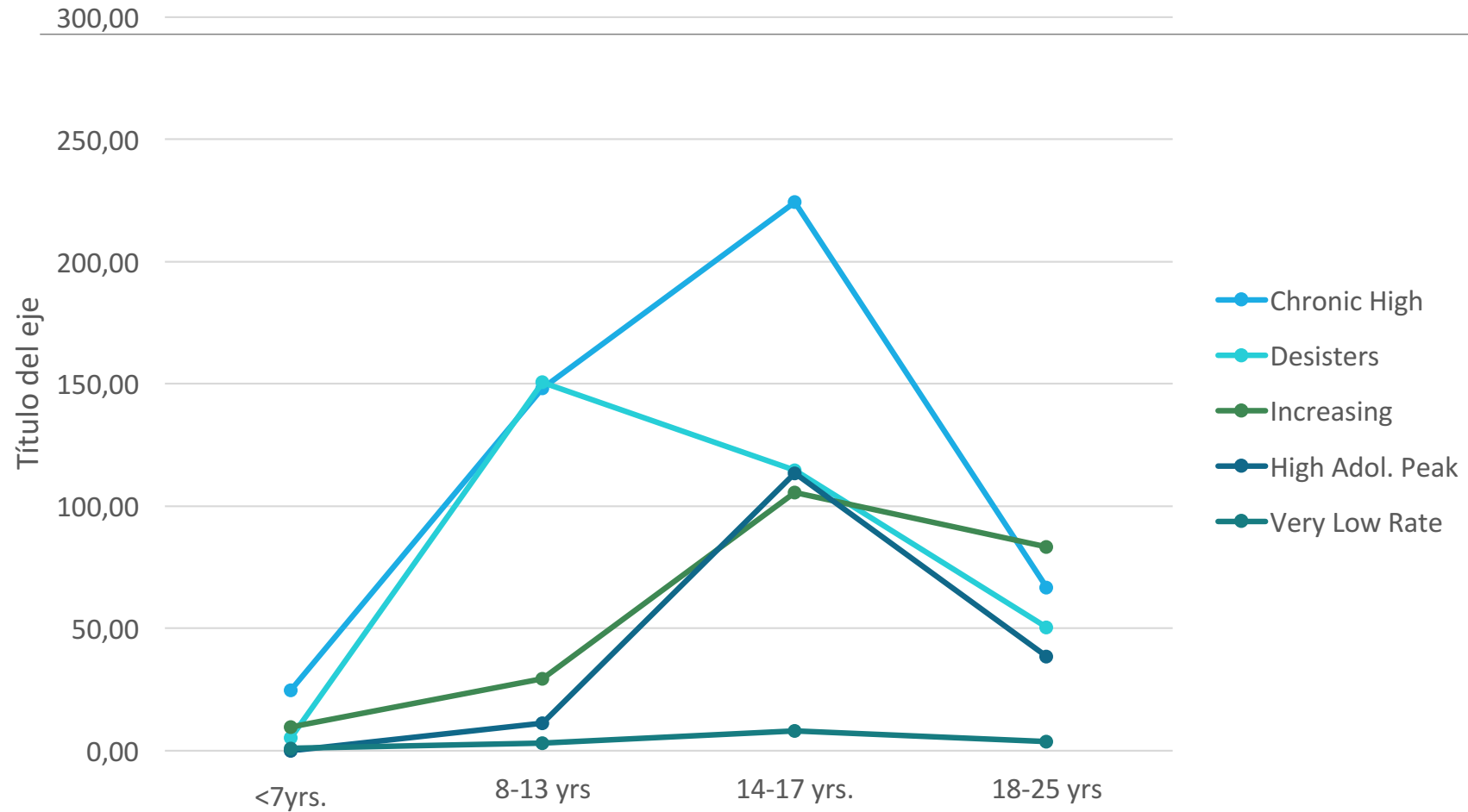
# Results Hx. (freq self-report)

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# Criminal Trajectories

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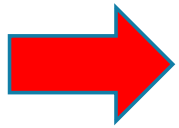
# Risk and JJ

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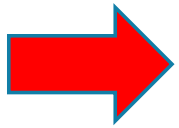
# The orientation of Juvenile Justice

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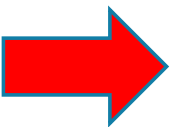
## Punitive

- Incarceration...



## Rehabilitation

- Treatment ...



## Safety

- Risk management

# Risk assessment

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*Risk assessment is a process involving careful and systematic collection of data from various sources about a youth and the youth's circumstances, as well as some procedure for interpreting those data to arrive at a judgment about future risk and a course of action to respond to the youth.*



# Youth Violence Risk Assessment Tools

SAVRY

START:AV

YLS/CMI

YASI/WSJCA

NCAR

# Use of risk assessment tools at different decision points in JJ

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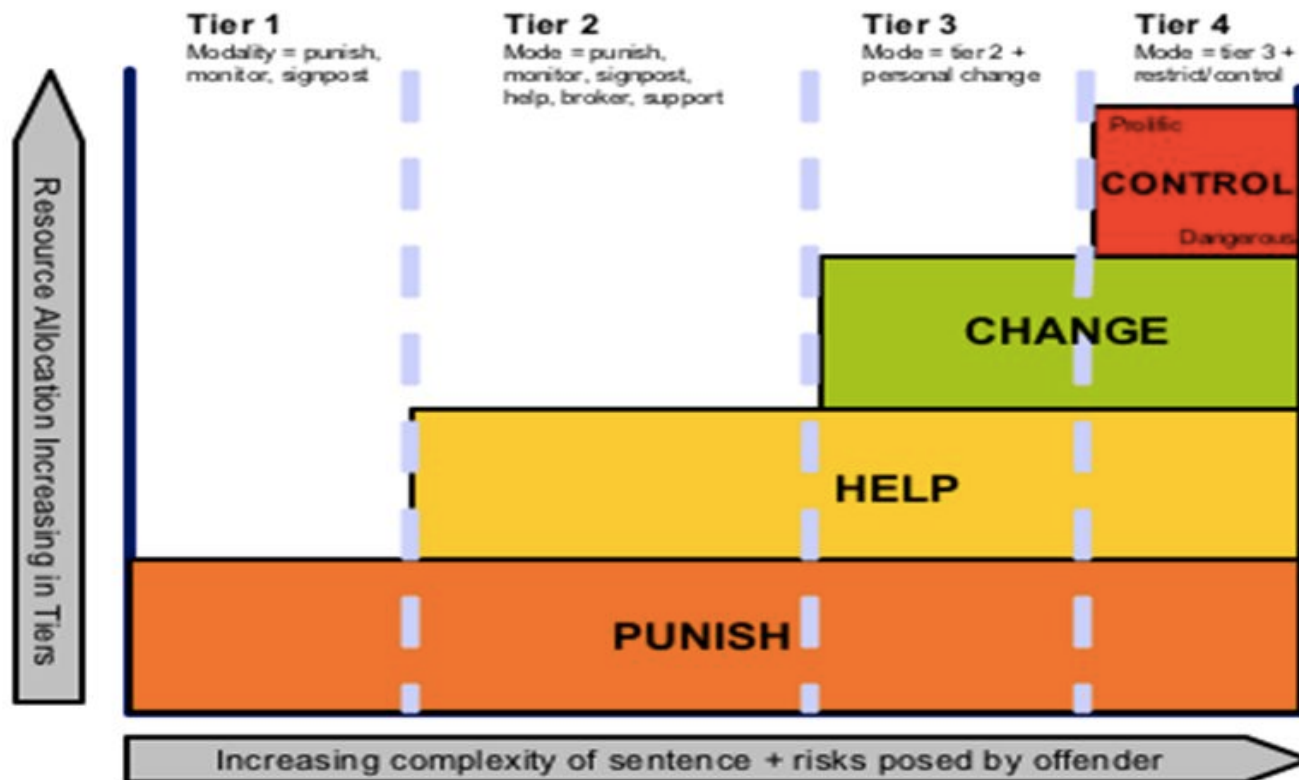
Intake/Diversion

Pre-trial Detention

Adjudication

Correction post-disposition

# Offender Management Tiers (Risk & Resources)



\*Subject to Review

# Conclusions

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# CONCLUSIONS

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1. A **more realistic** (new?) view about adolescence and young adults.
2. Consider **psychosocial maturity** instead chronological age for justice decisions
3. Add **risk** assessment and management to intervention with juveniles.
4. Take into account the **trajectory** of offender in the management of the risk for recidivism