

Moffitt'in Geliřimsel Suç Teorisi Açısından Gençlerde Tekrar Suç İřlemeyi Etkileyen Risk ve Koruyucu Faktörler: Bir İnceleme Çalışması

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Özet: Gençlerin tekrar suç işleme, çeşitli risk ve koruyucu faktörlerden etkilenen dünya çapındaki ceza adalet sistemleri için büyük bir zorluk teşkil etmektedir. Bu inceleme, tekrar suç işlemenin önemli nedenlerini belirlemek amacıyla çeşitli çalışmalardan elde edilen bulguları ve Moffitt'in Gelişimsel Suç Teorisinin geniş bir perspektifini içermektedir. Ailevi işlev bozukluğu, madde bağımlılığı, akran etkisi ve yetersiz denetim gibi risk faktörleri, genç suçlular arasında daha yüksek tekrar suç işleme oranlarına katkıda bulunmaktadır. Ayrıca, sosyoekonomik dezavantajlar ve şiddete maruz kalma, gençlerin tekrar suç işleme riskini daha da artırmaktadır. Ancak, yapılandırılmış rehabilitasyon programları, eğitim desteği, toplum temelli müdahaleler ve aile katılımı, genç suçluların tekrar suç işleme oranlarını azaltan koruyucu faktörler olarak hizmet etmektedir. Ayrıca, ruh sağlığı tedavisi ve davranışsal yaklaşımlar da etkinliğin iyileştirilmesine katkıda bulunmaktadır. Bu nedenle, gençlik tekrar suç işlemesini önemli ölçüde etkileyen risk ve koruyucu faktörleri kanıta dayalı bir yaklaşımla ele almak, gençlik adalet politikalarını güçlendirmek, bireylerin topluma entegrasyonunu sağlamak ve suç oranlarını azaltan etkili müdahale stratejileri geliştirmek açısından önemlidir.

Anahtar Kelimeler: Çocuk suçlu, yeniden suç işleme, risk faktörleri, koruyucu faktörler, gelişimsel suç teorisi

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Risk and Protective Factors Affecting Juvenile Recidivism from the Perspective of Moffitt's Developmental Theory of Crime: A Review Study

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Abstract: Juvenile recidivism presents a major challenge for criminal justice systems worldwide, influenced by a range of risk and protective factors. This review includes findings from a variety of studies and a broad perspective of Moffitt's Developmental Theory of Crime to identify important causes of recidivism. Risk factors such as familial dysfunction, substance abuse, peer influence, and insufficient supervision all contribute to greater recidivism rates among young offenders. Furthermore, socio-economic disadvantages and exposure to violence further increase the risk of juvenile recidivism. However, structured rehabilitation programs, educational support, community-based interventions, and family involvement serve as protective factors that decrease the re-offending rates of young offenders. Furthermore, mental health treatment and behavioral approaches also contribute to improving effectiveness. Therefore, addressing the risk and protective factors that significantly affect juvenile recidivism with an evidence-based approach is important in terms of strengthening youth justice policies, ensuring the integration of individuals into society, and developing effective intervention strategies that reduce crime rates.

Keywords: juvenile offender, recidivism, risk factors, protective factors, developmental theory of crime

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In recent years, juvenile recidivism has increasingly drawn attention from the public, policymakers, and scholars, reflecting the growing concern over recidivism in this population. Individuals who are under the age of 18 and who violate the law or societal norms are defined as juvenile offenders. Recidivism, defined as the tendency of offenders to re-offend, remains a serious concern for juvenile justice systems globally, impeding the effectiveness of rehabilitation programs. As Cunneen and Luke (2007) assert, recidivism includes the recurrence of juvenile offenders in the justice system, eliciting additional criminal activities and continued legal supervision. An individual's violation of behaviors that are in accordance with the norms accepted by society, usurpation of the rights of others, and failure to comply with social norms are defined as "antisocial behaviors" (Kaner, 1991). Certain youth exhibit higher levels of irresponsibility, aggression, hostility, easily becoming agitated, or difficulty expressing themselves, which can aggravate their engagements with parents and caregivers, causing parents and caregivers to withdraw or use erratic, inconsistent, or harsh parenting techniques (Wolff & Baglivo, 2016). Research reveals that the period between middle and late adolescence is a notably high-risk stage for committing criminal behavior (Elliott, 1994). In this review, within the framework of Moffitt's Developmental Theory of Crime approach, how criminal behaviors are shaped by developmental processes during and after adolescence and the effects of these processes on recidivism will be discussed together with protective and risk factors.

Moffitt's Developmental Theory of Crime and Comparison with Other Theories

The emergence and continuity of antisocial behavior is an important issue from both a psychological and criminological perspective. The developmental process of antisocial behavior requires explaining why criminal tendencies are sometimes temporary and sometimes permanent. Terrie E. Moffitt (1993) developed the Developmental Theory of Crime to clarify this issue and explain adolescent criminality. This theory examines individuals who exhibit antisocial behavior and criminal tendencies in two groups. According to Moffitt's theory, many individuals exhibit antisocial behavior, but some are short-term and situational, while others are stable and permanent. Life-Course Persistent Individuals exhibit chronic criminal behaviors starting in childhood. Adolescent Limited Antisocial Individuals commit crimes only during adolescence and move away from crime in adulthood. There are important biological, psychological, and social factors that distinguish

these two groups. It is important to understand how risk factors in early childhood, in particular, affect the continuation of criminal behavior.

Life-Course Persistent Individuals exhibit permanent criminal tendencies that begin in early childhood and continue into later life. The criminal behaviors of these individuals may change shape over time, but the underlying behavioral tendencies and personality traits remain constant. There are neuropsychological and environmental factors in their developmental roots. Impulsivity, aggression, and cognitive deficits cause antisocial behaviors to begin at an early age, and these behaviors can continue into adulthood (Maneiro et al., 2017; Morgan & Lilienfeld, 2000). The causes of antisocial behavior, however, cannot be attributed solely to neuropsychological factors. Environmental factors such as risky family environments, neglect, abuse, domestic violence, inadequate parenting and maltreatment, alienation, peer rejection, poverty and socioeconomic status that the individual is exposed to also reinforce the individual's antisocial behaviors and cause them to continue throughout life (Egeland et al., 2002; Cohen et al., 2004; Dodge & Sherrill, 2007; Kerig & Becker, 2014). In fact, these individuals develop a difficult relationship with their parents, which compounds their difficult temperament and behavioral problems (Tärnhäll et al., 2023). When neuropsychological and biological risk factors are considered in conjunction with social and environmental risk factors, antisocial and criminal behaviors are more likely to increase (Scarpa & Raine, 2007). It is crucially important to understand which neuropsychological predispositions in children are more influenced by environmental factors (Dodge & Sherrill, 2007). When the developmental process of an individual with antisocial behavioral tendencies is examined from birth, the difficult temperament of the newborn, excessive mobility that develops with walking, poor relationships with peers and adults in the preschool period, academic failure, truancy, and problems such as theft best describe the developmental process of the individual's antisocial behavior (Kelley et al., 1997). In addition, it has been shown that risk factors such as the presence of a criminal history in the family, low education level, separation from the family of origin, behavioral disorder symptoms, early onset alcohol and substance use, and truancy from school have a significant effect on committing crimes, and it has been emphasized that neuropsychological and environmental factors have a significant effect on committing crimes (Tärnhäll et al., 2023). In the study by Dodge and Pettitt (2003), it was emphasized that some individuals are born with neuropsychological tendencies and that these tendencies evolve into behavioral problems with negative environmental/sociological interactions, and therefore the problems will be more evident in the individual's adolescence. Especially in childhood, exposure to risk factors such as harsh attitudes and neglect of parents, being ostracized by peers, being scolded by teachers, and academic weakness can lead the individual to interact with antisocial peers and learn destructive behaviors as of adolescence. This can prevent the adolescent from learning prosocial behaviors. When the individual does not develop

healthy problem-solving skills, he or she begins to solve the problems he or she already encounters in an impulsive, aggressive, and hostile manner through the interaction of biological and environmental risk factors. These studies supports the idea that early risk factors have a significant effect on recidivism according to Moffitt's theory of crime. Therefore, it is extremely important for the individual to learn prosocial behaviors that will contribute to the ability to solve interpersonal problems during childhood. In this process, parents, educators, even relatives and neighbors, in short, everyone who comes into contact with the child, has a great role (Kelley et al., 1997). This finding provides evidence for why the life-course persistent antisocial group is more likely to be more exposed to higher levels of both environmental and neuropsychological/biological risk factors compared to the adolescent-limited antisocial group. Life-Course Persistent Individuals start with behaviors such as hitting, biting, and disobeying rules at a very young age, and as they grow older, they display many different types of antisocial behaviors such as fighting, stealing, escaping from school, drug dealing, abuse, and fraud. Especially individuals who defy rules and display aggressive behaviors at a young age may be excluded from the environment and turn to antisocial peers as they experience problems with authority figures. As a result, a decrease in academic success, indiscipline, and loneliness may increase the tendency to engage in criminal activities at later ages (Moffitt, 1993).

The other group in the taxonomy, Adolescent-Limited Antisocial Individuals, do not exhibit antisocial behavioral characteristics in early childhood, and the continuity of their antisocial behaviors is low (Moffitt, 2003). They tend to stop committing crimes as soon as they suddenly start. According to Moffitt (1993), the reason individuals in this group commit crimes is "social imitation". Therefore, as individuals in adolescence interact with peers with antisocial tendencies, they begin to imitate antisocial behaviors and gain status. In these behaviors of antisocial individuals limited to adolescence, the motivation to seek identity and gain status, also under the influence of their antisocial peers, dominates (Moffitt, 2003). This is an indication that individuals who are limited antisocial in adolescence need antisocial peers to commit crimes (Knight & West, 1975). In contrast, individuals in the life-course persistent antisocial group do not need peer support to commit crimes. Adolescent limited group exhibit antisocial behaviors when they gain certain benefits, and they stop when appropriate social behaviors bring benefits. In a sense, those in the adolescent limited group can control their antisocial behavioral impulses. As a result, most individuals stop criminal behaviors as they enter early adulthood.

Before Moffitt's (1993) Developmental Theory of Crime, various theories based on both biological and environmental factors were developed. The biologically based explanation of criminal behavior dates back to the eighteenth century, and these explanations are based on theological views (Rafter, 2001). The idea that people can be inherently evil continued to be influential until Dr. Benjamin

Rush based the behavior of individuals who do not comply with social rules and laws on biological foundations (Rafter, 2001). Rush (1812) suggested that some families are genetically predisposed to mental illness and insanity, that disorders in the brain may have an effect on criminal behavior, and that environmental factors also contribute to this process. In the early nineteenth century, Franz Joseph Gall (1819), the founder of phrenology, took Rush's (1812) biological explanations of crime one step further and argued that the structure of the skull affects personality and mental processes. In this direction, he suggested that criminal behavior is linked to certain regions in the brain. However, although phrenology is a biologically based explanation, it cannot relate criminal behavior to hereditary factors (Rafter, 2001).

Another biological and genetic explanation of crime is the "Theory of Degeneration" developed by Bénédict Morel (1857), which was influential in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries. Morel stated that he was influenced by F. J. Gall while developing this theory (Rosio et al., 2024). According to the theory, moral deterioration of individuals can be caused by both internal and external factors. Living in unhealthy and crowded environments causes deterioration in the nervous system, which is passed down through generations over time and causes the formation of degenerate human races. In addition, Morel (1857) argued that skull deformities, abnormalities in mental processes, and biological deterioration contribute to the degeneration of the human race. However, although this theory bases crime and moral deterioration on biological foundations, it has lost its scientific validity today and has been criticized because it leads to the stigmatization of certain communities.

From the beginning of the twentieth century, intelligence tests began to be used to identify criminals, and the "Feeble-mindedness Theory" was developed by Henry Herbert Goddard (1912). This theory suggests that low intelligence is a hereditary problem and leads to various moral deviations such as criminal behavior, alcoholism, and social corruption (Dennert, 2021). Goddard (1912) argued that if individuals with low intelligence continued to reproduce, these negative effects would spread increasingly in society. He also completely rejected the role of the environment on behavior, stating that no matter how good the environmental conditions are, individuals with low intelligence could not be positively affected by society or environmental factors.

As of the twenty-first century, genetic and neurobiology studies have gained momentum and biocriminology studies have come to the forefront to explain criminal behavior (Rose, 2000). To examine the biological basis of criminal behavior, twin studies, adoption studies, EEG results, heart rate results (HRL), low arousal level, brain imaging, birth complications, minor physical abnormalities (MPAs), malnutrition, neurotoxicity, hormones, neurotransmitters, monoamine oxidase-A gene (MAOA) and other biological indicators such as research have been conducted (Raine, 2002).

In Social Bonds Theory, Hirschi (1969) argued that the most important influence on individuals committing crimes is social/environmental factors such as family, school, and friends. According to him, the most important thing that protects individuals from criminal behavior is social bonds, and he explains this with the concepts of “attachment, commitment, involvement, and belief.” (Macit, 2023). Moffitt (1993), on the other hand, has shown that in addition to environmental factors, biological factors are as effective as environmental factors, especially in order to explain the criminal behaviors of Life-Course Persistent individuals in a broader context and to show in what way they differ from Limited Individuals in Adolescence, and has shown that criminal behavior cannot be explained only in a social context.

According to Social Learning Theory (Bandura, 1977), individuals learn criminal behavior by observing people around them (modeling) and imitating them (imitation). This explanation is significant in terms of the importance of environmental factors emphasized in Moffitt’s (1993) Developmental Crime Theory. However, it leaves out biological factors as in Hirschi’s (1969) theory. In addition, although Adolescent Limited Individuals have gained a certain status by learning criminal behavior from their peers or other social groups through modeling and imitation, this theory is inadequate in explaining the difficult temperaments and neuropsychological problems of Life Course Persistent Individuals. Akers (1998), who developed Bandura’s (1977) theory, explained criminal behavior by adding the concepts of differential association and reinforcement to Social Learning Theory. According to this theory, if an individual spends more time with people who commit crimes (Differential Association) and observes them (Modeling), the probability of learning criminal behavior increases. In addition, reinforcement of criminal behavior leads to the repetition of this behavior (Differential Reinforcement). In addition, positive evaluation of criminal behavior and the development of beliefs and attitudes towards it (Definitions and Values) are also factors that increase criminal behavior (Akers, 1998). In summary, this theory argues that the interaction of environmental factors, learning behavior, and rewards explain criminal behavior. However, Moffitt’s (1993) Developmental Crime Theory also accepts the effect of environmental factors on criminal behavior, and the fact that the criminal behavior of Life Course Persistent individuals is supported by biological and neuropsychological factors makes the theory stronger. On the other hand, Adolescent Limited Individuals are consistent with Akers’ (1998) theory because they receive various opportunities during adolescence and learn criminal behavior through imitation. However, this theory is insufficient to explain the continuity of criminal behavior throughout life. Because Akers (1998) suggests that criminal behavior may be temporary due to changes in environmental factors. In this context, Akers’ theory cannot fully explain the permanent nature of criminal behavior of Life Course Persistent individuals, which is supported by biological and neuropsychological factors.

Routine Activities Theory (Cohen & Felson, 1979) is an approach that argues that criminal behavior occurs when certain opportunities arise for the individual. This approach is a characteristic seen in Adolescent Limited Individuals mentioned in Moffitt's (1993) Developmental Crime Theory. These individuals continue their criminal behavior as long as they gain profit when they commit crimes, but they abandon their antisocial behaviors when they see the possibility of obtaining other opportunities in early adulthood. However, in Life Course Persistent individuals mentioned in Moffitt's theory (1993), the interaction of external factors as well as biological and negative environmental factors emerge as the basic factors shaping crime. For this reason, Routine Activities Theory (Cohen & Felson, 1979) cannot fully explain the reasons why some individuals give up committing crimes throughout their lives and some continue to do so in adulthood. Moffitt's (1993) Developmental Crime Theory, on the other hand, explains in a clearer framework that crime is shaped not only by external factors and opportunities but also by the effect of biological and environmental risk factors on opportunities.

Gottfredson and Hirschi (1990) argued that individuals are not born criminals, stating that genetic factors that contribute to their tendency to commit crimes are not inherited. In this respect, they explicitly rejected the role of biological factors on criminal behavior. Hirschi and Gottfredson (1995) showed low self-control as a general explanatory factor for the tendency to commit crime. However, Moffitt's Developmental Theory of Crime (1993) provides a wide range of explanations, both in terms of biological and environmental factors, as to how criminal behavior progresses with age and under what conditions this situation varies.

In summary, many theories have been put forward to explain criminal behavior from the eighteenth century to the present. These theories have been shaped mainly based on biological and environmental factors and have developed over time and reached the present day. However, many theories have been found inadequate in explaining criminal behavior, and some theories have even been found to lack scientific basis. Moffitt's (1993) Developmental Theory of Crime has provided a comprehensive explanation by emphasizing the interaction of biological and environmental factors as well as the interaction of these two elements and has made an important contribution to the literature. In addition, Rose (2000) has stated that biological factors may play a role in the formation of antisocial behavior, and this supports Moffitt's (1993) emphasis on the importance of the interaction of biological and environmental factors. Rush's (1812) emphasis on the interaction between biological and environmental factors shows that he drew attention to the importance of this interaction approximately a hundred years before his theory, which was based on an approach similar to Moffitt's. In addition, Rafter (2001) has shown in his study that today, the fields of biocriminology and behavioral genetics consider genetic and environmental factors together when explaining criminal behavior.

Risk Factors in Juvenile Recidivism

Risk factors refer to psychological, environmental, and social factors that increase and sustain criminal behavior. These factors consist of components that increase the likelihood of recidivism, especially among juvenile offenders. A review of the literature has identified many risk factors, including family dynamics, adverse childhood experiences, peer influence, substance use, psychological problems, and educational status. However, more work needs to be done on why and how these factors reinforce criminal behavior.

Van der Put and De Ruiter (2016) state that neglect and abuse, being kicked out of home or running away, and preferring to fight to resolve conflicts are important factors that continue the tendency of juvenile criminals to commit crimes. This finding reveals how lack of family support has a negative effect on young people and how this paves the way for them to be prone to crime in the long term. Similar findings are also shown in the study by Ryan et al. (2013). However, the relationship between neglect and crime should be examined in detail. Understanding the point at which neglect within the family triggers recidivism will help develop intervention strategies. An analysis of what kind of psychological and social effects neglect has on young people can provide an important step toward preventing criminal behavior. In addition, Van der Put and De Ruiter (2016) emphasize that women experience various types of child abuse and neglect more than men, but that the relationship between abuse experienced by men and recidivism is strong, while this relationship is weaker in women. This finding indicates a significant gap in understanding the effects of gender on criminal behavior and recidivism. It can be said that the traumas experienced by female offenders, their consequences, and their relationship with crime should be addressed in more detail. More comprehensive studies are needed on the effects of gender differences on psychological traumas and treatment processes. Goldstein and McMullen (2018) also argued that family factors have an effect on the behavior of young people and stated that a broken family can result in a sense of rejection. This research reveals that environmental factors significantly affect the emotional development of an individual as well as their behavioral development.

Studies conducted on Gottfredson and Hirschi's (1990) general theory of crime and Moffitt's (1993) developmental theory of crime show that recidivism can be largely associated with impulsivity and self-control problems (Tillman, 2015). These findings emphasize the role of personal characteristics in understanding individuals' recidivism. However, the general theory of crime may neglect the role of environmental factors. It is known that young people with low socioeconomic status are more prone to risk factors associated with crime. Socioeconomic factors interact not only with individual characteristics but also with environmental and family conditions. This requires considering criminality in a broader social context rather than reducing it to a single factor. Therefore, as in Moffitt's (1993) theory, the factors that predict crime should be examined in detail.

A study conducted by Mallet et al. (2013) indicates that past negative experiences such as behavioral disorders and suicide attempts, age, and the number of crimes committed increase the risk of recidivism. These findings reveal that psychological and emotional traumas in particular are the main factors that cause juvenile offenders to recidivate. However, it is clear that such psychological factors, especially suicidal thoughts, need to be treated with a more comprehensive approach. In addition, it should be considered that family and social support should also be included in addition to individual treatment plans. It should be discussed whether the variables of age and number of crimes are shown to be important risk factors for recidivism and whether young people use this as a coping strategy by reinforcing criminal behavior with age.

In a retrospective study conducted in our country (Erbay & Gülüm, 2018), the factors that are effective in the recidivism of children tried in juvenile courts are examined. According to the results, risky peers, spending time in internet cafes, dropping out of school, number of siblings, poor family sharing and substance use, and age at first crime play an important role in recidivism. This study emphasizes how much recidivism is affected by environmental factors. In addition, it reveals that family support, education, healthy peer groups, and quality time are important in preventing crime. The findings reveal that environmental factors have a significant effect on the future behavior of young criminals. Similarly, Crawford et al. (2018) stated that socializing with peers who use substances can cause antisocial behavior. The increase in time spent with unhealthy peers can cause their anti-social and maladaptive behaviors to be imitated and reinforced over time, leading to criminal behavior.

In the study by Benda and Tollett (1999), it was shown that environmental and social factors such as criminal history, carrying a weapon, domestic neglect/abuse, poor family relationships, not living in a two-parent home, being a gang member, substance abuse, ethnicity, and gender are among the factors that determine recidivism and that the strongest effect is criminal history. However, no effect of psychological factors was found in this study, indicating that recidivism is largely due to environmental factors. In this context, it can be suggested that supportive family environments should be provided, gangs should be prevented, and early intervention programs should be developed. In addition, the fact that ethnicity is effective in recidivism indicates that the effect of discrimination should be investigated further.

Similar findings were also shown twenty years later in the studies of Kennedy and colleagues (2019) and Forsyth and colleagues (2018). According to the findings of these studies, neighborhood, antisocial peers, family problems and bad parenting, bad family relationships, gang membership, substance use, and academic failure were found to be risk factors affecting the recidivism of youth. When the studies of Benda and Tollett (1999), Kennedy and colleagues (2019), and Forsyth and colleagues (2018) are examined, it is seen that the intervention

studies for crime have not made much progress in the past and there are still some things that are missing. The findings emphasize that the factors in the individual's environment should be rearranged in a way that does not lead to crime and prevents crime.

In a study examining the relationship between ethnic differences, socioeconomic status, and violence and recidivism (Chauhan et al., 2009), it was revealed that black people who live in more disadvantaged neighborhoods therefore witness violence more, which increases recidivism; white people are also exposed to parental abuse, which predicts recidivism. This study reveals different reasons for recidivism by focusing on ethnic differences together with environmental factors. However, it has not been explained why these factors predict recidivism. In addition, since the measurement of witnessing violence with a self-report scale involves the subjective assessment of violent behavior, it does not provide a strong result. When the findings are considered as a whole, it is shown that more studies specific to ethnic groups are needed. A healthier living environment should be provided for black individuals, and security forces should be increased to reduce witnessing violence. It is also important to implement abuse prevention studies for white individuals.

In a study examining the risk factors for recidivism in Spain, antisocial peer group, academic failure, age at first crime, family criminal history, low parental supervision, and psychological problems were found to be important factors (Ortega-Campos et al., 2016). The results were consistent with other results both in Spain and around the world. In addition, categorizing risk groups may help identify individuals who require high-level intervention. However, the short duration of the study may be considered a shortcoming in determining the level of recidivism. Conducting longer cross-sectional studies in the future will provide more reliable results in determining recidivism rates. In addition, basing individuals' psychological problems on subjective assessments may be considered among the shortcomings of the study. In future studies, using personality inventories or symptom screening tests to detect psychological problems may provide more effective results. Finally, socioeconomic level, court decisions, and rehabilitation programs could be associated with recidivism rates, and more reliable results could be obtained. Nevertheless, shedding light on the interaction of the risk factors mentioned in the study and emphasizing protective factors are important in determining preventive studies on criminal behavior.

In a study conducted by Mulder and colleagues (2010), criminal history, domestic violence and problems, substance abuse, behavioral and psychological problems, antisocial behavior during treatment, conscience and empathy, social and academic skills, and social networks were found to be associated with recidivism among young offenders. Based on the factors given, it can be concluded that environmental factors have a major impact on recidivism. However, it can be said that the treatment phase needs to be structured more effectively to cont-

rol the antisocial behavior factor during treatment. Reducing recidivism requires paying close attention to dynamic risk factors such as antisocial behavior during treatment, as these characteristics can be changed by the therapeutic process. In addition, the study shows that recidivism can be successfully prevented by using a multi-system strategy that addresses the needs of the offender and their family. It was also found that the model formed by the risk factors mentioned did not explain a high rate of recidivism. In addition, it is thought that the lower recidivism rate of sexual offenders can provide more meaningful data in terms of risk factors by separating offenders according to their crime types. Similarly, Mulder et al. (2010) stated that the risk factors that are effective in re-offending include past criminality, behavioral disorders, family problems, family criminality, interaction with criminal peers, and defiance of treatment. When the findings are considered, it is seen that psychological and environmental factors affect recidivism. However, the limited period measured for re-offending is at a level that questions the effectiveness of the research results. Future studies should re-examine risk factors by targeting a longer risk period and making repeated measurements. Based on the results, it can be said that recidivism can be prevented by increasing family support programs and improving rehabilitation processes.

Although many studies have shown that family problems, parental criminality, neglect and abuse, and parenting skills predict recidivism in youth, it is not clear how family processes relate to recidivism. Williams and Smalls (2015) investigated the relationship between family problems and recidivism in youth and showed that most parents of youth who recidivism are individuals who adopt a permissive parenting style and apply inconsistent discipline and weak supervision. Based on these results, it can be concluded that in families where praising, appreciating, rewarding, spending time together, and establishing closeness with their children are lacking, youth are inadequate in learning prosocial behaviors, cannot learn to recognize and express their feelings, and therefore tend to engage in antisocial behaviors more. This study demonstrates how parental behaviors can have a major impact on a youth's life. Therefore, increasing family education and increasing the participation of parents and children in guidance programs will be beneficial in preventing recidivism. Apart from this, it is thought that examining the parenting styles of mothers more in this study will provide more meaningful results in understanding the effect of parents on recidivism. Similar results are found in the study of Kennedy et al. (2019). According to this study, parents' inadequacy in raising children and their inability to set boundaries are important risk factors. Children who do not set boundaries may turn to antisocial behaviors and take the risk of engaging in criminal behavior to get what they want because they cannot learn to respect the boundaries of others as of adolescence. Another study found that for young girls, attachment to mothers and for young boys, attachment to fathers were related to the development of criminal behavior (Hoeve et al., 2012). The quality of identification that young people establish with their same-gender

parents is important because they can learn from imitating their parents' behaviors, which can affect their identity development and the extent of their relationships with other people.

Docherty and colleagues (2021) examined the relationship between cognitive and emotional regulation skills and recidivism in detained young offenders. The factors examined in cognitive regulation included consequential thinking, goal setting, situational perception, dealing with others, and staying in the moment, while the emotion regulation factors included dealing with emotions, controlling impulses, controlling aggression, dealing with distress, monitoring internal triggers, and monitoring external triggers. When the findings were examined, it was found that emotion regulation skills were related to aggressive behavior, which in turn was related to recidivism behavior. In addition, it was stated that cognitive regulation skills affected emotional regulation skills. When the findings were considered, it could be inferred that the way a young person handles a problem could affect their feelings towards the problem, which could result in criminal behavior. If interventions on the subject could be designed to improve the cognitive and emotional skills of young people, a decrease in recidivism rates could be observed. Although the study was conducted with a large sample, the fact that interviewer bias was not taken into account may have created a significant problem. In addition, the lack of understanding of which emotional or cognitive skills have a significant effect on recidivism and the lack of specification of which paths are followed for the acquisition of these skills during the detention process point to the shortcomings of the study.

The proportion of juvenile offenders exposed to domestic violence was compared to those not exposed, and the study looked at the relationship between risk and protective factors. The results show that juvenile offenders exposed to domestic violence have greater historical, social/contextual, and individual risk factors for recidivism and fewer protective factors against recidivism (Aguliar Ruiz and Pereda, 2021). It is known that exposure to domestic violence among family problems has a significant impact on recidivism. Knowing what psychological, social, and individual differences are associated with recidivism and whether or not exposure to domestic violence is important for developing interventions that address the needs of young people (Aguliar Ruiz and Pereda, 2021). When the findings are examined, it is indicated that exposure to domestic violence and poor parental management are associated with greater individual and social risk factors and lower levels of protective factors for recidivism. It is also important that peer delinquency has a significant impact on recidivism in young people. Therefore, intervention studies should help young people interact with healthy peers and develop healthy bonds. Young people who are exposed to domestic violence and grow up with a lack of supervision cannot learn prosocial behaviors, cannot establish healthy bonds, do not participate socially, do not have compatible personality traits, and show low commitment to school/work. However, this study is

interesting in that it indicates that being exposed to domestic violence does not make a difference in terms of recidivism. Because being exposed to domestic violence has been associated with having more risk factors and fewer protective factors for recidivism. Therefore, studies aimed at preventing recidivism should be structured specifically according to the characteristics and needs of domestic violence groups.

The frequency of childhood negative experiences, maltreatment, and post-traumatic stress is higher in criminals than in the general population (Vitopoulos et al., 2018). Wolff and Baglivio (2016), who investigated the effect of childhood maltreatment on recidivism in detail, showed that individuals who were exposed to childhood maltreatment perceived other people's attitudes as malicious due to the negative effect, and thus criminal behavior was predicted. In addition, it was stated that problematic peers, substance use, and age of onset of crime also increased the risk of recidivism. In addition to environmental factors, ADHD (Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder) was found to predict recidivism. This finding was similar to the study by Van der Put et al. (2012). In this study, it was found that juvenile criminals with both ADHD and behavioral difficulties had the highest recidivism rates compared to juvenile criminals with only ADHD or without either of these disorders. As a result, therapies that focus on risk and protective variables in multiple areas may be most advantageous for juvenile offenders with ADHD. Functional Family Therapy and Multisystemic Therapy are examples of evidence-based therapies that may work well with these populations. Wolff and Baglivio's (2016) study is an important study that demonstrates both the direct and indirect effects of childhood maltreatment on recidivism. However, it falls short of explaining which type of childhood maltreatment has a greater effect on recidivism. In addition, the limited follow-up period of recidivism risk was found to be insufficient to understand whether these offenders limited their risk to adolescence or continued throughout their lives. To obtain better results, a more detailed study of childhood maltreatment with a longitudinal study would be effective in improving the family trauma of young people and in intervention studies aimed at preventing crime. The potential emotional, social, and mental health effects of maltreatment, along with other areas of crime risk for young people, would be appropriate targets for correctional rehabilitation interventions (Vitopoulos et al., 2018).

It is important to examine the effects of both environmental and psychological factors on recidivism. Baglivio et al. (2017) examined the effects of parental problems and psychological diagnoses on recidivism in a large sample. The results found that parental substance use was related to ADHD diagnosis and negative emotionality in youth and that these were positively associated with recidivism. Although this study explained how both psychological and environmental factors interact, it was insufficient to explain the interaction of psychological and environmental factors because a limited number of variables were examined. More

meaningful results could be obtained by focusing more on psychological problems and parental problems in future studies.

Narvey et al. (2020), in their study investigating the effects of childhood negative experiences and empathy skills on recidivism, concluded that exposure to trauma and low empathy levels are associated with recidivism. In particular, an increase in the type of negative childhood experiences has been associated with an increased rate of recidivism. In addition, the finding that improvements in empathy skills can reduce the impact of childhood negative experiences has been shown to indirectly prevent recidivism. This study, showing that empathy skills have a significant effect on childhood negative experiences, may be important in understanding why individuals who have negative experiences in childhood are more prone to criminal behavior. In addition, the fact that the study was conducted with a large sample is among its strengths. However, the fact that psychological assessment tools were not used to measure risk factors in this study may have caused the problem of interviewer bias.

Up to this point, environmental, social, and psychological factors that cause young people to recidivism have been examined in depth. However, these risk factors have mostly been outlined around the lack of positive factors and the abundance of negative factors in the individual's private life. A limited number of studies have investigated the role of prisons in recidivism. Wallace and Wang (2020) investigated how the physical and mental health of offenders during their sentences would affect recidivism. The results showed that good physical health had a positive effect on recidivism, while psychological health had the opposite effect. These findings show how important psychological health is in preventing recidivism. As long as an individual's psychological health is poor, the likelihood of recidivism poses a great risk. If young offenders are rehabilitated and supported in a way that allows them to be integrated into society while in prison, the likelihood of them committing crimes will decrease. Therefore, the importance of each day spent in prison is very important for both the individual and society. As a result, the physical and psychological health status of the individual in prison is closely related to the recidivism status.

In summary, research on recidivism demonstrates the multifaceted nature of risk factors faced by juvenile offenders and how these factors interact. However, the interactions of these factors should be analyzed in more depth, and more research should be conducted on how different social, psychological, and environmental factors shape recidivism. In addition, it is seen that gaps in the literature need to be filled, and factors such as age, gender, race, socioeconomic status, psychological health, and biological problems should be addressed more comprehensively. In this context, future studies should adopt a broader and multidisciplinary approach, which will allow for the development of more effective strategies for preventing recidivism. In addition, the literature sheds light on why some juvenile offenders continue to commit crimes throughout their lives by emphasizing the

effects of social, psychological, and environmental risk factors. However, examining both environmental and neuropsychological factors together will allow for the explanation of the continuity of recidivism. In this way, Moffitt's (1993) developmental theory of crime will be understood more clearly.

Protective Factors in Juvenile Recidivism

Focusing on risk factors that are effective in preventing crime; however, the lack of protective factors may not be sufficient to avoid criminal behavior in the long term. Therefore, examining protective factors as well as risk factors is equally important. It is important to identify protective factors, which are psychological, environmental, and social factors that come together to reduce the likelihood of young offenders re-offending. These factors play a key role in deterring young people from crime and reintegrating them into society. When the literature is examined, it is seen that many factors such as a healthy family environment, positive peer relationships, academic success, and the development of cognitive and emotional skills are effective in this process. Studies on protective factors in the literature are limited. However, further research will contribute to the development of effective treatment plans and rehabilitation programs by identifying more comprehensive protective factors.

In the bulletin published by the American Justice Department, it was stated that the fact that protective factors are more than risk factors can help balance the negative effects of risk factors in the lives of young people (Flores, 2003). According to this bulletin, protective factors include female gender, preschool social behaviors, cognitive performance level, academic development, and empathy. Another study investigated the effects of parental support and supervision and peer influence on criminal behavior. According to the findings of this study, while parental support and supervision had a negative effect on criminal behavior in a 12-month period, it was found that the criminal behavior of the closest friend had no positive or negative effect on the young person. However, the fact that the majority of the young people in this study lived with both parents and continued their education was insufficient to show whether there was a difference between young people living in separated families and those who disrupted their education. It is thought that more comprehensive results can be obtained with a more diverse sample group. In addition, obtaining information about parental support from both the parent and the child can clarify how this interaction looks from the perspective of the child and the parent. Although it has been stated in the literature that antisocial peers and gangs affect criminal behavior, the fact that the best friend's positive or negative effect on criminal behavior was not observed in this study underlines the need for more detailed research on friendship relationships.

Cuervo and Villanueva's (2014) study investigated the protective factors that are effective in young people's re-offending. According to the results, having

more protective factors is associated with lower levels of recidivism. These protective factors include a positive parenting style and family environment, a good school/work environment and success, positive peer relationships, opposing substance use, positive leisure/entertainment times, and pro-social personality, behaviors, and attitudes. It has been stated that opposing substance use and pro-social attitudes are the strongest protective factors in reducing re-offending. Based on the findings, it is seen that family support, supportive parenting, and a good school/work/friend environment reinforce the behaviors that are accepted by society, and these create a shield against committing crime. However, instead of evaluating protective factors as two-sided as present/absent in the analysis, restructuring protective factors with a Likert-type scale may provide more effective results. It would be beneficial for future studies to examine more protective factors and to offer suggestions for improvement work appropriate to these factors.

A study investigated which protective factors were effective in serious, violent, and chronic young offenders (Baglivio et al., 2014). The results show that lower levels of substance use and pro-social behavior in the past reduce the rate of recidivism. This study is important in that it investigates both the past and current existence of protective factors. In this way, it can be clearly understood whether past experiences, conditions or current situations are important in young people's recidivism. In addition, it was emphasized in this study that serious, violent, and chronic young offenders have fewer protective factors. It has been shown once again how important it is to increase protective factors in treatment and prevention studies. It can be said that more meaningful results can be achieved by reaching more parents and young offenders.

Shepherd et al. (2016) investigated the effects of the prevalence of protective factors on recidivism in youth. Individuals with a low risk of committing crime were found to have more protective factors. In particular, pro-social behavior and school adaptation were found to be associated with not committing crime again. In addition to these factors, strong social support, positive attitudes towards intervention and authority, and resilient personality traits are among the factors that prevent crime. When the findings are examined, it is seen that improving social and environmental factors can significantly prevent crime. However, conducting this study with young female offenders prevented the similarities and differences in protective factors across genders. In addition, the fact that protective factors were not evaluated with an ordinal scale like risk factors prevented the understanding of how the level of protective factors is related to criminal behavior. A larger sample study including young female offenders would be important in understanding the effects of protective factors.

In a study investigating the protective factors that prevent young offenders from recidivism, it was shown that family support and control, school participation, education, having social support networks, moral development, and pro-social behaviors were important protective factors (Cardona Isaza & Trujillo Cano,

2022). When these protective factors are examined, it can be thought that a healthy family environment positively affects both school participation and social support networks, which contribute to both moral development and prosocial behaviors. Children who grow up in a healthy family environment can solve problems by talking and discussing, not by fighting, and thus their acceptance in society can increase. This study provides a multifaceted evaluation by using a large sample and valid and reliable measurement tools, examining individual, environmental, social, and community factors. However, it did not address psychological factors. In addition, the insufficient female sample reduces the generalizability of the findings. The fact that the relationship between different types of crime and protective factors is not examined can be shown as a weakness.

The study conducted by Barnes-Lee and Campbell (2020) examined protective factors that reduce the risk of recidivism during adolescence. This study grouped protective factors as individual, family, and social factors. These factors include strong social skills, prosocial attitudes, low aggression levels, positive responses to authority, strong parenting, consistent parenting, strong bonds, the importance given to education, healthy peers, interaction with healthy adults, and participation in social activities. This study focused on environmental and social factors as well as individual factors. Considering that the characteristics of the individual may also affect access to environmental and social protective factors, it is thought that individuals with strong social skills can interact more easily with environmental and social factors. In addition, it can be commented that young people who respond positively to authority can establish healthier relationships with authority figures in the family, school, and other adults in the community. However, the fact that the study was below the expected follow-up period may be a fundamental factor preventing a more reliable study of the possibility of recidivism. In addition, a detailed examination of gender and race factors will help to reach healthier results.

ADHD has been associated with recidivism in studies in the literature (Moffitt, 1993; Pratt et al., 2002; Gordon & Moore, 2005; Van der Put et al., 2012). Therefore, it is important to examine the protective factors in youth with ADHD. Van der Put and colleagues (2012) divided the protective factors effective in ADHD into three main groups. Individual protective factors include positive attitudes and behaviors, low levels of aggression, and self-control skills. Family factors include parental support and supervision, strong relationships within the family, and consistent discipline. Finally, environmental factors include school attendance and academic success, establishing relationships with healthy peers, and communicating with positive adults. This article presents a large sample review, evaluates protective factors, provides necessary guidance for intervention and rehabilitation programs, and emphasizes multifaceted interventions for youth with ADHD. However, the fact that the factors evaluated in the study are based on self-reporting and lack gender and racial diversity despite the large sample reduces the generalizability of this research.

In the meta-analysis study conducted by Aazami et al. (2023), it was stated that high academic success and strong and positive parental relationships are protective factors against delinquency. Therefore, it has been suggested that family-based treatments and approaches are effective intervention strategies in preventing crime. Therefore, it has been argued that the effects of family, peers, neighborhood, school, and society should be examined to combat environmental factors that cause criminal behavior. Based on the meta-analysis findings, the fact that the family factor is effective in protective factors, as well as risk factors, underlines how important it is in building the individual's future life. Future studies, especially investigating which approach or intervention will yield the most effective results, will help prevent criminal behavior.

There is a negative relationship between low empathy levels and criminal behavior (Ashraf et al., 2014). It has been proven that negative treatment in childhood is also associated with low empathy skills (Cerqueira & Almeida, 2023). Therefore, the finding that developments in empathy skills can reduce the impact of negative childhood experiences can indirectly prevent recidivism (Narvey et al., 2020). Focusing on empathy skills in family support programs or family therapy interventions can help young people establish healthier relationships with their families. In this way, young people can integrate into society and have the opportunity to maintain healthier relationships.

The effects of risk and protective factors during the intervention on recidivism were examined (Kleeven et al., 2025). When the results were examined, it was found that male offenders had less risk and more protective factors after the intervention. Increased protective factors include resilience, motivation, relationships, and expert support. Based on these results, it is concluded that both individual support and improvement of environmental factors have a positive effect. However, both the exclusion of female offenders from the study and the insufficient sample size prevented the research results from being strong. In addition, it would be useful to discuss what kind of results longer-term interventions will yield.

Van Dam (2005) drew attention to other important factors in addition to similar findings in the literature in his doctoral study on risk and protective factors. He stated that attitudes toward crime affect criminal behavior and that having a negative attitude toward crime will also prevent recidivism. It has been associated with the fact that young people who are released after treatment or prevention studies re-engage in crime because they return to the environment where they committed crimes. This finding is an indication of how important the environment they live in has an effect. Although young people stay away from crime during the treatment phase, behaviors that have been extinguished can be reinforced again, and criminal behavior can continue. For this reason, making the neighborhood where young people live safe is important in terms of ensuring the continuity of the effectiveness of treatment and intervention studies. Apart from this, it has been stated that attendance at work has a preventive effect on crime, just like school

performance. Attendance at work can create a sense of attachment and belonging for the individual, which can contribute to the individual's social relationships. In addition, it has been shown that thinking about the future and having certain goals regarding school or work is an important protective factor for juvenile offenders. Having a purpose and goal for an individual can help them make an effort for themselves and increase their motivation. In addition to positive peer and social relationships, marriage and having a supportive partner have also been shown to have a preventive effect on criminal behavior. Both emotional and social support from a partner can help an individual stay away from unhealthy behaviors and continue a regular life.

In summary, many individual, social, psychological and environmental factors are effective in young people's re-offending. Studies have shown that individuals need the integrated effect of more protective factors in order to combat existing risk factors and reduce the negative effects they create. It is predicted that young criminals will move away from criminal behavior as long as they are supported by effective interventions and treatment plans. Future studies need to work with different ethnic groups, determine protective factors specific to different types of crime, investigate the female gender, and continue studies with longer follow-up periods.

Crime Rates in USA and UK

It is observed that juvenile delinquency has decreased significantly in the US and the UK. This decrease is a promising sign that security policies against crime have been increased, social safety has been provided, and treatment and intervention programs are effective. According to the report published by Juvenile Court Statistics (Hockenberry et al., 2024), juvenile delinquency rates in the US increased between 1960 and 2005, decreased from 2005 until 2021, but increased again in 2022. When rates are examined by type of crime, total crime decreased by 45% between 2013 and 2022. However, the increase between 2021 and 2022 is stated as 27%. The crime types that have decreased the most from 2013 to 2022 include larceny-theft (-71%), liquor law violations (-68%), obstruction of justice (-65%), burglary (-57%), drug law violations (-56%), trespassing (-53%), disorderly conduct (-52%), and arson (-50%). According to these results, it is concluded that the most significant decreases were in property and public order crimes. The crime types that increased in the same period include homicide (159%), motor vehicle theft (35%), other personal crimes (7%), aggravated assault (6%), and nonviolent sex offenses (3%). The fact that the total crime rate 2022 remained below the pre-pandemic rate reveals that crime prevention policies contribute to social order.

When the demographic characteristics of juvenile offenders are examined, it is stated that 89% of the 33 million children tried in 2022 were between the ages

of 10 and 16. The same report also states that the type of crime committed creates certain differences in terms of age. According to this report, slightly more than half of the general crimes were committed by juvenile offenders under the age of 16. Common crimes committed by those under the age of 16 include personal crimes and most property crimes. The highest rates include arson (76%), violent sex offenses (66%), disorderly conduct (65%), other nonviolent sex offenses (65%), and other public order offenses (65%). According to the report, it is stated that the number of cases involving 17-year-olds is lower than that of 16-year-olds. This is because, in some states, 17-year-olds are referred to criminal court rather than juvenile court. However, adding juvenile offenders aged 17 and over to these statistics will help determine whether the crime is limited to adolescence. From 2005 to 2021, the crime rate for juveniles of all ages decreased and increased in 2022. When the rates in 2022 were examined, it was stated that the largest share of crime cases was made up of young people aged 16, and this rate decreased sequentially from the age of 17. When the difference in crime rates between genders was examined, it was stated that 72% of the crimes were committed by males in 2022. Although crime rates have been decreasing since 2005, males have always committed more crimes than females every year (Hockenberry et al., 2024). When evaluated in terms of ethnicity, it was stated that the crimes committed were white, black, Hispanic, American Indian, and Asian, respectively. This difference between ethnicities underlines the need to provide specialized intervention programs for each cultural group and to ensure that individuals from different ethnic groups can live together safely.

When the findings are considered as a whole, it is stated that crime rates in the USA increased gradually between 1960-1995, did not change between 1995-2005, decreased between 2005-2021, and increased slightly again in 2022. It can be concluded that the majority of juvenile offenders committing crimes are 16-year-old white males. The reflection of the developments in America's security and intervention policies after 2005 as a decrease in crime rates is promising for the future. However, more importance should be given to the types of crimes that increase in some age groups, and both school and family support programs should be increased. It is thought that this will prevent juveniles from being dragged into crime.

When crime rate reports in England and Wales are examined (Youth Justice Statistics, 2024), a decrease is observed in the number of juvenile offenders arrested between 2013 and 2021, but a slight increase is observed from 2022 onwards. These rates are similar to juvenile delinquency rates in the USA. Although there has been a 53% decrease since 2013, there is a 9% increase in crime from 2022 to 2023. When arrest rates by type of crime are examined between 2022-2023, robbery is in the first place with a rate of 31%. This list is followed by theft offenses (22%) and community crimes (21%). On the other hand, there are decreases in the rates of public order (-1%), fraud (-3%) and sexual crimes (-5%). Proven

crimes committed by children have only increased by 1% in 2023 compared to the previous year. Two crimes that increased compared to the previous year were burglary theft and handling stolen goods. In contrast, drug crimes and property damage crimes decreased.

When the demographic characteristics of the arrested juvenile offenders are examined, it is stated that 73% of the crimes between 2013 and 2023 were committed by whites, similar to the USA. It was determined that this list was followed by blacks, Asians/others, and mixed groups, respectively. When examined according to the age variable, it was stated that 74% of the juveniles who received warnings and punishments were in the 15-17 age group, and 26% in the 10-14 age group. Juvenile offenders in the 15-17 age group, which has a high rate of committing crimes, constitute 36% of the population, and 86% of the children who received warnings or punishments are boys. According to the results of the published report, although a slight decrease has been observed in the rate of girls receiving warnings or punishments since 2013, this decrease is more pronounced in boys. These rates are similar to the rates in the USA.

The proven recidivism rate of juvenile offenders increased by 0.9 points to 32.2% in 2022. However, the recidivism rate of juvenile offenders has decreased significantly from 2012 to 2021. Similarly, the recidivism rate for men was found to be higher than that of women. The recidivism rate was also found to be higher in the 15-17 age group. The findings show that the recidivism rate is related to the number of previous offenses. While the probability of a juvenile offender committing a first-time offense to commit a second offense is 17.6%, the recidivism rate for those committing 11 or more offenses suddenly increases to 66.6%. This sharp increase is a clear indication of how seriously involvement in crime affects recidivism. If we summarize the crime rates in England and Wales, it is stated that the majority of proven offenses are committed by white males aged 15–17. This result is almost the same as the results in the USA.

The declines in juvenile crime rates in the US and UK over the last 20 years may have been possible with the totality of efforts to reduce risk factors and increase protective factors, and with the deterrence of the criminal justice system. In this sense, it would be beneficial for the government to address environmental and social risk factors in detail and to educate youth, their families, and all individuals who may interact with them about the negative aspects of criminal behavior. Informing and educating citizens about youth crime in the media, schools, and workplaces may enable adults to become healthier role models. The development of prosocial behaviors in juveniles can be supported, and the decline in crime rates can be continued by expanding family support programs and peer programs.

Conclusion

Juvenile offenders, individuals under the age of eighteen who violate the law or social norms, present a significant challenge for juvenile justice systems worldwide. Recidivism, the tendency of young offenders to commit new crimes, exacerbates the issue. This review study examined the risk and protective factors influencing juvenile delinquency within the context of Moffitt's Developmental Theory of Crime which views crime as a developmental process shaped by the interplay of biological, environmental, and psychological factors. This theory provides an important framework for understanding the risk of juvenile delinquents to recidivate.

The research has revealed several risk factors that play a role in the recidivism of juvenile offenders. Among these, environmental factors such as family trauma, inadequate parenting, low socioeconomic status, substance use, academic failures, antisocial peers, and peer pressure stand out. The "life-course persistent" (LCP) and "adolescence-limited" (AL) offender types developed by Moffitt provide a critical perspective in understanding the criminal behavior of young people. LCP offenders are individuals who exhibit behavioral disorders and criminal tendencies from an early age and generally exhibit long-term criminal behavior, which shows that they are more prone to recidivism. On the other hand, AL offenders are individuals who exhibit criminal behavior limited to adolescence, and these individuals, unlike LCP individuals, need antisocial peer groups to commit crimes. These individuals have a higher chance of staying away from crime. Risk factors are especially important for individuals in the LCP group. It is important to identify risk factors and reduce the effects of these factors.

Conversely, protective factors include family support, education, early intervention, and interaction with healthy peers. These factors can help prevent youth from engaging in crime and significantly reduce the risk of recidivism. Additionally, when efforts to reduce risk factors alone are insufficient, the presence of protective factors can prevent youth from engaging in crime. In Moffitt's theory, the interaction between environmental and biological factors plays a critical role in understanding the dynamics that shape individuals' criminal behavior.

In conclusion, reducing recidivism among juvenile offenders requires a multifaceted approach that addresses both protective and risk factors. Protective factors including family support and positive school experiences can promote positive development and reduce the likelihood of delinquent behavior and recidivism. On the other hand, risk factors such as exposure to violence, substance abuse, and mental health challenges must be addressed to prevent the recidivism. Effective intervention should not only target individual factors but also the broader environmental and social influences that contribute to criminal behavior.

Moffitt's Developmental Theory of Crime provides a robust theoretical framework for understanding the dynamic interaction between these various factors. By incorporating this theory, policymakers, educators, and juvenile justice professionals can collaborate to develop more effective strategies to reduce recidivism and foster positive outcomes for young offenders. Furthermore, additional research on juvenile recidivism that is specifically designed for the needs of numerous cultures and nations is required. Such research will be invaluable in identifying the most successful therapeutic modalities for juvenile offenders, particularly during the rehabilitation phase, benefiting both society and the individuals involved.

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