EFFECT OF POLICE CONTACT ON SHORT-TERM MINDSETS: A LONGITUDINAL STUDY OF ZURICH PUBLIC SCHOOL STUDENTS

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CRIMETIME/
Short-Term Mindsets
and Crime

Jean-Louis van Gelder
SELF-CONTROL VS SHORT-TERM MINDSETS

Many characteristics
Time-stable after age 8-10
Linked to parenting
Individual deficit

Distinct but interrelated concepts that signal preference for the present
Malleable over time
By more than just parenting
Reasonable adaption
ADOLESCENT CONTACT WITH POLICE
Early adolescent arrest linked with the largest increases in delinquency

(Bersani et al., 2021; Del Tores et al., 2019)
Police contact linked with between- and within- person differences in future-orientation or self-control

(Hipwell et al., 2018; Testa et al., 2021, 2022; van Gelder et al., 2018)
Is police contact associated with a reduction in short-term mindsets amongst Zurich public school students?

Is this effect more pronounced for early-adolescent arrestees, rather than late-adolescent or early-adulthood?

Does the effect increase as it is repeated over time?
Prevalence of Police Contact across Waves 5 to 8

- 14 Delinquency Items
- 7 Delinquency Items
- Reported and Questioned
- COMBINED

[Bar chart with percentage values]
METHODS

Police Contact + Time-Varying Covariates: Delinquency Deviant Peers Parenting (Monitoring, Involvement) Age

STM

Pre-registered fixed effects model using z-proso data
**FINDINGS**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Police Contact</th>
<th>Impulsivity</th>
<th>Sensation-Seeking</th>
<th>Future School Orientation</th>
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<tr>
<td>No controls</td>
<td>.02 (.03)</td>
<td>.10** (.03)</td>
<td>-.15*** (.04)</td>
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<td>With controls</td>
<td>.02 (.04)</td>
<td>.03 (.04)</td>
<td>-.07 (.04)</td>
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*All reported pathways sig. at p < .05*
FIXED EFFECTS MODEL

- Police Contact * Age
- First Police Contact * Age
- Prior Police Contact * Age
- Prior Contact * Police Contact

STM
FIXED EFFECTS MODEL

Police Contact * Age
First Police Contact * Age
Prior Police Contact * Age
Prior Contact * Police Contact

STM
## Estimate of Effect of First Police Contact * Age on Short-Term Mindsets in Fixed Effects Regression Models

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<td>-.89* (.42)</td>
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<tr>
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FINDINGS
DISCUSSION

1. Don’t find that police contact by itself is associated with an increase in short-term mindsets
2. But do find police contact to be associated with more sensation-seeking and less future school orientation when including an interaction with age

Policy Implications:
• Preventing police contact for young adolescents, whenever possible
• Interventions to increase future orientation

Limitations and next steps:
• Sensitive to waves/variables included
• Time lag
• Place or people?
CONCLUSIONS

- Provides a shared mechanism for understanding why many experiences and environments can increase crime
- Move to integrate context and choice (Box-Steffensmeier et al., 2022; Hoeben & Thomas, 2019)
- Short-term mindsets as a response to environmental factors above and beyond just parental monitoring
THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION
Please address any questions to:
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INTRODUCTION

Environment

Individual
HYPOTHESES

- Police Contact
- Age
- Police Contact * Age
- Prior Waves with Police Contact

STM
HYPOTHESES

Police Contact Effect Size

Age
HYPOTHESES

Police Contact

Age

Police Contact * Age

Prior Waves with Police Contact

STM

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