







ISSN: 2617-6548

URL: [www.ijirss.com](http://www.ijirss.com)



## Family circumstances and the law violations of juvenile delinquency - A quantitative research in Vietnam

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### Abstract

In Vietnam, juvenile delinquency is significant and growing, primarily due to various socio-economic and family issues. This study explores family circumstances (FC) in relation to juvenile crime, indicating how parental neglect can lead to domestic violence, economic hardships, and a lack of proper guidance, which set the stage for law violations committed by minors. Through the narration of legal cases, official reports, and sociological surveys, the research identifies the top family-related factors that propel juvenile delinquency. The research results indicate that unstable family realities, characterized by broken homes, lack of parental supervision, and demonstrations of criminal behavior, considerably increase the chances of youth offending. It highlights that stronger family-based interventions, social support systems, and reforms in juvenile justice policies are necessary for reducing youth crime rates in Vietnam.

**Keywords:** Family Influence, Juvenile Delinquency, Law Violations, Vietnam.

**DOI:** 10.53894/ijirss.v8i2.5886

**Funding:** This study received no specific financial support.

**History: Received:** 21 February 2025 / **Revised:** 24 March 2025 / **Accepted:** 26 March 2025 / **Published:** 3 April 2025

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**Competing Interests:** The authors declare that they have no competing interests.

**Authors' Contributions:** All authors contributed equally to the conception and design of the study. All authors have read and agreed to the published version of the manuscript.

**Transparency:** The authors confirm that the manuscript is an honest, accurate, and transparent account of the study; that no vital features of the study have been omitted; and that any discrepancies from the study as planned have been explained. This study followed all ethical practices during writing.

**Publisher:** Innovative Research Publishing

### 1. Introduction

Juvenile delinquency is one of the major concerns of many societies; it is often related to various socio-economic and familial parameters. Research has proven that family dynamics, such as parental monitoring, domestic violence, economic strain, and substance abuse, greatly influence the probabilities of law violations occurring among juveniles. There are many types of research and studies that provide a good, comforting atmosphere for gathering data to lessen criminal acts; the undeniable materials from these studies provide proof that family disbanding or an increasing tendency toward rebelliousness is associated with family dysfunction. While some family circumstances can mitigate delinquency, maternal or paternal

neglect, domestic violence, financial incompetence, and substance abuse usually increase the likelihood of law violations. The research implies that an increase in parental involvement, an improvement in economic support systems, and a community-based intervention program will be key effective actions to reduce juvenile crime rates. A legal reform combined with a family-oriented policy will become the key to addressing the root causes of juvenile delinquency and creating a supportive environment to assist at-risk youth. The future should instead focus on strategies that have shown real effectiveness in preventing juvenile crime and restoring offenders. Further exploration will continue to examine what some recent studies have said about the effects of family circumstances on juvenile crime, outlining the major contributing causes and possible strategies for intervention.

Worldwide, juvenile justice systems have been significantly affected by socio-economic, environmental, educational, and family variables. The research findings suggest that area-level or neighborhood characteristics negatively affect youth involvement in both the juvenile justice system and the child welfare system. The role of neighborhood-level factors influencing referrals of youth to the juvenile justice system has been assessed using a multivariate Bayesian spatial model designed by Barboza-Salerno, et al. [1], and Sheppard et al. [2] assess the performance of risk assessment tools that allow for the early identification of at-risk youth, thus improving intervention strategies intended to prevent the youth from further involvement in the system. Both assessments illustrate the need for policy approaches that encompass not only individual risk factors but also those involving the community.

Education is a vital aspect in shaping juvenile behavior, as attachment to school and commitment to learning are associated with lower delinquency rates. Miklósi and Kovács [3] review how strong school bonding correlates with juvenile offenders and conclude with an emphasis on how education has acted as a protective factor against breaking the law. In another light, Bayas and Grau [4] cite the contributions of educational inequality to crime rates, specifying that inequitable access to quality education leaves marginalized youth in more vulnerable positions for criminality. Yang and Zhao [5] provide a historical examination of juvenile delinquency correction in China, demonstrating how policy shifts represent a dichotomy from default rehabilitative approaches due to social values. The inferences from these findings imply that improvement of access to and engagement with education is paramount as a deterrent against youth crime and promotion of social inclusion.

The family dynamics have a central role in juvenile delinquency-prevalent studies articulate ways in which parental presence, monitoring, and household stability affect youth behavior. Barnert [6] offers a look into the long-term effects of youth detainment within the U.S. and argues for systemic changes to enhance characteristics for incarcerated juveniles. McGrath et al. [7] research the continued effects of childhood sexual victimization and the extent to which it increases susceptibility to both youth and adult criminal behavior. Similarly, Simmons et al. [8] juxtapose father absence and harsh parenting with delinquency, suggesting that both would incur a major contribution to behavioral issues, but via different interactions. Ryan et al. [9] discuss kinship foster care as an alternative to traditional placements and how the framing in which kinship care is observed is related to different possible risks for delinquency. Substance abuse within the family contributes notably to the likelihood of juvenile crime. Children raised under circumstances colored by drug or alcohol abuse cannot help but normalize criminal behavior: this predisposes them to law violations. Patel et al. [10] investigate the dynamic between the presence of family substance abuse and the tendency toward juvenile delinquency; they recognize the need for public awareness and the introduction of adequate programs so as to try to sever this cycle [10]. In this regard, Riskita Sucirozai [11], in analyzing cases where children raised by drug-abusing parents have higher tendencies to follow in such behavior, re-emphasizes the need for parental rehabilitation and early intervention [11]. The structure of any family largely influences the behavior of children. Research shows that children raised in single-parent families or without parental figures in their lives are more likely to conduct actions related to crime. Neglect, abuse, and a history of criminal behavior within the family are highlight topics of Merdovic and Jovanović [12]. They argue that negligence and lack of parental care create an environment that justifies children's engagement in unlawful behavior, [12]. Likewise, Anggraini et al. [13] say that children from poor parental control and communication often seek validation and directions from delinquent peers, contributing to future incidences in criminal behavior activities [13]. Thus, these studies reinforce the idea of integrating family-centered interventions into a multilayered support system early to help stray youth from committing crimes.

Other than considerations of individual as well as family-based influences, attitudes of surrounding social elements and environmental characteristics contribute towards delinquent behavior. Mohammad and Nooraini [14] analyze in this regard the relation concerning parental monitoring and peer relationships to delinquency among Malaysian adolescents, whereby Routine Activity Theory was used to point out the impact of the unstructured socialize. Firat et al. [15] investigate how internal migration contributes to juvenile delinquency in Turkey, wherein they report on the socioeconomic difficulties raised by migrant youth. White et al. [16] use a developmental cascade framework to investigate children dually involved in the child protection and juvenile justice systems in Australia, identifying maltreatment as a major predicting factor of future offending. These studies agree to the great extent that social integration as well as community support mechanisms may greatly reduce juvenile crime rates. One More Major Risk Factor for Juvenile Delinquency Is Mentioned Here: Economic hardship. Studies show how children from low-income families are further engulfed by crime because they are economically distressed and lack resources. Fahrudin and Andini [17] state in their argument the forcefulness that financial strife brings onto children, leaving many with no option but to keep themselves alive through theft or drug dealing [17]. In addition, Neves and Correia (2024) elaborate on the point of how financial distress among families thereby exacerbates emotional distress for the child, pushing the child to delinquent novelties as a coping mechanism [18]. Such affirmations give credence to the idea that financial aid programs and community-concerned initiatives should stand charged high on preventing crime built on a modern conception of providing the architecture for self-sustenance for youths.

Mental health and policing strategies affect outcomes in juvenile justice by influencing juveniles 'arrests, wherein Halibiyati et al. [19] attempt to explore neuropsychological deficits by way of longitudinal data that point towards the idea

that cognitive impairments may translate into increasing prevalence in delinquency. Meanwhile, Olsen et al. [20] argue that psychiatric support and supervision by parents could lead towards the reducing end of such recidivism in youth involved in the courts. Last did be Yin and Zhao [21] with a study on police discretion exercised in juvenile cases in China, who finds that officer characteristics and support provided by organizations greatly affect the decision-making processes. These studies highlight the need for mental health interventions and policing reforms to create a fairer and more effective juvenile justice system.

Various types of interventions to address youth crime include legislation, family counseling, and community support for parents. Zozula [22] suggests that professional foster care systems should be introduced to create a calming family environment for juveniles and, therefore, reduce the chances of perpetration of crimes [22]. Likewise, Jassim and Abbas [23] proposed rehabilitation-centered legal intervention strategies afforded by such restorative justice programs focusing on beneficiaries' reestablishment in society and being more significant in preventing recidivism in juvenile delinquents [23]. Overall, this research states that juvenile delinquency is a multidimensional issue, driven by economic contexts, education, family structures, social settings, mental wellness, and police practices. Generally integrating educational strategies, supporting families, enhancing social services, and relating changed legal structures into one holistic approach whereby a fairer and more effective juvenile justice system can be created will significantly tackle juvenile lack of rehabilitation.

## 2. Materials and Methods

This study focuses primarily on quantitative approaches to analyze the correlation between family environments and juvenile delinquency in Vietnam. The descriptive and analytical methods serve as tools in determining juvenile crime patterns and trends, offering better insight into how specific family environments influence legal violations. By utilizing statistical analysis alongside the narrative, the study intends to build a comprehensive understanding of this intricate issue.

**Table 1.**

The characteristics of the participants.

Characteristics	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Ages				
12	1	.2	.2	.2
13	17	3.5	3.5	3.7
14	43	8.8	8.8	12.4
15	104	21.2	21.2	33.6
16	148	30.1	30.1	63.7
17	178	36.3	36.3	100.0
Total	491	100.0	100.0	
Education				
Primary	101	20.6	20.6	20.6
Lower secondary	316	64.4	64.4	84.9
Upper secondary	74	15.1	15.1	100.0
Total	491	100.0	100.0	
Family condition				
Parents living together	263	53.6	53.6	53.6
Parents divorced.	124	25.3	25.3	78.8
Single mother	47	9.6	9.6	88.4
Single father	10	2.0	2.0	90.4
Parents pass away	10	2.0	2.0	92.5
Living with others but parents	7	1.4	1.4	93.9
Parents working far from home	19	3.9	3.9	97.8
Parents in prisons	5	1.0	1.0	98.8
Others	6	1.2	1.2	100.0

The responses of the group added key elements to explore other factors affecting juvenile delinquency, providing insight into the individual's vulnerability and challenges. The young adolescents involved in the research study are primarily aged between 15 and 17 years, with the majority of them aged 16 (30.1%) and 17 (36.3%). This suggests that mid- to late-age teenagers are more likely to be involved due to a higher probability of engaging in risk behaviors at this developmental stage. This is supported by the psychological theory of older adolescents, who typically enjoy a higher level of independence, which may at times lead them into delinquency due to peer pressure and social influence. The fact that 12-year-olds comprise such a small part of the sample, and that only 0.2 percent was obtained, suggests that younger children are less likely to be involved in the actions being studied, possibly because parents have grown stricter around their kids.

Most of the participants, 64.4%, reported having completed only lower secondary education, while 20.6% completed only primary education. Hence, it can be argued that a large portion of the subjects in this research study have not advanced far in the education system. The fact that only 15.1% reportedly completed upper secondary education raises inordinate concerns about school dropout rates, which have often been correlated with juvenile crime. Studies have consistently found that youth with poor educational standings and school disengagement are at a higher risk of displaying delinquent behavior.

In addition to academic learning, schools provide social structure, discipline, and future opportunities—these are things that keep youth from committing crimes. The fact that there is such a high percentage of the participants who fall into the low educational stages could also infer aspects like lack of motivation, financial problems, or unstable home backgrounds that hinder learning continuity.

Family structure plays a key role in the development and behavior of children. According to the study, 53.6% of the study's subjects live with both parents, while the rest, 46.4%, belong to various forms of non-traditional families. Out of these, a substantial 25.3% are from families where the parents have divorced, and 9.6% are single-parent households, living with their mothers only. This means that nearly half of the subjects have experienced some form of family instability, which may result in significant emotional distress and minimal guidance from parents, coupled with highly negative influences.

Equally alarming are other, smaller but still significant percentages of some respondents that face more severe family challenges than usual. In fact, 2.0% are orphans, 3.9% have parents far away for work, and 1.0% have parents in prison. In such situations, children are often without parental supervision and/or support, increasing their risk of delinquency. Being left without a parental figure often produces feelings of total abandonment and pushes juveniles to associate with peers who might be more inclined toward lucrative criminal behavior. Those living with guardians other than their parents (1.4%) may also lack the support they need to meet their emotional and financial needs, further layering into their vulnerability.

Data highlights important socio-demographic patterns that can contribute to juvenile delinquency in Vietnam. The study indicates that, in Vietnam, the youths in their mid to late teens are mostly at risk of delinquency; these are the poorly educated dropouts coming from dysfunctional families. The recommendations speak to the need for educational support systems, family counseling, and social welfare programs that, in one way or another, work to ameliorate such conditions. By addressing the causes right at the roots through targeting school dropout rates and family instability, policymakers and social workers could introduce interventions that reduce juvenile crime and enhance the well-being of at-risk youth.

### *2.1. Data Process and Analysis Methods*

In this regard, quantitative analysis techniques such as percentage, mean, and standard deviations are applied to the survey results so that specific relations can be identified between different family characteristics, and juvenile crime rates. Ethical guidelines for research with vulnerable populations are strictly followed. Informed consent of the participants is obtained when both the juveniles and their families understand the purpose of the study and voluntarily express their wish to participate. All participants are ensured confidentiality in the research while their data are safely stored. The research protocol is subjected to review by an academic/institutional ethics committee for the assurance of compliance with ethical standards.

Limitations do exist, notwithstanding the depth of the study undertaken. First, the sample may not be truly representative of all juvenile offenders in Vietnam, such that the conclusions drawn might not be completely generalizable. Second, self-reporting bias might impact the accuracy of the data because juveniles may downplay or embellish their experiences. Third, respondents' access to participants poses a great challenge since some families or institutions may not allow their cooperation with survey studies. However, even though the study has these limitations, it still offers critical insights into the importance of family circumstances in juvenile delinquency and policy recommendations on crime.

## **3. Results**

Juvenile delinquency is of great concern in Vietnam. As a solution, the government has moved towards stricter policies and law enforcement against youngsters committing juvenile offenses while placing the foremost emphasis on rehabilitation. The Law on Handling Administrative Violations and the Penal Code lay down certain provisions for juveniles that guarantee the punishments are aligned with their ages and levels of awareness. In general, those minors who are below 14 years of age can be free from criminal culpability, while those aged between 14 and 16 can be held criminally liable for offenses such as serious crimes—homicide, rape, and robbery. However, education and reintegration will always be prioritized in place of retribution by the law: detention, probation, bridging service, etc. Issues including gang violence, criminal acts against peers within schools, and other drug-related crimes among youths are indeed still ongoing and are the types of problems requiring a more comprehensive approach—a mix of legal enforcement, social interventions, parental responsibility, and educational reform to better prevent juvenile delinquency.

The Table 2 provides descriptive statistics on different types of law violations committed by juvenile offenders in Vietnam. The dataset includes various offenses, the number of cases recorded (N), and statistical measures such as minimum and maximum values, mean scores, and standard deviations.

The most dangerous offense from the above is theft, of which 317 cases have been recorded, with a mean of 2.44. This poses the possibility that theft is a common form of juvenile delinquency due to financial difficulties or peer influence. Following that, it is followed by vandalism and illegal racing, or organizing races; these two offenses recorded 248 and 203 cases, respectively, and have mean scores of 2.42 and 2.29. These statistics indicate a propensity among juveniles towards reckless or destructive conduct and, similarly, traffic violations (198 cases, mean = 2.33). This sounds alarmingly high in terms of violent criminality, as intentional injury to others (215 cases) has been recorded with a mean of 2.29. Murder is rare, but with only 58 cases reported, this remains a very important and serious issue. Other significant crimes, such as drug abuse and drug deals, showed some juvenile involvement, accounting for 143 cases with a mean of 2.32.

**Table 2.**

Law violence of the juvenile delinquency in Vietnam.

<b>Descriptive Statistics</b>					
	<b>N</b>	<b>Minimum</b>	<b>Maximum</b>	<b>Mean</b>	<b>Std. Deviation</b>
1. Theft (T)	317	1.00	3.00	2.4416	0.82326
2. Robbery (R)	90	1.00	3.00	1.6222	0.81527
3. Robbery of property (RoP)	74	1.00	3.00	1.5811	0.82772
4. Confiscation of property (CoP)	71	1.00	3.00	1.7042	0.83485
5. Made other Intentionally injured (MOII)	215	1.00	3.00	2.2884	0.85958
6. Organizing racing or illegal racing (OR/IR)	203	1.00	3.00	2.2857	0.85431
7. Vandalism (V)	248	1.00	3.00	2.4153	0.81539
8. Violating regulations when participating in road traffic (VRoRT)	198	1.00	3.00	2.3283	0.85988
9. Murder (M)	58	1.00	3.00	1.5000	0.84293
10. Illegally buying, selling, storing, transporting and using narcotics (IN)	143	1.00	3.00	2.3217	0.86074
11. Rape (Ra)	71	1.00	3.00	1.5915	0.80316
12. Attack officials in mission (AO)	112	1.00	3.00	1.9643	0.84819
13. Illegally gambling (IG)	116	1.00	3.00	2.2759	0.87064
Valid N (listwise)	24				

Sexual offenses are less frequent but still a serious concern, including rape (71 cases, mean = 1.59), indicating a need for better education on sexual ethics and legal consequences. Property crimes, like robbery (90 cases, mean = 1.62) and property robbery (74 cases, mean = 1.58), suggest that financial motives drive some youth to commit criminal offenses. Resisting law enforcement (112 cases, mean = 1.96) further highlights defiance and disregard for authority among some juvenile offenders. In general, the data gathered shows that juvenile delinquency in Vietnam seems to include an impressive variety of offenses—from property-related crimes to violent and drug-related activities. From the scoring mean, theft, vandalism, apparent reckless behavior, and traffic violations seem to be very common offenses, according to this data. With these findings, targeted interventions are needed, including educational programs, stricter law enforcement actions, and social support systems, in an attempt to avert and diminish juvenile crime.

### 3.1. The Correlations Between Family Circumstance and Law Violence

In Vietnam, juvenile delinquency is a growing concern, with family circumstances playing a significant role in shaping the behaviors of young offenders. Numerous surveys unveil the strong relationship between unstable family conditions—these include households that are unable to meet their needs, domestic violence, parental abandonment, and economic poverty—and a higher probability of children's illegal conduct. Disconnected children, born into dysfunctional families, are those who often feel severe confusion, lack emotional support, and do not receive calming from adults. These children are more likely to commit property crimes, use drugs, or associate with a gang to seek a sense of validation and to survive. Not only that, but the lack of parental control and the absence of positive role models push the youth into the company of mischievous friends, hence making them more likely to become delinquents. The identification of the correlations is very important for the implementation of public measures for the rehabilitation and prevention of delinquent behavior among the young in Vietnam.

**Table 3.**

The correlations between family circumstance and law violence of the juvenile delinquency in Vietnam.

		<i>(FC)</i>	<i>(T)</i>	<i>(R)</i>	<i>(RoP)</i>	<i>(CoP)</i>	<i>(MOII)</i>	<i>OR/IR</i>	<i>(V)</i>	<i>(VRoRT)</i>	<i>M</i>	<i>(IN)</i>	<i>(Ra)</i>	<i>(AO)</i>	<i>(IG)</i>
<b>1. <i>FC</i></b>	Pearson Correlation	1	-0.040	0.029	0.170	0.012	-0.036	-0.089	-0.079	0.079	0.014	-0.044	0.128	-0.070	-0.094
	Sig0. (2-tailed)		0.474	0.788	0.148	0.922	0.599	0.209	0.216	0.270	0.917	0.602	0.287	0.462	0.318
	N	491	317	90	74	71	215	203	248	198	58	143	71	112	116
<b>2. <i>(T)</i></b>	Pearson Correlation	-0.040	1	0.261*	0.166	-0.119	0.270**	0.105	0.146	0.180*	0.043	0.084	-0.113	-0.130	0.192
	Sig0. (2-tailed)	0.474		0.015	0.167	0.329	0.001	0.210	0.068	0.044	0.790	0.409	0.463	0.247	0.068
	N	317	317	86	71	69	145	144	156	126	41	98	44	81	91
<b>3. <i>(R)</i></b>	Pearson Correlation	0.029	0.261*	1	0.730**	0.339**	0.200	0.107	0.237	0.211	0.311	0.428**	0.401*	0.093	0.197
	Sig0. (2-tailed)	0.788	0.015		0.000	0.010	0.097	0.397	0.052	0.089	0.061	0.002	0.015	0.542	0.195
	N	90	86	90	63	57	70	65	68	66	37	52	36	45	45
<b>4. <i>(RoP)</i></b>	Pearson Correlation	0.170	0.166	0.730**	1	0.306*	0.131	0.144	0.220	0.179	0.237	0.230	0.431**	0.149	0.239
	Sig0. (2-tailed)	0.148	0.167	0.000		0.022	0.317	0.286	0.094	0.192	0.177	0.125	0.009	0.372	0.123
	N	74	71	63	74	56	60	57	59	55	34	46	36	38	43
<b>5. <i>(CoP)</i></b>	Pearson Correlation	0.012	-0.119	0.339**	0.306*	1	0.359**	0.249	0.340**	0.188	0.363*	0.400**	0.459**	0.433**	0.518**
	Sig0. (2-tailed)	0.922	0.329	0.010	0.022		0.004	0.064	0.010	0.178	0.041	0.008	0.006	0.005	0.000
	N	71	69	57	56	71	61	56	57	53	32	43	35	40	42
<b>6. <i>(MOII)</i></b>	Pearson Correlation	-0.036	0.270**	0.200	0.131	0.359**	1	0.401**	0.506**	0.284**	0.067	0.299**	0.154	0.286**	0.629**
	Sig0. (2-tailed)	0.599	0.001	0.097	0.317	0.004		0.000	0.000	0.001	0.659	0.003	0.301	0.007	0.000
	N	215	145	70	60	61	215	142	176	132	46	95	47	87	87
<b>7. <i>(OR/IR)</i></b>	Pearson Correlation	-0.089	0.105	0.107	0.144	0.249	0.401**	1	0.573**	0.394**	0.272	0.402**	0.345*	0.299**	0.340**
	Sig0. (2-tailed)	0.209	0.210	0.397	0.286	0.064	0.000		0.000	0.000	0.086	0.000	0.020	0.005	0.001
	N	203	144	65	57	56	142	203	155	141	41	97	45	85	91
<b>8. <i>(V)</i></b>	Pearson Correlation	-0.079	0.146	0.237	0.220	0.340**	0.506**	0.573**	1	0.400**	0.043	0.414**	0.238	0.389**	0.491**

9. (VRoRT)	Sig0. (2-tailed)	0.216	0.068	0.052	0.094	0.010	0.000	0.000		0.000	0.781	0.000	0.111	0.000	0.000
	N	248	156	68	59	57	176	155	248	143	44	97	46	96	93
	Pearson Correlation	0.079	0.180*	0.211	0.179	0.188	0.284**	0.394**	0.400**	1	0.249	0.422**	0.262	0.244*	0.553**
	Sig0. (2-tailed)	0.270	0.044	0.089	0.192	0.178	0.001	0.000	0.000		0.112	0.000	0.079	0.024	0.000
10. (M)	N	198	126	66	55	53	132	141	143	198	42	89	46	85	90
	Pearson Correlation	0.014	0.043	0.311	0.237	0.363*	0.067	0.272	0.043	0.249	1	0.318	0.477**	0.362*	0.222
	Sig0. (2-tailed)	0.917	0.790	0.061	0.177	0.041	0.659	0.086	0.781	0.112		0.067	0.004	0.030	0.213
	N	58	41	37	34	32	46	41	44	42	58	34	34	36	33
11. (IN)	Pearson Correlation	-0.044	0.084	0.428**	0.230	0.400**	0.299**	0.402**	0.414**	0.422**	0.318	1	0.310	0.346**	0.566**
	Sig0. (2-tailed)	0.602	0.409	0.002	0.125	0.008	0.003	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.067		0.055	0.008	0.000
	N	143	98	52	46	43	95	97	97	89	34	143	39	58	70
	Pearson Correlation	0.128	-0.113	0.401*	0.431**	0.459**	0.154	0.345*	0.238	0.262	0.477**	0.310	1	0.437**	0.371*
12. (Ra)	Sig0. (2-tailed)	0.287	0.463	0.015	0.009	0.006	0.301	0.020	0.111	0.079	0.004	0.055		0.005	0.018
	N	71	44	36	36	35	47	45	46	46	34	39	71	39	40
	Pearson Correlation	-0.070	-0.130	0.093	0.149	0.433**	0.286**	0.299**	0.389**	0.244*	0.362*	0.346**	0.437**	1	0.559**
	Sig0. (2-tailed)	0.462	0.247	0.542	0.372	0.005	0.007	0.005	0.000	0.024	0.030	0.008	0.005		0.000
13. (AO)	N	112	81	45	38	40	87	85	96	85	36	58	39	112	55
	Pearson Correlation	-0.094	0.192	0.197	0.239	0.518**	0.629**	0.340**	0.491**	0.553**	0.222	0.566**	0.371*	0.559**	1
	Sig0. (2-tailed)	0.318	0.068	0.195	0.123	0.000	0.000	0.001	0.000	0.000	0.213	0.000	0.018	0.000	
	N	116	91	45	43	42	87	91	93	90	33	70	40	55	116
14. IG	Pearson Correlation	-0.094	0.192	0.197	0.239	0.518**	0.629**	0.340**	0.491**	0.553**	0.222	0.566**	0.371*	0.559**	1
	Sig0. (2-tailed)	0.318	0.068	0.195	0.123	0.000	0.000	0.001	0.000	0.000	0.213	0.000	0.018	0.000	
	N	116	91	45	43	42	87	91	93	90	33	70	40	55	116
	Pearson Correlation	-0.094	0.192	0.197	0.239	0.518**	0.629**	0.340**	0.491**	0.553**	0.222	0.566**	0.371*	0.559**	1
	Sig0. (2-tailed)	0.318	0.068	0.195	0.123	0.000	0.000	0.001	0.000	0.000	0.213	0.000	0.018	0.000	
	N	116	91	45	43	42	87	91	93	90	33	70	40	55	116

**Note:** \*. Correlation is significant at the 0.05 level (2-tailed).

\*\*. Correlation is significant at the 0.01 level (2-tailed).

Table 3 shows how family situations relate to different kinds of youth crime in Vietnam. The information points out how strong the link is between family background and breaking the law, using Pearson correlation coefficients to measure it.

*Weak Correlation Between Family Circumstances and Crime.* The overall relationship between family circumstances and types of juvenile delinquency is very poor. The Pearson correlation coefficients between family circumstances and crimes such as theft (-0.040), robbery (0.029), and resisting law enforcement (-0.070) show no or very little direct relationship. Additionally, most of the significance (Sig.) values are above 0.05, which implies that these correlations are not statistically significant. This means that while delinquency can have causes in family environment and structure, they do not dictate everything.

*Strong Correlations Among Specific Crimes.* Despite the weak association between family conditions and most offenses, there are some offenses with close associations among themselves. For instance, robbery and robbery of property have a high positive correlation ( $r = .730$ ,  $p < 0.01$ ), indicating that delinquents who rob will likely rob property as well. Similarly, confiscation of property is closely correlated with other crimes like intentional injury ( $r = .359$ ,  $p < 0.01$ ) and resisting arrest ( $r = .433$ ,  $p < 0.01$ ). Such correlations suggest that certain types of crime cluster together and may be an indicator of rising criminal activity trends.

*Crimes Related to Violence and Reckless Behavior.* Several violent offenses, such as intentional injury and resisting arrest, are closely linked with other dangerous behaviors. Intentional injury is positively associated with illegal racing organizations ( $r = .401$ ,  $p < 0.01$ ), vandalism ( $r = .506$ ,  $p < 0.01$ ), and traffic rule violations ( $r = .284$ ,  $p < 0.01$ ). This suggests that juveniles who commit violent crimes are more likely to be reckless, possibly due to impulsiveness or being part of delinquent peer groups.

*Crimes Associated with Drug Use and Gambling.* Drug offenses also exhibit high correlations with other forms of delinquency. The existence of drug-related crime in conjunction with gambling ( $r = .566$ ,  $p < 0.01$ ) suggests the tendency for those who are juvenile substance abusers to be involved in illegal gambling activities. Moreover, gambling has a strong association with avoiding law enforcement ( $r = .559$ ,  $p < 0.01$ ) and illegal racing groups ( $r = .340$ ,  $p < 0.01$ ), which suggests that there is a subgroup of juveniles engaged in more than one risk-taking activity.

The weak correlation between family circumstances and crime reflects that while family structure may be implicated in youth crime, other environmental and social factors, such as education, socioeconomic standing, and peer pressure, may be more essential. However, the robust connections among specific crimes suggest that intervention must address several risk behaviors simultaneously. Law enforcement and social interventions are required to address breaking the cycle of repeated and escalating criminality through early intervention with high-risk youths. The data suggest that juvenile delinquency is a multifaceted issue with many interrelated offenses. Although family context is not always a strong predictor of criminality, individual offenses tend to co-occur, which would indicate recurring or escalating delinquency. These findings emphasize the importance of broad-spectrum prevention interventions that extend beyond family dynamics to include peer effects, economic issues, and community treatment.

#### 4. Discussion

The data from a detailed examination of different types of juvenile offenses in Vietnam, ranging from theft to violent crimes and drug-related offenses, reflect significant trends in juvenile delinquency and indicate where legal and social interventions are required.

*Prevalence of Property Crimes.* Stealing is the most common crime among juveniles, with 317 cases and a mean of 2.44, which indicates that the same crime is often committed numerous times. The same can be said for vandalism (248 cases, mean = 2.42) and robbery (90 cases, mean = 1.62), which follow a trend of property crimes. Economic deprivation and peer influence, as noted by CAO et al. [24], are some of the factors that lead juveniles in Vietnam to commit property crimes. The majority of juvenile delinquents have troubled histories in which economic disadvantage compels them to engage in criminal activities. This aligns with the strain theory, which explains that individuals resort to crime as a coping mechanism in response to economic strain and the absence of legal means to achieve their goals [25].

*Violent and Reckless Behavior.* One concerning trend in the data is the prevalence of violent behaviors, including purposeful harm (215 cases, mean = 2.29) and interference with law enforcement (112 cases, mean = 1.96). This concurs with a study by Nguyen [26], which cites increasing Vietnamese youth aggression as being typical of social and familial instability. Illicit racing and reckless traffic offenses are also common, with 203 occurrences of participating in or arranging illicit racing (mean = 2.29) and 198 traffic offenses (mean = 2.33). Such activities not only risk the individual involved but also pose a public safety hazard.

*Drug-Related and Organized Crimes.* Another concern is the involvement of juveniles in drug crimes, as there were 143 cases reported (mean = 2.32). This points to the growing issue of drug abuse among youth in Vietnam. Do Qui et al. [27] studies have indicated that drug abuse is increasingly becoming a serious issue in urban areas, with young people being actively targeted by organized crime groups. The easy availability of drugs and the lack of proper preventive interventions are driving forces behind this trend.

*Sexual and Severe Crimes.* Although less prevalent, more violent offenses such as rape (71 cases, mean = 1.59) and homicide (58 cases, mean = 1.50) indicate that some juveniles are perpetrating very violent offenses. Based on studies by Trinh [28], inadequate sex education and exposure to violent media have been identified as the reasons for sexual offenses among juveniles. Similarly, high-profile juvenile homicide cases have also highlighted the problems of mental health and emotional control among young offenders.

There is a need for urgent policy interventions to address juvenile delinquency in Vietnam. Hien and Thach [29] state that the legal framework in Vietnam has evolved in the context of juvenile justice, though it is patchy in implementation, and



programs for rehabilitation remain nascent. There needs to be greater emphasis on community programs involving education, counseling, and vocational training to help vulnerable young people. Increasing parental involvement, decreasing school dropout rates, and improving police training will also help reduce juvenile offending rates. Vietnam's juvenile delinquency is a socio-economically driven issue, as well as a consequence of family life and systemic flaws in the justice system. Based on the information presented, it indicates that property offenses, reckless offending, and drug offenses are the most common, but violent offending and sexual offending, while less frequent, are significant concerns. Mitigation of these issues requires collective efforts through legal reforms, improving social welfare, and promoting education. Future research needs to be geared towards the evaluation of current interventions and seeking alternative means to deter juvenile delinquency.

In terms of correlations, that there is generally weak association between family circumstances and child delinquency in Vietnam. However, some patterns emerge when taking into account specific offenses, which suggest that while family background is not the prime cause of delinquent behavior, it still has a role to play in shaping youth criminal activities.

*The Weak Influence of Family Circumstances on Crime.* The inverse relationship with family makeup for the majority of crimes, such as theft (-.040), robbery (.029), and resisting law enforcement (-.070), shows that while family composition may affect the life of a child, family composition itself is not the determinant of juvenile crime. Shen [30] argues that peer pressure, broader socio-economic conditions, and ecological factors all contribute more active functions to the development of criminality than family arrangement alone. In Vietnam, juvenile behavior may be more affected by quick urbanization, economic inequality, and access to digital influences than by the presence or absence of parents.

*The Co-Occurrence of Specific Crimes.* Whereas family situation is weakly related to most offenses, the results indicate strong intercorrelations between some categories of crimes. Robbery and robbery of property are strongly positively correlated ( $r = .730, p < 0.01$ ), suggesting that juveniles who commit one form of property crime are likely to commit another. This result is congruent with criminological theory that posits youth with minor crimes tend to increase to more severe crimes in later years (Moffitt, 1993). Likewise, property confiscation is strongly related to violent offenses, including intentional injury ( $r = .359, p < 0.01$ ) and resisting law enforcement ( $r = .433, p < 0.01$ ). These relationships indicate that juveniles who commit property offenses can also acquire aggressive behaviors, possibly as a result of experiences of social rejection, economic disadvantage, or poor guidance.

*Link Between Reckless Behavior and Violence.* The correlations of violent crimes with careless acts reflect that some juveniles display patterns of rebelliousness and impulsiveness. For example, deliberate harm correlates with street racing ( $r = .401, p < 0.01$ ), acts of vandalism ( $r = .506, p < 0.01$ ), and traffic offenses ( $r = .284, p < 0.01$ ). This is in line with research that suggests delinquent youth will acquire combinations of violent and irresponsible behavior due to thrill-seeking behavior or identification with high-risk peer networks [31].

*Association Between Drug Use and Gambling.* Drug offenses are highly correlated with other risk behaviors. Drug use's high correlation with gambling ( $r = .566, p < 0.01$ ) shows that some juveniles involved in substance abuse are also involved in illegal gambling activity. This echoes international studies in which it is demonstrated that initiation at an early age into addictive behaviors can heighten the risk for involvement in other offending behaviors [32].

## 5. Conclusion

The relationship between family conditions and juvenile delinquency in Vietnam is complex and closely associated with social, economic, and psychological situations. From this study, it is noted that unstable family environments—characterized by domestic violence, neglect, poverty, criminality among parents, or a lack of parental supervision—are significant in youth participation in illegal activities. Juveniles from dysfunctional or broken families are more vulnerable to adverse peer influences and are prone to participate in criminal activities as coping mechanisms. The poor association between family circumstances and crime emphasizes the need to consider broader social factors in juvenile delinquency treatment. Instead of focusing on family interventions, policymakers have to develop community programs that respond to peer pressure, school engagement, and economic opportunities for at-risk youth. Educational initiatives, mentoring programs, and increased police patrols in high-risk areas can deter youth from criminal behavior. Although family circumstances have comparatively low direct influence on Vietnamese juvenile delinquency, co-occurring patterns of offenses suggest that when youth engage in crime, they are likely to broaden their activities. Targeted interventions aimed at peer pressure, poverty, and social environments may be more potent at preventing youth crime than interventions that target the family alone. Future research must explore the influence of education, online factors, and socio-economic determinants on youth behavior. Moreover, Vietnamese social policies and legal systems must address these root causes by improving family support mechanisms, enhancing education for parents, and providing early intervention programs for at-risk youth. While existing juvenile justice laws aim to rehabilitate rather than punish juvenile offenders, more comprehensive community-based responses are needed to stop juvenile crime in its tracks. In conclusion, stopping juvenile delinquency in Vietnam requires a comprehensive system that not only maintains the law but also prioritizes family stability, education, and social welfare. Strengthening the impact of families, schools, and communities on children's growth can assist in effectively reducing youth crime rates and creating a safe society.

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