


Hanging Out and Messing About

Evelien Hoeben

Elaborating on the relationship
between unstructured socializing
and adolescent delinquency



Adolescent delinquency is related to involvement in unstructured socializing, also referred to as 'hanging out'. Although the relationship is quite established, many questions remain unanswered. Why does hanging out lead to more delinquency? Are youths from disadvantaged neighborhoods more often engaged in unstructured socializing than their peers? Would hanging out in the city center be more crime conducive than hanging out at a friends' home? Does 'hanging out with the wrong crowd' indeed facilitate delinquency and substance use? This book addresses these and other questions to provide a deeper insight into the association between adolescent delinquency and the familiar phenomenon of youths 'hanging out and messing about'.

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