

CONTENTS

CHAPTER 1

THE CURRENT YOUTH CRIME CRISIS 1

The Extent of Serious Youth Crime	3
Juvenile Justice Crisis Indicators	5
The Child Welfare Crisis	8
Postscript	10

CHAPTER 2

DELINQUENCY RESEARCH AND THEORY 11

The Chicago School and Social Disorganization	11
Gang Studies and Social Class	14
Self-Report Studies and "Garden-Variety" Delinquency	16
Renewed Concern with Serious Offenders	20
Postscript	26

CHAPTER 3

DRUGS/CRIME CONNECTIONS 28

Youth Drug Abuse	29
Drug Use and Garden-Variety Delinquency	32
Common-Cause "Deviance Syndrome" Theory	32
Progression beyond Garden-Variety Delinquency	35
Drug/Crime Relationships for Serious Offenders	38
Addiction	38
The Need for Crime to Pay for Drugs	41
Street-Addict Lifestyle and Subculture	43
Crime Committed under the Influence of Drugs	46
Postscript	48

CHAPTER 4

**STUDYING SERIOUS DELINQUENCY
ON THE STREET 50**

What: Defining Serious Delinquency	50
Major Crime and Serious Delinquency	51
Minor Crime and Serious Delinquency	52
Definition for the New Study	54
Where: Study Locations	56
Sampling Considerations	57
Locations for the New Study	59
Who: Sociodemographic Subsamples	60
Target Subsamples for Miami	62
How: Interviewing Serious Delinquents on the Street	64
On the Street	64
The Truthfulness and Accuracy of Self-Reports	66
A Note about Statistics	67
Postscript	71

CHAPTER 5

**TEENAGE COKE HEADS, BANDITS,
AND HUSTLERS 73**

Drug Involvement	73
Drug Use Histories	74
Current Drug Use	78
Current Drug Use Summary Variables	83
Crime Involvement	85
Crime Involvement History and the Role of Drug Use	85
Current Criminality	90
Current Crime Summary Variables	92
Postscript	95

CHAPTER 6

STREET KIDS AND CRACK COCAINE 97

Drug Use and Crack-Business Involvement	98
The Drugs/Violence Connection	104
Street Kids, Street Crime	110
Postscript	112

CHAPTER 7**STREET KIDS IN STRAIGHT WORLDS 117**

Lack of Ties to Conventional Life	118
Leaving Home	119
Dropping Out of School	121
Working in a Legal Job	123
Social Control Variables and Serious Delinquents	124
Family Disadvantage	125
Indicators of Social Class	125
Family Disadvantage and Serious Delinquency	128
Family Impact on Drug/Crime Behaviors	131
Family Arguments	131
Early Alcohol with an Adult	134
Summary: Family Impact on Serious Delinquency	136
Serious Delinquents Still in School	137
Attitudes: The Unimportance of School	138
Behaviors: Cutting School, or Staying and Getting High	140
School Reactions: Suspensions/Expulsions	144
Conclusion: Serious Delinquents Still in School	146
Postscript	147

CHAPTER 8**"BIRDS OF A FEATHER . . ." BUT WHY? 150**

Perspectives and Issues	150
Partners in Crime	153
"Three Best Friends"	158
Friends and Partners	159
Length of Friendships	159
Friends and Behavior Uniformity	160
Relative Peer Influence	163
Arguments between Friends	165
Friends in Treatment and Friends Incarcerated	167
Postscript	168

CHAPTER 9**SUMMARY AND IMPLICATIONS 172**

Summary and Highlights	172
Drugs and Crime	173
The Crack Business	177
Implications for Delinquency Theory	178

The AIDS/Drugs Connection	180
HIV and AIDS	181
Prostitution	183
Intravenous (IV) Drug Use	184
Sex-for-Crack Exchanges	185
Policy Implications	189
County-Based Intervention Strategies	190
The Diversion/Nonintervention Strategy	192
The "Get Tough" Strategy	192
The "Scared Straight" Strategy	193
The Shock Incarceration Strategy	194
The Humanitarian/Nurturing Strategy	194
The Compulsory Treatment Strategy	196
Postscript	198

GLOSSARY	201
-----------------	------------

REFERENCES	205
-------------------	------------

AUTHOR INDEX	223
---------------------	------------

SUBJECT INDEX	229
----------------------	------------

LIST OF TABLES

1.1	Persons under Age 18 Arrested for Violence-Related Offenses, 1986–1990	6
4.1	Eligibility Types as Nonoverlapping Categories	55
4.2	Neighborhood Distributions	59
4.3	Demographic Subsample Distributions	63
5.1	Drug Involvement History by Gender	76
5.2	Current Drug Use: Main Drug Types by Gender	80
5.3	Construction of Drug Score and Drug Level Summary Variable	84
5.4	Crime Involvement History by Gender	87
5.5	Current Crime by Gender	90
5.6	Construction of Crime Score and Crime Level Summary Variable	94
6.1	Demographic Characteristics of the Crack-Data Subsample	99
6.2	Current Drug Use by Crack-Business Involvement	101
6.3	Drug Preferences and Bad Crack Highs	102
6.4	Getting Paid in Crack and Paying for Crack	103
6.5	Crime and Arrest-Related Histories	107
6.6	Specific Crimes in the 12 Months Prior to Interview	108
6.7	Crimes and Arrests in the 12 Months Prior to Interview	109
6.8	Miami Homicide Rates per 100,000 Population	115
7.1	Drug/Crime Involvement of 16–17-Year-Olds Living with Families versus on Their Own, by Gender	120
7.2	Current Crime by Family Disadvantage for Youths Still at Home	130
7.3	Arguments with Family If Still Living at Home	133

7.4	School Misbehaviors among Students by Gender and Age	142
7.5	School Suspensions/Expulsions by Gender and Age	145
8.1	Crime Partners	155
8.2	"Relative Peer Pressure" Comparisons	164
8.3	Delinquent Friends Summary Correlations for the Total Sample	170
9.1	Drug Use Histories	174
9.2	Crime and Criminal Justice Histories	175
9.3	Crime in the 12 Months Prior to Interview	176