Juvenile Delinquents are especially disadvantaged in times of Disaster

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Source Guide:

- Juvenile Delinquency:
  - conduct by a juvenile characterized by antisocial behavior that is beyond parental control and therefore subject to legal action
  - Or, a violation of the law committed by a juvenile and not punishable by death or life imprisonment

  Merriam-Webster Dictionary

- Special needs population
  - those whose members may have additional needs before, during, and after an incident in functional areas.

Research Questions

• How prone to special risks are children (18 years and younger) in times of disaster?
• How is this further exacerbated with children who are classified as juvenile delinquents?
• How prepared is the juvenile justice system for disasters?
• What are the implications for being underprepared?
• What are the resources available for juvenile delinquents in times of disaster?
More than 70 million Americans—about 1 in 4—are younger than 18, the age group commonly referred to as juveniles. This age group has increased consistently since the mid-1980s and is projected to continue increasing until at least 2015.

Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention, 2009

Federal law does not require juvenile justice systems to develop and implement disaster plans.

National Commission on Children and Disasters, 2010

Court systems failed when important documents and record were lost and there was a major discontinuity of normal court operations. Outdated communications systems and poor technology use of records heavily plays into this.

Andrews & Yeres, 2006
## Factors which contribute to Juvenile Delinquency

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Economic, Social, and Community Factors</th>
<th>Family Related Factors</th>
<th>Peer Related Factors</th>
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<th>Additional Factors</th>
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<td>Urbanization</td>
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<td>Low Bonding to School</td>
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<td>Parent-child Separation</td>
<td>Delinquent Peers</td>
<td>Truancy and dropping out of school</td>
<td>The Media</td>
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<td>Community Disorganization</td>
<td>Influence of Adult Offenders</td>
<td>Negative Advancement of Hierarchy</td>
<td>Frequent School Transitions</td>
<td>Migration</td>
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# Vulnerabilities of Children in Disasters

<table>
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<th>Psychological Vulnerability</th>
<th>Physical Vulnerability</th>
<th>Educational Vulnerability</th>
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<td>• PTSD</td>
<td>• Death</td>
<td>• Missed school</td>
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<td>• Depression</td>
<td>• Injury</td>
<td>• Poor academic performance</td>
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<td>• Anxiety</td>
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<td>• Delayed progress</td>
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<td>• Emotional distress</td>
<td>• Malnutrition</td>
<td>• Failure to complete education</td>
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<td>• Sleep disorders</td>
<td>• Heat stress</td>
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<td>• Somatic complaints</td>
<td>• Physical and sexual abuse</td>
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<td>• Behavioral problems</td>
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Implications of Juvenile Delinquents in Disasters

- No federal law mandating that juvenile facilities have disaster plans implemented (poor legislation and policies)
- Failed court systems
- Lack of adequate evacuation and sheltering plans
- Lack of resources
- Higher rates of mental health issues which can lead to worsening behavioral problems
Proposed Methodology

- Assessment/Survey of staff in juvenile delinquent facilities.
- Questionnaire for emergency manager.
- Questionnaire for person with a background in emergency management.
- Sample Selection.
- Survey Design
Future Plans

- Survey staff of juvenile facilities and emergency managers.
- Continue research in policies and legislation in other states in comparison to Texas for juvenile delinquents and their facilities.
- Continue research in other gaps in resources that exist for juvenile delinquents in times of disaster.
Conclusions

- Lack of policies/procedures regarding what should be done with/for juvenile delinquents in times of disaster
- Lack of resources for juvenile delinquents in times of disaster
- Loose, if any, enforcement of laws regarding juvenile delinquents in times of disaster.

Even with recommendations to the President and Congress as well as the slight amount of research done on juvenile delinquents in times of disasters, little has been done to alleviate the special risks they incur. As disasters continue to take place and this population continues to grow, more research is needed to address these issues.
References

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