

## **Campbell Crime and Justice Group Title Registration Form**

(Submit to Charlotte Gill at [gillce@sas.upenn.edu](mailto:gillce@sas.upenn.edu))

Instruction: Briefly address each item below. Provide enough information to allow the CCJG the ability to evaluate the scope of the review, appropriateness for the Campbell Collaboration, and any possible overlap with existing registered reviews.

### **1. Title of the review**

The impact of juvenile court processing and further system penetration on subsequent delinquency

### **2. Background and objective of this review (briefly describe the problem and the intervention).**

Juveniles who commit serious offenses comprise a very small portion of all juvenile offenses, but occupy considerable attention by researchers, public policy, and the media. On the contrary, low-level juvenile offenses make up the bulk of juvenile delinquency, but occupy less attention. Concurrently, because the offenses are not serious, how to handle them is subject to considerable discretion. Police can choose to arrest a juvenile for a minor offense, or they might take the child home to the parents for informal handling. This discretion occurs at all stages of the juvenile court process, and there are many opportunities for children to be diverted out of the system or to further penetrate through the official process. Surprisingly, there have been a fair number of randomized trials that have compared diversion or release conditions with traditional court processing of with lower-level juvenile delinquents. In an unique twist, we propose to treat the condition normally viewed as the “control” group (official or normal processing) as our intervention to determine whether official sanctioning has any delinquency-deterrent impact.

### **3. Define the population**

Our population includes those children (generally under age 18-21 depending on jurisdiction) who have come into contact with police or the juvenile justice system for some type of delinquent or status offense. These will largely be low-level juvenile offenders for whom there is considerable discretion on what to do next.

### **4. Define the intervention**

Our intervention is juvenile court processing or further penetration into the juvenile court system. At each stage of the process, the legal authority can decide to formally move the juvenile along in the system, or the juvenile can be diverted to other services or released altogether with no legal boundary condition. In most cases, the decision will be to formally process the child as a

“juvenile delinquent” and have him or her appear in juvenile court. In other cases, the decision will be to formally move the child to the next stage of the process; for example, police may choose to formally arrest the juvenile or to release the child to the parents. Thus, our review will pull together the experiments that have tested the impact of this decision on subsequent delinquency.

**5. Outcome(s) (what is aimed to accomplish – Primary and secondary outcomes should all be mentioned)**

Primary outcome: measures of delinquency and crime (e.g., official and self-report)

Secondary outcomes: measures of cost

**6. Methodology (What types of studies are to be included or excluded and what will be your method of synthesis? Will you use meta-analysis?)**

Studies that use random or quasi-random allocation methods to assign participants will be eligible for inclusion. We will examine both odds ratios for a summary meta-analysis of the prevalence data (percentage arrested, for example) and Cohen’s *d* to permit moderator analyses.

**7. Do you need support in any of these areas (methodology, statistics, systematic searches, field expertise, review manager etc?)**

We do not envision needing any assistance at this time.

**8. Lead reviewer(s) with contact information**

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