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INTRODUCTION. THE QUESTION LEADING UP TO THIS STUDY CAN BE FORMULATED AS FOLLOWS: 'IS THIS THE CASE? AND IF NOT, THEN WHAT IS GOING ON IN YOUTH CRIME?'

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Introduction: The question leading up to this study can be formulated as follows: 'Is this the case? And if not, then what is going on in youth crime?'
Definition of the problem

Can we indeed speak of a disconcerting increase in youth crime particularly in the Netherlands? And what connection is there with upbringing and problems related to upbringing and possible shifts in this area? Research (among others by Loeber and Farrington, 1997, Loeber and Slot, 2002) has shown that members of the so-called hard core of youth crime were causing problems in their upbringing already at a very early age. Prevention is therefore aimed at early support in upbringing. Problems in upbringing and the family situation, however, only partly explain the development of youth crime. Moreover, in the case of today's juvenile delinquents, the harm has already been done and the parents' influence is often very small if not non-existent.

The question now is what other factors influence the development of youth crime, and particularly what role the peer group plays.

A second question is how juvenile delinquents can be assisted with effective treatment.

Method: We used the 'hermeneutic, qualitative method' for this study, which means that by describing and interpreting current notions and practical material we can reach an understanding of the phenomenon. To this end, we studied literature on youth crime, upbringing, youth crime in groups and youth culture. We confronted these partial studies and confronted the conclusions in their turn with descriptions of real-life cases. We have tried to make the perception of life of the offender, the victim and the social worker understandable.

Results: The results will be discussed. Tackling group psychopathology would involve close cooperation of the law with the police, education, welfare work and mental health care.