Peterborough Adolescent and Young Adult Development Study

Building Knowledge about Young People, their Crime Involvement and its Causes: *The Peterborough Adolescent and Young Adult Development Study (PADS+).*

To develop effective prevention and intervention programmes, it is crucial to understand what causes young people to get involved in crime, stay involved in crime and, for those who persist in crime, quit committing crime. The aim of PADS+ is to contribute to a better understanding of *why* young people do or do not engage in crime and its implications for developing effective prevention and intervention.

The *Peterborough Adolescent and Young Adult Development Study* (PADS+) is a major, ongoing, ESRC-financed, longitudinal study that follows a group of more than 700 randomly selected young people living in Peterborough. PADS+ has followed this group of young people since 2002, when they were 11 years old, through early and middle adolescence (with a retention rate of 97%), conducting annual waves of research. The study has developed new theory (the Situational Action Theory) and methods (the Space-Time Budget) to better explain and study the important role of the interaction between young people and their social environments in crime causation.

The study investigates crime as moral action and explores how the interplay between young people's morality and self-control and their exposure to social and moral contexts influences their crime involvement. It investigates how family social position (class, income and education) and family and school social bonds affect the development of young people's morality and self-control and their exposure to different social and moral contexts. It also looks into the role of broader social processes such as residential and school segregation for understanding young people's crime involvement.

For further information about PADS+ and its publications and events, see our website:

www.pads.ac.uk

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