### Title

The Association Between Delinquency Expressed Through Media and Minors Committing Crimes

# **Research Question**

Is there an association between delinquency expressed through social media and minors engaging in criminal activities?

#### **Introduction & Literature Review**

Social media is strictly considered internet based, such as online media platforms. 56% of Americans own smartphones (Cell Phone Addiction, 2017) with this number rising each year. Teenagers spend an estimated seven hours daily of screen time not including time for school or homework (Media Use By Teens and Tweens, 2019). Intense focus on social media and online realities may promote unhealthy habits such as reduced human contact, dependence on electronic search engines, and an un healthy attachment to technology (Akram and Kumar, 2017). Research in 1967 concluded the mean number of crimes and violence preferences increased as the hours of viewing television also increased (Lovibond, 1967). Furthermore, another study concluded that gamers engaging in violent video games had lower activity in brain areas associated with emotional responses (Plante and Anderson, 2017). This research suggests that exposure to violent media may affect the emotional response of an individual. Longitudinal study, suggested that childhood consumption of violent television predicted records of violence through self-report studies, peer-reports, and archived records (Huesman, Moise-Titues, Podolski and Eron, 2003). In the past and in our current society, the media has affected violent tendencies. Though today access to online social media platforms substitute for

traditional forms of mass media.

#### Methods

## -Design:

- Meta-analytical approach. Research will draw information from past studies. Past research studies will be relevant to either media, minors and or crime. After analyzing a multitude of relevant study's conclusions will be drawn in order to suggest an answer to the proposed research question.

### -Procedure:

-Begin with a basic background search, such as the Google search engine. Narrow down academic results using Google Scholar and CSU Stanislaus online databases. Refine search term to include violence, media and minors. Apply boolean operators and limiter techniques.

## **Expected Results**

I expect to determine a positive association between delinquency expressed in social media and minors engaging in criminal activities.

## **Significance**

The focus of this study is to have results reach policy makers and the wider US society and contribute to the formation of updated laws and regulation related to minors and social media.

#### References

Akram & Kumar, 2017, A Study on Positive and Negative Effects of Social Media on Society. International Journal of Computer Sciences and Engineering, doi: 10.26438/ijcse/v5i10.351354

Cell Phone Addiction: Stats and Signs. (2017, July 27). Retrieved February 22, 2020, from https://online.king.edu/news/cell-phone-addiction/

Huesmann, Moise-Titus, Podolski, & Eron, 2003, Longitudinal relations between children's exposure to TV violence and their aggressive and violent behavior in young adulthood:

1977-1992. Developmental Psychology, 39(2), 201–221. doi: 10.1037/0012-1649.39.2.201

Lovibond, 1967, The Effect of Media Stressing Crime and Violence upon Childrens Attitudes.

Social Problems, doi: 10.1525/sp.1967.15.1.03a00100

Media Use by Tweens and Teens 2019: Infographic: Common Sense Media. (2019, October 28). Retrieved February 27, 2020, from

https://www.commonsensemedia.org/Media-use-by-tweens-and-teens-2019-infographic
Plante & Anderson, 2017, Media, Violence, Aggression, and Antisocial Behavior: Is the Link
Causal? The Wiley Handbook of Violence and Aggression, 1–12. doi:

10.1002/9781119057574.whbva034

# Acknowledgements

This work was possible because of the contributions of both Professor Suditi Gupta, and Professor Jose Sebastian Sclofsky.

### **Contact Information**

Catarina M. Sousa

csousa8@csustan.edu