



***Explanatory factors***

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This lecture summarizes what is known about factors that can explain why some juvenile delinquents and not others persist in committing crime into the young adult years. Four explanatory frameworks are relevant: (a) individual differences which already exist early in life; (b) developmental factors in childhood and adolescence; (c) combination of (a) and (b); and (d) biopsychological factors such as brain development, and the decrease of impulsive behaviors. Each of these explanations will be discussed in the context of the persistence of crime from adolescence to young adulthood, the natural decrease of crime for some individuals during this period, and the late onset of criminal careers for a third group. Each of these explanations has consequences for the design and execution of preventive and remedial interventions to reduce crime in adulthood.