

crime and terrorism. Police activities based on intelligence support were recognized as the priority of Europol's activities. The institution was also entrusted with the role of a body preparing regular assessments of the threat to the security of Member States related to the activities of criminal and terrorist groups presents operational support provided by Europol to the Member States of the European Union in 2010 [4].

In order to ensure the desired state of security and public order, the state maintains specialized institutions, services and guards. In the light of the applicable legal regulations, the Police is a armed and uniformed protective formation, which is to serve the public, and its main task is to protect people's safety and maintain public safety and order. While realizing the tasks entrusted to him, this formation cooperates with other services.

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### **PREVENTIVE WORK OF POLICE OFFICERS WITH TEENAGERS**

Nowadays, young people love going online, for very good reason. By using the internet, they can:

- easily access information to inform and educate themselves
- maintain and develop supportive relationships
- form their identities (through self-expression, learning and talking)
- promote a sense of belonging and self-esteem through staying connected with friends and being involved in diverse communities.

**Potential risks for teenagers** It's important to remember that, just as teenagers need to have good boundaries and rules for offline behaviour, and the guidance and morals to make good decisions, they also need these

things to protect them when online. Some risks associated with being online are:

**Cyberbullying:** This is when people use technology to embarrass, harass or bully someone. Cyberbullying can include posting mean or untrue statements, making fake online profiles intended to embarrass people, sharing embarrassing photos, and more.

**Trolling:** This is when people deliberately try to start arguments or to upset people on the internet, often causing considerable distress.

**Isolation:** Too much time spent online and using technology is time not spent face-to-face with family and friends, which can create barriers and contribute to a sense of isolation.

**Inappropriate material:** Teenagers posting inappropriate pictures or content online, or sharing such material with friends, may humiliate themselves or others.

**Inappropriate relationships:** Strangers or others may try to form inappropriate relationships with young people.

Being aware of these risks is the first step in helping your teenager to manage them. Smartphones and tablets have changed every aspect of teenagers' lives, from communication to mental health. It affected all corners of the United States and the types of families: poor and rich, urban and rural, people of any ethnic background.

### **Interaction of police officers with the modern generation of teenagers and the basics of preventive work with them**

Interactions between Youth and Law Enforcement Police – youth contact consists of any face-to-face interaction between a youth and one or more law enforcement officers, including sworn officers serving in municipal police departments; sheriff's departments; state police; and special jurisdiction agencies such as transit, park, and university police. Contact can be youth-initiated or police-initiated and may occur in programmatic settings, such as police-led programs (e.g., police athletic leagues), or through day-to-day interactions in community and school settings. Some interactions also occur when youths are victims of crime. As gatekeepers to the justice system, police–youth contact can result in informal solutions such as programs and services that divert youth away from system involvement, or arrest and further entry into the criminal and juvenile justice systems. Police–youth contact occurs often and is most frequent for youths between the ages of 18 and 24 . Despite the importance and prevalence of such interactions, limited research has been dedicated to understanding the dynamics of encounters between police and youth. Though official police data provides useful context for understanding the prevalence of police–youth contact, the data does not provide information

on police–youth interactions in terms of the nature of the incidents or how youth behaviors affect the actions of police officers, and vice versa. Most research focuses on factors that influence the decisions made after juveniles have been arrested or youth attitudes toward police.

### **Factors that Influence Police–Youth Interactions**

A substantial body of criminological research suggests that interactions between police and youths are often influenced by a convergence of factors and that these factors, including legal and extralegal factors as well as the attitudes and perceptions of law enforcement and youth, can influence police–youth contact.

#### **Legal Factors**

Probable cause is usually required by police to meet the legal grounds for stopping youths, taking them into custody, and making an arrest. There are certain legal factors that influence police decisions, including seriousness of the alleged offense, the strength of the evidence, presence of weapon, characteristics of the victim or the willingness of the victim or complainant to press charges, prior police contact with the youth, and prior arrest and criminal record. Studies have indicated that when the offense is serious (e.g., a felony) and the available evidence is strong, police are more likely to arrest a youth. When police encounter youths who have had previous police contact, have a conviction for a status offense, or are on probation or parole, they are also more likely to make an arrest. Some analyses have examined the effect of victim characteristics on youth arrest. It has been found that the following characteristics predicted whether an arrest was made: 1) number of victims; 2) victim age, sex, and race; 3) whether the victim was injured; and 4) whether the victim was a family member or acquaintance. If the offense was serious, but the victim requested that no arrest be made, then the police officers may have used their discretion on whether to arrest a youth. SROs consider the same legal factors when making arrest decisions, but are more likely to make arrests to maintain order in the school over making arrests due to a violation of the law. However, there is a limited body of research that fully explores how such legal factors influence police–youth interactions.

#### **Extralegal Factors**

Police officer decision-making is not only influenced by the law. There are also extralegal factors that influence police decisions to arrest youth, such as 1) the characteristics of the environment in which police – youth contact occurs, 2) the characteristics of the officers and the youths involved in the contact, and 3) the characteristics of the police organization.

#### **Conclusion**

Interactions between law enforcement and youth, whether youth-initiated or police-initiated, occur often and in many different settings, such as on the street, in malls, at schools etc. Though law enforcement officers have higher rates of work-related injuries, youths under the age of 18 only commit a small number of assaults and police killings every year. Although the juvenile arrest rate has been declining for many years, there were still nearly 1 million arrests of individuals under age 18 in 2015. These statistics underscores the complicated nature of police-youth contact, and the importance of understanding and improving interactions.

During such encounters, there are several legal, individual, organizational, and environmental factors that affect police officers' perceptions of youth and the decisions that they make. These factors can also influence youths' perceptions and behaviors toward law enforcement. However, there is no consensus on the overall impact of such factors, or whether one factor, such as officers' concerns for community safety and their own safety, compete with other factors, such as youths' perceived demeanor toward police. Despite a limited understanding of interactions between law enforcement and youth, there are several programs, including prevention programs, police-led diversion programs, and community based policing programs, that are either specifically designed to improve interactions or incorporate secondary elements that can have an impact on interactions between police officers and youth. Yet, an analysis of the available research and outcomes evidence suggests that more research is needed to improve the quality and applicability of research on law enforcement and youth interactions.

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