

## Other Causes of Delinquency

### Does Religion Reduce Delinquency

- Around early 90s, 90% of US adults identified as Christians
- Today about two-thirds are Christians
- Theories
  - Control – Religion may increase control
    - Religion may increase direct control
    - Religion may instill a fear of supernatural sanction in juveniles
    - Religion may also increase one's stake in conformity
    - Religion may increase internal control
  - Social Learning – Religion may increase the likelihood that juveniles are
    - Exposed to conventional methods
    - Taught conventional beliefs
    - Punished for deviance
    - Reinforced for conformity
  - Strain – Religious participation may reduce strain
    - Religious communities may provide juveniles with social support
    - Religious beliefs may divert attention from current problems to the rewards of the afterlife
  - Labeling – religious participation may reduce the likelihood of being labeled a deviant
- Research
  - Religious juveniles are somewhat less delinquent than non religious
    - Especially when it comes to victimless crimes like alcohol and marijuana
  - Religion reduces involvement in victimless crimes but has no association with serious crimes
  - Members of more fundamentalist or conservative religious groups commit fewer victimless crimes
  - Religion is more likely to reduce delinquency when adolescents are surrounded by other religious individuals

### Does work reduce delinquency among juveniles attending schools?

- In 1922, around 20% ages 16-19 were employed while enrolled at school
- This percentage has increased dramatically since WW2
  - About 90% of all students now hold jobs at some point
  - About 80% of all students work during the school year at some point
- **Stain** – work may reduce monetary strain
- **Control** – work may increase control
  - Adult supervise work settings
  - Work provides juveniles with a stake in conformity

- **Social Learning** – Work may reduce the social learning of crime
  - Adolescents who work have less time to interact with delinquent peers
- **Research**
  - Work reduces certain types of control
    - Working juveniles spend less time with their parents
    - Working adolescents have less time to devote to school work
  - Work does not reduce association with delinquent peers
    - Adolescents often interact with delinquent peers at work
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