

Explaining Youth Arrests: An Economic and Sociological Approach

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ABSTRACT

The purpose of this study is to investigate the factors surrounding youth arrests in the United States. Current research on this issue can be roughly divided into two fields of thought: the first being economical and the second being sociological. We apply both approaches to 4 years of panel data from the National Longitudinal Survey of Youth for the years 1998-2001. Three measures of arrest were regressed on a variety of different economic and sociological variables using random effects Poisson and Logit. Ultimately, years of schooling and gang membership were found to be the factors significant in explaining all three measures of arrest, which provides support to both approaches. Other variables were found to be significant for some measures of arrest but not for others. Explanations for this will be discussed.