

# Social learning theory

[Society](#), [Child Abuse](#)



Research Methods Social Learning theory Social Learning Theory The Social Learning Theory states: by combining variables that can encourage delinquency, deviant behavior can be exhibited. When you break up social learning, social means the interaction of organisms or humans with other humans. Learning is when you can acquire new or existing knowledge, behaviors, skills, values, or preferences. In the Social Learning Theory, Ronald Akers and Robert Burgess use Edwin Sutherland's "Differential Association Theory" to create their social learning theory to explain deviancy. The two believed that people could learn from other humans what was accepted as deviant/bad or non-deviant/not bad. If they acted deviant, they could learn from their consequences. By using the Social Learning Theory humans actually believed an increase of punishment unlike the labeling theory. In the early 1970s, people began to see an increase in the prisons with the number of inmates occupying them. When it comes to juveniles, their abusers, and their learning ability, it affects their mental stability and in the future if they eventually start abusing others or committing crimes. My first assumption would be that juveniles that are exposed to deviant behavior through siblings or parents and would follow in their footsteps. The second assumption would be if a child was sexually or even emotionally abused, that child would later on abuse someone else emotionally or sexually. Juvenile Delinquency is when a child under the age of 17 gets themselves into illegal problems that turn them into criminals. While they continue to believe that they are criminals, they will continue to exhibit deviant behavior. These arguments can lead to the following propositions: 1) Juveniles who are exposed to deviant behavior may exhibit the same

behavior in the future. 2) Juveniles who are abused emotionally or sexually may exhibit the same behavior to offspring or spouses in the future. 3) Juveniles who are taught to participate in delinquent behavior will continue to participate in delinquent behavior. The research will use the following working definitions: Dependent Variables: Deviant behavior after abuse: The behavior of the victim shown after the abuse had happened to him or her. Deviant behavior after exposure: The behavior of the juvenile shown after the exposure of criminal behavior. Independent Variables: Juvenile's age: Juveniles age when abuse or criminal behavior was shown. Behavior before the abuse: Behavior of the victim before the abuse had happened to him or her. Behavior before the exposure: Behavior of the juvenile before the exposure of criminal behavior occurred. Operationalization: The levels of subjects' behaviors and crime occurrences will be indicated by crime reports of an individual subject. By circling the number, indicate to what level of appropriateness you believe is true to the following scenarios. When circling please circle 10 being that you believe in completely true and 1 being completely false. If it is a check question please check the most appropriate answer. 1) Please select your gender  Male  Female  other If other please describe: 2) At what age group do you belong to?  4-8  8-12  13-15  16-18 3) What is your ethnicity?  White  Black  Asian  Latino  Other 4) In what city and state that you live in? 6) Who do you live with?  Both parents  Just mom  Just dad  Grandparents  Siblings  Grandparents  Foster Parents  Adopted Parents  Guardian/s  Other 7) How many siblings do you have?  0  1  2  3  4  More

than for \_\_\_\_\_ do not know 8) Are you a Gang Member? \_\_\_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_\_\_  
 No \_\_\_\_\_ Considering It \_\_\_\_\_ Use to be 9) Has any one in your family/  
 friends been in a gang? \_\_\_\_\_ Mom \_\_\_\_\_ Dad \_\_\_\_\_ Siblings \_\_\_\_\_  
 Neighbors \_\_\_\_\_ Best friend \_\_\_\_\_ Other people I know 12) Have you ever  
 felt if you are not in a gang that you should join? Please explain 11) At what  
 age did you start committing crime? \_\_\_4-8 \_\_\_\_\_ 9-12\_\_\_ 13-15  
 \_\_\_\_\_16-18 12) Have you ever committed any misdemeanor crimes? \_\_\_Yes  
 \_\_\_No \_\_\_Unsure \_\_\_Do not feel like Answering 13) Have you ever committed  
 any felony crimes? \_\_\_Yes \_\_\_ No \_\_\_ Unsure \_\_\_ Do not feel like Answering  
 14) How many crimes if you committed any do you think you have  
 committed? \_\_\_\_\_ 1 \_\_\_\_\_ 2-4 \_\_\_\_\_ 5-7 \_\_\_\_\_ 7-9 \_\_\_\_\_ unsure  
 \_\_\_\_\_lost count 15) Do you feel like you have to commit crimes due to the  
 atmosphere around you? \_\_\_\_\_ yes \_\_\_\_\_ no \_\_\_\_\_ unsure 16) If yes who  
 do you feel pressured by to commit such crimes? \_\_\_\_\_Family members  
 \_\_\_\_\_Friends \_\_\_\_\_ Neighbors \_\_\_\_\_ Gang Members \_\_\_\_\_ Others 17)  
 Why do you feel like you commit crime? On the space below please explain.  
 18) List all the crimes that you have committed in the space below please  
 19) If you could stop committing crime would you? \_\_\_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_\_\_ Yes but  
 need help \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_ Unsure 20) Would you like information/ help  
 to help you stop committing crime? \_\_\_Yes \_\_\_ No \_\_\_ Unsure Deviant  
 Behavior after abuse: After being abused, I believe it is okay to abuse  
 offspring and/ or spouses? True or False After being abused, I have  
 committed the same types of crime? 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 Deviant Behavior  
 after exposure: After seeing siblings/friends/family members commit crimes I  
 committed crimes? 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 Juveniles Age: Age the first time that

you were exposed to criminal behavior or crime? 5-7 years old 8-10 years old  
11-13 years old 14-17 years old Age that you were first sexually abused? 5-7  
years old 8-10 years old 11-13 years old 14-17 years old Age that you were  
first emotionally abused? 5-7 years old 8-10 years old 11-13 years old 14-17  
years old I have been exposed to \_\_\_\_ crimes 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 I have  
been sexually abused \_\_\_\_ times 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 I have been  
emotionally abused \_\_\_\_times 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 Behavior before the  
abuse: Before being abused I have committed \_\_\_\_ crimes 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9  
10 Behavior before the exposure: Before being exposed to criminal behavior  
I have committed \_\_\_\_ crimes 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 Sources: Ormrod, J. E.  
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