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**THE PHENOMENOLOGY OF CHILD DELINQUENCY IN THE REPUBLIC OF
NORTH MACEDONIA: 2006- 2021**

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Abstract

Child delinquency represents an important part in the field of criminal law given that the perpetrators of such crimes are distinguished by specific characteristics, especially because they belong to a critical age that takes into account the criminal-legal treatment compared to the treatment of perpetrators of such acts of adult age. For an effective fight and prevention of the phenomenon of child delinquency, there is a need for analysis of its phenomenology (volume, dynamics and structure). The paper presents detailed data on the number of reported, accused and convicted children in conflict with the law for the time period 2006-2021 in North Macedonia according to the group of criminal offenses, to gender structure of the children and a comparison view with the number of the convicted major perpetrators. In practice children are represented as perpetrators of the majority of criminal offences, although with more pronounced participation in some forms of criminality, mostly in the group of crimes against property. Child delinquency in North Macedonia was characterized by a downward trend until the last two years, when a slight increase trend was shown.

Keywords: Phenomenology, Child Delinquency, Criminal Offences.

Introduction

Within the framework of this research, a total of 15 different publications from the State Statistics Agency of North Macedonia regarding the time period between 2006 and 2021 were analyzed, where the following indicators were considered: the number of reported, accused, and convicted children in conflict with the law concerning the group of criminal offenses. In addition, both the gender ratio of children in conflict with the law and the age ratio between convicted children and adult perpetrators have been analyzed. The data are mainly displayed through tables and graphs which, in addition to the above-mentioned indicators, in more specific cases manifest the percentages for certain changes regarding the number of reported child delinquents between 2006 and 2021 by some groups of criminal offences, including

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crimes against property, crimes against life and body, crimes against public order and those against human health.

Volume, Structure and Dynamics of Child Delinquency in North Macedonia

The special treatment toward child delinquents in comparison to adult perpetrators, results from the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child, according to which the legislation of the Republic of North Macedonia is also harmonized in this regard. The purpose of the legal-penal treatment of child delinquents in the contemporary criminal law in North Macedonia and remaining democratic countries is to achieve the following set of goals: education, re-education, re-socialization, the fair development of the child, as well as the protection of its best interest. As such, they manage to dominate given that the spirit on which criminal justice for children is regulated through the implementation of non-criminal measures, preventive and educational measures that are related to the well-being of children perpetrators of the criminal actions, always gives case priority to the approach of treatment of children in an extra-institutional form.²

According to the positive legislation of North Macedonia, children with criminal responsibility belong within the age group between 14 and 18 years old.³ Although child delinquency shares many common traits with the criminality of adult perpetrators, it manages to stand out as a separate category due to its specific anomaly which reflects upon the personality traits of children in conflict with the law, phenomenology, etiology, as well as the criminal policy towards this phenomenon.⁴

In North Macedonia, approximately 80% of the reported children in conflict with the law between 2006 and 2021 are unequivocally considered as suspects of committing criminal offenses against property, from which it can be concluded that children in our country are more inclined to commit criminal offenses belonging to this group. On most occasions, robberies, theft robberies, taking away motor vehicles and damaging other people's properties are also reported.⁵ However, it should be noted that such behaviour represents a general characteristic of the phenomenon of child delinquency, meaning that it is not limited to our country, but simultaneously occurs in most countries around the world.⁶

Criminological research related to the phenomenon of property crime shows that young persons and juveniles in most cases are identified as the perpetrators,⁷ where their activity is higher among common robbery crimes, petty theft, burglary in stores and car stealing.⁸ Regarding the manner of committing crimes, child delinquents are portrayed to act in groups, often accompanied by elements of violence, frequency, aggressiveness, persistence, etc.⁹ Child

²Ahmedi, Blerta.A, Trajtimi juridiko-penal i fëmijëve në Republikën e Maqedonisë së Veriut, Tetovo, 2021, p.22.

³Law on Children Justice of the Republic of North Macedonia, (2013). "Official Gazette of Republic of North Macedonia", no. 148 /2013, articles: 5 and 19.

⁴Buzharovska, G.L., Nanev, L., Kashevaliska O., Кривично постапување спрема децата во ризик и во судир со законот, Skopje, 2015,p.93.

⁵Ibidem

⁶Ahmedi, Blerta.A, Trajtimi juridiko-penal i fëmijëve në Republikën e Maqedonisë së Veriut, Tetovo, 2021, p.77.

⁷Halili, R., Kriminologjia, Prishtina, 2008, p. 209.

⁸Ibidem

⁹Buzharovska, G.L., Nanev, L., Kashevaliska, O., Кривично постапување спрема децата во ризик и во судир со законот, Skopje, 2015, p.93.

delinquents, aside from manifesting violence, are additionally characterized by frequency, aggression, persistence and recidivism.¹⁰ Although reasons for joining such non-formal groups may vary, they often appear as responses to impressions of marginalization in society, experiencing identity and social adaptability issues, ceasing opportunities to obtain money in times of global crisis, etc.¹¹ Child delinquents due to entering the stage of psychophysical development in puberty are expected to manifest intolerance and disrespect toward socially acceptable norms.¹²

Table 1. Number of reported children in conflict with the law in Republic of North Macedonia (RNM): 2006-2021

Year	Reported children	Change from previous year
2006	1500	-
2007	1229	-18.0%
2008	1355	10.2%
2009	1519	12.1%
2010	1244	-18.1%
2011	1163	-6.5%
2012	1001	-13.9%
2013	1005	0.3%
2014	972	-3.2%
2015	772	-20.5%
2016	587	-23.9%
2017	578	-1.5%
2018	554	-4.1%
2019	525	-5.2%
2020	610	16.1%
2021	589	-3.4 %

Source: State Statistical Office, Publications: *“Perpetrators of criminal offences”* for 2007-2017 and News releases: *“Reported, accused and convicted perpetrators of criminal offences and children in conflict with the law”* for 2018-2021, Skopje.

Table 1 contains data on the number of reported children in conflict with the law during the time period of 2006 – 2021 at a national level, where the displayed percentages reflect the

¹⁰Lazetic, G., Kashevaliska, O., Nanev, L., “Phenomenology of child delinquency in Macedonia in the period from 2006 to 2016”, 2018, p.19, available at:<https://eprints.ugd.edu.mk/21483/1/Child%20delinquency%20in%20Macedonia%20in%2010%20year%20period.pdf>

¹¹Ibidem.

¹²Lazetic, G., Kashevaliska, O., Nanev, L., “Phenomenology of child delinquency in Macedonia in the period from 2006 to 2016”, 2018, p.19, available at:<https://eprints.ugd.edu.mk/21483/1/Child%20delinquency%20in%20Macedonia%20in%2010%20year%20period.pdf>

changes experienced by the number of reported children from the previous years. Namely, between 2016 and 2019, a downward trend dynamic can be identified, compared to the time period between 2006 and 2015. Moreover, for the time period of 2020 – 2021, the increase of this phenomenon can be identified, where in 2020 there are a total of 610¹³ reported children in conflict with the law, respectively, which amounts to 16.1%, while in 2021 the total of 589 reported children manifests the decrease of this phenomenon which amounts to 3.4%, respectively. Hence, we conclude a somewhat constant tendency regarding the number of reported cases for child delinquency during the last six years. In this regard, even though the number of reported children is close to 600, a tendency of a slightly gradual decline can be observed for each year, with the exception of 2020, which amounts to an increase of 16.1% from the previous year while, on the other hand, there was a greater decrease in 2015 compared to the previous year in the number of the reported children in conflict with the law (up to - 20.5%).

From the tabular data displayed above, it can be observed that for the last eight years (2014 and onward), there is a decrease in the number of reported children in conflict with the law manifested in a three-digit figure compared to earlier years (from 2006 to 2013), when the numbers for this indicator were much higher. In fact, the highest recorded number of reported child delinquents appears in 2009, which then decreases from 2010 and onwards, as 2019 is the year with the lowest number of reported children in the country. In continuation, Table 2 displays the number of reported children in conflict with the law during the time period of 2006 – 2021 in North Macedonia according to the group of criminal offenses reported.

Table 2: Reported children in conflict with the law by type of criminal offence: 2006-2021

Year	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Total	1500	1229	1355	1519	1244	1163	1001	1005	972	772	587	578	554	525	610	589
Crimes against life and body	83	72	84	103	107	88	60	66	64	68	53	55	60	49	60	52
Crimes against the freedoms and rights of humans and citizens	1	2	7	2	2	1	6	5	5	3	11	8	7	6	11	5

¹³Reported, accused and convicted perpetrators of criminal offences and children in conflict with the law, 2020, State Statistical Office, Skopje 31.05.2021, No: 2.1.21.16, p.7 (T-04: Reported children in conflict with the law by type of criminal offence and type of decision). <https://www.stat.gov.mk/PrikaziSoopstenie.aspx?id=14&rbr=13658>

Crimes against honor and reputation	1	-	1	1	4	-	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	1	-	-
Crimes against sexual freedom and sexual morality	24	19	18	17	24	14	10	19	25	19	4	-	2	14	8	15
Crimes against human health	8	6	18	12	14	11	16	8	23	20	7	15	20	26	147	115
Crimes against public finances, payment operations and economy	7	12	21	12	14	14	10	4	5	2	5	2	-	1	3	1
Crimes against property	1231	967	1023	1192	937	917	773	745	654	520	399	374	356	294	272	289
Crimes against the general safety of people and property	13	11	4	1	10	14	9	8	6	4	4	9	2	5	4	4
Crimes against traffic safety	53	67	77	88	61	43	50	28	29	33	25	38	38	45	28	37
Crimes against the administration of justice	6	36	25	8	1	7	1	-	1	-	3	3	-	1	1	2
Crimes against the public order	64	29	53	70	56	45	52	117	156	100	66	71	59	71	65	54
Other crimes	9	8	24	13	14	9	13	5	4	2	10	3	10	12	11	13

Source: State Statistical Office, Publications: *“Perpetrators of criminal offences”* for 2007-2017 and News releases: *“Reported, accused and convicted perpetrators of criminal offences and children in conflict with the law”* for 2018-2021, Skopje.

As it can be seen from the data presented above, higher numbers of reported child delinquents for the group of criminal offenses against property appear within the above-

mentioned time period compared to the numbers of reported child delinquents regarding all other groups of criminal offences. As a result, crimes against property are the crimes which are most often committed by child delinquents and represent the largest percentage of overall child criminality. This can be further supported by the fact that the statistical data from Table 2, where we can observe the number of reported child delinquents as suspects for committing these criminal offenses for the respective time period. Moreover, the percentage of reported child delinquents for crimes against property is reflected in relation to the total number of reported child delinquents for the respective time period as follows: in 2006, out of a total of 1,500 reported child delinquents - 82.1% were reported for criminal offenses against property; in 2007 (out of a total of 1229) – 78.7%, in 2008 (out of a total of 1355) – 75.5%, in 2009 (out of a total of 1519) – 78.5%, in 2010 (out of a total of 1244) – 75.3%, in 2011 (out of a total of 1163) – 78.8%, in 2012 (out of 1001) – 77.2%, in 2013 (out of a total of 1005) – 74.1%, in 2014 (out of a total of 972) – 67.3%, in 2015 (out of a total of 772) – 67.4%, in 2016 (out of a total of 587) – 68%, in 2017 (out of a total of 578) – 64.7%, in 2018 (out of a total of 554) – 64.3%, in 2019 (out of a total of 525) – 56%, in 2020 (out of a total of 610) – 44.6% and in 2021 (out of a total of 589) – 49.1% reported child delinquents for criminal offenses against property.

Hence, it can be concluded that about 80 % of reported children in conflict with the law between 2006 and 2021 have been suspected of committing criminal offenses against property, although it should be noted that such statistics are evident in the majority of countries around the world. Furthermore, based on the data presented in Table 2, with particular focus on the last two years (2020 – 2021), the statistics regarding reported child delinquents for crimes against property are followed by the number of reported child delinquents for criminal offenses against human health, then the reported child delinquents for criminal offenses against life and body, then the criminal offenses against public order and criminal offenses against safety in public traffic are the last to follow this ranking. The data, moreover, prove that in many other groups of criminal offenses, a certain number of children in conflict with the law were reported in addition to those mentioned above.

Table 3: Accused children by the group of criminal offence: 2006-2017

	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
Total	987	839	981	1030	750	1002	778	657	712	465	702	554
Crimes against life and body	66	56	54	60	68	100	58	57	52	53	88	39
Crimes against the freedoms and rights of humans and citizens	1	-	3	4	1	5	3	5	2	2	7	6

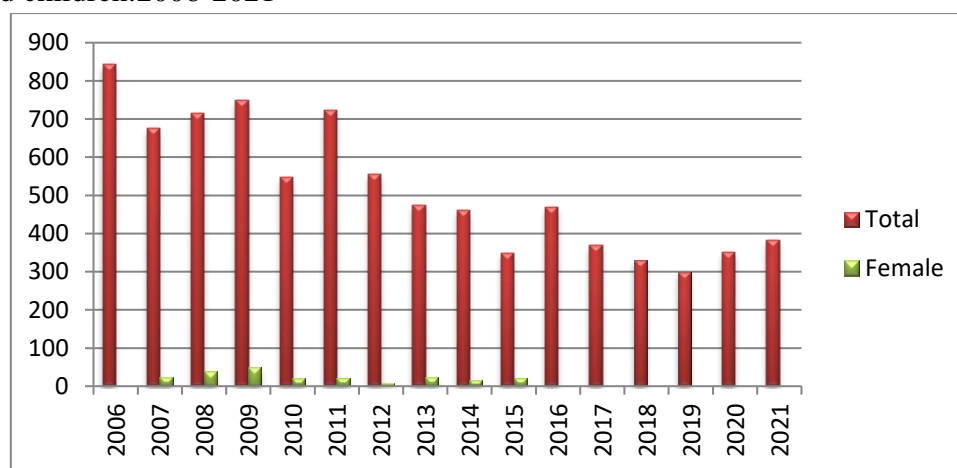
Crimes against honour and reputation	1	-	2	1	1	2	-	-	-	1	-	-
Crimes against sexual freedom and sexual morality	15	12	20	15	15	21	11	5	17	15	8	3
Crimes against human health	11	7	15	9	9	17	10	13	6	8	16	9
Crimes against public finances, payment operations and economy	6	11	7	5	13	8	9	3	4	6	5	3
Crimes against property	789	680	742	795	573	727	597	500	468	282	429	400
Crimes against the general safety of people and property	4	10	10	2	1	9	5	4	8	5	4	3
Crimes against traffic safety	38	23	63	53	37	45	28	30	16	29	24	38
Crimes against the administration of justice	7	6	37	23	1	1	1	-	-	1	-	-
Crimes against the public order	44	25	24	51	23	59	50	34	133	56	113	43

Other crimes	5	9	4	12	8	8	6	6	6	7	7	3
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Source: State Statistical Office, "*Perpetrators of criminal offences, 2015*", Statistical review, Population and social statistics, 2.4.16.08 (8544), Skopje, 2016 and "*Perpetrators of criminal offences, 2017*", Statistical review, Population and social statistics, 2.4.18.07 (898), p. 114, Skopje, 2018.

In Table 3, the data addressing the number of child delinquents accused of certain groups of criminal offenses between 2006 and 2017 are presented, where the following criminal offenses are listed: in first place are the criminal offenses against property, while in second place are the criminal offenses against life and body and after them are the criminal offenses against safety in public traffic and criminal offenses against public order.¹⁴

Figure 1: Number of convicted children in conflict with the law and gender structure of the convicted children:2006-2021



Source: State Statistical Office, "*Perpetrators of criminal offences in 2017*", Statistical review, Population and social statistics, 2.4.18.07 (898), p. 114, Skopje, 2018.

What can be observed in Figure 1 is the decrease trend in the number of child delinquents convicted in our country during the last five years, where if we compare the data from 2006 and onwards with the data approaching 2021, we notice that the number of convicted child delinquents has decreased by more than 50 %. On the other hand, the gender-related indicator in Figure 1 reflects the number of female children convicted between 2006 and 2015 in our country, compared to the total number of convicted children in conflict with the law. Even in this case, it is not at all difficult to ascertain the relationship between children of both sexes, in terms of their tendency towards delinquent actions. There is a very small number of female children convicted throughout the nine years of research (2007-2015) compared to male children.

¹⁴Perpetrators of criminal offences in 2017, State Statistical Office Statistical review, Population and social statistics, 2.4.18.07 (898), f. 114, Skopje, 2018, p.114.

In 2006, out of a total of 844 convicted child delinquents, there is no data published in the State Statistics Agency of the Republic of North Macedonia on the number of female child delinquents, while in 2007, out of a total of 676 convicted child delinquents, only 24 are female, in 2008 out of a total of 715 only 38 were female, in 2009 out of a total of 748 only 49 were female, in 2010 out of a total of 547 convicted child delinquents only 20 were female, in 2011 out of a total of 722 convicted child delinquents only 22 are female, in 2012 out of a total of 556 convicted only 9 are female, in 2013 out of a total of 473 convicted, only 24 are female, in 2014 out of a total of 461 convicted only 16 are female and in 2015 out of a total of 348 convicted child delinquents, only 22 of them are female. For other years from 2016 and onwards, the annual publications of the State Statistical Office do not include data on the number of child delinquents based on their gender.

Hence, it can be concluded from the data displayed above, that child delinquents of female gender are much less inclined to commit criminal offenses, compared to child delinquents of male gender. Likewise, the total number of convicted males has decreased significantly over the last couple of years, while the same cannot be said specifically for the number of the convicted females, because as it can be seen in Figure 1, this number has a relatively stable condition with an average ranging from 20 to 40 convicted female child delinquents within each year.

This decreasing dynamic of convicted child delinquents during the time period of 2012-2013 and onwards can be related to the prioritization by competent bodies when sentencing and applying preventive measures (also known as assistance and protection measures), which has brought the smallest number of convicted children. In this case, it can be assumed that such non-criminal measures have been imposed on them, or that priority has been given in implementing the principle of opportunity and reasonableness for not initiating criminal proceedings against the child in the permitted cases under the conditions established by the Law of Justice for Children.

In addition, the fact that during the last two years we, once again, observe an increase in the number of convicted child delinquents and that, compared to 2019, the number of convicted children in conflict with the law – perpetrators of criminal offenses in 2020 is increased by 15.1 % and in 2021, compared to 2020, is increased by 9.1%.¹⁵ Therefore, it can be concluded that females still participate in significantly lower levels regarding the overall manifestation of child delinquency, but their number is constantly growing over the years, reflecting itself in specific forms of antisocial and illegal behaviour.¹⁶

¹⁵ Reported, accused and convicted perpetrators of criminal offences and children in conflict with the law, 2021, State Statistical Office, Skopje 31.05.2022, No: 2.1.22.18, p.7.

¹⁶Nanev, L., Koshevaliska, O., Maksimova, E., &Rogleva, A.,” Juvenile Delinquency in the Republic of North Macedonia through the prism of Gender Representation”, (in *Proceedings of the International Scientific Conference "Social Changes in the Global World"*, 1(8), 2021, 223-238) p.226 <https://doi.org/10.46763/SCGW211223n>

Table4: Convicted children in North Macedonia by types of criminal offences: 2006-2021

Year	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Total	84 4	67 6	71 5	74 8	54 7	72 2	55 6	47 3	46 1	34 8	46 8	36 8	33 0	30 0	35 0	38 2
Crimes against life and body	54	49	44	49	59	79	43	39	47	43	70	29	44	38	39	25
Crimes against the freedoms and rights of humans and citizens	1	-	2	4	1	5	1	5	-	2	7	2	2	3	4	4
Crimes against honor and reputation	1	-	-	1	-	2	-	-	-	1	7	-	-	-	-	-
Crimes against sexual freedom and sexual morality	13	11	16	14	7	12	8	5	14	13	2	2	2	2	5	9
Crimes against human health	9	5	5	6	7	15	7	12	4	7	13	7	10	18	66	94
Crimes against marriage, family and youth	1	2	-	-	1	1	-	1	1	-	-	-	-	1	1	2
Crimes against public finances, payment operations	5	9	6	4	13	7	9	3	3	5	1	1	2	1	-	3

and economy																	
Crimes against property	67 2	53 7	52 9	54 7	40 3	51 3	40 9	35 3	26 7	19 8	25 7	25 1	18 8	18 1	15 3	16 4	
Crimes against the general safety of people and property	4	7	7	2	1	6	4	4	6	2	4	2	2	3	2	3	
Crimes against traffic safety	35	22	50	46	35	39	26	24	14	28	2	32	25	24	28	28	
Crimes against the administration of justice	5	5	37	20	1	1	1	-	-	1	2	2	0	-	-	2	
Crimes against the public order	40	24	16	45	16	35	43	25	10 0	42	79	37	53	29	48	45	
Other crimes	4	5	3	10	3	7	5	2	5	6	24	3	1	-	4	3	

Source: State Statistical Office, Publications: *“Perpetrators of criminal offences”* for 2007-2017 and News releases: *“Reported, accused and convicted perpetrators of criminal offences and children in conflict with the law”* for 2018-2021, Skopje.

Table 4 presents the number of convicted child delinquents in North Macedonia during the time period of 2006-2021 according to the group of criminal offenses for which they were convicted, where the largest number is presented by child delinquents convicted for criminal offenses against property. In this regard, the number of children in conflict with the law convicted for criminal offenses against property compared to the total number of convicted child delinquents for the time period of 2006-2021 reflected in percentage, it is presented that in 2006 to 2021, the number of convicted child delinquents for criminal offenses against property has reached over 70% compared to the total number of convicted children in conflict with the law, especially in 2006 when the peak was marked with 79.6% of child delinquents convicted for these criminal offenses from the total number of convicted child delinquents in the country.

From 2014 and onwards, this number has decreased between 42.9%, in 2021 and 68.2%, in 2017. Regarding the last year (2021), an increase in the total number of convicted child delinquents compared to previous years was noted. Between 2017 and 2020 there were a total of 283 convicted children in conflict with the law, of which 42.9% were convicted for committing criminal offenses against property.

Regarding the number of convicted child delinquents for criminal offenses against life and body compared to the total number of convicted child delinquents, the highest participation for these offenses was as follows: in 2016 - with 15 % of the total number of convicted child delinquents, in 2018 - 13.3%, in 2019 - 12.7%, in 2015 - 12.4% and in 2020 - 11.1%. Moreover, we notice a decrease in this trend in 2021, where the number of convicted child delinquents for criminal offenses against life and body immediately resulted in 6.5% participation in the total number of convicted child delinquents. On the other hand, we notice an increase of the number of convicted child delinquents for criminal offenses against human health, where from 2006 to 2018, the number of convicted child delinquents for these criminal offenses has moved from 0.7% in 2007 and 2008 to 3% in 2018, of the total number of convicted child delinquents.

In recent years, an increase in this direction has been noted given that in 2019 there were 6% of convicted child delinquents, in 2020 - 18.9% and in 2021 - 24.6% compared to the total number of convicted children in conflict with the law. During the last two years, an increase can be observed regarding the number of convicted child delinquents for crimes against human health compared to other years, where child delinquents, in particular, commit activities related to the unauthorized production and sale of narcotic drugs, psychotropic substances and precursors, as well as abusing narcotic drugs whereby children in their homes enable the abuse of narcotic drugs to other people.¹⁷

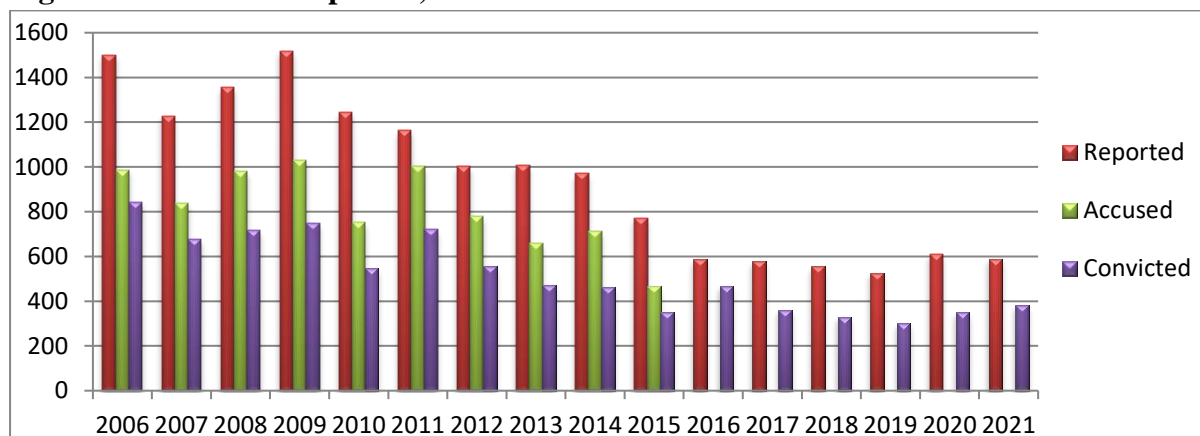
Concerning the group of criminal offenses against the public interest, Table 4 displays a considerable amount of figures reflected upon child delinquents who have been convicted for such criminal offences, where it should be noted that the highest activity of convicted child delinquents for these criminal offenses was 21.7% in 2014, while for the following years, the percentage varied between 9.7% in 2019 and 16.9% in 2016, compared to the total number of convicted children in conflict with the law in the respective years.

From Table 4, it can be concluded that child delinquents in North Macedonia are mostly convicted for criminal offenses against property. These types of crimes are strongly related to poverty and the economical background of their families.¹⁸ Nevertheless there are convicted child delinquents for other groups of criminal offenses, such as for crimes against life and the body, crimes against human health, crimes against safety in public traffic, crimes against public order, crimes against freedom and human rights and citizens; crimes against honour and authority; crimes against sexual freedom and sexual morality; criminal acts against public finances, crimes against payment operations and economy; crimes against the general safety of people and property; crimes against administration of justice etc.

¹⁷Buzharovska, G.L., Nanev, L., Kashevaliska O., Кривично постапување спрема децата во ризик и во судир со законот, Skopje, 2015, p.94.

¹⁸Lazetic, G., Kashevaliska, O., Nanev, L., "Phenomenology of child delinquency in Macedonia in the period from 2006 to 2016", 2018, p.8

Figure 2: Number of reported, accused and convicted children in RNM: 2006-2021



Source: State Statistical Office, Publications: “Perpetrators of criminal offences” for 2007-2017 and News releases: “Reported, accused and convicted perpetrators of criminal offences and children in conflict with the law” for 2018-2021, Skopje.

Figure 2 presents a comparative overview of the number of reported, accused and convicted children in conflict with the law for the time period of 2006-2021 in North Macedonia. It is clearly observed by the difference in numbers how the transition of a certain criminal case takes place from one stage of the criminal procedure to another. It is evident that not every initiated criminal case concluded with a criminal complaint against the child delinquent results with a Reasoned Proposal of the competent Public prosecutor in order to impose an educational measure or sanction upon the child delinquent. That is why we have this indicator of a lower number of accused child delinquents compared to those reported, as well as the number of convicted child delinquents compared to those accused. This fact especially stands out considering the special treatment that child delinquents have in the legal-penal system, with the sole purpose of protecting the interest of the child and respecting other principles of criminal justice for children, which are provided by the LCR and international documents governing justice for children, simultaneously promoting the spirit of restorative justice for the treatment of children.

Figure 2 displays the relevant factuality reflected in the decrease of child delinquency in North Macedonia, especially from 2015 and onwards, compared to the previous years, although for the last two years there is a slight increase of this phenomenon.

Table 5: Convicted adult perpetrators and children in conflict with the law in RNM: 2006-2021

Year	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Adults	9280	9639	9503	9801	9169	9810	9042	9539	11683	10312	8172	6273	5857	4712	6351	7634
Children	844	676	715	748	547	722	556	473	461	348	468	368	330	300	350	382

Source: State Statistical Office, Publications: *“Perpetrators of criminal offences”* for 2007-2017 and News releases: *“Reported, accused and convicted perpetrators of criminal offences and children in conflict with the law”* for 2018-2021, Skopje.

The data presented in Table 5 comparatively reflect an overview of the number of convicted adult perpetrators compared to the number of convicted child delinquents in the Republic of North Macedonia during the time period of 2006-2021, where the criminality manifested by child delinquency is much smaller than the criminality manifested by adult perpetrators.

Regarding the structure of child delinquency, it is of utmost importance to underline the types of the criminal offenses which are more frequently committed by child delinquents. In this regard, during a time period of ten years (2006-2016), we conclude the following crimes against property: aggravated /severe theft, theft, robbery, taking away motor vehicle, fraud, extortion and damage of other people’s possessions.¹⁹ Regarding the group of crimes against life and body, on the other hand, child delinquents most often commit the following crimes: body injury, grave body injury, participation in a brawl, threatening with a dangerous instrument during a brawl or a quarrel and murder; regarding the group of criminal offences against public order, child delinquents most often commit the following crimes: violence, unauthorized manufacture, possession, trading and brokerage of weapons or explosive materials, attack upon an official while carrying out security duties and other.²⁰ The most frequent crime against traffic safety in which child delinquents had been convicted during a time period of ten years is the endangerment of public safety (with 88% out of total from this group of crime), and the most frequent crimes against sexual freedom and sexual morality, committed by child delinquents are: sexual attacks upon a child below the age of 14 (60%), rape (12%) and other crimes of this group (28%).²¹

Conclusion

The study of child delinquency in the Republic of North Macedonia for the time period of 2006-2021, brought empirical results of this phenomenon. From the analyses of the published data from the State Statistical Office, results have been obtained regarding the trend of the number of criminal offenses committed by children during the above-mentioned time period. Based on this data analyses a considerable number of reported, accused and convicted children during this sixteen year period is displayed.

The analyses conclude that in North Macedonia children are mainly represented as perpetrators of criminal offenses against property up to 80% of the total number of the convicted children in conflict with the law. However, after these delinquents in question,

¹⁹Lazetic, G., Kashevaliska, O., Nanev, L., “Phenomenology of child delinquency in Macedonia in the period from 2006 to 2016”, 2018, p.12-13

²⁰Lazetic, G., Kashevaliska, O., Nanev, L., “Phenomenology of child delinquency in Macedonia in the period from 2006 to 2016”, 2018, p. 14 -15

²¹Lazetic, G., Kashevaliska, O., Nanev, L., “Phenomenology of child delinquency in Macedonia in the period from 2006 to 2016”, 2018, p.17-18

children were sentenced in a significant percentage for four other groups of criminal offenses such as criminal offenses against public order, criminal offenses against life and body, crimes against public traffic safety and specifically during the last two years in a considerable number for criminal offenses against human health. Certain, albeit smaller, the number of reported, accused and convicted children compared to these criminal cases, also appears in other groups of criminal offenses in the years of the aforementioned period.

In 2021, there is an increase in the total number of children sentenced compared to the previous years (2017-2020), where during this year (2021) there were a total of 283 convicted children in conflict with the law, out of which, 42.9% were convicted for criminal offenses against property. In this regard, the most frequent committed crimes by children of this group are: aggravated /severe theft, theft, robbery, taking away a motor vehicle, fraud, extortion and damage of other people's possessions.

Concerning the gender structure of children in conflict with the law, the analysis proves that in North Macedonia, female children are many times less inclined to commit criminal acts compared to male children.

From the analysis, there is a downward trend of child delinquency of approximately 50 percentage points from the number of reported children from 2016 and onwards compared to years prior 2013. This fact represents a positive indicator for the development of the dynamics of the child delinquency phenomenon in the country. Nevertheless a trend of slight growth of this phenomenon between 2020 and 2021 has been noted.

In this direction, in order not to allow this trend to significantly increase in the near future, there is a requirement for an inter-institutional cooperation between the competent entities that work with children with the aim to strengthen the preventive policy against child delinquency. Such cooperation should focus specifically on those strategic directions that are based on prevention, namely, identifying and combating the risk factors that influence the occurrence of this phenomenon within the country.

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ФЕНОМЕНОЛОГИЈАТА НА ДЕТСКАТА ДЕЛИНКВЕНЦИЈА ВО РЕПУБЛИКА СЕВЕРНА МАКЕДОНИЈА: 2006-2021 ГОДИНА

Апстракт

Детската деликвенција зазема значаен дел во областа на кривичното право со оглед на тоа што сторителите на ваквите кривични дела се одликуваат со специфични карактеристики, особено затоа што припаѓаат на критична возраст во која се води сметка за кривично-правниот третман во однос на третманот на сторителите на такви акти на одредена возраст. За ефикасна борба и спречување на феноменот на детската деликвенција, потребна е анализа на нејзината феноменологија (волумен, динамика и структура). Во трудот се претставени детални податоци за бројот на пријавени, обвинети и осудени деца во судир со законот за периодот 2006-2021 година во Северна Македонија според групата кривични дела, родовата структура на децата и споредбен преглед со број на осудени возрасни сторители.

Во практиката децата се застапени како сторители на поголемиот дел од кривичните дела, иако со поизразено учество во некои форми на криминал, најмногу во групата кривични дела против имотот. Детската деликвенција во Северна Македонија се карактеризира со надолен тренд до последните две години, кога е забележан тренд на благ пораст.

Клучни зборови: феноменологија, детска деликвенција, кривични дела.

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