

The Five Year Trends of the Children in Conflict with the Law in Ozamiz City: An Input in Designing Restorative Justice

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DOI: <https://doi.org/10.46382/MJBAS.2023.7223>

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Article Received: 29 April 2023

Article Accepted: 25 June 2023

Article Published: 30 June 2023

ABSTRACT

Children in conflict with the law in any cause need guidance and protection, it may lead to a greater offense when not prevented. The intervention and rehabilitation of the children is advantage and a great benefit to the children. This study determined the five-year trends of Children in conflict with the law in Ozamiz City using the available historical data from 2017-2021. The study employed retrospective method of research. Retrospective study, the data obtained is from records and the result of interest has already occurred. However, the Philippine National Police in Ozamiz City will offer the study's relevant data. According to the findings, the most common offense committed by the children is theft while act of lasciviousness is the least. It is suggested that highlighting the most effective programs that will help the Children in Conflict with the Law during the rehabilitation process.

Keywords: Act of lasciviousness; Archival; Children in conflict with the law.

Introduction

Crime is an act committed by an individual who violates the law (Cressey, 2017). An individual who commits the act shall be punishable by the law depending on the violation impose (Chuasanga & Victoria, 2019). Moreover, the violation impose to each offender depends on what crime they have been committed (Tremblay, 2017). Criminal acts is not only committed by an adults but also for those juveniles (Steinberg, 2017).

Republic Act No.9344 is "An Act Establishing a Comprehensive Juvenile Justice and Welfare System, Creating the Juvenile Justice and Welfare Council under the Department of Justice, Appropriating Funds Therefor and For Other Purposes" or otherwise known as the "Juvenile Justice and Welfare Act of 2006" (Belloga-Edrosolano, 2018). It covers the different stages involving children at risk and children in conflict with the law from prevention to rehabilitation and reintegration (Lightowler, 2020).

Juvenile Justice and Welfare System refers to a system dealing with children at risk and children in conflict with the law, which provides child-appropriate proceedings, including programs and services for prevention, diversion, rehabilitation, re-integration and aftercare to ensure their normal growth and development (Sanchez, 2020). They should be treated as individuals with problems who need help and need to be provided with appropriate assistance and services, to ensure the full protection of their rights for survival, protection, development and participation (Collins, 2017). The Juvenile Justice and Welfare Act is a child protection measure (Vidal et al., 2017). They are victims of abuse, of dysfunctional families and insensitive communities (Lazarev, 2019). In which they need to have restoration.

Restorative Justice is a principle which requires a process of resolving conflicts with the maximum involvement of the victim, offender, and the community. It aims to secure financial compensation for the victim, peace between

the offender and those who were offended as well as the community, and assurance to the offender that reintegration into society is possible. The purpose of having rehabilitation and reintegration towards the Children in conflict with the Law is to provide them the strategies and intervention that will help them improve their social functioning and to become a productive member of the community. Children in conflict with the law are victims of circumstances beyond their control (Brocklehurst, 2017).

Children in Conflict with the Law refers to a child who have committed an offense under Philippine Laws (Peralta & Dominguez, 2020). It is where the child is less than eighteen (18) years old upon committing the offense (Sanchez, 2020). These children committed criminal acts due to lack of parental supervision, poverty and the environmental factor they live in (Farrington, 2020). The Children in conflict with the law may undergo intervention and rehabilitation (Young, Greer & Church). They may also involve in enrolling to a juvenile offender school or commitment to a juvenile detention center for the purpose of reintegration (Mathur et al., 2018).

Methods

The study utilized a retrospective method of research. A retrospective study is a kind of research design where the researchers study a phenomenon by looking backward at the data collected from previous events (Haegele & Zhu, 2017). In analyzing the collected data, the information available in the PNP station is scrutinized in the specific year from 2017-2021. Therefore, the researchers believe that it has reliable and valid data for the benefit of the study. Archival data refer to information in someone else's files (Ventresca & Mohr, 2017). Originally generated for reporting or research purposes. It is often kept because of legal requirements, internal records, and references (Millar, 2017). Since it is the result of completed activities, it is not subject to change and is sometimes known as fixed data (Cooper, Hedges & Valentine, 2019).

The study conducted in Women and Children Protection Desk in Philippine National Police (PNP) in Ozamis City, Misamis Occidental. The Philippine National Police was currently located at City Hall Drive, Barangay Aguada, Ozamiz Misamis Occidental. These organization is the basis in data gathering of the study. Existing records and information from the year 2017-2021 in the Women and Children Protection Desk in Ozamiz City was utilize in this study.

The researchers make an approval letter to ask permission from the adviser and the college dean to pursue the data gathering. After the letter was approved, the researchers then sent the letter to the office of Chief of Police in Ozamis City Police station which they received and acknowledged. Finally, the researchers personally retrieved the data of interest for the study from the organization.

Results and Discussions

The table presents the distribution of the age of children in conflict with the law in the Women and Children Protection Desk (WCPD) of the Philippine National Police from 2017 to 2021 in Ozamiz City. The data includes the frequency and percentage of children in different age groups.

From the table, it is evident that the highest percentage of children in conflict with the law falls under the age of fifteen, with a recorded percentage of 27.6%. The second-highest percentage is for sixteen-year-olds, accounting

for 17.2%. The age groups of twelve and fourteen follow closely with 13.8% each. The age groups of ten and thirteen both have a percentage of 10.3%. The lowest percentage is for the age groups of eleven and seventeen, both recording 3.4%.

These results provide insights into the age distribution of children involved in criminal activities in the City during the specified period. The high percentage of fifteen-year-old suggests that this age group has a significant presence among children in conflict with the law (Desai & Desai, 2020). This finding may have implications for policy and intervention strategies targeted at addressing juvenile delinquency (Braga, 2018).

Overall, the table offers valuable insights into the age distribution of children in conflict with the law in Ozamiz City. The findings highlight the need for targeted interventions and support systems that address the unique challenges faced by different age groups. By understanding the underlying factors contributing to CICL, policymakers and stakeholders can work towards implementing effective strategies to prevent and rehabilitate children involved in criminal activities.

Table 1. Frequency and Percentage of the Age of Children in Conflict with the Law from 2017-2021

Age	Frequency	Percentage
10	3	10.3%
11	1	3.4%
12	4	13.8%
13	3	10.3%
14	4	13.8%
15	8	27.6%
16	5	17.2%
17	1	3.4%

The age distribution of children in conflict with the law, as depicted in the table, holds significant implications for addressing CICL in Ozamiz City. The prominence of fifteen-year-olds involved in criminal activities calls for targeted interventions and support systems tailored to this age group (Maxwell & Corliss, 2020). Early intervention programs should be established, offering guidance, mentorship, education, and skill-building opportunities to prevent further engagement in criminal behavior (Yeager, 2017).

By considering these implications and implementing tailored interventions for different age groups, policymakers and stakeholders can work towards preventing juvenile delinquency, facilitating rehabilitation, and ensuring the overall well-being and positive outcomes of children in conflict with the law.

Frequency and Percentage of Sex from year 2017-2021

The table provides an overview of the total number and percentage of genders recorded in the Women and Children Protection Desk (WCPD) of the Philippine National Police from 2017 to 2021. The data reveals that

males consistently account for the highest number of crimes committed, while the involvement of females is relatively low or non-existent.

In summary, the findings indicate a significant gender disparity in the commission of crimes. Males consistently represent the majority of individuals involved in criminal activities throughout the years examined, with percentages ranging from 86.7% to 100%. On the other hand, the involvement of females is minimal, with percentages of 13.3% or 0%. This suggests a gender-based imbalance in criminal behavior.

Based on these findings, the conclusion can be drawn that males are more prone to engaging in criminal activities compared to females, as evident from the consistently higher numbers recorded. Further research and data collection from other sources would be necessary to validate and comprehensively understand the gender dynamics of criminal involvement (Murray & Fussey, 2019).

In conclusion, the data from the Women and Children Protection Desk highlights a significant disparity in the gender distribution of crimes, with males being predominantly involved compared to females. This finding calls for targeted interventions, gender-specific programming, and a comprehensive approach to address the root causes and factors contributing to male criminal behavior. By addressing these issues, local authorities can work towards promoting gender equality, preventing criminality, and fostering a safer society for all.

Table 2. Frequency and Percentage of Sex from year 2017-2021

Sex	Year	Frequency	Percentage
Male	2017	13	86.7%
Female		2	13.3%
Male	2018	1	100%
Female		0	0
Male	2019	1	100%
Female		0	0
Male	2020	1	100%
Female		0	0
Male	2021	1	100%
Female		0	0

The gender disparity in criminal involvement, as indicated by the table, carries important implications for addressing crime prevention and intervention strategies. Firstly, recognizing the consistently higher participation of males in criminal activities highlights the need for targeted interventions and support systems specifically tailored to address the underlying factors that contribute to male criminal behavior (Klugman, 2017). This could involve implementing educational programs, vocational training, mentorship initiatives, and community-based support systems that address the unique challenges faced by at-risk males (Cherney et al., 2018). By addressing these factors, local authorities can work towards reducing the prevalence of male criminality and promoting a safer society.

Secondly, the relatively low or non-existent involvement of females in the recorded crimes suggests the importance of empowering and providing opportunities for females to prevent their marginalization and potential involvement in criminal activities. Promoting gender equality through education, skill development, and creating supportive environments for females can help break down barriers and address underlying socio-economic factors that may contribute to their vulnerability (Ghouse et al., 2017). By providing females with equal access to education, employment opportunities, and support networks, it is possible to mitigate the risk factors associated with female criminality and promote their positive participation in society (Cortoni & Stefanoy, 2020).

Graphical Presentation of Theft Case

Theft cases are unfortunately prevalent among Children in Conflict with the Law in the City of Ozamiz. Theft is defined as the illegal act of stealing personal property, with the intention of depriving its rightful owner of its possession (Marx, 2017). It falls under the category of crimes against property (Cuizon et al., 2022).

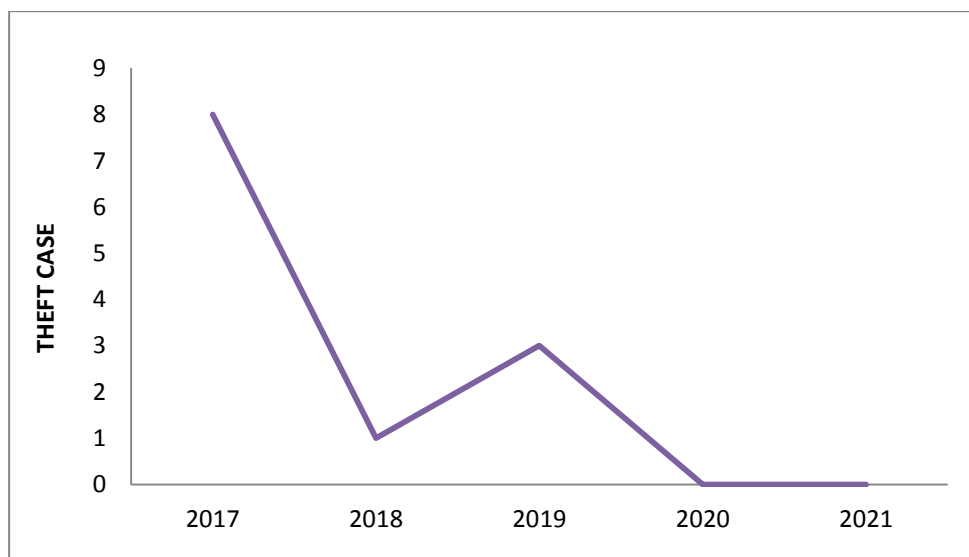


Figure 1. Trend Analysis of Theft Case in Ozamis City from 2017-2021

Figure 1 provides a trend analysis of theft cases committed by Children in Conflict with the Law in Ozamis City from 2017 to 2021. According to the study's findings, the highest number of theft crimes committed by these children was observed in 2017. However, there was a decrease in the number of cases in 2018, followed by an increase in 2019. Surprisingly, no theft cases were recorded in 2020 and 2021.

These trends highlight the fluctuating nature of theft cases committed by Children in Conflict with the Law in Ozamiz City. It is crucial to investigate the underlying factors contributing to these fluctuations to develop effective strategies for prevention and intervention. By understanding the patterns and causes behind these crimes, appropriate measures can be implemented to address the root causes and ultimately reduce theft cases involving children in the city.

The implications of the results depicted in Figure 1 are twofold. Firstly, the fluctuating trend of theft cases committed by Children in Conflict with the Law in Ozamiz City indicates a need for targeted intervention strategies. The fact that the highest number of cases occurred in 2017 suggests that there may have been underlying social, economic, or environmental factors contributing to the increase in criminal behavior during that period (Jeffery, 2021). Similarly, the subsequent decrease in cases in 2018 and the subsequent increase in 2019 highlight the dynamic nature of these crimes and the need for adaptable and responsive approaches.

Secondly, the absence of recorded theft cases in 2020 and 2021 raises questions about the reliability of the data or the potential impact of external factors. Understanding the reasons behind the reported cases can provide valuable insights into the effectiveness of existing strategies and guide future initiatives to sustainably reduce theft and other criminal behaviors among Children in Conflict with the Law in Ozamiz City (Schunk & Greene, 2017)

The implications of these results call for a comprehensive analysis of the factors influencing theft cases committed by children in the city, with a focus on identifying effective prevention measures and intervention programs. By addressing the root causes of these crimes and implementing evidence-based strategies, it is possible to create a safer environment for both the children involved and the community as a whole.

Graphical Presentation of Physical Injury

The analysis of physical injury trends among Children in Conflict with the Law (CICL) in the City of Ozamiz from 2017 to 2021 reveals important findings. The study shows that the highest number of physical injuries occurred in 2017, indicating a significant prevalence of harm inflicted by CICL during that year. However, a decreasing trend in physical injury cases was observed from 2018 onwards, suggesting some improvement. Nonetheless, the trend shifted in 2019, with the number of physical injuries rising again and continuing to increase until 2021.

The high number of physical injury cases in 2017 indicates a concerning situation that requires attention and intervention. The subsequent fluctuating trend demonstrates the need for sustained efforts to prevent and mitigate physical harm among CICL. While there was an initial decrease in physical injuries after 2017, the subsequent rise in cases from 2019 to 2021 highlights the importance of continuous monitoring and proactive measures to address the underlying factors contributing to such injuries.

The analysis of physical injury trends among Children in Conflict with the Law (CICL) in the City of Ozamiz from 2017 to 2021 has important implications for the authorities involved in the welfare and justice system. Firstly, it highlights the pressing need to prioritize the protection of CICL. The high number of physical injuries observed underscores their vulnerability and the risks they face. This calls for the implementation of improved safeguards and measures within the justice system to prevent physical harm and ensure the safety of CICL (O'Sullivan et al., 2019).

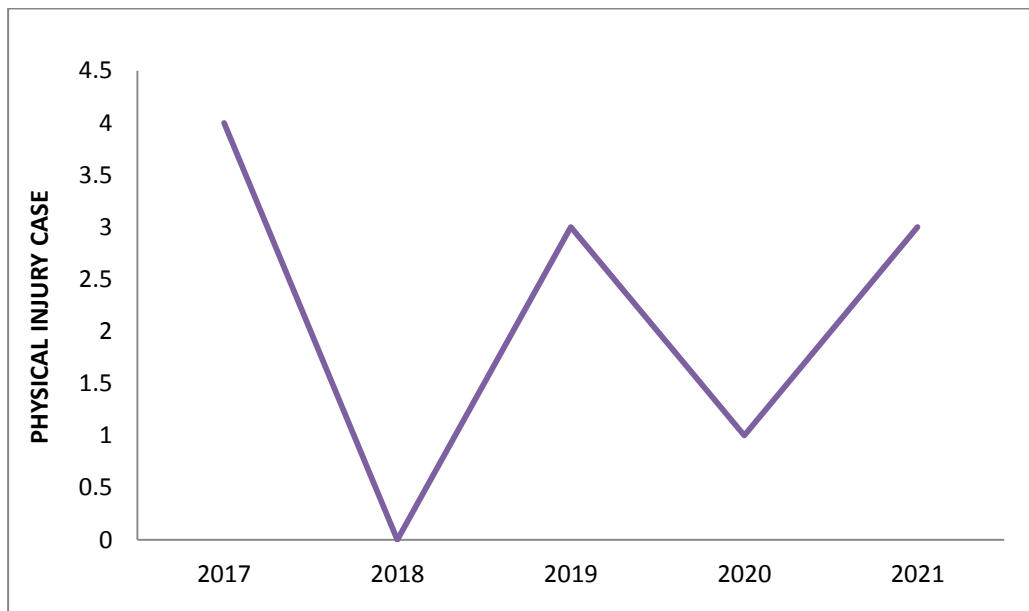


Figure 2. Trend Analysis of Physical Injury Case in Ozamis City from 2017-2021

Secondly, the analysis underscores the significance of comprehensive rehabilitation and reintegration efforts. The fluctuating trend in physical injury cases indicates the complexity of addressing the underlying issues faced by CICL. Comprehensive programs must be developed and implemented to address not only the immediate physical injuries but also the root causes of their involvement in criminal activities. Such programs should provide support, vocational training, and psychological assistance to facilitate the successful reintegration of CICL into society, promoting their long-term well-being.

Graphical Presentation of Rape

The analysis of rape case trends in Ozamiz City from 2017 to 2021 reveals important findings. The highest number of reported rape cases occurred in 2017, indicating a significant prevalence of this form of sexual violence during that year. However, a notable trend emerged with no recorded rape cases in both 2018 and 2019, suggesting a period of respite. The trend shifted in 2020, with a rise in the number of reported rape cases, and this trend continued into 2021. Further examination and analysis are necessary to determine the underlying factors contributing to these trends and to develop effective strategies for prevention and intervention.

Based on the analysis of rape case trends in Ozamiz City, it is recommended to implement a comprehensive approach to address this issue. This includes strengthening preventive measures through educational programs and awareness campaigns, improving reporting and support systems for victims, and conducting further research to understand the underlying factors. Collaboration among stakeholders, such as law enforcement, community organizations, and healthcare providers, is crucial in implementing effective strategies to prevent and address rape cases. By taking these steps, Ozamiz City can work towards creating a safer environment and reducing the occurrence of rape, ultimately promoting the well-being and safety of its residents.

The rape case reveals an important implication to the local authorities and community. The significant prevalence of reported rape cases in 2017 highlights the urgent need for immediate action and intervention to address this form

of sexual violence. It indicates that there are underlying issues and factors contributing to the high incidence of rape during that period (Mackie & Bates, 2019). The year 2020 and 2021 has the same case occur that need to be taken action for prevention before it arises again in the year approaching.

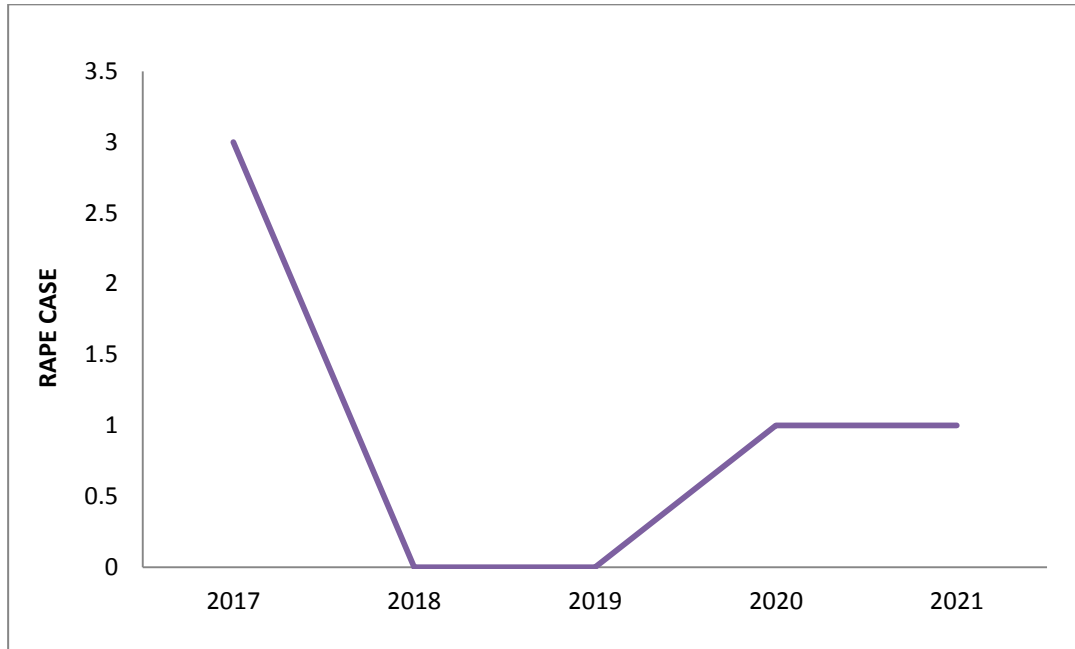


Figure 3. Trend Analysis of Rape Case in Ozamis City from 2017-2021

The absence of recorded rape cases in 2018 and 2019 suggests a period of respite and potentially reflects positive changes or effective measures implemented during that time. This period provides an opportunity for analysis and evaluation of the strategies and programs that may have contributed to the decline in reported cases. By examining this period, authorities can gain valuable insights into effective preventive measures that can be reinforced and expanded upon to sustain the decline in rape cases (Orchowski, 2020).

Graphical Presentation of Act of Lasciviousness

Acts of Lasciviousness the act of making physical contact with another person's body without intending to engage in sexual activity in order to satisfy one's sexual needs (Stoller, (2018). The trend analysis of act of lasciviousness cases in Ozamis City from 2017 to 2021, as depicted in Figure 4, reveals a concerning pattern. The highest number of reported cases occurred in 2021, indicating a significant increase in this type of crime within the city. This trend highlights the need for immediate attention and intervention to address the issue effectively. It suggests that there may be underlying factors contributing to the rise of the act.

The implications of the trend analysis of act of lasciviousness cases in Ozamis City from 2017 to 2021 are significant and call for immediate action. The highest number of reported cases in 2021 indicates a pressing need to address this form of sexual misconduct within the city. It highlights the urgency of implementing preventive measures and strengthening enforcement efforts to protect individuals from acts of lasciviousness. The rise in reported cases may indicate a lack of awareness, inadequate preventive measures, or a cultural issue that needs to be addressed (Machowska & Lundborg, 2019).

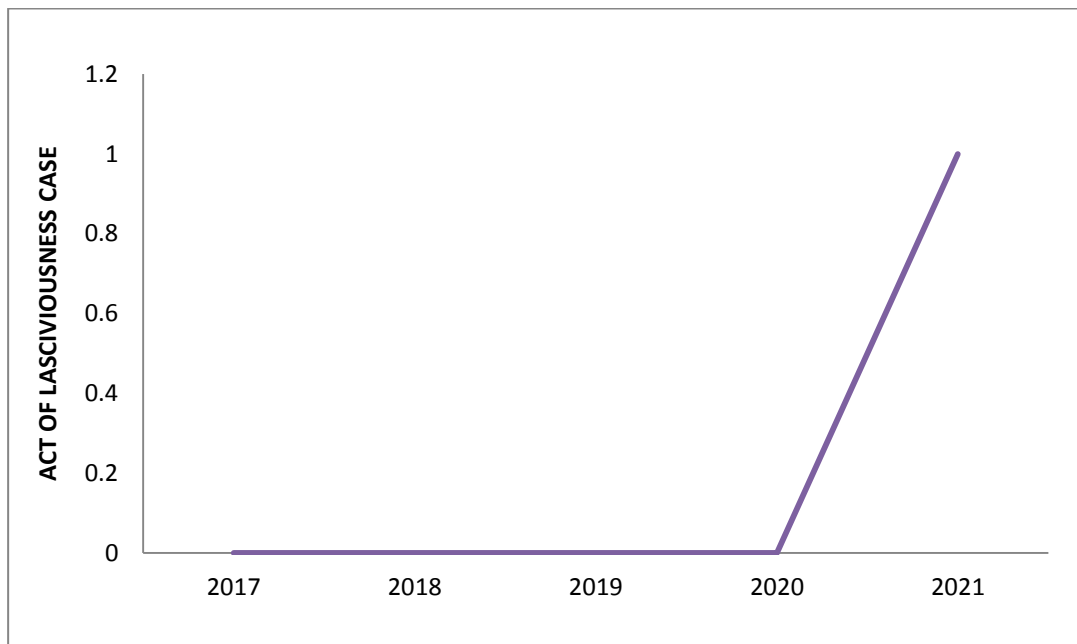


Figure 4. Trend Analysis of Act of Lasciviousness Case in Ozamis City from 2017-2021

Conclusions

Based on the result of our study, the study on the restoration of Children in Conflict with the Law in Ozamiz City provides valuable insights into the trends and characteristics of children involved in criminal activities over a five-year period. The findings underscore the need for comprehensive and targeted interventions to address the specific needs and vulnerabilities of these children. The concentration of criminal activities among children between the ages of 10 and 17 emphasizes the importance of early intervention programs and preventive measures to steer them away from criminal behavior. Additionally, the prevalence of theft as the most common crime highlights the need to address underlying factors such as poverty and limited access to education and economic opportunities. By addressing these findings and implementing evidence-based strategies, Ozamiz City can work towards creating a safer and more inclusive environment for children in conflict with the law, promoting their well-being and reducing their involvement in criminal activities.

Recommendations

Based on the chart and graphs, the rehabilitation of the Children in Conflict with the Law in Ozamiz City must highlight the most effective programs that will help them during the rehabilitation process. The children must be given an individualized program which may include counseling, education, skills training and other activities that will enhance the psychological, spiritual and sociological well-being of the children. In that way, it help the children be ready in reintegration in the community. Hence, the local government will have proactive plans in order to prevent not to increase the number of children in conflict with the law.

Declarations

Source of Funding

This study did not receive any grant from funding agencies in the public or not-for-profit sectors.

Competing Interests Statement

The authors have declared no competing interests.

Consent for Publication

The authors declare that they consented to the publication of this study.

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