Children in conflict with the law in Moldova

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MONEE Country Analytical Report
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**Situation of Children in Conflict with Law in the Republic of Moldova**

**Juvenile Justice Short Characteristics**

In the context of economic development level registered by the country, the settlement of social problems and particularly the issue of decreasing the crime rate among children is a very important factor.

Juvenile delinquency in the Republic of Moldova follows the general criminogenic trend, but at the same time it is characterized by decrease of juvenile offenders’ age, increase of perpetrated actions’ social danger, growth of violent crimes’ number, increase of homeless and abandoned children and growth of violence against children, etc.

The comprehensive settlement of children in conflict with law problem by taking into account the needs of each child apart can be achieved through making the high decision making level aware of the given issue existence by setting up a really developed juvenile justice and taking necessary measures so as to prevent crime among children.

Children in conflict with law problems are one of the priorities within justice system reform in the Republic of Moldova, particularly within juvenile justice development. The main targets of the given reform refer to national legislation alignment to the international standards, development of alternative punishment means for children which are in conflict with law, as well as training for corresponding personnel and set up of specialized services for children in conflict with law.

Penal code’s amendments and addendums represent just the first step on the long road of national juvenile justice system development according to international standards and comprehensive settlement of children in conflict with law problems by taking into account the needs of each child apart as a victim, witness or defendant.

Notwithstanding the fact that the Penal Code and the Penal Procedural Code of the Republic of Moldova do not contain separate chapters on criminal proceedings regulations regarding the children in conflict with law, these legal acts do mention some articles referring to under age persons.

Thus, in accordance with the Penal Code the age for criminal proceedings start against minors would be 16 years old, and 14 years old – in case of especially heinous crimes. It should be mentioned that the new code stipulates a decreased number of heinous crimes, from 39 to 30, a fact that will improve children’s situation for sure.

Penal Procedural Code’s amendments and addendums refer mainly to the preliminary measures applied to minors suspected of crimes’ perpetration. Thus, detention time was decreased from 72 to 24 hours and provisional arrest is previewed only in case of especially heinous crimes.

One of Penal Code’s most important amendments provisions for “perpetration of an insignificant crime or middle weight crimes, minors are punished only when the compulsory education measures were not enough for correction”. Thus, in case of a range of crimes, the new Penal Code offers the under age person who has not committed a heinous crime one more chance by making use of other punishment measures, for instance, unpaid labour for society’s benefit.
The need to use the unpaid labour for society’s benefit is determined mainly by the fact that the majority of conditionally condemned minors who have committed crimes do not fully understand that they have perpetrated socially dangerous actions for which they were actually punished. Other countries’ practice proves that calling minors to social works has a positive character and directly contributes to children’s rehabilitation and re-education.

Minors can be detained in case of the following categories of offences:
- crimes dealing with violation, including murder, serious physical injuries, rape;
- property offences – robbery, theft, brigandage, fraud;
- other offences dealing with drugs, hooliganism, anti-social behaviour.

The punishment measures in case of offences committed by minors are determined by the court and vary depending on offence’s character, social danger, cause, circumstances, as well as sentence’s influence on child’s rehabilitation and correction.

A very important factor for determining punishment measure constitutes adults’ complicity and children’s constraint to commit a crime – in some cases such behaviours are considered by the legislation as crimes committed by adults.

In case when a child commits a crime, which is punished according to the code in force with life deprivation, the maximum detention term is of 12 years and 6 months. The law previews cases of prior discharge with a number of pre-set conditions and also substitution of punishment measure with a more loyal one.


The following kinds of punishment can be determined for under age persons:
- fine;
- unpaid work for society’s benefit;
- arrest;
- imprisonment.

Fine as punishment measure previews money penalty depending on the character and seriousness of committed crime by taking into account the material state of the under age person. As it is very unlikely for persons under 18 years old to be employed and have permanent income, most of the times the fine is paid by parents, thus the minors are actually freed up from personal responsibility for committed crime. In case when the condemned cannot pay the fine, the given punishment measure can be substituted by unpaid labour for society’s benefit. If the condemned persistently dodges the fine payment, the court can substitute the unpaid amount with arrest or imprisonment according to the following scale: 1 month of arrest or imprisonment for 50 conventional units of fine.

Unpaid work for society’s benefit is determined for persons that have already 16 years old and previews a term of 60 to 240 hours, with no more than 4 hours per day. In case of persistent dodge from unpaid work for society’s benefit, the punishment can be replaced by arrest at the scale of 1 day for 8 hours of work, or fine at the scale of 50 conventional units for 60 hours of unpaid labour. The advantage of the given punishment as compared to other kinds of punishment, particularly imprisonment, is the fact that the minor gets the chance to get rehabilitated.
Arrest is determined for persons that have already 16 years old and previews a term from 3 to 6 months. According to the Decision of Supreme Court of Justice dated 12th of November 1997, in fewer and fewer cases, courts can actually fix warrantless arrest for minors in cases when law previews the possibility to determine another punishment measure except for imprisonment.

Imprisonment is determined for persons that did not reach 18 years old and previews a term from 6 months to 15 years.

In case of insignificant offences which to not have serious social danger, minors could be freed up from court’s punishment, if it would be concluded that punishment goals could be attained by applying compulsory education measures, which are not considered penal punishments and do not beget convictions. The education measures actually have the same character as the penal ones and also contribute to prevention of newly committed crimes. In case of systematic deviation from determined compulsory education measures, the court can cancel them and call the guilty person to account according to specialized state institutions’ proposals.

Education measures can be divided according the following categories:

- warning;
- handing over the minor under surveillance of parents, persons substituting the parents or specialized state institutions;
- imposing the minor to compensate the caused damages;
- making the minor follow a medical course of psychological rehabilitation;
- placing the minor in specialized educational institutions.

Warning is determined mainly for persons of 14-15 years old in case of insignificant crimes and previews explanations of committed offence risks and possibilities to be convicted for committing other crimes.

Handing over the minor under surveillance of parents, persons substituting the parents or specialized state institutions previews passing the responsibility for minors’ behaviour control to relatives, tutoring agencies and specialized educational institutions.

Imposing the minor to compensate the caused damages previews the compensation of damage in money equivalent, depending on minor’s material state, job and income source. If the under age person cannot compensate the damage in money equivalent, he/she can do it by rendering a certain amount of services.

Making the minor follow a medical course of psychological rehabilitation is determined in cases when the crime is committed as a result of psychological trauma, physical or mental infirmity.

Placing the minor in specialized educational institutions is an educational measure previewing imprisonment and can be determined for persons that did not reach yet 18 years of old. The duration of the given measure ends up whenever the person reaches the age of 18, and only in case when the minor has to graduate the secondary school or the vocational school, the stay in such institutions can be extended.

One of the priority tasks of juvenile justice reform is personnel training in the given field. Starting with 2004, each court was appointed a judge dealing with minors’ cases and prosecutor having the exclusive competence to determine the prosecution for under age persons. Unfortunately, these specialists do not have special professional training in the given field, particularly in psychological and pedagogical sciences.
It should be mentioned, that due to UNICEF support there were undertaken some actions to train the specialists in juvenile justice field. There was developed a manual for police officers, investigators, judges and prosecutors that are directly involved in cases of crimes committed by children. The given manual will be put into practice by a group of experts in juvenile justice area that was set up and trained according to the Memorandum concluded between the Ministry of Domestic Affairs, General Prosecutor’s Office, Supreme Court of Justice and UNICEF. The main topics of the manual deal with children in conflict with law physiological-social aspects, general overview of international standards in the given field and diverse interviewing techniques for work with children.

According to the Justice System Reform Strategy in the Republic of Moldova for 2006-2008, starting with 2007 there are envisaged trainings for raising the skills of judges and other personnel organized within National Justice Institute.

**Crimes Committed by Under Age Persons**

During the last six years, practically there were no changes within situation of children in conflict with law. Thus, in 2000 children were detained in 10087 cases, that is 962.7 cases per 100000 children under 18 years old. During the following three years, the given indicator has increased reaching the level of 13881 detained persons or 1487.2 cases per 100000 children. Notwithstanding the fact that in 2004 there were detained fewer under age persons, in 2005 this indicator has increased again and reached the average of 1560.5 cases per 100000 children.

![Detained Children Dynamics for 2000-2005](image)

Offences perpetrated by children during the last two years constitute 10% from the total number of crimes registered in the country, while during 2000-2003 the weight of given offences was of 7.6% per year. At the same time, juvenile delinquency does not always follow country’s general criminality trend. Thus, the quantity of registered offences during the last six years was constantly decreasing and constituted 27959 cases in 2005, that is with 27.9% less as compared to 2000. In 2005 offences perpetrated by teenagers decreased only with 13.3% as compared to 2000.

The average number of crimes committed by minors or with their involvement is of 2700 cases per year, which is 287 cases per 100000 children. The highest level of crimes was registered in 2000 and 2002, respectively 2928 and 2976 cases. In 2005 the number of crimes committed by
children decreased with 8,7% as compared to the previous year and accounted for 2538 cases, at the same time the number of cases per 100000 children under 18 years old was maintained practically at the level of 2002 - 295,2.

It should be mentioned that minors’ delinquency during the last six years has become younger. If in 2000 the share of minors of 14-15 years old within the total number of under age persons that committed crimes was of 34,5%, then in the period during 2002 – 2004, the same indicator has reached the level of 40%, decreasing just a little in 2005 till 38,6%.

Most of the times, crimes are committed by minors that do not study and do not work anywhere (80%). As a rule, offences are perpetrated around the residence place, most of them are spontaneous acts and the main reason driving the young offenders is the material profit.

In general, children committed property crimes, which annually account for 82% - 88% from the total of crimes committed by children. For the first time during the last five years the number of given crimes decreased, accounting for 2116 cases in 2005, which is with 165 cases less than in 2004 and 388 cases less as compared to 2000.

Among property crimes, the first place is reserved to thefts, which have an annual average of 84% - 90%. In 2005 there are 220,2 thefts per 100000 children under 18 years old, while in 2000 the same indicator accounted for 207,8 cases of theft. Thefts are mostly characteristic for teenagers in between 14 and 15 years old, the weight of the given offences is of 77%; as for the range age in between 16 and 17 years old – thefts constitute around 60%.

The second place among property crimes committed by children is taken by robberies - the annual average of registered robberies is of 180 cases. Brigandage cases for the last three years constituted not more than 30 cases; in 2000 the given indicator registered 75 cases. In 2005 there were in average 20,6 robberies and 3,5 brigandages per 100000 children.

Although the number of property crimes committed by under age persons decreased, it is alarming that starting with 2003 the number of violent crimes has increased. In 2005 there were registered with 3 crimes less as compared to 2003, nevertheless 2,1 crimes per 100 cases of offences committed by children deal with violence, which means that in average, each sixth child per 100000 children under 18 years old is a user of force.

The main part of crimes dealing with violence falls on rapes and murders, respectively 32% and 40%. Only in 2005 there were registered 23 cases of murder and 17 cases of rape. Serious physical injuries account for an annual average from 10 cases in 2002 up to 17 cases registered in 2000 and 2004. Thus, in average, there are about 1,6 cases of murder and 2,1 cases of rape per 100000 children under 18 years old. In 2005, the given indicator has increased and accounted for 2,0 murders and 2,7 rapes per 100000 children.

Besides, more and more teenagers in between 14 and 15 years old started committing murders. In 2000, from the total number of murders the share committed by minors is of 8,3%, as for 2003 – the share increased up till 33,3%, in 2004 – 23,1% and in 2005 – 40%. Rapes committed by minors in between 14 and 15 years old account for 16% in 2004 and 42% in 2003, as for 2005 – the indicator shows 26,3%.

Other offences that should be mentioned are the ones dealing with narcotics – their weight is very stable and accounts for 4% annually. This kind of crimes are mainly committed by elder young persons, thus 90% of cases are encountered within the age group of 16-17 years old.
During 2000 – 2001, about 40% of crimes were committed by under age persons with involvement of other children or with direct assistance from adults. Starting with 2002, the number of group crimes began to decrease and accounted for 32.3%, and during the following two years the indicator decreased up to 29%. Nevertheless, in 2005 every fifth crime was committed with involvement of under age persons or adults.

It should be mentioned that during the last years there were registered fewer group crimes and this is due to the fact that there is a decrease in the number of crimes committed only by under age persons (in 2005 there were 252 cases as compared to 553 cases in 2000). Crimes committed with adults’ involvement accounted for 320 cases, that is with 399 cases less as compared in 2000. Nevertheless, every second crime is committed with adults’ involvement.

Every 9.5 crimes per 100 crimes committed by children in 2005 are repeated crimes. It should be noted that the number of given crimes (240 cases) has decreased during the last years. As compared to 2004, repeated crimes have decreased with 25 cases, and as compared to 2000 – with 302 cases.

In 2005, 5.1% of crimes were committed under narcotic and alcohol action, which is less as compared to 2001 – 2003 when 9% per each 100 crimes were committed under narcotic and alcohol action, and in 2000 the given indicator was of 11.3%. In average 31.7 crimes under narcotic or alcohol action per 100000 children were registered in 2000 and 15.1 such crimes in 2005.

When analyzing separately the offences committed under alcohol and narcotics action, it should be noted that lately there is an increase of the weight referring to crimes perpetrated under narcotics action. Up to 2004 two thirds of crimes were committed under alcohol action, whereas during the last two years every second crime is committed under narcotic action.

**Minors’ Custody till the Sitting of the Court**

Annually there about 100 – 180 under age persons who are kept in custody till verdict pronouncement. During the period between 2000 and 2002, there was an average of 17.4 minors in custody till the sitting of the court per 100000 children under 18 years old. Although during 2003-2004 the given indicator decreased to 12 children, in 2005 it goes up again registering 15.1 minors in custody per 100000 children under 18 years old.

According to Penal Reform Institutes’ data for 2003, 43% of detained minors were kept in imprisonment before trial for more than four months. There were even registered cases when children were imprisoned for more than 10 months.

In general imprisonment conditions are assessed as satisfactory, but the fact that minors imprisoned for the first time might be kept together with the ones accused for very heinous crimes including the recidivists is rather worrying. About 41% of respondents were placed together with recidivists, 4.1% - together with persons accused for very heinous crimes and 42.8% - together with persons that are accused for the first time.

Thus, during the imprisonment before trial, the child or the teenage faces much more risks to be in contact with adult offenders and to become victims of brutal treatment as compared to minors that are already sentenced to prisons.
Under Age Persons Conviction

In 2005 the courts have examined 1680 cases with minors’ participation that is with 12 cases more as compared to 2004. At the same time the number of sentenced minors has increased with 114 persons and accounted for 1888 persons. The highest level of convicted minors was registered in 2002 – 2160 persons, and the lowest level in 2000 and 2004 – respectively 1782 and 1774 persons.

The weight of sentenced minors within the total number of condemned persons is of 13,4% which is with 0,5 percentage points less than in 2004 (13,9%). When analyzing the given indictor in dynamics for the last six years, an increasing tendency is observed. In 2000-2002, from each 100 convicted persons 11,1 – 11,5 were minors, and in 2003 – 12,2 minors. Annually, 176 – 214 children per 100000 children under 18 years old pass through the courts.

In 2005 the number of minors convicted for intentional murder has increased from 6 to 15 persons, that is twice more, thus reaching the level of 2000. As for serious physical injuries cases, the number of convicted persons increased from 6 to 20, that is three times more; for thefts – from 1234 to 1317 persons, which is with 6,7% more. Although the number of minors convicted for rape has decreased from 32 persons in 2003 to 22 persons in 2005, the given conviction remains to be at the level of year 2000.

In general, 50 minors are sentenced annually for violent crimes. In 2005 the given indicator was of 61 persons, that is with 20 cases more as compared to 2004. Mainly, minors are sentenced for property crimes. Thus, the weight of minors sentenced for these crime during 2000 – 2005 has decreased from 86,8% to 78,5%, whereas the weight for violent crimes has increased from 2,3% to 3,2%.

The most widespread punishment measure applied to minors remains to be conditional conviction – 65,5%, which is with 2,7 percentage points less than compared to 2004, but with 11,8 more as compared to 2000.

Besides, 16 persons were discharged (with 5 persons more than in 2004), 1 person was forced to compulsory medical measures (in 2004 – there were 6 such persons), and 161 persons had their cases closed (in 2004 – 365 persons).

Although, international standards provide for imprisonment only as an extreme measure of punishment for the shortest possible period of time, the number of imprisoned minors has actually increased from 194 persons in 2004 up to 224 persons in 2005. Annually, practically every tenth convicted minors was sentenced to imprisonment.
**Punishment Measures for Under Age Persons during 2001-2005**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2001</th>
<th>2002</th>
<th>2003</th>
<th>2004</th>
<th>2005</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total number of convinced persons</td>
<td>1894</td>
<td>2160</td>
<td>2099</td>
<td>1774</td>
<td>1888</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>including in %:</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Imprisonment</td>
<td>12.0</td>
<td>13.6</td>
<td>12.1</td>
<td>10.9</td>
<td>11.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fine</td>
<td>14.3</td>
<td>17.6</td>
<td>20.1</td>
<td>9.1</td>
<td>7.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>By convention</td>
<td>53.7</td>
<td>58.4</td>
<td>62.0</td>
<td>68.2</td>
<td>65.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>With postponement of sentence execution</td>
<td>2.7</td>
<td>0.2</td>
<td>0.0</td>
<td>0.6</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unpaid labour</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>12.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other punishment measures</td>
<td>17.3</td>
<td>10.2</td>
<td>5.7</td>
<td>11.2</td>
<td>2.7</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Up till 2004 practically every sixth convicted person was sentenced to pay a fine. Starting with 2005, courts began to make use of unpaid labour for society’s benefit as a form of punishment. The given measure was determined for 234 persons that have reached the age of 16 years old, thus fine sanctions have decreased from 9.1% to 7.5%.

**Minors’ Imprisonment**

According to the Penal Code of the Republic of Moldova, minors sentenced to imprisonment should be kept in separate correctional facilities. However, the Penal Code does not stipulate the need to keep separately the minors who have committed crimes for the first time and the ones who have committed repeated crimes. Thus, the minors who have committed crimes for the first time can be imprisoned together with repeaters – a fact violating the UN Convention on Children Rights.

There are two colonies for minor delinquents in the Republic of Moldova. One of them is only for minor boys, as for girls (because they are not so numerous) – they are detained within the general colony for women, where the delimitation between adult and minor is purely symbolic.

As mainly boys are sentenced to imprisonment, the number of minors detained together with adults is not so big and is due only to girl-offenders. Since 1993, the highest number of girl-offenders was registered in 1994 – 14 cases and 1996 – 12 cases. Thus, during 2001-2002 – 6 girls were detained within penitentiaries for women, in 2003 – 10 girls, in 2004 – 2 girls and in 2005 – 5 girls. Correspondently, the percent of minors detained together with adults is of 2.2% in 2000, 4.7% in 2003 and 3.9% in 2005.

Starting with 2000 the number of imprisoned minors increased from 89 to 191 persons in 2003, and after the amnesty from 2004, only 80 persons were detained in prisons. In 2005 the number of minors detained in penitentiaries increased and accounted for 129 persons or every 15th child per 100000 children under 18 years old.
**Imprisoned Under Age Persons during 2000-2005**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2000</th>
<th>2001</th>
<th>2002</th>
<th>2003</th>
<th>2004</th>
<th>2005</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total number of imprisoned</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>under age persons</td>
<td>89</td>
<td>106</td>
<td>122</td>
<td>191</td>
<td>80</td>
<td>129</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>including by type of crime:</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>violent</td>
<td>44,9</td>
<td>24,5</td>
<td>18,9</td>
<td>19,4</td>
<td>46,3</td>
<td>27,9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>property</td>
<td>48,3</td>
<td>69,8</td>
<td>75,4</td>
<td>75,9</td>
<td>46,3</td>
<td>65,1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>hooliganism</td>
<td>2,2</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>0,8</td>
<td>1,0</td>
<td>1,3</td>
<td>1,6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>narcotics</td>
<td>1,3</td>
<td>2,8</td>
<td>1,6</td>
<td>2,1</td>
<td>5,0</td>
<td>3,9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>other</td>
<td>3,4</td>
<td>2,8</td>
<td>3,3</td>
<td>1,6</td>
<td>1,3</td>
<td>1,6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total of imprisoned under</strong></td>
<td>8,5</td>
<td>10,5</td>
<td>12,6</td>
<td>20,5</td>
<td>8,9</td>
<td>15,0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>age persons per 100000 children from 0 to 17 years old</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

In general, under age persons are sentenced to imprisonment for property crimes, constituting 46% after amnesty and 76% before amnesty. From 19% to 45-46% are sentenced to imprisonment for violent crimes. Thus, in 2004 practically every second prisoner was sentenced for a violent crime, but in 2005 this percentage decreased and accounted for 27.9%.

Notwithstanding the fact that penitentiary institutions should detain only persons under 18 years old, practically every third prisoner within these facilities are between 19 and 21 years old. Every second sentenced person is between 17-18 years old, and the number of under 16 years old prisoners was of 16 persons in 2005 that is with 13 persons more than the previous year.

Analyzing the given area from gender perspective, it should be noted that young girls get imprisoned at an earlier age than boys. During 2001 – 2003, the average age for under 18 years old prisoners was of 16,8 years old for girls and 17,6 years old for boys. Starting with 2004 the situation changed and the average age of imprisoned minors was of 17,2 years old with no clear distinctions by gender aspect.

Girls are sentenced to imprisonment mainly for property and violent crimes. In 2000-2001 only 2 girls were sentenced for murder, and during 2003-2005 – only one girl. As for robberies and thefts in 2001 there were sentenced 4 girls, in 2002 – 5, 2003 – 8, 2004 – 1 and 2005 – 4 girls.

Except for murders, which account from 10% to 23%, the weight of male prisoners imprisoned for rape is rather high, from 7% to 25%. It should be noted that during the last three years there is an increase of imprisoned boys sentenced for narcotic crimes – from 1,1% in 2000 up to 4,0% in 2005. Among property crimes the first place is taken by thefts. The highest number of imprisoned boys sentenced for theft was registered in 2003 – 108 persons. After amnesty the given indicator decreased and accounted for 18 persons in 2005, but in 2005 already 41 minors were sentenced to imprisonment for this kind of crimes.

**Crimes against Under Age Persons**

Under age persons are noted not only for their increased criminal activity but also for the possibility to become victims of violence themselves. Violence committed against minors can take various forms and is determined by a range of diverse factors: starting with victims’ or executors’ personal peculiarities up to their cultural and physical environment.
Thus, only in 2005 there were discovered 413 minors who have suffered from criminal infringement of their rights. As a result, 6 under age persons died, 7 minors suffered serious health damages, 60 children were raped and 50 were robbed.

**Crimes against under age persons during 2000-2005**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2000</th>
<th>2001</th>
<th>2002</th>
<th>2003</th>
<th>2004</th>
<th>2005</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>total</td>
<td>girls</td>
<td>boys</td>
<td>total</td>
<td>girls</td>
<td>boys</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total of Crimes</td>
<td>480</td>
<td>212</td>
<td>268</td>
<td>303</td>
<td>129</td>
<td>174</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>including:</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>murders</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>serious body injuries</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>rapes</td>
<td>71</td>
<td>69</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>47</td>
<td>43</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>robberies</td>
<td>32</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>38</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>27</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>brigandages</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Annually there are about 30,0 – 49,3 children per 100000 children under 18 years old who have suffered from violence. 58% from children undergoing violence are boys. Boys have increased risks to suffer from physical violence, as for girls – they mainly become victims of sexual violence and forced prostitution.

In the period in between 2000 and 2005, 70 minors have died, from which 57% boys; 41 minors suffered from serious body injuries, from which 81% boys; 296 minors became victims of robbery and brigandage, from which 77% were boys.

Annually from 43 to 72 girls become victims of rapes; in 2001 there were 8,7 raped girls per each 100000 under 18 years old population segment; in 2004 – 16,5 raped girls; in 2005 – the given indicator in absolute value accounted for 58 rape cases or 13,8 raped girls per 100000 population. Besides, there were also registered cases of raped boys: in 2000 and 2005 – by 2 cases per year, 2001 and 2005 – by 4 cases per year and the highest rate was registered in 2003 – 8 cases.

In general, the number of crimes committed against children actually decreased with 13% as compared to 2000. Nevertheless, it is difficult to affirm that the situation has improved, as an important part of data concerning this area is kept under secret due to a lot of reasons. One of the most common reasons would be the fear – many children are just afraid to tell about the violent actions perpetrated against them. In many cases parents, who are actually supposed to protect their children, keep silence if violence is committed by the spouse, some other family member or notorious social persons, as the employer or the police officer.

**The Main Factors Influencing Delinquency Rate among Under Age Persons**

Although, during the last years the Republic of Moldova has achieved some economic stability, minors remain to be one of the most vulnerable categories of population due to some economical and social factors.

Thus, the increasing social-economic differentiation of the population, emigration, drug addiction and drug abuse growth, limited occupational opportunities, neglect, orphanage, vagrancy – all of them have influenced the delinquency level among minors.
For instance, in 2005 when the general unemployment rate among 15-17 years old persons was of 7.3%, the delinquency level accounted for 22.6%; in average, there are 3.2 minors per each 100 unemployed persons.

During the last six years, the number of persons registered within medical-prophylactic institutions with the drug addiction and drug abuse diagnosis has reached the level of 6.5 thousands persons, which is 180.6 cases per 100000 inhabitants; while in 2000 the given indicator was of only 118.7 cases.

The problem of gutter-children and the phenomenon of “street children” were encountered for the first time in 1995, and since then, they are in constant increase. For instance, since 2003 there were 1550 children annually who were found on the streets, at the railroad or bus stations and afterwards placed within temporary centres for minors’ maintenance, from which 98% were citizens of the Republic of Moldova, every second child was under 14 years old, and 80% were boys.

At the same time, every fifth detained child was practicing mendicancy. Most of the times, the street welcomes the children coming from uncompleted families and every third child coming to the temporary centre for minors’ maintenance lives only with one parent. Besides, there is also a high probability to find among homeless children boarding schools’ pupils. Only in 2005 there were detained on the streets 429 children from boarding schools, which is with 156 children more as compared to 2003.

According to the data of demographical surveys carried out in 2005, 1/3 of under 15 years old children live only with one parent and about 7% live without both parents. It is obvious that the given category of children is actually deprived of the possibility to have good education and to some extent they can be considered “social orphans”.

One of the reasons causing the increased number of children living only with one parent is parents’ migration. According to the data of the Households Budget Survey, only in 2005 there were about 16% of under 18 years old children who lived in families where at least one of the parents left abroad for work.

Families with children face a higher risk to be under the poverty line. Thus, in 2005, when the average poverty level was of 29%, every third child was poor (34.5%). It is well known that the poverty level among children is proportional to family size and the number of children in the family, thus lately a huge number of families underwent the risk to be reduced to beggary. If in 2002, the rate of families with 4 and more children under the risk of becoming poor was with 1.9 times higher than the rate of families having only one child, then in 2005, the given indicator increased up to 2.7 times.

Difficult material situation of a lot of families who cannot assure normal life for their children, uncertainty for tomorrow’s day, lack of ideals – all of these increase the moral degradation of a lot of citizens including the under age persons.

According to the data of the Ministry of Internal Affairs for 2005, around 1780 minors lived in socially unfavourable families where parents could not fulfil their duties referring to children’s maintenance and education. During the given year, there were registered 8 minors practicing prostitution per each 100 persons detained for practicing this kind of activity. Around 3684 minors were detained for being drunk in social places. Practically, every fifth minor makes use of alcohol at least once per week. Besides, about 1000 minors annually get assignments to be checked within venereologic clinic.
Thus, juvenile delinquency is not only a social problem; it actually becomes a national one. The given issue settlement depends a lot on the collaboration and mutual efforts of employees from Ministry of Internal Affairs, social assistance field and local public administration, who are taking part in measures referring to prevention of juvenile delinquency and country’s political will development.

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