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**Project Title:** Individual Factors Predicting Engagement in Delinquent Activity

**Abstract:**

Interest in the persistent problem of juvenile delinquency has lead researchers to identify the mechanisms that may promote or deter juveniles from delinquent behavior. However, information is lacking on factors which may help explain risky behaviors in rural adolescents for both boys and girls. Emerging research suggests positive school engagement and extra-curricular activities lowers illegal behavior in juveniles. And, past research finds mixed results regarding the number of hours worked at a job and risk for delinquent activities. Using secondary data, the current study examines a sample of 400 ninth-graders from the rural Midwest, and their patterns of self-reported delinquent activities. Findings indicate that sport participation deters adolescents from delinquent behavior but more hours worked at a job promote delinquent behavior. Thus, an environment where adolescents engage in pro-social behavior deters delinquent activities.