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*****PUBLICATION ADVISORY*****

BULLETIN ANALYZES DEVELOPMENTAL PATTERNS BEHIND GIRLS' DELINQUENT BEHAVIOR

WASHINGTON – The Office of Justice Programs' (OJP) Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention today released a new bulletin that examines the paths that girls take to delinquency from childhood through adolescence.

In *Developmental Sequences of Girls' Delinquent Behavior*, the authors found that the girls they surveyed reported a wide range of offending behaviors, including status or public disorder offenses, property offenses and serious assaults. With the exception of seven to ten year-old girls, the youngest age studied, girls frequently used alcohol or drugs. However, the authors noted that most girls who were involved in delinquency did not offend frequently, and even the most serious female juvenile offenders tended to desist within a year or two.

For this bulletin, OJJDP's Girls Study Group collaborated with researchers from the Denver Youth Survey and the Fast Track Project, two long-term studies of delinquency, to establish common delinquency measures, analyze data and integrate findings on developmental patterns of girls offending from childhood through adolescence.

TITLE: *Developmental Sequences of Girls' Delinquent Behavior*

AUTHORS: David Huizinga, Shari Miller and the Conduct Problems Prevention Research Group

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The Office of Justice Programs (OJP), headed by Assistant Attorney General Karol V. Mason, provides federal leadership in developing the nation's capacity to prevent and control crime, administer justice and assist victims. OJP has six components: the Bureau of Justice Assistance; the Bureau of Justice Statistics; the National Institute of Justice; the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention; the Office for Victims of Crime and the Office of Sex Offender Sentencing, Monitoring, Apprehending, Registering and Tracking. More information about OJP can be found at www.ojp.gov.