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PREVENTION OF JUVENILE DELINQUENCY

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The Italian thinker Cesare Beccaria wrote, "it is better to prevent offenses than to punish them". It is impossible not to agree with this thesis. Prevention of juvenile delinquency is one of the most important activities of the State. An indispensable condition for improving the fight against crime is the knowledge of its causes. In the Republic, special attention is paid to the prevention of juvenile delinquency – a contingent on which both the state of crime in general and the development of the younger generation depend.

It should also be noted that juvenile delinquency is a certain part of crime in society, it develops under the influence of the same factors as crime in general. At the same time, the analysis should be aimed at identifying factors and circumstances that are significant for juvenile delinquency, which make it possible to establish the specifics and necessary measures to prevent it.

A special direction in combating the prevention of juvenile delinquency is the preventive work of all state bodies, a special place among which is occupied by the Juvenile Affairs Inspectorate (JAI) – one of the structural divisions of the Department of Internal Affairs. This unit is designed to work on the prevention of neglect and delinquency among minors. The duties of JAI employees include the protection of children brought up in dysfunctional families, where adults negatively influence the behavior of minors or mistreat them.

Materials and methods. The materials are normative legal acts of the Republic of Belarus, the works of authors considering issues related to the prevention of juvenile delinquency, as well as statistical information of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of the Republic of Belarus on administrative offenses committed by minors. The substantiation of the provisions, conclusions and recommendations contained in the work was carried out through the integrated application of

the following methods of socio-legal research: logical, systemic, structural and functional, statistical.

Findings and their discussion. According to the results of 2020, 1,239 administrative offenses were committed by minors on the territory of the Vittebsk region [1]. Statistics show that the number of offenses in the field of petty hooliganism and drinking alcoholic beverages in a public place or appearing in a public place drunk has decreased. If we compare 2019 and 2020, the number of offenses in the field of petty hooliganism decreased by 14%, and drinking alcoholic beverages in a public place or appearing drunk in a public place decreased by 49%. Such data give reason to talk about a lot of work on the prevention and suppression of these offenses.

However, the dynamics of juvenile delinquency is not predictable, logical and consistent. According to statistics for 2019-2020, we really see a reduction in the number of certain categories of crimes, namely: hooliganism, theft, theft. However, the number of crimes such as robberies and intentional infliction of grievous bodily harm has not decreased, but has remained at the same level. This means that juvenile delinquency continues to exist and is reproduced.

It is obvious that there are too many factors (determinants) of juvenile delinquency for law enforcement agencies, in particular, the Juvenile Affairs Inspectorate, to monitor their impact on the behavior of potential offender's hourly and daily. However, from our point of view, there is one determinant that law enforcement agencies will not be able to influence until a certain time, despite all their efforts. These are the age characteristics of a minor's personality.

Scientific research in the field of neurobiology conducted in the world over the past decade has convincingly shown that up to a certain age, minors are not able to control their behavior to the extent that society needs it [2]. According to the authoritative neuroscientist D. F. Swaab, adolescents, due to the immaturity of some brain structures (in particular, the prefrontal cortex, responsible for the ability to analyze, plan and control), cannot properly plan and analyze their behavior [2, p. 136]. It is obvious that the decrease in the number of crimes is associated with the parallel development of the prefrontal cortex of the brain, which limits impulsive behavior and encourages moral actions" [2, p. 139].

Conclusion. Thus, we found out that among the numerous factors of juvenile delinquency there is at least one that is very difficult to influence up to a certain point. The age characteristics of the personality of minors act as an objective factor determining the possibility of their criminal behavior. Since this is the case, the law enforcement system should be prepared for the fact that juvenile delinquency will always be.

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