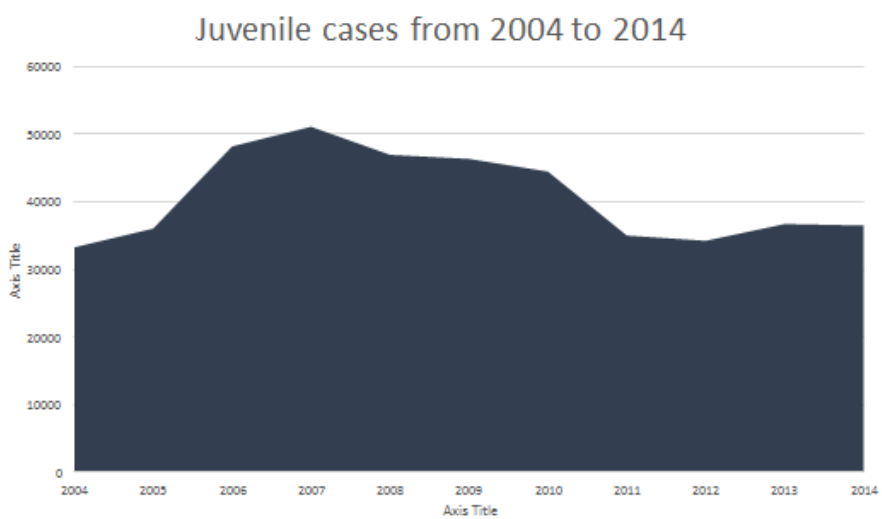
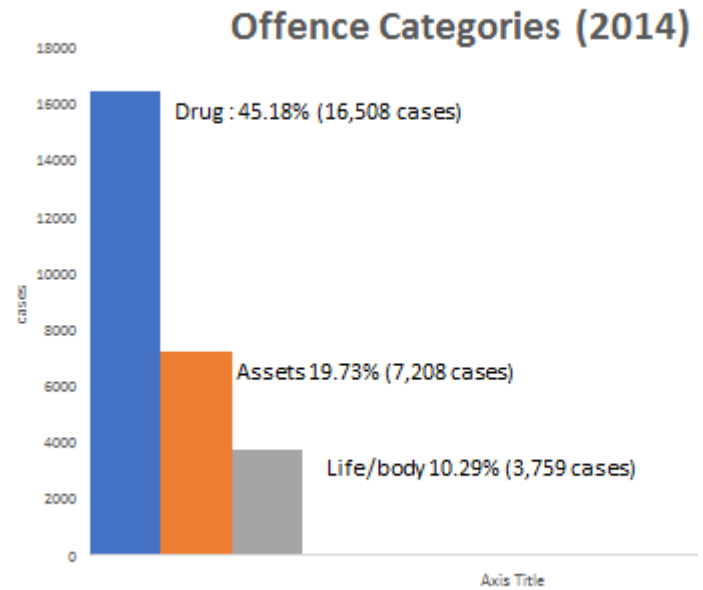
Thailand's approach towards youth crime prevention strategy at national level

Based on a study on National Strategies on Youth Crime Prevention

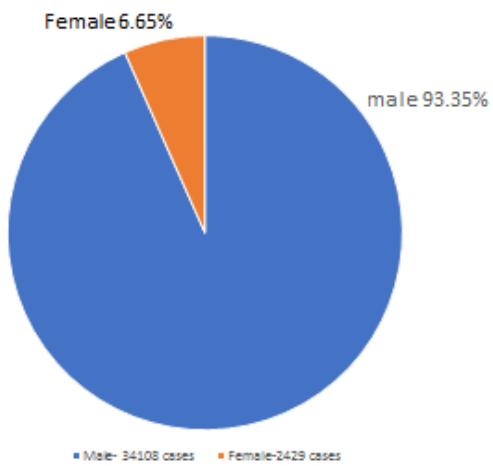
Dr. Kittipong Kittayarak
Executive Director, Thailand Institute of Justice (TIJ)

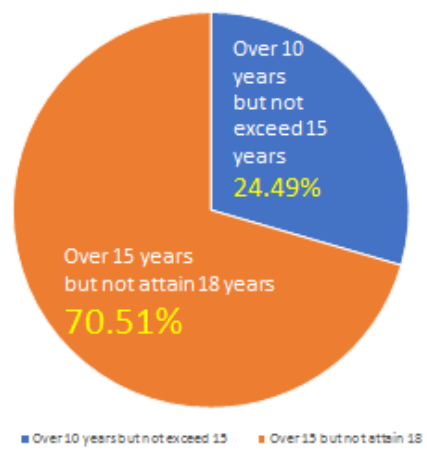
Juvenile Justice in Thailand





36,537 juvenile cases





OBJECTIVES

- To develop a body of knowledge on youth crime in Thailand in order to understand the dynamics of the problem and design evidence-based strategies at national level
- To analyse existing policies and practices that are in place on youth crime prevention
- To conduct gap analysis and recommend on capacity building that are needed for effective youth crime prevention
- To develop national youth crime strategies

RESEARCH METHODS

- Review of international as well as regional good practices in responding to youth crime
- Stakeholders meeting at national and regional level (five key provinces in all region of Thailand)
- In-depth interview with 30 stakeholders (government, non-governmental and civil society organizations involved in youth justice and crime prevention)
- Survey with 500 respondents

KEY FINDINGS

Type

- Drug (both consumption and trade)
- Offence against property
- Sexual offence

Area

Youth crime is especially prevalent and severe in urban areas with the more advanced organization of crime and a well-established crime network. However the study finds that the impending trend is rising youth crime in the vulnerable border areas where prevention, protection and rehabilitation are weak or non-existing.

KEY FINDINGS

Three key factors enabling youth crime

Life and body offence

- History of domestic violence
- Peer pressure
- Media violence

KEY FINDINGS

Three key factors enabling youth crime

Property crime

- Consuming culture
- Economic disadvantages

KEY FINDINGS

Three key factors enabling youth crime

Drug offence

- Easy access to drug
- Peer pressure
- Poverty and lack of education

KEY FINDINGS

Challenges vis-à-vis effective youth crime prevention

Major challenge: youth crime is not accorded sufficient attention or understood by the Government

- Discrepancies in national laws related to youth crime prevention
- Existing laws do not support smooth and efficient coordination between stakeholders
- Lack of expertise and resources; budget, human resources and physical infrastructure
- Severe lack of monitoring mechanism

RECOMMENDATIONS IN THE DESIGN OF NATIONAL YOUTH CRIME STRATEGIES

THAILAND INSTITUTE OF JUSTICE

- Awareness raising in crime problem towards youth and protection of youth from crime problem
- Review of national law to be in accordance of related international law and standards and norms related to youth crime prevention
- partnership building among main stakeholder in government Sector and civil society sector related to crime protection towards youth
- promoting community and youth participation in process of mechanism development in youth crime prevention in Community
- knowledge development and collection of best practice in protection of youth from crime problems
- research and capability building activities in targeted youth crime prevention

THAILAND INSTITUTE OF JUSTICE

Thank you