

“Juvenile Delinquent” Lyrics, Facts, and Figures

“I’m Not A Juvenile Delinquent”

Frankie Lymon and The Teenagers
1956

*I’m not a juvenile delinquent
No, no, no, no
I’m not a juvenile delinquent
Do the thing that’s right
And you’ll do nothing wrong
Life will be so nice; you’ll be in paradise
I know, because I’m not a juvenile delinquent*



Class Definition of “Juvenile Delinquent” and Examples of Behavior

Juvenile Delinquency Facts and Figures in the 1950s

From 1950 – 1955 crimes committed by teenagers jumped by 45%
(*Saturday Evening Post*, 1955)

In a public opinion poll referenced by the United States Children’s Bureau in 1960, juvenile delinquency ranked behind only national defense and world peace as the American public’s top three greatest concerns.

Juvenile arrests more than tripled in New York City between 1950-1959, while juvenile court cases more than doubled nationally between 1948–1957
(*Robert M. McIver, The Prevention and Control of Delinquency*, 1966)