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# *The System is a Circle: Juvenile Interrogation Abuse*

Evaluating the Reid Technique Impact on False Confessions

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**Central Question:** How does the use of the Reid Technique in juvenile interrogations impact the prevalence of false confessions?

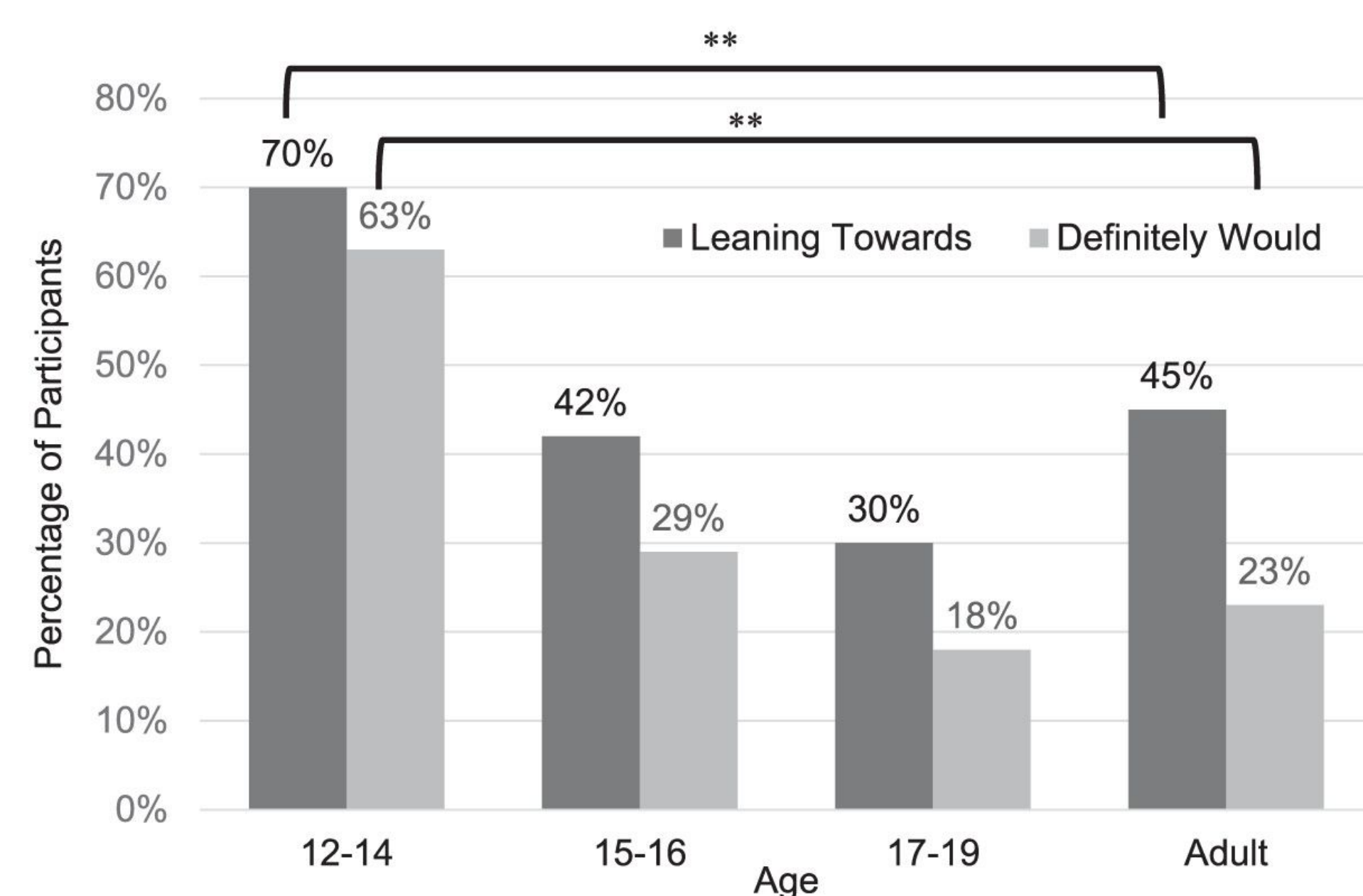
## Research

- Examines the frequency and effects of interrogation abuse in juvenile cases
- Analyzes significant examples and research that demonstrate how forced confessions affect court decisions and the accused's long-term consequences.
- Addressing how using more ethical interrogation can better ensure the justice system truth worthiness

## Methods

- Analyze cases like Brendan Dassey v. Michael Dittmann and more
- Analyze the Convention on the Rights of the Child (not ratified by the US)
- Analyze the Law Enforcement Conduct Statute
- Analyze the Reid Technique and how it results in false confessions

% of Juvenile who nearly provided a false confession given The Reid Technique



## The Reid Technique

- Created by John E. Reid in the 1950s
- Is one of the most used interrogation method in law enforcement
- Interrogation process of nine steps
- This technique uses empathy, reasoning and logic to obtain the truth
- Increases the rate of false confession in which results in long-term consequences.
- Uses high pressure tactics and psychological methods



## Background: Who Cares?

- Many authorities employ forceful, manipulative, or immoral techniques to question children, which is juvenile interrogation abuse
- This abuse can result in false confessions, incorrect convictions, and serious psychological trauma.
- Due to juveniles' lack of understanding of legal rights, vulnerability to authoritative individuals, and difficulty processing complicated legal knowledge

## Legal Framework

### Convention of the Rights of the Child (CRC)

- Not ratified by the US however it causes international and moral standards controversy
- Mandates the welfare and best interest of the child

### Law Enforcement Conduct Statute

- Reid Technique violates this statute because juveniles are denied of their knowledge of rights



## Legal Frame

### Fare v. Michael C

- 16 year old Michael
- The Reid Technique:
  - Questions were leading, implying that Michael committed the murder
  - Isolated him which is also a psychological pressure

### Brendan Dassey v. Michael Dittmann

- 16 year old Dassey
- The Reid Technique:
  - Police coercive mentally limited Dassey to give a confession
  - Police said "honesty will set him free"
  - Dassey told police they were wrong yet police pressured Dassey to give a false confession
  - Dassey confessed to a crime after 4 hours of interrogation

## Data

- "Juveniles may find themselves doing whatever it takes to satisfy police out of fear, and get the interrogation over and done, which can lead to false confessions" (Ghibaudo, 2023)
- "Their single-minded objective is to get the suspect to admit his guilt and sign a confession that is rich in detail and other indicia of voluntariness and genuineness" (Kozinski)

## Findings

The Reid Technique causes a high risk of false confessions due to the strategies used and it interrupts the life of juveniles with long-term consequences

- "About 80% of those interrogated using the Reid Technique will confess, however, it does lead to many false confessions"(Kozinski, 2017)
- "False confessions played a role in nearly 30% of all wrongful convictions " (Crane)

## Conclusion

Through adding ethical interrogation standards into law enforcement practices and training, law enforcement can better ensure the justice system credibility and trustworthiness and ensure the rights of all individuals, especially juveniles.

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