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Recommended Citation

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Numerous researchers have proposed a number of explanations in an attempt to understand causes of violent behavior. One of the common explanations offered for this relationship is strain theory. Using data collected from 300 incarcerated juveniles in Indiana, I examine the impact of strain theory on violent behavior, controlling for demographic and contextual predictors of violence. Preliminary results indicate that, although gang membership and expulsions are better predictors of engagement in violent behavior, strain theory has a strong, statistically significant association with violent behavior as well. Implications of this finding for future research and policy decisions are discussed.