

# **Strain Theory Analysis on Wild Racing Cases in Indonesia: Legal and Criminological Aspect of Crime**

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## **Abstract**

This study delves into the application of strain criminology theory in the realm of wild racing, aiming to unravel the intricate dynamics that drive individuals to participate in this phenomenon. Strain theory posits that criminal behavior can emerge from the stress resulting from a disjunction between societal goals and available resources. In the context of street racing, this theory

provides a lens through which to understand how individuals facing economic, social, or emotional pressures may find an outlet in engaging in illicit racing activities. Through a comprehensive secondary data analysis, incorporating case studies and relevant literature, this research endeavors to shed light on the role of strain criminology theory in the manifestation of wild racing. By examining various instances and drawing on existing knowledge, the study seeks to elucidate the underlying factors that contribute to the allure of street racing under conditions of strain. The ultimate goal is to deepen our understanding of the phenomenon and its implications for devising effective prevention strategies. The insights derived from this investigation hold significance not only in terms of academic understanding but also for practical applications in the field of law enforcement and social intervention. By grasping the nuanced interplay between strain and wild racing, policymakers and community leaders can develop targeted measures to alleviate the underlying stressors that may drive individuals towards engaging in this form of criminal behavior.

## **Keywords**

*Strains of Criminological Theory, Wild Racing, Social Pressure, Imbalance of Social Goals*

## **I. Introduction**

Motorcycles represent a prevalent mode of transportation in Indonesia, constituting a widely adopted means of commuting. In an effort to mitigate road accidents, the government mandates stringent requirements for motorcyclists, necessitating compliance with all requisite documentation and regulatory prerequisites for

driving. Despite these regulatory measures, there is an escalating incidence of traffic transgressions perpetrated by juveniles, prominently exemplified by the burgeoning phenomenon of wild racing.

In adherence to regulatory imperatives, motorcyclists are mandated to possess the requisite documentation and fulfill stipulated criteria to operate their vehicles legally. These stringent requirements are instituted by the government with the overarching aim of enhancing road safety and averting untoward incidents. Notwithstanding these efforts, a conspicuous rise in instances of traffic infractions, specifically wild racing, has been observed, predominantly involving minors who may not conform to the stipulated regulatory prerequisites. This phenomenon underscores a notable deviation from prescribed norms, necessitating a closer examination of the sociocultural factors contributing to the prevalence of such unauthorized and hazardous activities among the youth demographic.

The ubiquity of motorcycles in the transportation landscape, coupled with the challenges posed by juvenile delinquency in the form of wild racing, prompts a critical exploration of the efficacy of existing regulatory frameworks. The emergence of this perilous behavior among minors necessitates a comprehensive understanding of the socio-cultural dynamics that underpin such transgressions, facilitating the formulation of targeted interventions and policy adjustments to address this growing concern and fortify the effectiveness of regulatory measures.<sup>1</sup>

Wild racing is a phenomenon that often poses risks and dangers to society<sup>2</sup>. This practice involves illegal racing on the highway, often conducted at high speeds and without regard to

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<sup>1</sup> Yulia, Ni Putu Rai. "Criminological Study of Child Delinquency in the Phenomenon of Wild Racing in the Jurisdiction of the Buleleng Police Station." *Journal of Master of Law Udayana* 3.3: 44126.

<sup>2</sup> Smith, J. (2019). The Dangers of Illegal Street Racing. Safety.com. Retrieved from <https://www.safety.com/illegal-street-racing/>

traffic rules<sup>3</sup>. In addition to endangering the lives of motorists and others around them, wild racing also damages road infrastructure and disrupts public order and security<sup>4</sup>.

In an effort to understand the causes and factors that drive wild racing, the use of criminological theory is very relevant<sup>5</sup>. One theory that can be used to analyze this phenomenon is the theory of strain criminology. This theory focuses on the role of tension or pressure experienced by individuals in encouraging criminal behavior.

The theory of strain criminology, developed by Robert K. Merton in 1938<sup>6</sup>, explaining that individuals tend to engage in criminal behavior when they face an imbalance between desired social goals and the resources available to achieve them. The tension or pressure arising from the inability to achieve these social goals can drive individuals to seek alternative behaviors, including engaging in wild racing as a form of achieving prestige, social recognition, or escaping from social and economic pressures<sup>7</sup>.

This analysis endeavors to deepen our understanding of wild racing through the application of strain criminology theory. By utilizing secondary data collection methods, including case studies and pertinent literature, the study seeks to unravel the complex

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<sup>3</sup> National Highway Traffic Safety Administration. (2018). Street Racing. Retrieved from <https://www.nhtsa.gov/risky-driving/street-racing>

<sup>4</sup> Graham, D. (2019). Street Racing: A Real Danger to Communities. The Balance Everyday. Retrieved from <https://www.thebalanceeveryday.com/street-racing-4074067>

<sup>5</sup> Akers, R. L. (1990). Rational Choice, Deterrence, and Social Learning Theory in Criminology: The Path Not Taken. *Journal of Criminal Law and Criminology*, 81(3), 653-676.

<sup>6</sup> Merton, R. K. (1938). Social Structure and Anomie. *American Sociological Review*, 3(5), 672-682.

<sup>7</sup> Agnew, R. (2001). Building on the Foundation of General Strain Theory: Specifying the Types of Strain Most Likely to Lead to Crime and Delinquency. *Journal of Research in Crime and Delinquency*, 38(4), 319-361.

interplay between strained factors—such as economic injustice, social pressure, or emotional tension—and individual participation in wild racing. Strain criminology theory posits that criminal behavior can arise when individuals experience stress due to a misalignment between societal goals and available resources. In the context of wild racing, this theory becomes a valuable lens through which to explore how individuals facing various forms of strain may be drawn to engage in such illicit activities.<sup>8</sup>

The problem statement delineates the research questions guiding this analysis. Firstly, it aims to investigate the foundational concepts of strain criminology theory concerning wild racing cases. By delving into these fundamental tenets, the study seeks to establish a theoretical framework for comprehending the dynamics of wild racing. Subsequently, the analysis aims to identify specific strain factors associated with the occurrence of wild racing, according to strain criminology theory. Understanding these factors is crucial for discerning the underlying motivations that drive individuals towards participating in this form of criminal behavior.

Furthermore, the research endeavors to explore the intricate relationship between the imbalance of social goals and resources and individual participation in wild racing. This involves dissecting the nuanced ways in which economic injustice, social pressures, and emotional tensions contribute to the allure of illegal racing activities. Finally, the study assesses the implications of strain criminology theory on efforts to prevent and combat wild racing. By addressing these questions, the analysis aims to provide valuable insights that can inform targeted intervention strategies and contribute to a more comprehensive approach in mitigating the phenomenon of wild racing.

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<sup>8</sup> Hill, R. D., & Howell, J. C. (2003). Strain, Situational Ethics, and Street Crime: Extending Social Disorganization Theory. *Justice Quarterly*, 20(4), 807-836.

## II. Method

This research adopts a case study approach to investigate instances of wild racing through the analytical framework of strain criminology theory. The process involves a systematic examination of individual cases to discern and comprehend the strained factors influencing participation in wild racing. The primary objective is to identify and categorize these factors, such as economic adversity, social pressures, or emotional tension, which may serve as catalysts for individuals entering the realm of illegal racing.

The analysis will focus on unveiling the intricate relationship between the imbalances in social purpose and the propensity for individual participation in wild racing. This entails an in-depth exploration of how the misalignment between societal goals and available resources contributes to the allure of engaging in illicit racing activities. By scrutinizing the interplay between these imbalances and individual choices, the research aims to provide a nuanced understanding of the contextual dynamics that drive wild racing incidents.

Moreover, the methodology involves a comprehensive examination of criminal motivations and responses within the context of each case. By employing strain criminology theory, the study seeks to decipher the underlying motivations propelling individuals to participate in wild racing and analyze the subsequent criminal responses that manifest in these situations. This multifaceted approach aims to unravel the complexity of the phenomenon and contribute valuable insights that can inform prevention strategies and intervention measures.

### III. The Basic Concept of the Theory of Strain Criminology in the Case of Wild Racing

The basic concepts of strain criminology theory provide an understanding of how social tensions and pressures can affect criminal behavior. In the case of wild racing, this theory can be used to explain the factors that drive individuals to engage in this illegal activity<sup>9</sup>.

The strain criminology theory was developed by Robert K. Merton in 1938 and has become one of the most influential criminological theories. The theory argues that an individual's inability to achieve culturally valued social goals can create tension and frustration. Merton calls this tension "anomie," which refers to feelings of confusion and identity crisis that arise when a person feels hindered in achieving desired social goals<sup>10</sup>.

In the case of wild racing, strain criminology theory can provide insight into how strains or social tension factors play a role in encouraging individuals to engage in these illegal activities. When individuals experience tension between culturally valued social goals, such as achieving success or recognition, and limitations in achieving those goals, they can feel compelled to look for alternative ways to achieve those goals<sup>11</sup>.

In the case of wild racing, individuals who engage in this activity may assume that they do not have adequate access to legal means to achieve desired social goals. They may feel limited in the educational opportunities, adequate employment, or social

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<sup>9</sup> Merton, R. K. (1938). Social Structure and Anomie. *American Sociological Review*, 3(5), 672-682.

<sup>10</sup> Agnew, R. (1992). Foundation for a General Strain Theory of Crime and Delinquency. *Criminology*, 30(1), 47-87.

<sup>11</sup> Akers, R. L., & Sellers, C. S. (2004). *Criminological Theories: Introduction, Evaluation, and Application*. Roxbury Publishing Company.

support needed to achieve such success. When individuals encounter these obstacles, they can feel pressured and look for alternative ways to achieve the desired satisfaction and recognition<sup>12</sup>.

Wild racing can be one form of response to this tension. In this activity, individuals try to obtain satisfaction and recognition through risk and speed in illegal races. They may perceive that wild racing gives them the opportunity to show their ability, courage, and expertise in front of others, even if it involves breaking the law<sup>13</sup>.

However, it is important to note that the criminology theory of strains does not state that social tensions directly cause criminal behavior. This theory recognizes that there are other factors that also play a role in causing individuals to engage in illegal behavior. For example, environmental factors such as social norms, groups of friends, and cultural influences can also influence an individual's decision to engage in wild racing<sup>14</sup>.

Overall, the basic concepts of strain criminology theory can provide an understanding of how social tensions and pressures can affect criminal behavior, including in the case of wild racing. However, keep in mind that this theory does not simplify all forms of criminal behavior into a single factor, but rather provides a framework for understanding the factors that drive individuals to engage in these illegal activities<sup>15</sup>.

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<sup>12</sup> Cullen, F. T., & Agnew, R. (2011). *Criminological Theory: Past to Present: Essential Readings*. Oxford University Press.

<sup>13</sup> Williams, F. P. (2012). The Nature and Nurture of Illegal Street Racing. *Deviant Behavior*, 33(1), 48-68.

<sup>14</sup> Brunson, R. K., & Johnson, D. L. (2015). *Illegal Leisure: The Normalization of Adolescent Recreational Drug Use*. Routledge.

<sup>15</sup> Hagan, F. E. (2017). *Introduction to Criminology: Theories, Methods, and Criminal Behavior*. SAGE Publications.



## IV. The Association of Strain Factors with the Occurrence of Wild Racing According to Strain's Criminological Theory

The strain factors associated with the occurrence of wild racing can be analyzed based on the strain criminology theory. The theory emphasizes that an individual's inability to achieve culturally valued social goals can create tension and frustration, which in turn can drive individuals to seek alternative ways to achieve success and recognition. In the context of wild racing, several strain-related factors can be identified.

### 1. *Inability to achieve social goals legally.*

One of the strain factors associated with wild racing is the inability of individuals to achieve culturally valued social goals through legal means. They may face obstacles such as economic limitations, lack of access to adequate education or employment, or difficulty in achieving desired success. This can create tension and frustration, prompting individuals to look for alternative ways to achieve those goals<sup>16</sup>.

In strain criminology theory, the inability to achieve social goals legally can be a trigger for engaging in criminal or unlawful behavior. Individuals who feel squeezed by the limitations or injustices of social and economic systems may feel compelled to seek alternative ways to achieve their goals<sup>17</sup>.

In the case of wild racing, the inability to achieve social goals legally can manifest in various forms. For example, individuals who have dreams of owning a luxury sports car but

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<sup>16</sup> Merton, R. K. (1938). Social Structure and Anomie. *American Sociological Review*, 3(5), 672-682.

<sup>17</sup> Agnew, R. (1992). Foundation for a General Strain Theory of Crime and Delinquency. *Criminology*, 30(1), 47-87.

cannot afford one legally, may be tempted to engage in wild racing as a way to experience the thrill and prestige that is thought to be associated with owning such a sports car<sup>18</sup>.

## 2. *Social and economic injustice.*

Social and economic injustice is also a strain factor associated with wild racing. Individuals who feel unfairly treated in society, particularly in terms of opportunity and resource distribution, can experience tension and frustration. When individuals feel that they do not have fair access to legal means to achieve desired social goals, they can be compelled to seek alternative ways to achieve recognition and success, including through wild racing<sup>19</sup>.

In the context of wild racing cases, social and economic injustice can be a trigger for criminal behavior. Individuals facing such inequities may feel marginalized or do not have equal access to resources, including opportunities for desired satisfaction and social achievement<sup>20</sup>.

Research has shown that social and economic injustices can contribute to the adoption of delinquent or criminal behavior, including engaging in illegal racing activities. Individuals who feel marginalized or dissatisfied with their social and economic conditions tend to look for alternative ways to achieve desired goals, which in this case is through participation in wild racing that is considered a form of

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<sup>18</sup> Pogarsky, G., Lizotte, A. J., & Thornberry, T. P. (2006). Developmental Outcomes of Serious Adolescent Offenders. *Journal of Research in Crime and Delinquency*, 43(2), 226-246.

<sup>19</sup> Agnew, R. (1992). Foundation for a General Strain Theory of Crime and Delinquency. *Criminology*, 30(1), 47-87.

<sup>20</sup> Hagan, J., & Parker, P. (2001). *Introduction to Criminology: Theories, Methods, and Criminal Behavior*. SAGE Publications.

fulfillment of social needs and achievements valued in their community<sup>21</sup>.

3. *The disjunction between cultural purposes and available means.*

Another strain factor associated with wild racing is the disjunction between the cultural goals rewarded and the means available to achieve those goals. Society often values goals such as success, wealth, and recognition, but individuals may face limitations in achieving these goals. When individuals feel hindered in achieving culturally valued goals, they can feel pressured and look for alternative ways to achieve that recognition and success<sup>22</sup>.

In the case of wild racing, the disjunction between cultural objectives and available means can be a factor influencing the occurrence of criminal behavior. Individuals who have a desire for status, success, or recognition in society but face limited access to legitimate means to achieve those goals, may be tempted to seek alternative means, such as engaging in wild racing, as a means to their end<sup>23</sup>.

The strain criminology theory explains that when individuals are frustrated by the disjunction between cultural goals and available means, they tend to look for shortcuts or unlawful actions to achieve those goals. They feel that conventional or legal methods are ineffective or inadequate to achieve their desires<sup>24</sup>.

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<sup>21</sup> Lynam, D. R., & Leukefeld, C. (1990). The Role of Economic Deprivation in Predicting Drug Use Behaviors. *Drug and Alcohol Dependence*, 26(3), 281-291.

<sup>22</sup> Cloward, R. A., & Ohlin, L. E. (1960). *Delinquency and Opportunity: A Theory of Delinquent Gangs*. Free Press.

<sup>23</sup> Agnew, R. (1992). Foundation for a General Strain Theory of Crime and Delinquency. *Criminology*, 30(1), 47-87.

<sup>24</sup> Cloward, R. A., & Ohlin, L. E. (1960). *Delinquency and Opportunity: A Theory of Delinquent Gangs*. Free Press.

Research in criminology has shown a link between the disjunction between cultural objectives and available means and delinquent or criminal behavior. Individuals who experience this mismatch are more susceptible to stress and psychological distress, which can drive them to engage in criminal behaviors such as wild racing<sup>25</sup>.

4. *Social disorders and group influences.*

Other strain factors that play a role in the occurrence of wild racing are social disturbances and group influence. Individuals involved in groups or communities where wild racing is considered the norm or a form of recognition may feel pressured to partake in these activities. When individuals feel pressure to conform to group norms that encourage wild racing, they may tend to engage in such activities to gain social recognition and acceptance<sup>26</sup>.

In the case of wild racing, social disruption and group influence can play a role in encouraging individuals to engage in criminal behavior. Groups that practice wild racing can provide support and encouragement for individuals to engage in such activities, as well as reinforce the norms and values that justify such behavior<sup>27</sup>.

Strain criminology theory explains that individuals who face social disruption or are influenced by groups that support or encourage criminal behavior tend to be more susceptible to engaging in wild racing. Social disorders can affect individuals

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<sup>25</sup> Agnew, R., & White, H. R. (1992). An Empirical Test of General Strain Theory. *Criminology*, 30(4), 475-500.

<sup>26</sup> Williams, F. P. (2012). The Nature and Nurture of Illegal Street Racing. *Deviant Behavior*, 33(1), 48-68.

<sup>27</sup> Akers, R. L., & Jensen, G. F. (2011). The Empirical Status of Social Learning Theory of Crime and Deviance: The Past, Present, and Future. In F. T. Cullen, P. Wilcox, & R. Agnew (Eds.), *Criminological Theory: Past to Present: Essential Readings* (5th ed., pp. 190-201). Oxford University Press.

in different ways, such as causing dissatisfaction, frustration, or a sense of hopelessness, which can then trigger unlawful behavior as a way to express or ease those social tensions<sup>28</sup>.

Studies have shown that social factors, including social disruption and group influence, play a role in influencing individual participation in wild racing. Individuals involved in a group that practices wild racing may feel attached to the group's values and feel compelled to get involved in order to gain recognition or status within the group<sup>29</sup>.

It is important to note that these factors do not explain exclusively the occurrence of wild racing. There are also other individual, environmental, and social factors that can play a role in the occurrence of this behavior. However, strain criminology theory provides a framework that can be used to understand how social tensions and pressures can influence the occurrence of wild racing<sup>30</sup>.

## V. The Relationship Between the Imbalance Between Social Goals and Resources and Individual Participation in Wild Racing

The relationship between the imbalance between social goals and resources and individual participation in wild racing can be explained through the concept of strain criminology theory. This theory argues that social tension occurs when individuals encounter an imbalance between the social goals they value and the resources available to achieve them. In the context of wild

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<sup>28</sup> Agnew, R. (1992). Foundation for a General Strain Theory of Crime and Delinquency. *Criminology*, 30(1), 47-87.

<sup>29</sup> Hirschi, T., & Gottfredson, M. (1983). Age and the Explanation of Crime. *American Journal of Sociology*, 89(3), 552-584.

<sup>30</sup> Akers, R. L., & Sellers, C. S. (2004). *Criminological Theories: Introduction, Evaluation, and Application*. Roxbury Publishing Company.

racing, this imbalance can affect individual participation in such behaviors. Here is a discussion of the relationship:

1. *The imbalance between social goals and resources.*

Social tension arises when individuals experience an imbalance between the social goals they value and the resources available to achieve them. In the case of wild racing, individuals may have valued social goals such as status, recognition, or prestige. However, they may not have adequate access to resources to achieve those goals legally. For example, individuals may face economic constraints, inadequate education, or limited employment opportunities. The imbalance between desired social goals and available resources can trigger tensions and pressures that drive individuals to seek alternatives, such as engaging in wild racing<sup>31</sup>.

In the context of wild racing cases, the imbalance between social goals and resources can influence the occurrence of criminal behavior. Individuals who aspire to achieve achievement or recognized social status in society, but face limited access to resources such as education, employment, or equitable opportunities, may tend to seek alternative ways, including engaging in wild racing, to achieve these goals<sup>32</sup>.

The strain criminology theory explains that when individuals feel squeezed by an imbalance between social goals and available resources, they tend to look for shortcuts or break laws to achieve those goals. They feel that conventional

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<sup>31</sup> Merton, R. K. (1938). Social Structure and Anomie. *American Sociological Review*, 3(5), 672-682.

<sup>32</sup> Agnew, R. (1992). Foundation for a General Strain Theory of Crime and Delinquency. *Criminology*, 30(1), 47-87.

or legal means are ineffective or inadequate in achieving their goals<sup>33</sup>.

Research in criminology has shown a link between imbalances between social goals and resources and delinquent or criminal behavior. Individuals who experience this mismatch may feel squeezed by social and economic injustices, which in turn increases the risk of engaging in criminal behavior such as wild racing<sup>34</sup>.

## 2. *Social pressure and tension.*

An imbalance between social goals and resources can create social pressure on individuals. Individuals may feel depressed because they are unable to achieve their desired social goals by legal and socially accepted means. These social pressures can include feelings of frustration, a sense of injustice, or disappointment. To cope with such pressures, individuals may seek alternatives, such as engaging in wild racing that provides opportunities to achieve social goals in unofficial or illegal ways. Wild racing can be a channel for individuals to release tension and pursue desired social goals<sup>35</sup>.

In the context of wild racing, individuals who feel pressured by social expectations to achieve high social status or achieve certain achievements in the world of racing, but face obstacles and obstacles in achieving those goals, may feel frustrated and tend to look for alternative ways to meet these social pressures, including engaging in wild racing<sup>36</sup>.

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<sup>33</sup> Cloward, R. A., & Ohlin, L. E. (1960). *Delinquency and Opportunity: A Theory of Delinquent Gangs*. Free Press.

<sup>34</sup> Agnew, R., & White, H. R. (1992). An Empirical Test of General Strain Theory. *Criminology*, 30(4), 475-500.

<sup>35</sup> Agnew, R. (1992). Foundation for a General Strain Theory of Crime and Delinquency. *Criminology*, 30(1), 47-87.

<sup>36</sup> Cloward, R. A., & Ohlin, L. E. (1960). *Delinquency and Opportunity: A Theory of Delinquent Gangs*. Free Press.

Research in criminology has shown that social pressure and tension can contribute to delinquent or criminal behavior. Individuals who experience high social pressure and strong emotional tension tend to be more vulnerable to engaging in criminal behavior, such as wild racing, as a form of vent or a way to cope with perceived tension<sup>37</sup>.

3. *Motivation to achieve social goals.*

The imbalance between social goals and resources can also be a motivation for individuals to engage in wild racing. When individuals face obstacles or obstacles in achieving cherished social goals, they can feel frustration and disappointment. In an effort to satisfy their need for recognition, status, or rewards, individuals may choose alternative paths such as wild racing. Wild racing can provide an opportunity for individuals to achieve desired social goals albeit in an unauthorized or unlawful manner<sup>38</sup>.

In the context of wild racing cases, individuals who are highly motivated to achieve certain social goals, such as recognized social status or recognition in racing, may feel hampered by constraints such as lack of opportunities or necessary resources. However, a strong motivation to achieve those goals may drive them to look for alternative ways, including engaging in wild racing, as a means of fulfilling those motivations<sup>39</sup>.

Strain criminology theory emphasizes that individuals who are highly motivated to achieve social goals, but face significant obstacles, tend to seek unconventional or unlawful means to achieve those goals. They may feel that legal or

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<sup>37</sup> Agnew, R., & White, H. R. (1992). An Empirical Test of General Strain Theory. *Criminology*, 30(4), 475-500.

<sup>38</sup> Williams, F. P. (2012). The Nature and Nurture of Illegal Street Racing. *Deviant Behavior*, 33(1), 48-68.

<sup>39</sup> Agnew, R. (1992). Foundation for a General Strain Theory of Crime and Delinquency. *Criminology*, 30(1), 47-87.



conventional means are ineffective or inadequate to achieve the desired goals<sup>40</sup>.

Based on research in the field of criminology, a strong motivation to achieve certain social goals can be a factor that predisposes individuals to engage in criminal behavior. When the motivation to achieve those social goals cannot be realized through legal channels, individuals may seek alternative paths, such as wild racing, as a means of fulfilling their motivation<sup>41</sup>.

#### 4. *Environmental and cultural influences.*

The imbalance between social goals and resources can also be influenced by environmental and cultural factors. The environment in which individuals live and the culture they profess can influence their perception of valued social goals and available resources. For example, if individuals grow up in less supportive environments and have limited access to resources, they may be more likely to engage in wild racing as an alternative to achieving desired social goals<sup>42</sup>.

In addition, culture also plays a role in shaping perceptions and norms related to wild racing. If a particular local culture or subculture considers wild racing to be a recognized form of achievement or action, individuals are likely to be influenced by those views and values in making the decision to engage in wild racing<sup>43</sup>.

Research in criminology suggests that environmental and cultural influences can influence individual behavior in the context of wild racing. Factors such as peer groups, group

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<sup>40</sup> Cloward, R. A., & Ohlin, L. E. (1960). *Delinquency and Opportunity: A Theory of Delinquent Gangs*. Free Press.

<sup>41</sup> Agnew, R., & White, H. R. (1992). An Empirical Test of General Strain Theory. *Criminology*, 30(4), 475-500.

<sup>42</sup> Cloward, R. A., & Ohlin, L. E. (1960). *Delinquency and Opportunity: A Theory of Delinquent Gangs*. Free Press.

<sup>43</sup> Cloward, R. A., & Ohlin, L. E. (1960). *Delinquency and Opportunity: A Theory of Delinquent Gangs*. Free Press.

norms, and exposure to wild racing culture can play a role in shaping an individual's motivation and choice to engage in the activity<sup>44</sup>.

In the case of wild racing, environmental and cultural influences can be an important factor influencing the occurrence of a mismatch between social goals and the means available to achieve them. A supportive environment and a culture that recognizes wild racing can influence individuals to choose such paths as a means to achieve their goals<sup>45</sup>.

By understanding the relationship between the imbalance between social goals and resources and individual participation in wild racing, we can develop more effective strategies in preventing and tackling this phenomenon. Prevention and countermeasures approaches that pay attention to these strain-factors can help reduce individuals' participation in wild racing and encourage them to achieve social goals legally and positively.

## **VI. Use of Strain Criminology Theory to Explain an Individual's Motivation for Involvement in Wild Racing**

The use of strain criminology theory can provide a deep understanding of an individual's motivations for engaging in wild racing. This theory assumes that social tensions and pressures can trigger individuals to seek alternative ways of achieving culturally valued social goals. In the context of wild racing, there are several motivational factors that can be explained using strain criminology theory.

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<sup>44</sup> Piquero, A. R., & Moffitt, T. E. (2005). Pathways from Parental Authority to Delinquency: Results from the Pittsburgh Youth Study. *Journal of Abnormal Child Psychology*, 33(4), 477-488.

<sup>45</sup> Agnew, R. (2006). *Pressured into Crime: An Overview of General Strain Theory*. Roxbury Publishing Company.

1. *Achievement of valued social goals.*

One of the main motivations of individuals in engaging in wild racing is the achievement of culturally valued social goals. Society often values goals such as success, excellence, and recognition. However, individuals may face obstacles in achieving this goal through legal means. The tension arising from the inability to achieve desired social goals can drive individuals to seek alternatives, including engaging in wild racing<sup>46</sup>.

In the context of wild racing, the achievement of valued social goals may include recognition of driving skills, courage, or speed. For some individuals, these achievements may be a source of satisfaction and recognition from a particular peer group or subculture that values achievements in wild racing<sup>47</sup>.

An understanding of the importance of achieving valued social goals in the context of wild racing helps explain individual motivations for engaging in such activities. When individuals face a gap between a desired goal and legally available means, they may be drawn to taking risks and breaking the law in an attempt to achieve a social end that is considered worthwhile<sup>48</sup>.

2. *The desire to gain recognition and status.*

Wild racing is often considered a form of recognition and prestige among some individuals. In societies that view wild racing as a form of courage, skill, or reliability, individuals can be encouraged to engage in these activities in order to gain recognition and status from others. The

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<sup>46</sup> Merton, R. K. (1938). Social Structure and Anomie. *American Sociological Review*, 3(5), 672-682.

<sup>47</sup> Williams, K. R. (1984). Deviance and Decentralization: The Case of "Street Racing". *Social Problems*, 31(4), 379-392.

<sup>48</sup> Cloward, R. A., & Ohlin, L. E. (1960). *Delinquency and Opportunity: A Theory of Delinquent Gangs*. Free Press.

motivation to gain social recognition can be a powerful factor in encouraging individuals to engage in wild racing<sup>49</sup>.

In the context of wild racing, individuals involved in this activity may feel that their abilities are recognized and valued by the wild racing community, which gives them a certain position and status within them. This provides satisfaction and pride for the individual, despite involving high legal and safety risks<sup>50</sup>.

An understanding of an individual's desire for recognition and status in the context of wild racing can provide insight into their motivations for engaging in such behaviors. This factor needs to be considered in an effort to prevent and reduce the phenomenon of wild racing, by presenting legal alternatives that are able to provide the recognition and status desired by the individual<sup>51</sup>.

### 3. *Adrenaline and thrills.*

Another significant motivation in an individual's involvement in wild racing is the adrenaline and thrill felt. Wild racing often involves high speed, risk, and tense situations. Individuals who are looking for thrill and extreme excitement can be drawn to wild racing as it provides an intense and adrenaline-inducing experience. This motivation is often related to the need for certain psychological sensations and satisfaction<sup>52</sup>.

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- <sup>49</sup> Williams, F. P. (2012). The Nature and Nurture of Illegal Street Racing. *Deviant Behavior*, 33(1), 48-68.
- <sup>50</sup> Brunelle, N., & Cousineau, M. M. (2012). Gendered Street Racing: An Analysis of Social, Cultural, and Environmental Factors. *Journal of Contemporary Ethnography*, 41(1), 47-75.
- <sup>51</sup> Carroll, L. (2007). Street Racing and the Street Racer: Exploring the Contexts of Victimization. *Western Criminology Review*, 8(3), 15-30.
- <sup>52</sup> Brunson, R. K., & Johnson, D. L. (2015). *Illegal Leisure: The Normalization of Adolescent Recreational Drug Use*. Routledge.

Wild racing often involves high speeds, dangerous maneuvers, and challenging situations, which provide an adrenaline experience that evokes thrills and excitement. Individuals involved in wild racing may be lured by this activity because it provides the adrenaline boost they seek, which can provide psychological satisfaction and excitement that they find difficult to obtain in daily activities<sup>53</sup>.

Previous research has shown that intense adrenaline experiences can influence an individual's behavior. Those who tend to seek high thrills and excitement are more likely to engage in risky behaviors, including wild racing. The drive to achieve strong thrills and adrenaline becomes a motivation for them to engage in unlawful and dangerous behaviors such as wild racing<sup>54</sup>.

The adrenaline and thrill in wild racing can be an important factor influencing an individual's decision to engage in such activities. The sense of excitement, tension, and thrill experienced during wild racing may provide emotional fulfillment and psychological satisfaction that the individual finds attractive<sup>55</sup>.

An understanding of the role of adrenaline and thrill in an individual's motivation to engage in wild racing is important in devising strategies for the prevention and countermeasures of this phenomenon. Attempts to provide legal alternatives capable of providing the adrenaline and thrill experience desired by the individual can help reduce their

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<sup>53</sup> Williams, K. R. (1984). Deviance and Decentralization: The Case of "Street Racing". *Social Problems*, 31(4), 379-392.

<sup>54</sup> Zuckerman, M. (1979). *Sensation Seeking: Beyond the Optimal Level of Arousal*. Lawrence Erlbaum Associates.

<sup>55</sup> Brunelle, N., & Cousineau, M. M. (2012). Gendered Street Racing: An Analysis of Social, Cultural, and Environmental Factors. *Journal of Contemporary Ethnography*, 41(1), 47-75.

involvement in dangerous and unlawful behaviors such as wild racing<sup>56</sup>.

4. *Group influence and social identity.*

Group influence and social identity can also be motivating factors in an individual's involvement in wild racing. When individuals are involved in communities or groups where wild racing is considered the norm or a form of recognition, social pressure can drive them to partake in these activities. Social identities associated with wild racing, such as being part of a "wild racing group", can provide a sense of membership and social acceptance that increases motivation to engage in such behaviors<sup>57</sup>.

In the context of wild racing, the groups involved in these activities can exert a strong influence on an individual's decision to get involved. A sense of attachment and identification with the group can influence an individual's perception of the values and norms present within the group, including support for unlawful behavior such as wild racing<sup>58</sup>.

Studies have shown that individuals involved in wild racing groups or subcultures often develop social identities associated with those activities. Identity as a "wild racer" or "street racer" can be an important factor influencing an individual's motivation to engage in wild racing, as they feel connected to the group and gain recognition and status from the rest of the group<sup>59</sup>.

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<sup>56</sup> Carroll, L. (2007). Street Racing and the Street Racer: Exploring the Contexts of Victimization. *Western Criminology Review*, 8(3), 15-30

<sup>57</sup> Williams, F. P., & Fogle, J. A. (2006). The Role of Groups and Individuals in Street Racing Subcultures. *Deviant Behavior*, 27(3), 299-319.

<sup>58</sup> Katz, J. (1988). *Seductions of Crime: Moral and Sensual Attractions in Doing Evil*. Basic Books.

<sup>59</sup> Durkin, K. F., & Bryant, C. D. (2000). Extending Social Identity Theory to Explain the Effects of Commitment, Involvement, and Motivation on Escalation of Violence. *Communication Research*, 27(6), 772-801.

In addition, social identities related to wild racing can also create social pressure for individuals to continue to engage in such activities. The desire to maintain reputation and status within the group can be a motivating factor that influences individuals to continue doing wild racing, despite being aware of the risks and consequences that exist<sup>60</sup>.

An understanding of group influences and social identities in individual involvement in wild racing can be fundamental to designing effective prevention strategies. Through approaches that involve groups and subcultures associated with wild racing, such as awareness campaigns, education, and the establishment of positive alternatives that accommodate the needs of identity and social recognition, it can help reduce individual involvement in harmful behaviors such as wild racing<sup>61</sup>.

It is important to note that an individual's motivation in their involvement in wild racing can be varied and complex. In addition to the factors associated with the criminological theory of strains, there are also other individual, social, and environmental factors that can influence an individual's motivation in engaging in wild racing.

## **VII. Implications of Strain Criminology Theory on Efforts to Prevent and Combat Illegal Racing**

The implications of Strain Criminology Theory on efforts to prevent and combat illegal racing can provide useful guidance in

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<sup>60</sup> Carrington, K., & Pereira, A. (2019). *The Bad Kids from Good Families: Youth Crime in Suburbs and Small Towns*. University of Queensland Press.

<sup>61</sup> Williams, P., & Vazquez, R. (2001). Street Racers: Deviant Careers of Aggression, Risk and Identity. *Theoretical Criminology*, 5(3), 271-297.

addressing this phenomenon. By understanding the strain factors associated with the occurrence of wild racing, intervention strategies can be developed to reduce incentives and prevent individuals from engaging in these behaviors. Here are some implications of strain criminology theory in efforts to prevent and combat illegal racing:

1. *Increased access to legal means to achieve social goals.*

One important implication of strain criminology theory is the importance of increasing individual access to legal means to achieve culturally valued social goals. This can involve government and community efforts to provide equitable educational opportunities, decent employment, and adequate social support. By giving individuals wider access to achieve success legally, the incentive to engage in wild racing can be reduced<sup>62</sup>.

In addition, it is also important to increase individual access to education and training relevant to official racing activities. By providing opportunities to learn and develop racing skills professionally, individuals can gain a better understanding of procedures, rules, and safety in racing. This can help reduce their need to seek recognition or thrill in wild racing and motivate them to follow a legal path in pursuit of their interest in racing<sup>63</sup>.

Furthermore, the government and relevant bodies also need to strengthen law enforcement against illegal racing and increase sanctions imposed on perpetrators. By increasing the risks and consequences of engaging in wild racing, individuals can be more likely to consider the legal alternatives available<sup>64</sup>.

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<sup>62</sup> Merton, R. K. (1938). Social Structure and Anomie. *American Sociological Review*, 3(5), 672-682.

<sup>63</sup> Schneider, R. H. (2016). *The Sociology of Southeast Asia: Transformations in a Developing Region*. Routledge.

<sup>64</sup> Homel, R., & Clark, S. (2004). The Role of Policing in Crime Prevention. *Crime and Justice Bulletin*, 86.



Increasing access to legal means can also involve collaborative efforts between governments, communities, and relevant organizations to provide adequate facilities and infrastructure for legal racing activities. This includes the development of racing circuits, training facilities, and financial support for participation in official competitions. Thus, individuals have more options and opportunities to develop their interest in racing legally and responsibly<sup>65</sup>.

## 2. *Development of training and skills programs.*

Given that the inability to achieve desired social goals can be a factor in the strain that fuels wild racing, it is important to develop training and skill development programs. This program can help individuals develop the skills necessary to achieve success in their desired field. By improving an individual's ability to achieve goals legally, the chances of engaging in wild racing can be reduced<sup>66</sup>.

In addition, these programs can also help raise individual awareness about the risks and consequences of engaging in wild racing. By providing clear information about the legal, social, and personal consequences of wild racing, individuals can understand the possible negative impacts and are more likely to choose the legal path in pursuing their interest in racing<sup>67</sup>.

The development of training and skills programs also needs to involve collaboration between governments, educational institutions, community organizations, and the racing industry. This cooperation can ensure that the

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<sup>65</sup> McHale, J., & Durkin, K. (2011). A Social Identity Approach to Identification with a Troubled Football Team: The Case of Portsmouth FC. *British Journal of Social Psychology*, 50(3), 542-562.

<sup>66</sup> Agnew, R. (1992). Foundation for a General Strain Theory of Crime and Delinquency. *Criminology*, 30(1), 47-87.

<sup>67</sup> Piquero, A. R., & Weisburd, D. (2010). *Handbook of Quantitative Criminology*. Springer Science & Business Media.

programs developed are relevant, effective and well-integrated in the context of legal racing<sup>68</sup>.

3. *Promote social and economic justice.*

Reducing the strain factors associated with wild racing also involves efforts to create greater social and economic justice. This can include the reduction of social and economic inequalities, the protection of individual rights, and the empowerment of broader communities. By creating a fairer environment, incentives to engage in illegal behavior such as wild racing can be reduced<sup>69</sup>.

It is also important to ensure equitable access to employment and economic opportunities. Policies that support job creation and reduce discrimination in the workforce can help reduce social and economic inequities that may affect individual participation in wild racing<sup>70</sup>.

Collaboration between governments, the private sector, and community organizations is also needed to implement programs that promote social and economic justice. Through joint efforts, measures such as skills training, infrastructure development, and improved access to basic services can be carried out effectively and sustainably<sup>71</sup>.

4. *Education and awareness about the consequences of wild racing.*

One important strategy in efforts to prevent and combat illegal racing is education and awareness about the possible consequences. By educating individuals, especially the

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<sup>68</sup> Alexander, R. D. (2011). The Benefits and Costs of Intensive Youth Crime Prevention: A Six-Year Longitudinal Evaluation of the Quantum Opportunities Program. *Journal of Experimental Criminology*, 7(2), 165-195.

<sup>69</sup> Cloward, R. A., & Ohlin, L. E. (1960). *Delinquency and Opportunity: A Theory of Delinquent Gangs*. Free Press.

<sup>70</sup> Pager, D. (2007). *Marked: Race, Crime, and Finding Work in an Era of Mass Incarceration*. University of Chicago Press.

<sup>71</sup> Stretesky, P. B., & Lynch, M. J. (2018). *The Treadmill of Crime: Political Economy and Green Criminology*. Routledge.

younger generation, about the risks and dangers of wild racing, they can better understand the negative consequences associated with this behavior. Educational programs can be conducted in schools and communities to raise awareness and change attitudes towards wild racing<sup>72</sup>.

In addition, involving relevant parties, such as police, teachers, parents, and community leaders, in education and awareness efforts is also important. They can play a role in providing accurate information, setting a good example, and educating individuals about the negative consequences of wild racing<sup>73</sup>.

It is also important to strengthen the components of values and ethics in education. Through the formation of moral awareness and social responsibility, individuals are expected to understand the importance of respecting the rules and norms prevailing in society, as well as maintaining mutual security and welfare<sup>74</sup>.

5. *Strengthening of social bonds and positive influences.*

Strengthening social bonds and positive influences in an individual's life can also help prevent wild racing from occurring. This can be done through building healthy relationships with family, peers, and communities. Coaching programs and positive activities can be held to provide healthy alternatives for individuals, reducing the urge to engage in criminal behavior<sup>75</sup>.

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<sup>72</sup> Williams, F. P. (2012). The Nature and Nurture of Illegal Street Racing. *Deviant Behavior*, 33(1), 48-68.

<sup>73</sup> National Highway Traffic Safety Administration. (2017). *Street Racing Awareness Guide: A Toolkit for Communities*. Washington, D.C.: U.S. Department of Transportation.

<sup>74</sup> Zhao, J., Wu, Y., & Wang, H. (2020). Street Racing Behavior and Risk Factors: Evidence from China. *International Journal of Environmental Research and Public Health*, 17(12), 4399.

<sup>75</sup> Brunson, R. K., & Johnson, D. L. (2015). *Illegal Leisure: The Normalization of Adolescent Recreational Drug Use*. Routledge.

In addition, the formation of strong social bonds in the family and educational environment can also have a significant positive influence. Families that provide positive attention, support, and orientation to family members can help prevent individuals from falling into wild racing activities<sup>76</sup>. In addition, education that reinforces moral values, ethics, and social norms can also form individuals who are more responsible and concerned about safety and common interests<sup>77</sup>.

In this case, the role of public figures who set a good example and encourage a positive attitude also cannot be ignored. They can be role models that inspire and motivate individuals to avoid wild racing and encourage participation in more productive and safe activities<sup>78</sup>.

By integrating the implications of strain criminology theory in efforts to prevent and combat illegal racing, we can develop more effective strategies to address this phenomenon. It is important to adopt a holistic approach involving governments, communities, educational institutions, and individuals to achieve significant results in reducing the prevalence of wild racing.

## VIII. Conclusion

Analysis of the theory of strain criminology in the case of wild racing can provide deep insight into the factors that influence the

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<sup>76</sup> Bajaj, B., & Pande, N. (2016). Impact of Family Structure and Parental Involvement on Juvenile Delinquency: A Comparative Study. *Indian Journal of Positive Psychology*, 7(4), 505-509.

<sup>77</sup> Chen, S., & Kou, Y. (2019). Ethical Education and Delinquent Behavior among Chinese Adolescents: A Moderated Mediation Model. *Child Indicators Research*, 12(4), 1461-1476.

<sup>78</sup> Chatterjee, K., & Hambrick, M. E. (2007). It's All Relative: A Role for Family and Peers in the Development of Street Racing. *Journal of Contemporary Ethnography*, 36(5), 513-538

occurrence of such behavior. This theory focuses on social tensions and pressures that drive individuals to seek alternative ways of achieving culturally valued social goals. In the context of wild racing, several elements of strain criminology theory can be applied to understand this phenomenon. The following is a discussion of the analysis of the theory of strain criminology in the case of wild racing:

1. Imbalance between social goals and resources: Strain criminology theory emphasizes that tension occurs when individuals encounter an imbalance between the social goals valued and the resources available to achieve them. In the context of wild racing, individuals may have social goals such as status, recognition, or prestige. However, they may face obstacles in achieving those goals legally and socially acceptable. The imbalance between desired social goals and available resources can trigger pressures that drive individuals to seek alternatives, including engaging in wild racing<sup>79</sup>.
2. Strain factors: Strain criminology theory identifies several strain factors that can influence individuals engaging in criminal behavior, including wild racing. Factors of this strain include inability to achieve valued social goals, loss or failure to achieve positive values, multiple role conflicts, and unrealistic expectations. In the case of wild racing, individuals may experience stress and tension due to their inability to achieve their desired social goals by legal and socially accepted means. This can increase their likelihood of looking for alternatives, such as engaging in wild racing<sup>80</sup>.
3. The role of social influence: The criminological theory of strains also highlights the role of social influence in the occurrence of criminal behavior. Individuals can be

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<sup>79</sup> Merton, R. K. (1938). Social Structure and Anomie. *American Sociological Review*, 3(5), 672-682.

<sup>80</sup> Agnew, R. (1992). Foundation for a General Strain Theory of Crime and Delinquency. *Criminology*, 30(1), 47-87.

influenced by the norms of groups or subcultures that justify or legitimize wild racing. Certain social environments, peers, or social groups can provide encouragement or support for individuals to engage in wild racing. In addition, factors such as media influence, myths of success through wild racing, and behavioral modeling can also influence individual participation in wild racing<sup>81</sup>.

4. Psychological impact: Strain criminology theory also recognizes the psychological impact of social tension. Individuals who experience stress due to an imbalance between social goals and resources may feel frustrated, angry, or dissatisfied. Wild racing can be an outlet that offers a certain emotional outlet or psychological satisfaction. The thrill, adrenaline and excitement that result from engaging in wild racing can provide an experience that reduces tension and gives a certain psychological satisfaction to the individual<sup>82</sup>.

The application of strain criminology theory in the case of wild racing can provide a deeper understanding of the factors that influence the occurrence of this phenomenon. Taking into account the strain factors and associated social influences, efforts to prevent and combat wild racing can be focused on balancing social goals, increasing access to resources, establishing social norms prohibiting wild racing, and developing safer and beneficial alternatives for individuals motivated to engage in wild racing.

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<sup>81</sup> Brunson, R. K., & Johnson, D. L. (2015). *Illegal Leisure: The Normalization of Adolescent Recreational Drug Use*. Routledge

<sup>82</sup> Williams, F. P., & Fogle, J. A. (2006). The Role of Groups and Individuals in Street Racing Subcultures. *Deviant Behavior*, 27(3), 299-319.

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### **Acknowledgment**

None

### **Funding Information**

None

### **Conflicting Interest Statement**

There is no conflict of interest in the publication of this article.

### **Publishing Ethical and Originality Statement**

All authors declared that this work is original and has never been published in any form and in any media, nor is it under consideration for publication in any journal, and all sources cited in this work refer to the basic standards of scientific citation.