This study examined whether reliable and clinically significant change in risk-related need, behavior, functioning, and symptoms occurred during admission by analyzing routinely collected HoNOS-secure data (N=418). Reliable change was demonstrated for 4.8% and 5.7% of patients on the HoNOS-secure scale and security scale respectively, and that change was rarely clinically significant.

Two adaptations of the Washington State Institute for Public Policy cost-benefit analysis model (WSIPP model) are presented to predict fiscally sustainable approaches for reducing criminality. One model used year-by-year data while the other used cumulative data over the follow-up period. The authors found that estimated long term benefit stability and bias were different between the two methods. Suggestions for further integration of psychological and economic research methods for the improvement of public policy are made.

This study adds to the literature concerning post prison employment. As in previous research, evidence for higher rates of employment after release compared to preprison rates were found and a relationship between prior work experience and post release occupational success was also supported. New evidence suggests that the degree of participation in correctional interventions of different kinds (vocational, educational, therapeutic, substance abuse treatment) is a significant predictor of post release employment outcomes.

This study described changes in and covariates of healthcare utilization in 75 young males during their first year in a Portuguese prison. Although healthcare utilization for mental health issues remained stable over 12 months of imprisonment, visits for physical health problems were highest during the first month and then declined significantly. Patterns of healthcare utilization were associated with time spent in prison, mental health symptoms, Portuguese nationality, older age at the onset of imprisonment, criminal history, and severe disciplinary infractions.

Patients (N=224) were assessed using the PCL-R total, factor and facet scores and divided into three groups depending on the presence of low, medium, and high psychopathy traits. Associations between psychopathy and criminogenic risk and need factors were analyzed. Results showed that psychopathy was associated with greater risk, needs, and therapy-interfering behavior. PCL-R Factor 2 predicted institutional misconduct, whereas PCL-R Factor 1 predicted drop-out from treatment.


This survey produced a stratified sample of 3142 prisoners. Prevalence of non-suicidal self-injury was 6.6% (5.7% among males and 9.6% among females). Female gender conferred a significantly higher risk. The most prominent variables that appeared important in the relationship between female gender and non-suicidal self-injury were past sexual abuse, previous suicide attempt, mental health problems in prison, current medication use, unwanted sexual attention in prison, and presence of anxiety disorder.


Using the Mini International Neuropsychiatric Interview in a sample of newly admitted female (n=198) and male (n=229) incarcerated in Santiago de Chile, the current study sought to examine the relationship between burden of separation from their children and the relation to suicide risk. Results indicated that while both genders reported high rates of burden of separation (rated on a numerical scale), mothers with children had significantly lower rates of suicide risk than those without children, and rates did not differ between fathers with children and males without children.


The current study sought to investigate the presence of seasonal variation in violence and the use of seclusion and restraint in a forensic psychiatric hospital through a review of reports between 2007 and 2012. Poisson regression analysis revealed significant variation in seclusion and restraint between months (lowest in January) and seasons (lowest in winter).


This study utilized data from an outpatient forensic clinic in which individuals were conditionally released to receive competency restoration in the community. Results indicated that being single/never married, having comorbid intellectual disability and mental illness, and having one's conditional release revoked, were negatively related to successful restoration. Results demonstrated that individuals can be safely released to the community and successfully restored to competency in the outpatient setting.

This study examined a theoretical model in which anticipated stigma during incarceration predicts behavioral outcomes 1 year after release from jail (i.e., recidivism, substance use disorder symptoms, mental health symptoms, community adjustment) through social withdrawal using a sample of 197 male jail inmates. Anticipated stigma during incarceration predicted social withdrawal three months postrelease, which then predicted more mental health problems 1 year postrelease.


The authors seek to expand Andrews and Bonta’s theory of risk-need-responsivity (RNR) model for effective correctional intervention using new biosocial evidence. Relevant findings regarding genetic factors, neurological and neuropsychological components, aspects of endocrinology and physiology, as well as nutritional data are presented. Recommendations on how to integrate new biosocial data into a modernized RNR model are made.


Using a comprehensive, collaborative approach between treatment and supervision providers, the current study sought to evaluate the influence of this approach on the recidivism of youth adjudicated for a sexual offense (N=400). Results indicated that the use of this collaborative community-based approach demonstrated significantly lower levels of recidivism in youth when compared to a traditional approach.


Five different models of protective factors in the juvenile literature are applied to the review of 550 adults involved in jail diversion programs. Risk and protective factors were measured through administration of the Short-Term Assessment of Risk and Treatability (START) assessments. The Compensatory, Buffer, Challenge, Protective-Protective, and Mediation models were all tested, with only the Compensatory model showing adequate statistical support. Implications for potential differences in adult and juvenile theoretical models are addressed.


While information is available regarding the experiences of women in prisons, less is known about the difficulties faced by women in local jails. The current study seeks to address this gap in the literature through an examination of the challenges faced by women incarcerated and detained in a Midwestern jail, related to factors such as past victimization, mental health, substance abuse, and parenting issues.


Using a randomized control study within the context of a preceding policy change, the current study served as a replication of a study that used the Creating Lasting Family Connections Fatherhood Program (CLFCP), a program that aims to provide support and increase skills for reentry fathers related to the reestablishment of family cohesion and effective parenting. The current study sought to examine whether exposure to CLFCP demonstrated increased favorable relationship skills and lower
levels of recidivism at the post test follow-up when compared to those who did not participate in CLFCP. Results indicated that those exposed to CLFCP exhibited improvements in relationship skills.


The predictive value of personality disorder (PD) on treatment length of offenders detained in high security psychiatric hospitals in the Netherlands was studied on 536 male patients with a 76.5% PD prevalence. Results showed that PD did not independently predict length of enforced treatment. A subgroup of patients with only PD and no comorbid major mental disorder had a shorter treatment length.


The current study evaluates a program entitled Letters to Children which was created to help incarcerated mothers connect with their children through a letter writing group consisting of peers and facilitators. The program was implemented in a sample of 16 women over a period of six months and incorporated elements such as the importance of gendered experience, and strategies to empower women attempting to rebuild and strengthen relationships with their children.


The use of the Massachusetts Youth Screening Instrument–Version 2 (MAYSI-2) and Problem-Oriented Screening Instrument for Teenagers (POSIT) standardized screening measures in a Juvenile Drug Court (JDC) population was evaluated to identify whether the domains of these mental health screening measures could predict recidivism. Results suggest that domain scores of both assessments did not effectively predict recidivism, yet may potentially predict mental health risks.


This study examined the lifetime and past-year community mental health treatment use of 282 male and 149 female jail detainees with SMI. Although most participants reported high lifetime rates of mental health treatment they believed effective, only a minority accessed treatment in the year and month before arrest. Women were less likely to receive treatment than men and more often left treatment against medical advice.


To identify factors that contribute to successful offender reintegration into the community, a sample of 20 formerly incarcerated men and women were interviewed about their experiences with reentry strategies following their release from a New York State prison or Riker’s Island. The creation of societal connections, institutional and community anchors, social supports, and personal epiphanies were revealed as the key factors aiding in a successful reintegration.

Through collaboration with the Lucas County Juvenile Court in Northwest Ohio, and the use of the Ohio Youth Assessment System (OYAS) the current study examined the influence of holistic programming on the criminogenic risk factors of youth charged with a sexual offense (N=234). Hierarchical regression supports the effectiveness of this model through a reduction of risk in areas such as prosocial skills, criminal values, beliefs, and attitudes as well as overall OYAS risk.


In an attempt to evaluate the effectiveness of psychological therapies for prisoners, researchers examined 37 previous RCT studies, including pilot studies and cluster-randomized trials. CBT and mindfulness-based therapies were found to be moderately effective for those with depression and anxiety. It is recommended that other treatments be further examined prior to use in prisons.

**DELIQUENCY/ANTISOCIAL BEHAVIOR**


In this study the neuropsychological, demographic, and criminological profiles of a sample of 33 individuals (27 men) accused of killing at least one child and who had been referred for forensic neuropsychological evaluation were analyzed. Overall, cognitive profiles were not found to be distinctly different from typical homicide offenders. However, when the sample was separated into those who only killed children, this subset was found to be less likely to engage in premeditated murder than their counterparts who killed both adults and children. This group also scored lower on verbal subtests. A discussion on future research directions and how these results should inform the conceptualization of this criminal group is provided.


Data was collected from 11,557 male offenders in a long-term juvenile facility. History of parental alcohol, drug, and mental health problems were assessed as possible influencing factors on neurocognitive deficits as measured by a diagnosis of Attention-Deficit/Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD) or Conduct Disorder (CD), or on temperamental deficits as demonstrated by effortful control or negative emotionality. Structural equation models and measurement models suggest that parental substance abuse and mental health problems are linked to ADHD diagnoses and negative emotionality. ADHD was also associated with recidivism, as were both measures of temperamental deficits. Implications for prevention and intervention are discussed.


This study followed 324 mother-son pairs of first time juvenile offenders. The mothers received an average score of 66% accuracy on a test of legal knowledge regarding the juvenile justice system. The results indicate that mothers who scored lower on this assessment demonstrated lower levels of participation in their son’s legal procedures. Additionally, lower maternal scores of legal knowledge was correlated with higher levels of recidivism in the sons. Cultural aspects of these results as well as practical implications are presented.
In order to examine if psychopathic individuals struggle to process set-incongruent information, researchers used a lexical decision task and priming manipulation. Seventy prisoners completed the tasks and results indicated that low-anxious psychopathic participants displayed a greater priming effect than non-psychopathic participants. It is suggested that treatment focusing on primary and peripheral information be used to reduce dysfunctional behavior in these individuals.

A sample of 114 incarcerated males participated in a standard reversal learning task. While looking at multiple factors, researchers found a significant relationship between severity in psychopathy and reversal learning areas, along with an interaction between psychopathy and childhood maltreatment. Substance abuse had no effect. Further examination on childhood maltreatment and psychopathy is recommended, as is a more extensive look at developmental environments.

In a sample of 325 1st-time youth offenders who were arrested for offenses of moderate severity, this study tested whether probation officers’ ratings of an adolescent’s remorse soon after arrest were associated with the youth’s self-report of showing a callous and unemotional interpersonal style, being arrested for a violent offense, and several demographic characteristics. Analyses indicated that both arrest for a violent offense and the adolescent’s self-reported level of callous–unemotional traits were associated with probation officers’ ratings of remorse.

This study analyzed developmental patterns of violent offending over 7 years in the complete population of court-referred youth in Connecticut between 2006 and 2012 (N = 58,678; mean age at first offense = 14.7 years). Results showed that violent crimes peaked at age 14–15, with high-rate adolescent offenders (3.7%) accounting for 31.9% of all violent offenses. Further, 74.2% of this group desisted from violent crimes in adulthood.

Using a sample of 43 psychopathic offenders, 42 nonpsychopathic offenders, and 26 nonoffender controls, the current study examined the relationship between psychopathy two of its significant constructs--guilt and dominance. Guilt and dominance were assessed using measured using explicit measures (self-report), as well as indirect assessment (i.e., the Single Category Implicit Association Test; Sc-IAT). Results indicated that no overall group differences existed, that psychopathy was unrelated to implicit self-guilt associations, and that it was not significantly associated with indirectly or explicitly assessed dominance.

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This study incorporated new aspects of psychosocial maturity measurement in an analysis of the maturity gap thesis of juvenile development. This expanded view is applied to the theory's capacity to predict delinquency behaviors compared to traditional measures in which only autonomy is used as the determining factor of social maturity. Psychosocial maturity was related to deviant behaviors but not personal autonomy or pubertal development. The importance of expanding this model in order to consider the biopsychosocial elements of social maturation is noted.


Data was collected from a longitudinal study in which sleepiness and antisocial behavior was self-reported by 15 year old males and their teachers; convictions for crime were assessed at age 29. Adolescents who reported higher levels of sleepiness had more antisocial behavior and were 4.5 times more likely to commit crimes over the next 15 years. As a result, researchers suggest that interventions to reduce sleepiness may help reduce crime.

**FORENSIC ASSESSMENT**


This study assessed the interrater reliability of the PCL–R among a large sample of trained raters. Results yielded that: (a) reliability of individual PCL–R items largely fell below appropriate standards while estimates for Total PCL–R scores and factor scores were good; (b) cases representing individuals with high psychopathy scores showed better reliability than did cases of individuals in the moderate to low PCL–R score range; and (c) there was a high degree of variability among raters.


This study compared the predictive validity of PCL-R scores assigned to 80 sexual offenders by two trained graduate students and at least one licensed clinician. There was more variability among the scores assigned by the licensed clinicians than those assigned by the graduate students, and the scores assigned by licensed clinicians were stronger predictors of future offending than those assigned by the graduate students.


MPQ-Tri scales were examined in three samples: mixed-gender undergraduate students (N=346), male offenders from a residential substance abuse treatment facility (N=190), and incarcerated female offenders (N=216). Across these three samples, the MPQ-Tri scales demonstrated high internal consistency and clear convergent and discriminant associations with criterion measures of psychopathy and other psychopathology outcomes. Gender comparisons revealed relatively few differences in relationships with criterion measures.


This study examined data from 1,559 detained boys who completed the YPI as part of a clinical protocol. Results support the proposed 3-factor structure, though model fit indices were not as good
in Dutch boys compared to boys from other ethnic groups. The YPI scores are manifested in the same way across all 4 ethnic groups and suggest that means scores between the 4 ethnic groups are comparable.


This study examined associations between elevated MMPI-2-RF overreporting scale scores and PAI scale scores among 654 non-head injury civil disability claimants. Those overreporting psychopathology and somatic/cognitive complaints had significantly and meaningfully higher scores than the valid reporting group on the MMPI-2-RF and PAI scales. Both inconclusive groups had significantly and meaningfully higher scores than the valid reporting group, as well as lower scores than their overreporting counterparts.


This study examined the utility of the MAYSI-2 in detecting diagnosable mental illness among 398 Latino and 60 European American adolescents in a juvenile justice agency. The MAYSI-2 had similar utility at identifying serious mood and anxiety disorders for both ethnic groups, but was less sensitive to behavioral and substance use disorders among Latinos than it was among European Americans. The MAYSI-2 overall was less sensitive to mental illness among Latino boys compared with Latina girls.


This study provided an examination of the TSI-2 within a sample of immigrants with histories of trauma. De-identified TSI-2 data were drawn from several clinicians’ existing immigration assessment files. Reliability and standardization sample comparison results indicated that the TSI-2 exhibits sufficient internal consistency within this population, and that immigrants with histories of trauma generally respond similarly to individuals in trauma-specific clinical samples.


This study examined the psychometric properties of the MMPI-2-RF F-r and Fp-r scales in a sample of 438 criminally committed forensic psychiatric inpatients who were adjudicated as not guilty by reason of insanity and had no known incentive to overreport. Results indicated that 20 of the 21 Fp-r items (95.2%) demonstrated endorsement rates ≤ 20%, with 14 of the items (66.7%) endorsed by less than 10% of the sample. Similar findings were observed across genders and across patients with mood and psychotic disorders. Endorsement rates of F-r items were generally higher than for Fp-r items.


A total of 720 evaluation reports were examined from 240 cases in which 3 independent evaluators provided diagnoses for the same defendant. Results revealed perfect agreement across 6 independent diagnostic categories in 18.3% of cases. Agreement for individual diagnostic categories was higher,
with all 3 evaluators agreeing on the separate presence of psychotic, mood, or substance disorders in 64.7% of cases; cognitive or developmental disorders in 89.7% of cases; and the combination of psychotic and substance-related diagnoses in 46.5% of cases.


This study evaluated the RBS, a symptom validity test embedded within the MMPI-2-RF, and the IF scale, a performance validity test embedded within the SIRS-2, in a sample of pretrial incompetent to stand trial criminal defendants. Results indicated that both the RBS and IF scale achieved moderate classification accuracy using the TOMM as the criterion. Further, the RBS and IF scale appeared to be most useful for screening out those defendants who presented as genuine.


Using a sample of pretrial criminal defendants evaluated in the context of treatment for competency restoration, this study examined the Minnesota Multiphasic Personality Inventory–2 Restructured Form to evaluate how Unreliable influences criminal forensic psychological evaluations. Results indicated that random responding and fixed responding are affected by both education and intellectual functioning, and by intentional exaggeration and elements of psychopathology.


Using 59 identified studies, 9 addressed the field reliability of competency opinions and 8 addressed the field reliability of sanity opinions. These studies presented a wide range of reliability estimates; pairwise percentage agreements ranged from 57%-100% and kappas ranged from .28-1.0. Meta-analytic combinations of reliability estimates obtained by independent evaluators returned estimates of κ = .49 for competency opinions and κ = .41 for sanity opinions.


This study used a sample of 127 male forensic psychiatric offenders to evaluate how the MMPI–2–RF scales might aid in understanding the nature of the 4 PCL–R facets and to identify possible implications for the treatment of psychopathic patients. Results suggested several consistent differences across the facets.


This study examined the intrarater reliability of Criteria-Based Content Analysis. A total of k = 82 hypothesis tests revealed acceptable intrarater reliabilities for most CBCA criteria, as measured with various indices. Results were largely heterogeneous, necessitating moderator analyses. Blocking analyses and meta-regression analyses on Pearson’s r resulted in significant moderators for research paradigm, intensity of rater training, type of rating scale used, and the frequency of occurrence for some CBCA criteria.

This study utilized a sample of 2,751 combined evaluations to examine demographic, clinical, offense, evaluation, and psycholegal characteristics associated with evaluators' combined evaluation opinions. Older defendants were more likely to be opined incompetent-insane, defendants with psychotic disorders were more often opined insane, affective diagnoses predicted competent-insane opinions, developmental disorders were closely related to incompetence, defendants with organic disorders tended to have global psycholegal impairment, prior hospitalization predicted competent-insane opinions, and defendants not under the influence of a substance or with no prior convictions were more likely to be opined insane.


To examine the MMPI–2–RF Triarchic scales in samples independent of their development and initial validation, the present study used a sample of 237 male inmates and two college samples (292 undergrad students and then an additional 660 students). The study evaluated the MMPI–2–RF Triarchic scales in relation to the PCL–R, MMPI–2–RF, the SCID–II, the PPI–R, the TriPM, and the personality inventory for the DSM–5. Results demonstrated significant convergent and discriminant validity for the MMPI–2–RF Triarchic scales.


This study investigated whether the inclusion of a “something else” answer option in a forced choice inquiry with children would improve response accuracy or reduce responses to unanswerable questions. Children aged three to five years old were placed in a standard forced choice condition or a forced choice condition with a “something else” answer choice included. They were interviewed about a lab experience one week after its occurrence using 30 forced choice questions. Results indicated that the “something else” option did not improve children’s accuracy in responding to false or unanswerable questions. Implications for the appropriate formatting of forensic assessment inquiries of children are discussed.


This study examined 764 veterans enrolled in a national longitudinal registry. Current and lifetime PTSD diagnostic status was determined with the SCID. Among veterans with current SCID-diagnosed PTSD, Black veterans were significantly less likely than White veterans to receive a PTSD diagnosis from their compensation and pension examiner. Among veterans without current SCID-diagnosed PTSD, White veterans were significantly more likely than Black veterans to receive a PTSD diagnosis from their compensation and pension examiner.


The authors adapted the Psychological Inventory of Criminal Thinking Styles – Layperson Edition (PICTS-L), a measurement of criminal thinking, to a shorter 35-item PICTS-L–Short Form (PICTS-L–SF). The psychometric properties of the modified assessment were tested on 619 college students who
did not endorse a history of criminal justice involvement. Analysis suggested a superior fit for a bifactor model over a one-factor or two-factor model. The PICTS-L-SF showed good concurrent and predictive validity as well as excellent reliability. Future confirmation of these psychometric properties are encouraged and the potential utility of the PICTS-L-SF is discussed.

This study addresses the convergent and discriminant validity of the MRCI, as well as provides representative data on 245 legally involved juveniles with percentiles to facilitate the interpretation of MRCI data. This investigation is also the first MRCI study to link directly Miranda comprehension (i.e., the knowing prong) to Miranda reasoning (i.e., the intelligent prong) of waiver decisions.

Using a sample of 1,110 forensic patients, the current study evaluates the limitations of the MMPI–2–RF diagnostic validity research through an examination of the associations between all MMPI–2–RF substantive scales and broad dichotomous indicators of internalizing, externalizing, and thought dysfunction diagnoses. Results support the construct validity of the MMPI-2-RF scales in their ability to measure internalizing, thought, and externalizing dysfunction.

This study examined the factor structure of the MAYSI-2, a brief self-report measure designed to flag clinically significant mental health needs among youth entering the juvenile justice system. Participants were 981 detained youth in the southeastern United States. Confirmatory factor analyses showed that a seven-factor model represented a satisfactory solution for the data, similar to previous research. The factor structure fit well across gender, age group, race, and offense type.

The current study investigated the clinical utility of the Juvenile Miranda Quiz (JMQ) for evaluating key Miranda misconceptions. Using data from 201 juvenile detainees, many moderate effect sizes in the predicted direction were found for the JMQ Primary Total and Juvenile Total scores. The JMQ Juvenile Total also proved the most successful when used to predict problematic outcomes in a mock crime scenario as well.

This study examined narcissism’s relation to response style in two undergraduate and one incarcerated sample with several well-validated measures of response validity and narcissism. Across samples, the findings indicate that narcissism is not characterized by response invalidity. Vulnerable features of narcissism were found to be negatively associated with underreporting and a defensive response style.

This study investigated the psychometric properties and ultimate utility of subscale scores using archival data from a sample of 103 male and female forensic patients who were hospitalized for competence restoration treatment. Results suggested adequate internal consistency and good model fit for the factor structure. Interrater reliability was evaluated by comparing the absolute agreement of scores derived from 2 independent research assistants for each of the subscales; 2 of the 3 subscales fell within the acceptable range given established interpretative benchmarks for forensic assessment.


Although parental knowledge of police interrogation practices and youths’ rights was previously unknown, some state and police policies require youth to consult with parents before or during interrogation. A sample of 294 parents from urban locales reported their knowledge and attitudes about interrogation practices and youths’ rights. Parents correctly answered fewer than half of the questions about juvenile interrogation practices, strongly endorsed youths’ rights to parental and other support, and only moderately endorsed youths’ decision-making autonomy.


The researchers tested theories of embodied cognition to determine whether people interrogated in open settings disclose more information than participants interrogated in closed settings. The authors found that participants questioned in the open setting—operationalized as a large room with pictures of open windows and other opened objects—disclosed more information and critical details than participants in a small room without any primes of openness. Moreover, participant’s perception of the room spaciousness mediated the effect of the room setting on disclosure.


This study investigated the identification of truth telling in various degrees of English speakers. Participants categorized into four levels of English proficiency provided a true and false autobiographical statement and a true and false opinion statement. Observers then rated these in terms of credibility. The lowest-proficiency condition had the highest level of accurate discrimination, with no significant difference in discrimination between the other three proficiencies. The superior discrimination in this group was the result of increased correct identification of false, but not true, statements. The results suggest that lie detection may be facilitated in nonnative speech and the implications in the globalization of law enforcement is discussed.


Researchers tested the Verifiability Approach (VA), the notion that truth-tellers provide more verifiable details than liars, within an international airport setting. Participants either lied (n = 195) or told the truth (n = 204) about their travel plans and attempted to convince the investigator of their truthfulness. Responses were transcribed and coded for verifiable details. Truth-tellers provided
significantly more verifiable details and a higher verifiable/total detail ratio than liars. There were no interactions between veracity and region of origin.


This 2-phased experiment tested (1) how police officers document interrogations in their reports and (2) how laypeople perceive interrogations via a police report, interrogation transcript, or audiotape. First, findings demonstrate that officers underestimate their use of confrontation, maximization, leniency, and false evidence. Second, when reading officer’s written reports, laypeople were more likely to judge a suspect as guilty and less coerced than when reading a verbatim transcript. The results demonstrate the importance of videotaping—and transcribing—interrogations.


Professional handlers from the Norwegian Police (n = 64) either received training in the Scharff technique or used their own techniques to question police trainees (n = 64) role-playing as semicooperative sources. Scharff-trained interviewers collected more new information.


This study investigates the universality of theories regarding perception of procedural justice and individual’s feelings of obligation to obey and willingness to cooperate. A sample of 304 Ghanaian immigrants living in the United States were surveyed regarding these two composite measures. Other aspects such as procedural justice, distributive justice, effectiveness, risk of sanctioning, and trust and confidence in Ghanaian police were also measured. The results confirmed similar findings that perceived procedural justice was linked to willingness to obey. Police effectiveness did not influence willingness to obey yet was strongly correlated with willingness to cooperate in this sample. Cultural implications are discussed and suggestions for policy and policing practices are made.


Three interview styles (evidence-focused, relationship-focused, and control) were compared on their accuracy in identifying guilt. 234 men recruited from the community completed a problem solving task in which they were tempted to cheat by a confederate, and labeled guilty or innocent based on their response. 11 experienced male police officers then interviewed participants. Over 90% of participants were accurately classified with no statistically significant difference between the interview styles used. The evidence-focused technique led to more belief in guilty deniers, while the relationship-focused style resulted in greater belief in innocent deniers. The influence of interview style in police practice is discussed.


The authors surveyed 510 sheriff’s deputies on topics of organizational trust, perceptions of procedural injustice and self legitimacy. It was hypothesized that this last characteristic may play a potentially beneficial moderating role between supervisor procedural injustice and organizational trust. The results suggest that perceived supervisor procedural injustice was indeed indicative of reduced trust in the organization as a whole, and, as predicted, self-legitimacy moderated this
distrust. Additionally, ratings of self legitimacy were associated with higher levels of organizational trust. The results are contextualized within the current climate of perceived police procedural injustices and future research is suggested.

**LEGAL DECISION-MAKING/JURY RESEARCH**


The authors investigated why simplification of jury instructions does not always improve mock jurors’ comprehension. Using existing data from published studies, they analyzed how simplified features of juror instructions impact their subsequent application. The findings suggest that simplification has some adverse effects on juror application, such that decreasing the amount of information increases punitiveness. Thus, researchers must investigate how to minimize the negative effect of reduced information on application of jury instructions.


This study investigated the impact the presentation of biological risk factor evidence has on death-qualified jury-eligible decision making. Specifically, it was assessed whether knowledge of biological risk factors influenced beliefs of the appropriateness of the death penalty option, mitigation in moral responsibility, predictions of future dangerousness, and whether the death penalty should be considered cruel and unusual punishment. The results suggest that biological risk factors result in minimal reduction in views of moral responsibility, but have no statistically significant influence on individual’s perception of the death penalty as an appropriate legal outcome. A discussion of the use of biological risk factor evidence in the criminal justice system and its potential impact on the public is provided.


The authors investigated the influence of genetic evidence on juror perceptions of the defendant. The study specifically focused on the presentation of evidence involving two genetic polymorphisms that have been shown to be associated with antisocial behaviors (DRD4 7 repeat and 5HTTLPR short). Results suggest that the introduction of a defendant’s genetics with these polymorphisms did not influence criminal charge outcome, but did increase mock jurors fear of the defendant. This was also found to be true when the genetic evidence was presented concomitantly with evidence of a history of child abuse. Recommendations for the role of biosocial criminologists in the criminal justice system are made.


Through an analysis of survey results this study examined the perspectives of 203 prosecutors from 37 states regarding current challenges, procedures used to support children in the adjudication process, and their impact of the U.S. Supreme Court opinion in Crawford v. Washington (2004), sex offender registries, and "Safe Harbor" legislation to protect child sexual exploitation victims. Results revealed that the primary challenge was the obtainment of evidence to corroborate a child’s statements, that child testimony was the most frequently used type of evidence, as well as a need for increased attention to thorough investigations with attention to corroboration, and a limited impact by the Crawford opinion.

The authors reviewed trial transcripts from child sex abuse cases in which children from the ages of 4 to 9 testified. The use of “do you know” and “do you remember” questions were reviewed and attorney intention of literal and implied inquiry were assessed. Rates of pragmatic failure, where the child provides a ‘yes’ or ‘no’ response but more information is implied by the question, and rates of referential ambiguity, where a ‘yes’ or ‘no’ response is requested but the response can be an interpreted implicitly or explicitly, are provided. Rates of pragmatic failure declined with child age, while rates of referential ambiguity remained stable. The importance of effective practices during child interviewing and testimony is addressed.


The researchers tested how individual differences in morality, self-control, and rule orientation shape peoples’ behavioral responses to deterrence. Using Amazon’s Mechanical Turk, the researchers had participants complete the cheating paradigm and found support for their hypothesis: individual differences did impact responses to deterrence. Specifically, those with low moral engagement, greater self-control, and rule oriented were more likely to respond positively to deterrence.


The current study sought to examine the influence of the involvement of expert witnesses through an examination of all existing cases from 1975-2014 on Singapore’s legal database of all court trial cases (Lawnet). A review of these cases, which included the involvement of psychologists and psychiatrists, revealed that their presence is increasing and that there are differences across criminal, civil and custody cases with related to issues of consultation as well as how their input is utilized and perceived by judges.


Participants in this study were asked to make decisions about offers in mock plea scenarios. Hypotheses followed the predictions of Fuzzy-Trace Theory, a cognitive perspective which distinguishes people between their processing of memory material as verbatim or gist. Subjects considered to be gist processors under this theory were found to be influenced more by categorical differences in aspects of the plea scenarios than those considered verbatim processors. This disparity was not found to be related to differences in value systems. A discussion on the importance of cognitive processing style in the context of plea bargain decision making is offered.


This study completed four separate experiments addressing applications of visual metacognition in the legal context. The experiments investigated retrospective visual metacognitive perceptions, attributions of blame in visual perception, and likelihood of finding others negligent in the accuracy of their perceptual experiences. The authors integrate these findings and offer evidence that jurors may potentially overestimate the perceptual abilities of others when presented with evidence. A discussion on the role of visual metacognition research in the law is presented.

Anger-inducing, sadness-inducing, or no victim impact statements (VIS) were presented to jury-eligible participants to gauge the influence of VIS type on a subsequent death penalty sentencing phase. Additional variables of weak or strong mitigating factors were also presented to participants. The authors found that anger-inducing VIS influenced death penalty recommendations, while sadness-inducing VIS or no VIS did not. Mitigating evidence did not produce a significant interaction with emotion in decision making. The role of this study in resolving discrepancies in the broader VIS literature and in the wake of the Payne v. Tennessee (1991) decision is discussed.


This study contained two experiments addressing the impact of gruesome photographs on mock juror conviction decisions. The first experiment determined that the presentation of gruesome photos which were presented in color impacted the conviction rates of the defendant; yet identical photographs shown in black and white did not change decision outcomes. The second experiment confirmed these results and suggested that color gruesome photographs limit the capacity of juror members to be swayed by evidence presented by the defense. The implications for the use of color photos containing gruesome content in trials is discussed.


The researchers tested how mock jurors use eyewitness culprit likelihood ratings to assess evaluations of identification evidence. Manipulating confidence and discrimination between-subjects, the researchers found that confidence influenced participants’ evaluations. In a second study, the authors manipulated discrimination within-subjects and found that good discrimination enhanced the persuasiveness of moderate levels of confidence but poor discrimination reduced the persuasiveness of high levels of confidence. Overall, mock jurors were receptive to non-categorical identification evidence.


The researchers examined the relationship between conservativeness and punitiveness through moral foundation research. The authors argued that group-oriented moral concerns, which are typically associated with conservatism, elicit a higher level of punitiveness. Alternatively, individual-oriented concerns—typically associated with liberalism—reduces punitiveness by taking into account the welfare of both the offenders and the victims. The results from two large samples provided support for their predictions and promote the view that moral foundations connect the relationship between conservatism and punitiveness.


Scottish courtroom transcripts were reviewed for credibility-challenging questions of children involved in 66 sexual abuse cases. Analysis of the type, source, and content of the challenges were analyzed in relation to the children’s responses. It was found that 77.8% of credibility-challenging questions presented by defense lawyers focused on the honesty of the children. With regards to response, children showed better resistance to challenges that addressed the central aspects of their claims than peripheral components. Implications for child testimony are discussed.
This study presented an expanded field study of the predictive validity (M=5.23 years follow-up) of the Static-99 as applied system-wide in Texas (N=34,687). Results revealed stronger predictive validity than a prior Texas field study, especially among offenders scored after the release of an updated scoring manual in 2003, when field reliability was also stronger. Calibration analyses revealed that the Static-99R routine sample norms led to a significant overestimation of risk in Texas.

This study reviewed 175 evaluation reports across 62 cases from Hawaii, which requires 3 separate evaluations from independent clinicians for each felony NGRI acquittee referred for conditional release evaluation. Evaluators agreed about an NGRI acquittee’s readiness for conditional release in only 53.2% of evaluations. Courts followed the majority evaluator opinion in 79.3% of all cases but ruled in an opposite direction from the majority evaluator opinion in 1/3 of cases in which evaluators disagreed.

This article provides a framework for standardizing risk communication by matching the information contained in risk tools to a broadly applicable classification of “riskiness” that is independent of any particular offender risk scale. This study found that the new, common STATIC risk categories increase concordance of risk classification (from 51% to 72%), and allow evaluators to make the same inferences for offenders in the same category regardless of which instrument was used to assign category membership.

This study examined the ability of PCL-R field scores and possible field measures of sexual deviance to predict sexual recidivism among 687 offenders released after being evaluated for postrelease civil commitment. PCL-R total scores and antisocial personality diagnoses were predictive of a combined category of violent or sexual recidivism, but not sexual recidivism. Paraphilia diagnoses and offense characteristics were not associated with an increased likelihood of reoffending.

The authors designed two studies to test the influence of different visual data presentations in communicating offender violence risk. The first study presented fours graphs and one without a graph to 442 undergraduate students. The bar graph indicating absolute probability of recidivism was found to be the most effective at communicating violence risk in this sample. In the second study, two case descriptions with and without a graphical representation of actuarial risk were reviewed by 54 forensic clinicians. Graph inclusion did not significantly impact security recommendations. However, forensic clinicians with greater years of experience showed positive improvement in decision making
with the inclusion of the graphs. Recommendations for risk assessment communication and training are suggested.


This study tested a method of risk assessment for adolescent offenders that relies on structured professional judgment: the SAVRY. Trained probation officers in 3 jurisdictions administered the SAVRY to 505 adjudicated adolescents. The results supported the validity of the SAVRY administered in this juvenile justice context. Specifically, scores from the SAVRY differentiated violent from nonviolent offenders and predicted both violent and nonviolent recidivism over a 12-month follow-up period.


240 adult felony offenders were assessed for recidivism risk using the Texas Risk Assessment System (TRAS) and a collection of rapid-tablet-based neurocognitive tests designed to measure executive functioning, ability to plan, impulsive control, risk-taking, aggression, and empathy. The TRAS was found to be effective at predicting risk in this sample, yet its efficacy was improved when combined with the tablet assessment and when items in the TRAS were replaced by similar tablet items. A discussion on the role of tablet administered tests in improving risk assessment is provided.


This field study examined the predictive validity of the SAVRY and the YLS/CMI for reoffending when completed by juvenile probation officers, and also compared Black and White youth to examine the presence of test bias. The SAVRY and YLS/CMI significantly predicted reoffending at the test level. The instruments did not differentially predict reoffending as a function of race but Black youth scored higher than White youth on the YLS/CMI scale related to official juvenile history.


This prospective, naturalistic, cohort study reported the one-year rate of violence among 200 Swedish forensic psychiatric clients, during forensic psychiatric care, prison, and probation. Another purpose was to validate the risk assessment instruments, COVR, LSI-R, HCR-20V3, and SAPROF, in these settings. There were 193 clients during the one year follow-up. Violent acts were committed by 23.3% of the participants, and occurred more often at forensic psychiatric hospitals than correctional settings.


This study examined the predictive validity of the German version of the SORAG and its individual items for different offender subgroups and recidivism criteria in sexual offenders released from the Austrian Prison System (N=1,104; average follow-up period M=6.48 years) within a prospective-longitudinal research design. For the prediction of violent recidivism the German version of the SORAG yielded an effect size of AUC=.74 (p<.001).

The FRST was administered to a sample of 210 consecutive admissions to the civil psychiatric units of an urban medical center, 159 of whom were subsequently evaluated using the HCR-20v3. The FRST showed a high degree of sensitivity (93%) in identifying patients deemed to be at high risk for violence, and identified all of the patients rated high in potential for severe violence. Sensitivity was more modest when individuals rated as moderate risk were included.


The Short-Term Assessment of Risk and Treatability: Adolescent Version (START:AV) is a new risk assessment tool used to evaluate the dynamism of risk factors thought to be both vulnerabilities and strengths. The current study examined how scores differed between initial and follow-up assessment using a sample of three juvenile justice facilities in a Southern state. Results demonstrated significant item level changes, reliable changes in total scores for 28% of adolescents.


Based on a sample of 237 serious juvenile offenders, this study tested whether CA-YASI scores validly assess the risk factors they purport to assess. Youth were assessed by practitioners on the CA-YASI, and by research staff on a battery of validated, multimethod criterion measures of target constructs. Results indicated that CA-YASI risk domain scores with the strongest validity support were those that assess criminal history. The only variable CA-YASI risk domain score that correlated more strongly with convergent than discriminant measures was Substance Use.


This study utilized a sample of 509 risk assessments with 146 adolescents on probation who were assessed every 3 months over a 1-year period. Internal sensitivity was partially supported in that a modest proportion of youth showed reliable changes over the 3-, 6-, and 12-month follow-ups. External sensitivity was also partially supported. Relative sensitivity was not supported, as the SAVRY and YLS/CMI was not more dynamic than the PCL:YV.


This study examined the mediating effects of factors that may mitigate the risk of behavioral recidivism and the moderating effects of risk assessment on the relation between assessed risk (using the DVSI-R) and recidivistic IPV. Using a sample of 2,520 perpetrators of IPV, results revealed that time sentenced to jail and time sentenced to probation each significantly mediated the relation between DVSI-R risk level and frequency of reoffending.

SEX OFFENDERS

A literature review was conducted to evaluate treatment outcomes for youths previously engaged in illegal sexual behaviors. Multisystemic therapy for problem sexual behaviors (MST-PSB) was identified to be “Probably Efficacious,” while CBT and behavior management were considered to be “Experimental”. Although MST-PSB is widely supported in research, it is not used as often in the field; therefore, researchers advocate for more use and funding for MST-PSB moving forward.


The relationship between reduced height and pedophilia was investigated using measured height in order to supplement research suggesting this relationship in studies which have used self-reported height. Data from 151 males referred to a sexual behaviors clinic were examined. Height was measured as both leg length and torso length. It was determined that leg length was statistically smaller in pedophiles compared to teleiophiles, but this difference was not found for torso length. Implications for neurodevelopmental theories of pedophilia are discussed.


The authors reviewed data from interviews and police reports associated with 54 repeat stranger sexual offenders in order to assess patterns of situational crime, specifically attending to victim encounter site. Encounter sites coded as “active green space” resulted in the greatest degree of forced penetration and forced commission of sexual acts. Initial encounter sites coded as “residential” homes were associated with greater degrees of physical harm to the victim. Recommendations to deter situational violence in these contexts are made.


Through an analysis of survey results from 188 registered sex offenders the current study sought to answer how the experience of collateral consequences can be explained through necropolitics and whether sex offenders use necropolitics in a restrictive effort. Survey results indicated that exclusion from social and political institutions due to the sex crime conviction severely restricts the offender’s ability to reintegrate and function in society often referred to as “death in life.”


The authors compared aspects of offender and crime scene characteristics of 48 sexual killers (defined as killing which is directly linked to sexual gratification) and those of 48 sexual aggressors who did not engage in homicide. Psychological profiles of the sample of sexual killers were compared to that of sexual aggressors and it was found that the former endorsed greater emotional loneliness, sexual entitlement, and difficulties with empathic concern. Differences in situational factors of offenses were also determined. Implications for forensic case conceptualization and forensic treatment are detailed.


Rates of juvenile sexual crime reports from the National Incident-Based Reporting System (NIBRS) were compared before and after the implementation of juvenile sex offender registration policy in four
states (Idaho, South Carolina, Utah, and Virginia). No change in rates of sexual crime reports were noted after the implementation of the policy. A discussion of the utility of these policies is presented.

This study identified several behavioral correlates of admission of child sexual interest in the risk tool development sample of 286 men convicted of child pornography offenses: never married (54%), child pornography content included child sexual abuse videos (64%), child pornography content included sex stories involving children (31%), evidence of interest in child pornography spanned 2 or more years (55%), volunteered in a role with high access to children (7%), and engaged in online sexual communication with a minor or officer posing as a minor (10%).

The study included 656 male sexual offenders who were provided a sexological assessment to examine recidivism. Results indicated that interest in hebephilia and pedophilia were significantly associated with noncontact sexual recidivism. The phallometric pedophilia index was associated with recidivism, contact and noncontact, after controlling for offender age. Pedophilia and hebephilia did not consistently predict contact recidivism.

Scores on the Juvenile Sex Offender Assessment Protocol-II (J-SOAP-II) and the Structured Assessment of Violence Risk in Youth (SAVRY) at admission and discharge are compared for 163 adolescents following residence at a cognitive-behavioral treatment program for sexual offenses. One half of total J-SOAP-II scores declined and one third of SAVRY scores declined during treatment. The scores did not correlate to Psychopathy Checklist: Youth Version scores and discharge scores were not more accurate at predicting recidivism. The recommended use of J-SOAP-II and SAVRY in treatment plans and future research are discussed.

VICTIMIZATION

The current study sought to examine how the integration of structured trauma focused CBT and unstructured play/experiential techniques impacts treatment outcome using a sample of 260 sexually abused children presenting with elevated posttraumatic stress. Community-based clinicians administered pre-and post treatment evaluations and results demonstrated significant improvement in the six clinical outcomes being evaluated (posttraumatic stress, dissociation, anxiety, anger/aggression, depression and sexual concerns).

Using a sample of 783 adolescents this study sought to examine the mediating effect of active and avoidant coping strategies on the association between psychological maltreatment and mental health
In addition to internalizing and externalizing problems, adolescents increasingly rely on more avoidant coping mechanisms than active coping mechanisms.


Through an analysis of data from the interRAI Child and Youth Mental Health dataset this study examined the prevalence of, and determine the effect of adverse childhood experiences on non-suicidal self-injury among children and adolescents. Twenty nine percent of the sample (N=2038) were identified as having engaged in non-suicidal self-injury, with children and adolescents having experienced sexual abuse at a 60% higher likelihood of engaging in this behavior.


This study examined reporting rates of child sexual abuse in Indigenous communities through a comparison of case characteristics and progression in Indigenous and Non-indigenous communities. Results indicated that in Indigenous communities, reporting rates of sexual abuse were two to four times higher.


Using a sample of 5259 adolescents (aged 10 to 19 years) the following study sought to identify the most prevalent factors associated with violence against adolescents reported between 2009 to 2012 in Pernambuco, Brazil. Results indicated that physical violence was the most prevalent, being aged 10 to 14 was closely associated with sexual assault, and that violence and neglect were associated with having disabilities.


This study examined the differences between pedosexual child abusers with consumers of internet child pornography and control subjects with adult-sexual preference in terms of traumatic childhood experience. The authors conclude that overall level of abuse experienced in childhood, particularly less sexual abuse experience, modulates child sexual abuse behaviors during adulthood, and that depending on the resiliency of the individual, abuse experience during childhood increases the likelihood of the development of neurotic personality traits. These traits are considered to increase the risk of child sexual abuse in child sex offenders.


Using bootstrapped multiple regression analyses on data collected from a university sample (N=640) this study sought to examine whether self-reported childhood experiences of disengaged parenting (DP) would better predict adults’ psychological symptoms than childhood sexual, physical, or psychological abuse. Results indicated that while various forms of child maltreatment were correlated with adult symptomatology at the univariate level, DP was the primary multivariate predictor and that DP may increase the risk of child abuse and threaten attachment security.

This study evaluated the utility of Families First home visiting (FFHV) through an examination of decreasing rates of being in care of child welfare, decreasing hospitalizations for maltreatment-related injuries, and improving child development at school entry. It is recommended that FFHV be offered to at-risk families as it is an effective tool to decrease maltreatment.


Through an analysis of data gathered from the National Comorbidity Survey of Adolescents, this study evaluated the association between relationship and community-level factors and overall mental health status among adolescents with and without a history of maltreatment. Findings suggest that a supportive family and parent relationships as well as positive community and school experiences were related to good mental health, however, support from friends and siblings was not necessarily related.


This study used data from the 2012–2013 National Epidemiologic Survey on Alcohol and Related Conditions to examine associations of ten types of adverse childhood experiences (ACEs) with lifetime suicide attempts and number and age of attempts among U.S. adults aged 18. Results indicated that that sexual abuse and parental/other family member’s mental illness was associated with increased odds of having attempted suicide among both genders, and for men, emotional neglect also was an observed factor.


To evaluate the perception of lay individuals regarding neglect, the factors that influence their decision to make a referral, and the effects of child, parent, and participant gender on laypersons’ evaluations of child neglect the current study asked participants to read a case of child neglect and then rate the culpability of the parent and whether their behavior met the legal definition of neglect. Results indicate that gender bias may exist in laypersons’ perceptions.


This study examined the influence of nurse home visitation program on reducing child maltreatment. The effects of the program on the maltreatment reports of women with low to medium level of exposure to domestic violence maltreatment reports were mediated by reductions in numbers of subsequent children born to mothers and their reported use of public assistance.


Through the use of structural equation modeling, this study sought to evaluate the utility of a theoretical model which posits that dissociation is a core process mediating the relationship between childhood sexual abuse (CSA) and internalizing, externalizing, and sexualized behavior difficulties in
children. Results indicated that dissociation acted as a mediator between the relationship between CSA and internalizing, externalizing, and sexualized behavior difficulties.


Using data from the experiences of 13,052 children and youth from the aggregation of three cross-sectional waves (2008, 2011, and 2014) of the National Surveys of Children Exposed to Violence this study examined the prevalence and characteristics of family abduction episodes. Findings revealed that female parents were the primary abductors, and that less than half of the episodes were reported to the police.


This study sought to examine the attitudes of health care professionals (HCPs) towards maltreatment reporting, particularly, level of comfort with mandated reporting, commitment to the reporting role, and confidence in the child protection system to take action as needed. Results indicated that while HCPs were committed to their reporting role, yet lacked confidence in the system’s ability to respond to maltreatment reports.


The current study utilized data from 2,597 respondents from 43 cities with valid police data on narcotics incidents to examine the relationship between drug use, drug availability, and child maltreatment. Results indicated that frequency of physical abuse was related to city-level rates of drug abuse and dependence, that increased physical abuse and physical neglect were more frequently reported by parents who use drugs in areas with greater availability of and that emotional support was protective of all types of maltreatment.


This study sought to address the gap in the literature regarding the victimization of Mexican youth, particularly, prevalence and types of victimization, characteristics of the perpetrator and location of the incidences, and correlates or forms of victimization or poly-victimization through an analysis of the 2014 Social Survey on Social Cohesion for the Prevention of Violence and Delinquency. Results indicated that individuals with the youths inner circle are more likely to be the perpetrators of violence, and that proximity to crime and peer delinquency increased the risk of poly-victimization.


This study used data from the experimental evaluation of Child Protective Services to identify the impact of numerous service variables, family engagement, and family characteristics on the risk of maltreatment re-reports and substantiated re-reports among families (4,868) initially reported for neglect and risk of harm. Results suggested that while service duration and intensity were neither related to maltreatment re-report nor to substantiated re-report, ratings made by caseworkers regarding service need were related to both.

This study examined the relationship between the question types used by interviewers and the quantity of details gathered during a child sexual abuse investigative interview. Findings suggest that more detailed answers are provided by older children, and following invitation oriented questioning.


Using a sample of 479 adolescents (13–17 years) involved with the Canadian child welfare system between 2003 and 2010, this study examined the trauma symptom profiles and identified three symptom profiles (minimal, moderate, and severe-trauma related symptoms) using data from the Trauma Symptom Checklist for Children. Females with increased severity of sexual abuse were more likely to be categorized as having a severe-trauma symptom profile.


This study sought to examine the relationship between the reception of mental health services following being reported to the child welfare system in youth who had experienced social, emotional, and behavioral related to adverse childhood experiences. Findings revealed that the most prevalent ACEs included hospitalization for a medical condition, neglect, and exposures to domestic and community violence. Further increased age and sexual abuse were found to be associated with an increased likelihood of being diagnosed with internalizing problems.


Using the Singapore version of Child and Adolescent Needs and Strengths (CANS) tool, this study sought to examine how having talents/interests, educational support, family relationships and self-recognition of these strengths and the influence that multi type maltreatment influences anger and conduct problems in a sample of 130 participants (males and females aged 13-19). Findings suggest that while certain strengths were related to anger and conduct problems, recognition and application of the strengths significantly predicted both outcomes.


Using a sample of 400 adolescents (aged 12-20) from a residential treatment center in Norway, this study sought to evaluate global self-esteem, attachment difficulties, and substance use as mediators of the relationship between child maltreatment and psychopathology and diminished well-being in high risk adolescents. Results indicated that while global self-esteem was a mediator, substance abuse and attachment were not.


Using a sample of boys (N=638) with problematic sexual behaviors (PSBs) in the Massachusetts Child Welfare system, this retrospective longitudinal archival study examined whether the offending behaviors persisted from early childhood into adolescence. Findings suggest that youth with PSBs appearing in early childhood would have higher sexual re-offense rates than those with PSBs appearing in middle childhood or pre-adolescence/adolescence.

Using a sample of 272 youth in foster care, this study examined how the number and type of abuse experiences as well as level of exposure predicted differences in appraisal. Results indicated that neither total exposure nor number of maltreatment categories experienced acted as a significant predictive factor of appraisal rigidity above and beyond single categories of maltreatment experienced.


Using a sample of 1134 students (12 to 13 year old Swedish boys and girls), the following study examined the effect of emotional maltreatment and emotional well-being. Results revealed that emotional maltreatment had a significant effect on mental health and well-being for both genders. Significant interaction effects of emotional maltreatment were observed between gender and level of emotional maltreatment with girls reporting decreased levels of mental health and mental well-being at lower levels of maltreatment than their male counterparts.


This study examined program, workplace and process factors associated with implementation and sustainment of an evidence-based parenting support program (EBP) in Australian Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander family support providers. Results emphasize the need for further exploration of program and workplace variables.


Using data from an international research study on child prostitution was conducted in Benin, Burkina Faso, and Niger, this study examined the characteristics of the prostitution of boys in Niger. Findings revealed that prior to engaging in prostitution most boys had experienced sexual abuse and/or sexual assault, and that most boys lived with their families during the prostitution.


This longitudinal study examined the relationship between the number, timing, and type of maltreatment allegations and adolescent risk of a deliberate self-harm hospital (DSH) admission. Results indicated that high risk of DSH was associated with a substantiated allegation of maltreatment, increased number of allegations, and multiple types of maltreatment.

Jackson, Y., Huffhines, L., Stone, K. J., Fleming, K., & Gabrielli, J. (2017). **Coping styles in youth exposed to maltreatment: Longitudinal patterns reported by youth in foster care.** *Child Abuse & Neglect, 70,* 65-74. doi: 10.1016/j.chiabu.2017.05.001

This longitudinal study examined the type and consistency of self-reported coping behavior in foster care youth (aged 8-22) over time. Findings indicated that many youth reported using more than one coping mechanism and that coping behaviors are not simple, categorical-only constructs.
Using a sample of 730 young people (aged 13 to 16 years) from the UK this study examined how experiences of extrafamilial victimization and poly-victimization act as predictors of trauma. Results indicated that interpersonal forms of extrafamilial victimization (e.g., sexual victimization) were significant predictors of trauma, whereas more indirect forms of extrafamilial victimization (e.g., witnessing the victimization of others) were not.

Using data from the Longitudinal Studies on Child Abuse and Neglect (LONGSCAN), this study examined period between the time of the initial reports of child maltreatment that were not substantiated and the time of first substantiated re-reports as well as factors associated with the risk of later substantiated re-reporting. This study examined data regarding 378 children with initially unsubstantiated reports with 81% being re-reported, two-thirds of which were substantiated. Being younger, non-white, and more depressive symptoms appeared to increase the risk of substantiated re-reporting.

To examine the association between childhood physical and sexual abuse and intimate partner violence (IPV) in adulthood in Korean immigrant women in the US, this study compared women who had suffered IPV in the past 6 months to those who had no lifetime experiences of IPV. Results suggest that victimization during childhood, and patriarchal gender ideology act as strong predictors of IPV in Korean immigrant women.

The Violent Experiences Questionnaire-Revised (VEQ-R) is a self-report measure used to estimate annual frequencies of childhood and sibling physical abuse, exposure to parental violence, peer bullying, and corporal punishment between the ages of 5 to 16. This study examined the addition of subscales that allow an estimation of childhood, the pre-teen years, adolescence frequencies of violence, and the scales were found to have good internal and temporal consistency.

Using a sample of 154 professionals, the presence and strengths of determinants related to consultation of an in-house expert on child abuse and neglect (CAN) by preventive child health care professionals was examined. Results demonstrated the regional child protection service and monitoring whether support was provided to families was positively associated with consultation of CAN professionals.

This study examined archival data from a class action lawsuit of sexual misconduct to determine predictors of reporting. Using a subsample of 179 women who have experienced at least 1 penetration offense, 397 incidents of staff sexual misconduct were examined. Results revealed that 6 predictors (age at time of assault, physical injury, multiple incidents, perpetrator with multiple victims, the year the abuse began, and the number of years women have left on their sentence) account for 58% of the variance in reporting.


Through an analysis of data from the using the International Society for the Prevention of Child Abuse and Neglect (ISPCAN) Child Abuse Screening Tool – Children’s Institutional Version (ICAST-CI), this study sought to examine and estimate the frequency of sexual, physical, and emotional abuse of children in a school environment in Kerala, India. Results revealed that year and lifetime prevalence of abuse was high: physical (75.5%, 78.5%), emotional (84.5%, 85.7%) and sexual (21.0%, 23.8%), and that being male, of low socioeconomic status, familial substance use and difficulties at school significantly increased the likelihood of abuse.


This study examined the influence of race/ethnicity and sex on the associations between childhood adversity and adult mental health and alcohol behaviors through an analysis of interviews (N = 60,598) from the 2010 Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System. Results revealed that while sex did not moderate any relationships, ACEs were significantly associated with depression and excessive alcohol use. The relationship between ACEs and excessive drinking was observed to have been modified by race/ethnicity.


Through an examination of data from the Ontario Child Abuse and Neglect Data System (OCANDS) the present study evaluated the differences between the profiles of Asian-Canadian and White-Canadian children and families that experienced a case closure after an investigation instead of being transferred to ongoing child protection services (CPS). Results indicated that CPS involvement was longer for Asian-Canadian children and families, and that investigations are less likely to be ended prematurely than for White-Canadian children and families.


This mixed-methods study sought to compare child welfare involvement for Asian-Canadian and White-Canadian children and families in the child welfare system in Canada. Findings revealed that significant differences when comparing Asian-Canadian and White-Canadian children and families particularly involving household composition, maltreatment type, substantiation decision and decision to transfer to ongoing child protection services.

Lloyd, M. H., & Kepple, N. J., Unpacking the parallel effects of parental alcohol misuse and low income on risk of supervisory neglect. Child Abuse & Neglect, 69, 72-84. doi: 10.1016/j.chiabu.2017.03.007
Using a sample of 2990 parents of children under 13 years old who had completed a telephone survey, this study sought to examine the direct and indirect impact of parent alcohol misuse and low family income on risk of supervisory neglect. Findings suggest a significant direct effect of low family income on likelihood of supervisory neglect yet frequency of heavy drinking showed no direct effect.


491 women in jails throughout the United States were given structured diagnostic interviews assessing for lifetime mental health, substance use, victimization and conviction history. Structural equation modeling was used to investigate the relationships between these characteristics. Lifetime mental health and substance use disorders proved to be significant mediating factors. Greater treatment utilization was associated with greater number of convictions in the sample. Recommendations for contextualizing these results in prevention and treatment initiatives are made.


Using corroborated court cases of a sample of 57 preschoolers who had been victims of child sexual assault, this study examined disclosure rates of sexual abuse as well as delays until first disclosure, and motivational aspects surrounding preschoolers’ disclosures. Findings suggest that while the disclosure was often delayed, children could provide at least one detail about the sexual abuse to the informal interviewer and the police interviewer.


This study examined how parent-child physical aggression (PCPA) and adult intimate partner violence (IPV) influence developmental outcomes in children, particularly, the differential effects of the type of violence exposure, the experience of one or both forms, the chronicity of violent experiences, and the age, gender, and SES of the child. Results suggest that PCPA and IPV both have an adverse effect of a child’s development, with PCPA as the more powerful influencer of the two violence forms.


To identify the existence of patterns of exposure when infants and toddlers were most vulnerable to adverse childhood experiences (ACEs), this study used a longitudinal data set from low income households. Results revealed that children exposed to multiple ACEs predicted more robust negative outcomes in cognitive, language, and physical development.

McKibbin, G., Humphreys, C., & Hamilton, B. “Talking about child sexual abuse would have helped me”: Young people who sexually abused reflect on preventing harmful sexual behavior. Child Abuse & Neglect, 70, 210-221. doi: 10.1016/j.chiabu.2017.06.017

This study sought to examine how exogenous shocks to a family's disposable income may influence child maltreatment. Fixed effects regression revealed that an increase in gas prices was associated with increases in state-level child maltreatment referral rates, even after controlling for demographic and other economic variables.


Through an analysis of case files for children in Israel referred for investigation following a suspected victimization of child sexual abuse, or disclosure of sexual abuse, this study examined child and event characteristics that predicted the likelihood that a report would be deemed as credible. Older age, and lack of cognitive delay were identified as the most common predictors of cases judged as credible.


Using data from the Wave II of the CDC-Kaiser ACE Study this study evaluated the relationship between an expanded Adverse Childhood Experience (ACE) score that included being spanked as a child and adult mental health outcomes through an examination of each ACE separately to determine the influence of each ACE. Results emphasized the significance of analyzing both cumulative ACE scores and individual ACEs on adult health outcomes to provide better insight into risk and protective factors to assist in future prevention efforts.


Through an analysis of a sample of high school students (N=3288), this study evaluated how being subjected to CPA during childhood influenced their perception of their parents or was associated with any differences in mental health. Findings suggested that children who had been subjected to CPA had an increased likelihood of mental illness symptoms and negative perception of their parents.


Through the administration of quantitative questionnaires to 1096 children and adolescents attending public schools near the Israeli border with Gaza, this study examined the impact of continuous exposure to missile attacks. Results indicated that PTSS responses were primarily related to the security threat, while interpersonal aggression was associated with other types of traumatic events.


Using data from the National Survey of Child and Adolescent Well-Being II, the current study examined the relationship between relationships between demographic factors, domestic minor sex trafficking (DMST) status, and several psychosocial dependent variables for children and youth in the child welfare system who affirm that they have engaged in transactional sex within the past 6 months. Results indicated that youth with a history of DMST victimization were more likely than their non-exploited peers to report runaway behavior, exhibit externalizing behaviors, and have a substance abuse problem.

To assess the inter-rater reliability of maltreatment designation for two Alaskan Child Death Review (CDR) panels, two different multidisciplinary CDR panels examined identical medical, autopsy, law enforcement, child welfare, and administrative records for 101 infant and child deaths. Agreement was observed to be highest for abuse, and lowest for negligence.


Through an analysis of 837 at-risk families this study evaluated whether child maltreatment may act as a function of cumulative family risk. Findings suggest that the primary risks that made up the cumulative scale include socio-economic disadvantage, and parental characteristics such as mental or physical health, alcohol use and domestic violence.


To examine the effect that victim sex, mock juror sex, and type of child abuse has on mock jurors’ assessments of eyewitness and defendant integrity, continuous guilt ratings, dichotomous verdicts, and sentencing recommendations, participants in this study were asked to answer a self-report questionnaire following review of a trial transcript. Results revealed that female mock jurors were more likely than male mock jurors to find the defendant guilty and that males had a more favorable perception of the defendant.


Through an analysis of fatal and near fatal child physical abuse cases, this study sought to examine common factors and to identify the presence of signs of maltreatment preceding the child’s fatal or near-fatal event. Results indicated the presence of psychosocial risk factors in all cases, and that TBI and bruises were the most common injury.


This study evaluated the RoSE model, a model created to review cases of child abuse and neglect (CAN) that is child focused, examines care over time, utilizes child protection staff for review; includes health professionals/services in the review who know the child; and promoting systems change at local levels. The RoSE model was found to be positive by participants.


A sample of 1,057 women who identify as lesbian or bisexual completed assessments asking about typical alcohol consumption and related-consequences. Severe sexual assault was associated with a 71% higher number of weekly alcoholic drinks. Results demonstrated that alcohol misuse among this population might be an effect of sexual assault. As participants were 18 to 25 years old, this should be a growing concern as the misuse will continue throughout life.

This study examined the independent association between childhood maltreatment type on intimate partner violence (IPV) victimization and perpetration as well as mutually exclusive categories of IPV through an analysis of Wave 4 of the National Longitudinal Study of Adolescent to Adult Health. Significant relationships were observed between child physical abuse and IPV victimization as well as IPV perpetration for males and females, however, upon addition of emotional maltreatment to the model, this effect was reduced.


The current study sought to increase the rate of children who receive correct HIV-PEP regimens among those diagnosed with acute sexual assault in The Children’s Hospital of Philadelphia Emergency Department (ED). Charts were reviewed over 31 months to identify the base rate of children receiving appropriate regimens of HIV-PEP. Forty percent of children in which HIV-PEP was indicated received the recommended 28-day course.


This study examined the relationship between childhood maltreatment and postnatal distress three months postpartum, and evaluated the role of social support provided by different sources (intimate partner, parents, parents-in-law, and friends). Results indicated that support during the post-partum period for women with history of childhood maltreatment may improve their resiliency during this vulnerable period.


Using a sample of participants from a Child Advocacy Center, this study evaluated the stigmatization that care givers experience regarding their child’s sexual abuse, as well as the role that motivation and obstacles play in predicting treatment engagement. Findings suggest that caregiver stigmatization was related to increased motivation for treatment engagement yet an increased number of obstacles as well.


This study examined how complex needs such as domestic violence, substance use, and mental health influence child protective services outcomes (CPS), particularly those assigned to home based post investigation services (HBPS) that are re-reported to CPS. Findings emphasize the need to recognize the diverse needs of families referred to HBPS, and the importance of accurate screening so that the correct services and needs can be provided to the families.

Using a sample of 206 four to nine-year-old maltreated and non-maltreated children, the present study examined the effects of the hypothetical putative confession and yes/no negatively valenced questions varying in their explicitness. Children interacted with a confederate during which time they played with toys with half of the children experiencing toy breakage and being asked to keep the breakage a secret. Children were then assigned to one of two conditions— the hypothetical putative confession or the no instruction condition, and were then asked whether the toy had broken or if something had happened to the toy. Results indicated that children in the hypothetical putative confession were at an increased likelihood of disclosing toy breakage without increasing false reports.


Using Binary conditional logistic regression to model the outcome as a function of the individual and environmental level predictors, this study employed a retrospective case-control design to evaluate a dataset of children who were hospitalized or died due to maltreatment to examine how individual and environmental attributes may influence maltreatment. Results suggest that government influence may be an important protective factor.


Using a sample of 81 couples, this study examined whether personal stress and distress predicted PCA risk for fathers as well as mothers, and whether couple functioning acted as a mediator or moderator in the relationship between personal stress and PCA risk. Results suggested that high rates of paternal and maternal PCA risk could be predicted and that better couple functioning was a mediating factor for personal stress and PCA risk.


This study sought to identify whether cumulative adversity and victimization help to explain elevated emotional and behavioral problems among children of parents who have experienced war-related absence or deployment through a comparison of the victimization history with youth without war-related absent or deployed parents.


This study compared the efficiency and effectiveness of Functional Family Therapy-Child Welfare (FFT-CW®) to Usual Care (UC) in the reduction of child maltreatment. Families assigned to FFT-CW®, a continuum of care model based on risk status, had a faster rate of treatment completion and an increased likelihood of meeting treatment goals.


The Instrument for identification of Parents At Risk for child Abuse and Neglect (IPARAN) was developed due to the importance of the identification of families with high risk of child maltreatment.
This study examined the predictive validity of the IPARAN and evaluated whether a combination of actuarial and clinical methods yields better predictive validity.


This study sought to evaluate if maltreatment dimensions and cumulative risk can identify maltreated young people who exhibit aggressive and criminal behaviors compared to those who do not. Results indicated that that 13% of maltreated children and youth served by the Ontario child welfare system exhibited aggression and that 6% of adolescents who suffered maltreatment were involved in the youth justice system.


Using a mixed-methods design, this study sought to identify variation in prevention of child maltreatment by child healthcare professionals through an examination of child healthcare organizations in the Netherlands. Findings revealed that suboptimal care and practice variation was found in communication, medical expertise, collaboration, involvement in prevention of CM, and improvement opportunities.


Using thematic content analysis of interviews with male victims of sexual abuse (aged 6-10) as well as four psychologists, this study examined the dynamics of sexual violence committed against boys. Findings suggest that proximity to the perpetrator (usually adolescent boys) was strongly associated with the abuse, and that victims were discriminated against and met with attitudes of doubt.


To evaluate the relationship between maternal response and symptom trajectory following a child’s disclosure of sexual assault, the current study used the Maternal Self-Report Support Questionnaire (MSSQ) in a sample of 252 treatment-seeking children and mothers. Results suggested that maternal support was not closely related to children’s symptoms and was not associated with levels of PTSD symptoms.


To examine the imaging and admission ratios for children with definitive and suggestive maltreatment in a national sample of emergency departments (EDs), this study used the 2012 Nationwide Emergency Department Sample (NED) to create an estimate of ED visits for children less than 10 years old presenting with both definitive and suggestive maltreatment. Findings revealed that the 2012 national estimate of U.S. ED visits with definitive maltreatment is 14,457 and suggestive child maltreatment was observed in 103,392 children.

This study examined the dynamism of the therapeutic alliance in child trauma therapy from the perspectives of the child, caregiver, and therapist using Trauma Focused Cognitive Behavior Therapy (TF-CBT). Although participation in the treatment was difficult, children as well as the caregivers and therapist rated the alliance as increasingly positive throughout treatment.

WITNESS ISSUES


Participants (N = 56) watched a video of a crime followed by misinformation about the video. Those who engaged in a brief mindfulness meditation prior to watching the video (n = 28) showed better source monitoring than controls (n = 28), but mindfulness practice did not enhance memory performance.


This research study examined the uncertain responses of 56 alleged sexual abuse victims, aged 5–17 years, testifying in Scottish criminal court trials. Each child reported uncertainty in response to 15% of the questions on average. Uncertain responding was associated with expressions of resistance and confusion, questioning context, question content, utterance type, and age.


Women (N = 153) were randomly assigned to drink alcohol or tonic water, participated in a hypothetical sexual assault, and were tested either 1 or 7 days later using a perpetrator present or perpetrator absent simultaneous line-up. Identification accuracy was consistent across alcohol and tonic groups, but tonic-consumers expressed higher confidence on average.


Participants (N = 72) identified a peripheral character (witness) and the central character (thief) from photographic line-ups after watching either high or low load versions of a mock crime video. Perceptual load decreased identifications of the witness but not of the thief.


One to two days after participating in an innocuous event, 5- to 12-year-olds (N = 100) were questioned in either face-to-face or live video-feed interviews. Accuracy and informativeness did not vary between modalities, but video-feed interviews required more clarification prompts than face-to-face interviews.


Interviewers (n = 53) assessed interviews with 3- to 14-year-old alleged victims (n = 321) during Revised Protocol (RP) training. Use of support increased, while instances of inadequate support and insensitivity to reluctance decreased. RP did not affect use of free recall-based questions.
**Wrongful convictions and prototypical black features: Can a face-type facilitate misidentifications?** Legal and Criminological Psychology, 22(2), 350-358. Doi: 10.1111/lcrp.12105

Participants (N = 97) rated face stereotypicality of Black men exonerated by the Innocence Project (IP). IP eyewitness exonerates were given higher stereotypicality-face ratings than other IP exonerates regardless of participant race or eyewitness race in the actual case.

**Relations between attorney temporal structure and children’s response productivity in cases of alleged child sexual abuse.** Legal and Criminological Psychology, 22(2), 228-241. Doi: 10.1111/lcrp.12096

Coding of criminal court transcripts involving 5- to 18-year-old witnesses (N = 223) revealed that prosecutors and defense attorneys questioning tactics varied substantially. Temporal structure enhanced production of case-relevant details.


Research shows that witnesses frequently make errors when reporting an observed event but how do these errors influence peoples’ perceptions of testimony and witness credibility? The authors manipulated whether a witness provided an inaccurate detail that was probative or non-probative and measure peoples’ perceptions of witness dishonesty or forgetfulness. The results demonstrate that a single error influences peoples’ perceptions of the entire testimony. Moreover, perceived witness dishonesty or forgetfulness shaped perceptions of witness credibility by mediating the relationship between inaccuracy and reliability of witness memory.

**Interviews of children in a Portuguese special judicial procedure.** Behavioral Sciences & the Law, 35, 189-203. doi:10.1002/bsl.2284

This research study examined 137 interviews with 3- to 17-year-old victims of child sexual abuse conducted in several Portuguese criminal courts. Detailed examination of interview transcripts showed that 69% of all questions asked were option-posing questions, 16% were directive questions, 11% were suggestive questions, and only 3% were open-ended prompts.


This research gathered detailed information from a national sample of real-world child forensic interviewers about their training and current practices, with a specific focus on assessing the information interviewers typically review prior to conducting child forensic interviews. The survey revealed a lack of uniformity in interviewing protocols adopted and pre-interview preparation practices.

**‘Where were your clothes?’ Eliciting descriptions from clothing placement from children alleging sexual abuse in criminal trials and interviews.** Legal and Criminological Psychology, 22(2), 197-212. Doi: 10.1111/lcrp.12094

Questions about clothing placement during alleged sexual abuse of 5- to 12-year-olds asked by trial attorneys (n = 142) and forensic interviewers (n = 155) were examined. Questions elicited more discussion and were more common than spontaneous mentions by children. Children answering wh-questions were over six times more likely to describe clothing placement than when asked closed-ended questions.
This study utilized a sample of 97 children aged 3-6 to examine their ability to answer the types of questions attorneys and interviewers typically ask about clothing. They were asked yes/no, forced-choice, open-choice, or where questions about clothing using a human figurine, clothing, and stickers. Children generally did well with simple clothing or sticker placement. When clothing or sticker placement was intermediate, children performed poorly except when asked where questions.

Witnesses to a videotaped violent event (N = 80) were interviewed both before and after collaboration. Collaborative pairs (n = 20) remembered as much as nominal pairs (n = 20) but made significantly fewer errors. Under certain conditions, collaboration can help rather than hurt eyewitness memory.

This study surveyed 87 clinical and forensic mental health professionals on their history and practices in evaluating the need for and providing letters of support for the use of emotional support animals. Results suggest that clinical professionals are offering more of these recommendations than forensic clinicians. The latter group endorsed the use of more forensically complex and appropriate techniques in a hypothetical evaluation of this kind. Proposed guidelines for emotional support animal evaluations are detailed.

This study sampled 223 adults from Amazon Mechanical Turk and used an experimental cheating paradigm to examine the role of 3 individual differences, including morality, self-control, and rule orientation, underlying differential susceptibility to deterrence. The results indicated that deterrence threats may be more influential for people who have low moral disengagement, who possess more self-control, or who are more rule oriented.

Researchers sought to examine the relationship between mental and substance use disorders with correctional outcomes. Offenders were assigned one of four groups (i.e. only substance use, only mental disorders, both, or neither). Offenders with co-occurring disorders had the poorest outcomes, while those with only mental disorders were between the rest; therefore, substance use appears to contribute to the worst outcomes for offenders with mental disorders.