COMMUNITY, CORRECTIONAL, & FORENSIC TREATMENT


The relationship between criminal thinking, criminal justice outcomes, and severe mental illness was explored in individuals receiving community treatment. Participants (N= 234) enrolled in Assertive Community Treatment or Forensic Assertive Community treatment were recruited to the study. The two groups did not differ significantly in their General Criminal Thinking, Reactive Criminal Thinking, or Proactive Criminal Thinking, as measured by the Psychological Inventory of Criminal Thinking Styles-Layperson Edition-Short Form (PICTS-L-SF). A positive relationship was found between degree of psychiatric symptomatology and level of criminal thinking. Implications for treatment of individuals with severe mental illness in both the community and forensic settings are discussed.


Drawing from procedural justice theory, the authors developed and tested a new measure of procedural fairness perception for individuals under community supervision. The two-part study consisted of the development and validation of items for the Procedural Justice Measure (PJM). The measure was then tested for predictive utility in subsequent criminal justice outcomes for individuals discharged from community supervision. The PJM proved to have good internal consistency with a one factor structure. Across the two studies, higher scores on the PJM were associated with more positive criminal justice outcomes (fewer arrests, parole violations). The application of procedural justice theory in criminal justice practice is discussed.


Using focus groups with law enforcement officers, this study examined strengths and weaknesses related to prescription drug monitoring programs (PDMP). Programs varied in terms of their accessibility, number of information requests, amount of training, and the quality of data reported.


In order to address the barriers to treatment implementation for criminogenic thinking within large health care systems, researchers conducted interviews with 22 specialists from the VHA’s Veterans
Justice Programs. Researchers found that some barriers at the implementation, program, and system levels included: the time-intensiveness of treatments; providers’ stigma/bias towards patients with antisocial tendencies; and lack of funding and recognition of criminogenic treatments as evidence based. Recommendations are provided to address recognized barriers.

This study reviewed the existing literature about the efficacy of jail diversion programs. Overall findings suggest that there are few studies that discuss the efficacy of these programs, and of those that do, few include a control group.

This study examined the relationship between imported factors and mental health in prison. Measures were administered to 635 participants. Mental health issues were identified in forty percent of the male prisoner sample. Regression analyses indicated that imported factors significantly predicted mental health “caseness” accuracy.

This study examined the Growing Pro-Social (GPS) Program’s ability to increase cognitive reappraisal and decrease expressive suppression over time. Concerning cognitive reappraisal, while treatment participants showed a significant increase, controls presented a decrease over time. For expressive suppression, the treatment group presented a significant decrease, and the control group showed no change over time. Treatment participants also presented a significant decrease in the number of disciplinary infractions and in the number of days in punishment, while controls showed no change or an increase over time.

The Women’s Initiative for Success with Early Intervention pilot project created a pathway for incompetent women to be diverted out of jail and into mental health treatment that was faster than the traditional evaluation for competency to stand trial pathway. A total of 16 female misdemeanants with non-violent charges were referred to the program. Compared with a similar group of female misdemeanants, WISE group women spent significantly fewer days in jail.

This study explored differences in criminal, health, demographic, and social functioning characteristics, processing through the forensic psychiatric system and recidivism outcomes of 5 groups. Those with crime onset after mental illness were more likely to show fewer criminogenic needs and to have better outcomes upon release than those who had crime onset during adulthood, before mental illness. Individuals with no prior contact with mental health or criminal justice had higher functioning prior to their crime and had a lower risk of reoffending.

Using a sample of 1203 male prisoners from 15 Flemish prisons, this study examined variables associated with suicidal ideation in corrections. Approximately one quarter of the incarcerated sample reported suicidal ideation in the past year. Type of offense and length of incarceration with related to recent suicidal ideation. Previous incarceration and employment during incarceration were both significantly related to a decrease in suicidality.


This study qualitatively examined perspectives of social workers about pre-testimony therapy with child victims of sexual abuse. Lack of guidelines for working with child abuse victims, issues of contamination, and an inability to do anything emerged as themes.


This study examined Connecticut’s specialized Advanced Supervision and Intervention Support Team program, which offers criminal justice supervision in conjunction with mental health treatment and support services. In this six-month follow-up study, follow-up study clients showed improvements in mental health. Administrative data showed no change in arrest rates, but a significant reduction in re-incarceration.


This article explored the characteristics of two Israeli community courts using the Criminal Law Taxonomy. Through court-hearing observations and a process of multi-rater coding, the article analyzed the courtroom dynamics according to a set of 13 measurable parameters. The process was conceived as a vehicle for promoting the model goals: it was highly offender-oriented and involved a needs-based terminology while allowing for restrained expression of emotion.


This study investigated possible racial and ethnic discrepancies in community mental health utilization between those involved in mental health courts (MHC) versus the traditional criminal justice system. Data was reviewed from four mental health court sites with paired comparison samples. Findings suggested significant differences in community mental health and substance abuse treatment use for African Americans in the traditional court systems compared to their White counterparts. In contrast, there was no significant racial or ethnic disparities in mental health use for those involved in the mental health courts. The use of mental health court systems for reducing racial disparities in the criminal justice system are discussed.


Using an adapted version of the MacArthur Admission Experience Survey, this study examined patient perception of coercion of medication adherence. Seventy percent of the participants reported experiencing coercion, with the most frequently experienced forms including restraints and seclusions. Perceptions of coercion decreased over time.

This study utilized 69 documents from 14 countries to examine the definition, prevalence, characteristics, and needs of long-stay patients within forensic psychiatric settings. Reports on what constitutes “long-stay” and on the characteristics of long-stay patients were inconsistent. Factors most frequently associated with longer stay were seriousness of index offence, history of psychiatric treatment, cognitive deficit, severity of illness, diagnosis of schizophrenia or psychotic disorder, history of violence, and history of substance misuse.


This study examined factors related to the conversion of psychiatric patients from involuntary to voluntary status in Norway. Approximately half of all admissions were involuntary, and after re-evaluation, almost eighty percent of patients remained on involuntary status. Multivariate analyses revealed that patients’ request of admission, higher GAF admission scores, and fewer hallucinations and delusions were predictive of conversion from involuntary to voluntary.


This study examined public perceptions of involuntary mental health treatment in Norway. Results suggest that a majority of participants agreed with the use of involuntary treatment in certain cases. Similarly, support for involuntary admission for suicidality was higher than support for admission to prevent violent behavior.


This study reviewed the changes in mental health and criminal attitudes before and after treatment for 511 mentally disordered offenders. Variables measured for change drew from the general personality and cognitive social learning (GPCSL) model of criminal behavior, and showed treatment improvement in criminal attitude endorsement, global psychiatric symptomatology, and motivation to change. Positive score change in Antisocial Intentions and Attitudes Toward Associates from the Measure of Criminal Attitudes and Associations (MCAA) were predictive of decreased recidivism. An argument for the use of the GPCSL model in the treatment of seriously mentally ill offenders is made.


This study used an explanatory sequential design, including psychological autopsies, to identify psychiatric and other contributing factors in 35 homicide-suicide cases in northern Gauteng Province, South Africa. Identification of high-risk individuals and delineation of contributing factors is important. Early recognition and effective treatment of psychiatric illness, particularly depression and substance use problems, in people experiencing relationship issues and financial stressors, is an essential component in the prevention of homicide-suicide incidents.
Gender-responsive programs and services for girls in residential centers: Meeting different profiles of rehabilitation needs. Criminal Justice and Behavior, 45(1), 101-120. doi: 10.1177/0093854817733495

Gender specific as well as intragender heterogeneity in rehabilitation needs were studied in a sample of 219 adolescents in residential care centers. Data was collected from both the participants themselves as well as their designated educators. Female adolescents reported higher relational expectations of their educators than their male counterparts, whereas males expected greater assistance in supervision and rule adherence. Three mixed gender groups were identified by participants and educators; a low needs group, a moderate needs group which included disproportionately more males, and a high needs group with disproportionately more females. Implications for the improvement of gender responsive treatments in adolescent rehabilitation are discussed.


Using sixty-five studies, this article reviewed the research literature on interventions available to parents of children in the welfare system. Most of the literature reviewed interventions that focused on improving parenting practices, the parent-child relationship, attachment/security, and reducing child abuse and neglect. Most often studies were case studies, quasi-experimental designs, and randomized control trials.

Vocational rehabilitation for veterans with felony histories and mental illness: 12-month outcomes. Psychological Services, 15, 55-64. doi: 10.1037/ser0000114

Researchers compared three vocational reintegration modalities in order to examine the best method to re-integrate veterans released from prison with mental illnesses. The modalities included: basic services; self-study using the About Face Vocational Manual; and participation in the About Face Vocational Program. Results indicated that physical attendance in the program produced more promising results than the other conditions; however, new employment was relatively low overall.


The study sought to develop and evaluate items to be included in an activities list use for CBT interventions used with inmates. Subject matter experts were used to evaluate daily activity items in terms of their appropriateness for corrections, availability to inmates, need for editing, and where the activity could take place. A final list of 227 items was created, which could be used as activities in and out of cells. Recommendations and implications for using the DALI for psychological services are discussed.

Pilot study of a brief dialectical behavior therapy skills group for jail inmates. Psychological Services, 15, 98-108. doi: 10.1037/ser0000105

Researchers assessed the feasibility and acceptability of a DBT skills group in a jail setting by having male inmates participate in an 8-week DBT skills group. Pre- and posttests were used to analyze coping skills, emotional/behavioral dysregulation, and measures of treatment acceptability. Although it is stated more research needs to be done, the current study discusses promising results indicating a brief CBT skills group in this setting helps improve coping and reduce externalization of blame.

Using thematic analysis, this study qualitatively examined perspectives on mandatory psychiatric treatment in Canada. The major themes included a preference for Community Treatment Order of involuntary admission, few opportunities to be included in care, balance in therapeutic relationships, and different ways to assert autonomy.


This study examined the extent to which disorder specific symptoms and psychosocial well being affected diversion completion, compared to clinical and psychosocial factors.


Using semi-structured interviews, this study assessed the perspectives of 40 faith-based mentors involved in diversion and reentry programs. Mentors cited their religion as a reason they wanted to work with offenders. Many mentors believed that they could help offenders by providing spiritual guidance, but at times could not provide them with all the help that they needed.


This study conducted interviews with 20 IPP offenders to explore factors that may impact the efficacy of rehabilitation programs. Overall, prisoners reported that participating in treatment programs helped to change behavior. However, aspects of programs such as motivation of self and other group members, treatment provider characteristics, and repetitive treatment material were all cited as factors that impact the effectiveness of interventions.


This study examined the extent to which disorder specific symptoms and psychosocial well-being are related to no-show rates in forensic patients with ADHD. Results revealed that patients with high no-show rates had more ADHD symptoms compared to patients with low no-show rates. Furthermore, rule-breaking, externalizing problems and somatic problems were associated with higher no-show rates, whereas anxiety problems were associated with lower no-show rates.


Using propensity score matching, this study evaluated the effects of a prison-based CBT program on inmate misconduct. Results indicated no significant differences between inmates who completed the program versus those who did not in regard to receiving disciplinary infractions.
This study examined the relationship between child and caregiver-reported symptoms treatment attrition. Logistic regression revealed that low and high levels of internalizing symptoms were associated with high attrition, while moderate symptoms were related to the completion of treatment.


This study assessed perceptions of voluntary consent among 69 veterans who enrolled in a “jail diversion” program for co-occurring disorders. A majority reported that they “chose to” (88.4%) or “felt free to” (85.5%) enroll. Most reported having “control over” (69.6%) and “more influence than anyone else” regarding (60.9%) their participation. Fewer reported perceptions of negative pressure, including the feeling that someone “talked them into” enrolling (24.6%).


Domains of cognitive functioning including emotion regulation, cognitive control, and emotion recognition were tested for potential decline during the incarceration in 197 juveniles. An experimental group participated in a group-based cognitive behavioral therapy/mindfulness training (CBT/MT) intervention which was held across 3-5 weeks. At a four month follow-up all three measured domains were found to have significantly declined from baseline. A significant influence of CBT/MT group membership on reduced neuropsychological decline was not found. Implications of cognitive decline due to incarceration and directions for future research in the use of CBT/MT in incarcerated populations are discussed.


This study investigated the relation between choice, autonomy satisfaction, and subjective quality of life among 156 Belgian prisoners. Participants filled out questionnaires measuring perceived afforded choice, autonomy satisfaction, and quality of life. Results showed that perceived afforded choice related to higher subjective quality of life within prison. This relation was partially accounted for by elevated levels of autonomy satisfaction.


This study examined treatment progress with the Instrument for Forensic Treatment Evaluation in forensic psychiatric hospitals in the Netherlands. Patients were put into three groups based on their score on the IFTE factors, and repeated measures ANOVAs were conducted. Results indicated
significant treatment progress for the group high in problematic behavior, with a significant increase in problematic behavior for the low problem behavior group.


Recidivism rates, measured in prevalence, frequency, and overall crime impact, were compared between offenders who had completed a cognitive skills training program, CoVa (n = 2,229) and two control groups who did not (n = 506 and n = 2,229). The CoVA sample did not differ significantly than the control group with regards to conviction prevalence, but did show significantly reduced frequency of conviction and impact of their offenses (i.e. severity). Implications for the efficacy and use of the CoVa treatment system in the Netherlands is discussed.


This study examined the impact of adding telephone-based continuing care to intensive outpatient programs on criminal justice outcomes for people with cocaine dependence. Results showed that people with cocaine dependence randomized to an intensive outpatient program plus a telephone-based continuing care intervention had 54% lower odds of a criminal sentence in the 4 years after enrollment in the continuing care study, compared with those randomized to an intensive outpatient program alone.

### DELINQUENCY/ANTISOCIAL BEHAVIOR


A sample of 400 youths living on the street completed a structured self-report questionnaire to investigate the role of adverse experiences on criminogenic knowledge structures (CKSs). Borrowing from the social schematic theory of crime (SSTC) the author hypothesizes that adverse reactions will influence CKSs which will be associated with crime. The results indicate that physical abuse, emotional neglect, violent victimization, and homelessness were all directly associated with crime, with deviant peers mediating the relationship between physical abuse, homelessness and violent victimization and CKS. Crime was most strongly associated with CKS. The role of homelessness in the SSTC is discussed.


Using data from the National Youth Survey, this study examined the role of peer support on delinquent behavior. Results indicate that for adolescents with delinquent peers, social support increases the likelihood for delinquent behavior. Family support decreased the likelihood of delinquent behavior.


This study assessed whether dark tetrad personality traits predicted antisocial behavior. Using a sample of 511 college students and controlling for borderline personality and substance use, researchers found that psychopathic traits were positively related to antisocial behavior. Machiavellian and narcissistic personality traits were not significant predictors of antisocial behavior.
This study provided in-depth review of interrater reliability and internal consistency of Psychopathy Checklist-Revised (PCL-R) scores. Three distinct raters were compared; a group of clinicians from a forensic psychiatric team in Sweden (Rater 1), an academic forensic psychologist (Rater 2) and a trained third rater who only reviewed file data (Rater 3). The PCL-R scores of 43 offenders referred from the courts resulted in approximately .89 intraclass correlation coefficient (ICC) for the total score, with a range of .78 to .86 ICC for the four facet scores. Rater 3, who made judgements based on records alone, provided similar ratings to Raters 1 and 2 who conducted interviews. The importance of ensuring high interrater reliability of the PCL-R in applied settings is addressed.

This study examined the relationship of temperament, psychopathy, and trauma with delinquent behavior. Using hierarchical negative binomial regression, results indicated that temperament had a stronger relationship with self-reported delinquency than psychopathy and trauma, respectively. ROC-AUC models indicated that psychopathy and temperament had modest accuracy in predicting violent delinquent behavior.

This study examined 143 female and 909 male firesetters convicted of arson and fire-related offenses to compare key psychiatric and offending variables in female and male firesetters. Firesetters of both sexes reoffended by firesetting at similar rates. Compared with male firesetters, female firesetters were found to be less criminally versatile, to have offended less overall, and were less likely to have violent offenses. Females were more often diagnosed with depression, substance misuse, and personality disorder than men.

This study examined the relationship between probation supervised youth history of child protective services involvement and exit type from care. Results revealed that youth with a history of probation supervised foster care were more likely to exit via aging out than youth with no maltreatment history. Increased reports of maltreatment was associated with an increased likelihood of aging out versus permanency.

A sample of 26,927 racially and ethnically diverse youths designated to a community-based juvenile justice center in Florida were followed to investigate the interplay of criminal attitudes and self-regulation on recidivism. These qualities were measured through the Full Assessment of the Community Positive Achievement Change Tool (C-PACT); a measure of risk/need assessment used in the juvenile justice system. At a one year follow-up, stronger criminal attitudes and less self-regulation were associated with recidivism. Of those with mild to moderate levels of criminal attitudes, self-regulation remained associated with rearrest risk, while for those with high criminal
attitudes there was less of an association. Potential interventions to reduce recidivism risk in juvenile populations are suggested.

A sample of 160 low-income, racially diverse men were followed from infancy through early adulthood. The study examined whether resting heart rate (RHR) and empathy during early adolescence independently and interactively predict violent behavior and related correlates in late adolescence and early adulthood. The results indicate that empathy inversely predicted moral disengagement and juvenile petitions for violent crimes, while RHR was unrelated to all measures of violent behavior.

The goal of this study was to determine if sleep problems, broadly, mediate the association between adverse childhood experiences (ACEs) and delinquency in a sample of preadolescent children who recently entered the foster care system. Interviews were conducted with 516 maltreated children in foster care and their caregivers. Results show that posttraumatic stress symptoms, and current psychotropic medication use, sleep partially mediated the association between ACEs and delinquency.

Using a sample of 339 African American women, this study examined the influences of formal and informal custody loss on drug use and criminal behavior. Longitudinal random coefficient models revealed that both formal and informal loss of custody was related to an increase in drug use. Formal loss of custody did not significantly predict crime. Informal loss of custody was related to an increase in crime score.

The developmental pathway of 638 males admitted to a psychiatric program for forensic assessment were reviewed. Structural equation modeling (SEM) was used to explore the use of antisociality, neurodevelopment, and antisocial parentings to predict criminal violence. Results produced a three-factor structure of these latent variables with good fit to the data. In contrast, there was not good model fit to predict institutional outcome. Integrating knowledge of these pathways in the assessment and treatment of offenders is recommended.

This study examined the association between sleeping behaviors and preteen delinquency, and the extent to which ADHD symptomatology might inform these association. There were 3,500 married and unmarried couples in the sample. Individual's participated in an in-home survey that tapped into early involvement in delinquency behavior exhibited by the youth. Findings revealed that sleeping problems and sleep duration are associated with ADHD symptomatology, and ADHD diagnosis, and preteen delinquency.
The study examines the prevalence of mental disorders for a majority Mexican-American sample in order to aid providers recognize how to allocate mental health resources for low-risk, minority, juvenile offenders. Researchers found that 17.1% of participants had a current affective, anxiety, or psychotic disorder, and 24.9% met criteria for a substance abuse disorder. It is recommended that a portion of services and treatment be allocated to this population in order to prevent recidivism and partake in early intervention.

Using data from the National Longitudinal Study of Adolescent to Adult Health, this study examined the role of wider peer group influences on delinquent behavior. Results suggest that if delinquent behaviors of peers increased by 5 percent, an individual adolescent's delinquency would increase by 20 percent.

This study qualitatively examined ethical and deviant practices among banking employees. Unethical themes of forgery, tampering, deception, and failure to report emerged. Participants reported that there were not adequate deterrents to their unethical behavior.

This study explored offender experiences and emotions in offending as a way of thinking about risky behavior. Using in-depth interviewing, results indicated that some offenders utilized substances as a coping mechanism, while others used adrenaline, and boredom as reasons for engaging in risk-taking behavior.

This study sought to elucidate the experience of African-American women in the criminal justice system by identifying specific stressors that may lead to criminal thinking in this population. The social contexts of 418 African American women in prison or on probation were reviewed for stressful life events surrounding employment and finances, personal illness or injury, social network loss, child victimization, and gendered racism. In the probationer model, employment and financial stressors were positively associated with criminal thinking. In the prisoner model, engendered racism was positively associated with criminal thinking. Suggestions for how to address these stressors for justice involved African-American women are made.

Using qualitative interview with 35 youth gang members, this study assessed the status of youth street gangs in Scotland. Findings suggest that gangs are incorporating criminality in their group identity, namely organized crime.

Using cluster analysis, this study examined protective factors of individual and group delinquency in a sample of 1420 Italian adolescents. Participants with the lowest scores on disclosure, parental trust, and control measures were at an increased risk of engaging in violent behavior.


This study applied the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) organized/disorganized model of sexual homicide in the review of 350 cases of sexual homicides in Canada. Latent class analyses (LCA) was used to seek out relationships between crime scene characteristics and the dichotomous structure of the model. The LCA results did support the classification of two types of offenders; Controlled and Impetuous. Similarities between these types and the traditional organized/disorganized model are provided. Victimology profiles were not consistent with the organized/disorganized model. Implications for the improvement of criminal investigations and profiling are addressed.


This study provides a qualitative analysis of violent offenses and associated characteristics of 396 women on probation or parole. The most common violent acts reported were assault on non-intimate partners, assault on intimate partners, and robbery. No significant findings were found for associations between a history of child abuse, antisocial attitudes, or neighborhood violence and women’s use of violence. However, history of adult abuse was associated with violent acts. Analyses showed that anger was associated with violence and mediated the influence of prior abuse and commission of violent acts. Suggestions for effective community and correctional treatments for women in the justice system are made.


Drawing on 377 female adolescents from Portugal, the current study examines the psychometric properties of the Antisocial Process Screening Device Self-Report (APSD-SR) and Youth Psychopathic Traits Inventory – Short version (YPI-S) in female youth populations. The YPI-S showed stronger associations with parameters of the delinquency career, and the Behavioral dimension of the YPI-S showed stronger associations with conduct disorder symptoms and diagnosis, crime seriousness and history of violent crimes.


Researchers applied association and adaptive LASSO networks on two samples of forensic patients in order to examine features that represent the most central components of psychopathy. Forensic inpatients were administered the Psychopathy Checklist-Revised while previously civilly committed patients were administered the Psychopathy Checklist: Screening Version. Results indicated that interpersonal, lifestyle, and antisocial facets generally resulted in low centrality in the models while items on the affective facet were highly central.

This study focused on the affective dimension of psychopathy in youth, compared to including the interpersonal dimension, affective dimension, and the lifestyle dimension of psychopathy. Multiple regressions predicting antisocial behavior were conducted, exposure to violence, and psychopathology in 225 incarcerated adolescents. The results suggest that, not only the affective component, but also the interpersonal and lifestyle components contribute to the nomological network in which psychopathy is located.


Using a sample from two waves of data between 1997 and 2001 in the Philippines, this study examined the role of social control, delinquent peers, and guilt in antisocial behavior. Results indicated that increased levels of trust in social institutions predicted lower levels of problematic behavior. Similarly, increased commitment to antisocial peers predicted problem behaviors.


This study assessed the Intentions to Transgress model using a sample of 512 Australian students. Results of the model indicate that law breaking attitudes, norms, perceived control, and negative affect are related to adolescent drug use, stealing, and fighting behavior.


The study looks at the interaction effects among Youth Psychopathic Traits Inventory (YPI) Grandiose-Manipulative (GM), Callous-Unemotional (CU), and Impulsive-Irresponsible (II). A sample of 558 Italian high school students were administered the YPI and the Self-Reports of Delinquency Scale (SRDS) to evaluate the interaction between 3 dimensions. The findings highlight that a three-factor model of psychopathy may help clinicians and researchers predict self-reported delinquency better than the individual factors.


This study utilized a three factor model of the Empathy Quotient to examine the relationship between empathy and parental incarceration in both offender and non-offender samples. Offenders and non-offenders did not differ in regards to empathy. Multinomial logistic regressions were run to assess the role of empathy in having an incarcerated parent. Results indicated that low cognitive empathy increased the likelihood of having an incarcerated mother.


This study utilized a pattern localizer task in a sample of 82 adult male offenders to examine the relationship between inhibitory devaluation and psychopathy (using scores on the PCL-R). Results indicated that individuals high on the interpersonal-affective traits of psychopathy displayed significantly greater inhibitory devaluation, meaning that they ascribed more affective valence to goal-irrelevant neutral information.

This study sought to explain continuity and desistance in the moral model of criminal lifestyle development by comparing legitimacy beliefs, procedural justice, and moral disengagement as initiators and mediators of pathways leading to early adult offending. Results showed that, as predicted, the target pathway (legitimacy → moral disengagement → offending) but none of the control pathways achieved a significant indirect effect.


This study utilized both quantitative and qualitative approaches to college student reactions to physical violence at school. Results indicated that a majority of participants viewed fights as “normal.” Fights that were viewed as assaultive were more likely to be viewed as “disturbing.”

**FORENSIC ASSESSMENT**


This exploratory study examined the role of variables assessed in parent’s capacity assessment in the prediction of socially desirable responding on the Child Abuse Potential Inventory. Socially desirable responding was associated with low IQ and low scores on reading comprehension. Desirable responding was also associated with a positive bias on the BeanFest learning bias.


This study assessed the construct validity and factor structure of the Self Report Psychopathy Scale-Short Form in student and prison samples. Using confirmatory factor analysis, results indicated that interpersonal/affective and antisocial lifestyle traits were correlated. Multi-trait method modeling indicated that differences existed between the two samples on factor structure.


This study investigated the criterion validity of three psychopathy measures among African Americans, Caucasians, and Hispanics in a sample of 1,742 offenders. More similarity than dissimilarity emerged across groups. The factor structures of psychopathy measures among Hispanic offenders were consistent with previous findings. Few significant differences emerged between Hispanic and Caucasian offenders, with most differences emerging between African Americans and the other ethnic groups. In such instances, the correlates of psychopathy were typically weaker for African Americans.


This study examined racial bias in competency to stand trial referrals. Law students and lawyers were given identical vignettes of a competency to stand trial scenarios that differed only in terms of defendant race, and were asked to determine if the client should be referred for a competency evaluation. Results indicated that law students, but not lawyers, were more likely to refer African
American clients for evaluation when it was determined they were unfit due to lack of rational understanding.


This study compared scale reliability, structural validity, measurement invariance, and predictive validity of the PCL:YV across Indigenous and White adjudicated youth. PCL:YV test score scale reliability was high for both Indigenous and White youth. Confirmatory factor analyses demonstrated that a 3-factor and 4-factor model provided acceptable-to-good fit for the full sample, and an examination of configural, metric, and scalar measurement invariance illustrated that both factor structures fit the subsamples equally well.


This study examined 86 reports of criminal liability in Italy. None of the reports, for the exception of one, considered DSM cultural influences in their diagnoses. An interpreter was used in twenty-five percent of cases. Psychological tests were used in slightly more than half of all cases.


Using cluster analysis, this study explored subtypes of homicide offenders using four factors of psychopathy and comparisons on personality, intelligence, psychopathology, and sadism. Three clusters emerged and were compared using a MANOVA. Offenders in Cluster 1 had average psychopathic traits, Cluster 2 was high in psychopathic traits, sadism and aggression, while Cluster 3 was low in psychopathic traits and high in agreeableness.


This study examined the psychometrics of the Basic Empathy Scale in Portuguese female youth. Using confirmatory factor analysis, results supported the use of a two-factor model for the school sample, but not the forensic sample. Cronbach’s alpha and mean inter-item correlations were satisfactory.


This archival study systematically re-scored three Miranda Rights Comprehension Instruments (MRCIs) from 231 legally involved youths to evaluate their original responses (i.e., non-queried scoring). This approach is viewed as more ecologically valid because actual Miranda warnings are typically provided in a routine manner without assistance following each Miranda component. For the large majority of legally involved juveniles, only small differences were noted between standard and non-queried scoring.

This study utilized a sample of 704 criminal defendants ordered to undergo CST evaluations in order to bridge the gap between competency evaluations based on a conventional interview and those conducted with the aid of a standardized forensic assessment instrument. Overall, the results indicated fairly consistent trends that questions relating to rational understanding and ability to cooperate with counsel were the most associated with competence.


This study examined the reliability and validity of the TSCC-SF and the TSCYC-SF as a screening tool to be used with children who experienced abuse. Results revealed that both the TSCC-SF and TSCYC-SF both had high internal consistency. Similarly, all of the various sections used in the TSCC-SF and the TSCYC were significantly correlated with the TSCC and TSCYC.


This study examined Miranda misconceptions on the Miranda Quiz and parallel items of the Juvenile Miranda Quiz in a sample of 799 detainees across four age groups (younger juveniles, older juveniles, emerging adults, adults). The two adult groups had fewer Miranda misconceptions than the two juvenile groups. Overall, Miranda misconceptions commonly occur, even among detainees with intact verbal abilities and those with extensive arrest histories.


The current study surveyed an international sample of 1,099 mental health evaluators who have experience in conducting forensic mental health assessments. The purpose was to qualitatively review forensic evaluators knowledge and perception of cognitive bias in their assessments. Results were consistent with the presence of a bias blind spot, in which evaluators recognize the importance and existence of bias in forensic evaluations, yet reported themselves to be less vulnerable to it than others. 87% of respondents felt that evaluators are able to consciously set aside bias. Training and policy suggestions for the reduction of bias in evaluations are made.

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**LAW ENFORCEMENT, CONFESSIONS, & DECEPTION**


Is exposing a lie as effective in court as a confession? In two studies, participants read a case summary in which the defendant either lied or not and either confessed or not. Results show more convictions when the defendant lied, confessed, or did both relative to when the defendant produced a statement without lies and without a confession. These findings illustrate the positive qualities of presenting exposed lies in court, diminishing the need for a confession.


Police officers (n = 138) and undergraduates (n = 108) answered an open-ended question about deception cues as well as 17 specific verbal cues before judging the veracity of eight video fragments. Both police officers and undergraduates with better insight about verbal cues had better accuracy for identifying truthful statements than those with poor insight about verbal cues.

The first and last police interviews with 48 high-value detainees were coded for adaptive and maladaptive interpersonal behaviors across four categories: authoritative, passive, confrontational, and cooperative. Avoiding maladaptive behaviors and increasing adaptive behaviors were associated with detainee engagement and information.


This study tested the feasibility of implementing a potential new form of pre-booking jail diversion. Of 206 eligible individuals, 199 (96.6%) opted in, the database received 679 hits, and the linkage specialist received 31 calls (and in at least three cases an arrest was probably averted). The mean number of arrests was $0.59 \pm 0.92$ in the year before enrollment (38.7% arrested) and $0.48 \pm 0.83$ during the 12-month intervention (30.7% arrested).


This study compared 251 CIT-trained officers, 68% who had volunteered, with those who had been assigned. Of 28 scores on knowledge, attitudes, and skills compared, six were statistically significantly different ($p<.01$) and another eight were marginally significant ($0.01<p<0.05$). Volunteer CIT officers were more likely to report use of some form of physical force, when they did so, they were more likely to refer to treatment services and less likely to make an arrest.


This qualitative study examined acceptability of a new police–mental health linkage system, in which officers receive an electronic message that an enrolled participant has mental health considerations and that they should call for information when they run the person’s name/identifiers. Patients enrolled with the hope that the linkage system would prevent negative interactions with police and minimize risk of arrest. Officers reported preferring not to arrest mental health patients and were genuinely invested in helping them.


One hundred forty-four participants were randomly assigned to a 3(Information Status: informed liars, uninformed liars, uninformed truth-tellers) by 2(Familiarity: high, low) between subjects design. Informed liars provided more details than both uninformed liars and uninformed truth-tellers, thereby failing to accurately reflect truth-tellers visuospatial statements.

Dyads of truth-tellers (n = 24) and liars (n = 25) prepared for an interview wherein they were separately asked opinion-eliciting and devil’s advocate questions. While prepared truth-tellers were more consistent on the opinion-eliciting question than the devil’s advocate question, liars were equally consistent on both questions. Implications regarding the consistency heuristic’s diagnosticity of deception are discussed.


In this two-part study, the authors detail the development and refinement of the Rapport Scales for Investigative Interviews and Interrogations, Interviewee Version (RS3i). The measure is designed to assess an interviewee’s perception of rapport after an investigative interview or interrogation. The first study used confirmatory factor analysis to construct a rating scale of rapport from the self-report ratings of 80 mock interviews. The second study tested the psychometric properties of the developed 18 item RS3i, Interviewee Version. Four (Attentiveness, Trust/Respect, Cultural Similarity, Connected Flow) of the total six scales were found to have reliability and validity such that they are recommended for use in applied settings.

The proposed utility of this new instrument in future rapport research is described.


A survey of 649 maximum security correctional officers sought to identify the professional orientations most common in this population and identify factors which influence these views. Half of the officers rejected the idea of including counseling in their job and did not express interest in developing personal relationships with inmates. The greater injurious risk in the work environment perceived by an officer, the less likely they were to proscribe to a counseling roles orientation and the more likely they were to judge prisoners as corruptible. Implications for officer training programs and correctional administration are discussed.


The authors measured how verbal behavior amongst liars and truth tellers differ over time. Participants either experienced a theft or pretended to have experienced a theft. Truth tellers were interviewed immediately after the theft or three weeks after. Liars pretended that the theft occurred immediately before or three weeks before the interview. In a second experiment, half of the truth tellers and liars were interviewed before or three weeks after watching a secret video. Truth tellers interviewed after a delay reported fewer details than those interviewed immediately after but liars did not demonstrate this pattern.


This study investigated how contextual cues signaling threat or safety interact with the race of the target to moderate shooter bias. Across two experimental studies, results confirmed that racial bias in shooting decisions against Blacks was present in perceived threatening neighborhoods and in perceived threatening clothing, and it was reduced in perceived safe neighborhoods and when wearing perceived safe clothing.

This study examined effects of discrimination by members of the police and security personnel on the health of immigrant minority students (N=4,334 immigrant students). Results indicated that perceptions of ethnic victimization in the school, as well as three types of discrimination outside school (discrimination in clubs, public transportation as well as by the police and private security), are associated with current and future negative health outcomes in immigrant minority students.

Using a German version of the Gudjonsson suggestibility scale, undergraduates (N = 88) were interrogated using experimentally manipulated phrase-final contours (low vs. high) and accentuation of details (neutral vs. empathetic). Falling intonation contours increased suggestibility through both suggestive questions and negative feedback, whereas accentuation of selected details only increased negative feedback.

The authors surveyed students, community members, and defense attorneys regarding beliefs about secondary confession evidence from jailhouse informants and other sources. Laypeople perceive secondary confessions as less credible than other types of evidence, and they are knowledgeable about factors that may influence the veracity of secondary confessions. However, they underestimated how persuasive secondary confessions would be to themselves or other jurors. Defense attorneys were more sensitive about issues affecting the reliability of secondary confessions than laypeople.

This case study presented the countywide implementation of CIT and expanded on previous findings on the prevalence of officer interaction with persons with mental health issues and CIT training outcomes. Analysis of the disposition of calls for officer assistance coded as mental health or suicide found significant increases in officer drop-offs to the mental health crisis center post-CIT training. This change has been sustained over time.

Meta-analysis was used to re-examine Vrij, et al.’s (2017) data assessing the effectiveness of Vrij’s (2015) cognitive approach to lie detection. Results suggest the advantage offered by the cognitive approach is smaller than originally published due, at least in part, to separate analysis of human detection and statistical classification in the current meta-analysis.

European Americans (n = 72), Chinese immigrants (n = 61), and Hispanic immigrants (n = 48) either did or did not receive a water bottle before lying or telling the truth in an investigative interview. While ethnicity/culture did not moderate the findings, offering water increased overall rapport, which in turn influenced the plausibility of statements as well as the relevant and irrelevant details contained therein.

This study assessed the utility of the virtual enactment method to provide information about offender cognition and emotions during offending. Experienced incarcerated burglars virtually robbed a house and encouraged to speak aloud during the experience, followed by a qualitative interview. Information gained from interviews provided insight into offender decision-making during the commission of a burglary.


In Study 1, 543 participants of diverse racial/ethnic groups completed the Perceptions of Police Scale. Findings demonstrated that Black participants were more likely than Whites and Latina/os to view police negatively. In Study 2, 222 participants were asked about the number of times police had unlawfully stopped them, while providing a guided narrative to explore their reactions to these experiences. A total of 61 participants reported being unfairly stopped by police officers.


Authors explored the effect of law enforcement officers’ communication errors (factual, judgment) and their response strategies (contradict, apologize, accept) on a suspect’s trust in the officer; established rapport and hostility; and, the amount and quality of information shared (N_{study1}=188; N_{study2}=184). Judgment errors were more detrimental for affective trust and rapport in a suspect interview, but not in a crisis negotiation. The ultimate effect of the error was dependent on the response.


The authors tested the factors that motivate guilty and innocent suspects to waiving their rights in criminal interrogations. They found that unknowing guilty and innocent suspects acquiesced, signing both forms that invoked and waived their rights at an equal rate. However, as innocent suspects became more aware of their decisions, they signed the form that waived their rights form more than the form that invoked their rights. For guilty suspects the effect reversed; as they became more aware of their decisions, they signed the form that invoked their rights more than the form the waived their rights.


This study evaluated 213 metropolitan areas over a 21-year period and examined two possible reasons for the disproportionately high number of Black suspects killed in police officer-involved shootings. One account suggested that such shootings reflect racial bias on the part of police. A second account suggested that Black suspects behave differently (perhaps more aggressively) than White suspects, and that police respond to suspects’ behavior (but not race).

U.S. law enforcement officers (N = 299) responded to a survey that included experimental vignettes regarding the practices and perceptions of interpreter use during interviews with nonnative English speakers. Investigators reported using colleagues more often than professional interpreters, but interpreters were used more often with suspects and in certain crimes (e.g. domestic violence). Both colleague and professional interpreters often received knowledge of the case facts prior to translating.

This study assessed experimental false confession studies using a meta-analysis to evaluate the prevalence of false confessions across methodologies and several moderator variables. False confessions were more likely in typing task studies than in collaborative or individual cheating studies. In typing studies, speed of typing did not affect false confession rates. False-evidence ploys increased the likelihood of false confessions.

This study examined differences in children’s (N=65) true and false narratives as a function of parental coaching by comparing the verbal markers associated with deception. For children with the least amount of parental coaching, true and false reports could be distinguished by multiple verbal markers of deception (e.g., cognitive processes, temporal information, self-references). The fabricated reports of children who spent more time being coached by a parent resembled their truthful reports.

Hispanic-American (n = 45), Korean (n = 80), and Russian (n = 79) participants were interviewed either in their native language by a native-speaking interviewer or by a British interviewer through an interpreter. While the number of details did not differ among conditions, the proportion of complications distinguished truth-tellers from liars but only when answering unexpected questions without an interpreter present.

This study examined current police practices, utilizing descriptive data on 428 mental health-related calls addressed by Chicago Police over 3 years triangulated with insights from 21 in-depth officer interviews. During these calls, hospital transports were conducted more often than arrests. Moreover, informal interventions – without any legal action or hospitalization – were used most often, speaking to the “gray zone” nature of mental health-related encounters.

This study investigated defendant perceptions of procedural justice with judges and case managers across multiple problem-solving courts over time. Findings indicated that procedural justice varies across court actors and over time. Procedural justice is lower among judges than among case managers; however, changes in perceptions of procedural justice with the judge are associated with improved court outcomes.
This study utilized a factorial design that varied mitigating evidence offered by the defense (environmental, genetic, G×E, or none) and the likelihood of the defendant’s future dangerousness (low or high). A total of 600 mock jurors read sentencing phase evidence in a capital murder trial, rendered individual verdicts, and half deliberated as members of a jury to decide a sentence of death or life imprisonment. The G×E evidence had little mitigating effect on sentencing preferences.

This study explored the will-making process in nursing homes as well as staff views regarding the process. Staff reported incidences where residents opined to lack capacity were seen by a solicitor or were pressured by solicitors to make changes to their will.

Authors sought to modify Henderson instructions to improve sensitivity to variations in estimator variables. Community members read a trial transcript and rendered a verdict. Results indicated modified Henderson instructions increased sensitivity to estimator variables above and beyond a no-eyewitness-instruction control condition, while original Henderson instructions did not affect jurors’ decision making. Mounting evidence suggests original Henderson instructions are ineffective and may serve to induce confusion among jurors. However, more research is needed.

This study conducted an updated review of transfer and reverse transfer laws (in jurisdictions that have both mechanisms) in light of the generally accepted three-factor model of functional legal capacities involved in transfer evaluations (i.e., risk, sophistication–maturity, and treatment amenability). Results indicated that a majority of states' reverse transfer statutes refer explicitly or implicitly to the same three psycholegal constructs identified as central for transfer.

Authors examined the effect of judicial instructions (sure and firmly convinced) on people's quantitative interpretations of, self-reported understanding of, and confidence in applying “beyond a reasonable doubt” (BRD). The sure instruction reduced inter-individual variability in interpretations of BRD. The firmly convinced instruction increased understanding of BRD. Neither instruction increased confidence in applying BRD or reduced individual differences. Scholars must develop evidence-based judicial instructions that can benefit the broad jury-eligible population equally and in a variety of ways.

Two studies were conducted to investigate the perception of moral judgments of crimes. Both studies used vignettes of crimes in which the perpetrator is described with a disorder that predisposes them to the commission of antisocial acts. In the first study this is altered between genetic load, childhood
abuse, or traumatic brain injury. Those with a history of childhood abuse were perceived as less morally culpable and less deserving of punishment than those with a genetic predisposition. An expansion of this design in study two indicated that ratings of favorability did not change when the environmental harm was inflicted intentionally or unintentionally (i.e. childhood abuse vs. accident). Implications of perceptions of moral agency on psychopathology, philosophy, and law are noted.

This study investigated the relationships among procedural justice perceptions, gender, and mental health status in specialized drug courts. Results from a full-sample analysis revealed that women report higher levels of procedural justice; that drug court participation significantly influences procedural justice perceptions; and that depressive symptomology is a significant predictor of procedural justice perceptions.

Here, the researchers were interested in whether jurors are aware of the potential punishment for a defendant when making verdict decisions. Though participants had differing expectations of punishment for grand theft versus manslaughter, these expectations did not affect their threshold for reasonable doubt. In a second experiment, the researchers did not find that participants’ threshold for reasonable doubt shifted as a result of the potential punishment that would follow from a guilty verdict.

Suspects accused in the same crime can be tried in one multiple-defendant trial. Participants watched a trial video of either one or another single defendant in cases with varying strength or both defendants being tried together. When tried together, conviction rates for both defendants increased compared to single defendants. Perhaps multiple-defendant trials prompt jurors to engage in a joint evaluation and comparison of the defendants, rather than single evaluations of each.

RISK ASSESSMENT/COMMUNICATION

This study examined the factor structure and construct validity of the RSTI-SR with 190 adolescent offenders. The findings from the current study demonstrated that the proposed 3-factor model for the RSTI produced good fit to the data. Factorial invariance testing further found the model to be tenable for both male and female young offenders. Preliminary construct validity was established for the RSTI-SR factors through significant associations with relevant external variables.

Using data from the MacArthur Violence Risk Assessment study, this research examined the relationship between firearm risk and individuals with mental illness. Multivariate analyses indicated that access to firearms in the patient sample was not related to an increase in violence. However, psychiatric patients were at an increased risk of suicide when firearms are available.

This study examined the predictive validity of assessments completed using the HCR-20, START, and Static-99R in predicting institutional, nonsexual aggression among 152 sexual offenders in a large secure forensic state hospital. Results support the predictive validity of HCR-20 and START, and to a lesser extent, Static-99R assessments in predicting institutional aggression among patients detained or civilly committed pursuant to the sexually violent predator law.


This study utilized a sample of 120 adult male correctional offenders to examine the interrater reliability and predictive and comparative validity of the VRAG—R to the VRAG, the PCL—R, the Statistical Information on Recidivism—Revised, and the Two-Tiered Violence Risk Estimate over a follow-up period of up to 22 years postrelease. The VRAG—R achieved moderate levels of predictive validity for both general and violent recidivism that was sustained over time.


This study investigates the practice and effectiveness of clinical overrides to actuarial risk assessment results. Data from 3,646 cases of Canadian offenders in which the Level of Service/Case Management Inventory (LS/CMI) was used to measure recidivism risk. In this sample, clinical overrides were applied in only 6.5% of evaluations, generally in the downward direction. Results indicated that in general overrides reduced the predictive validity of the instrument with downward overrides having more of a negative influence than upward overrides. Directions for further research in the use of clinical overrides is suggested.


This study assessed the reliability and validity of the SRP, a structured measure for assessing stalking risks. Evidence for predictive validity and discrimination between stalking recidivists and nonrecidivists for risk judgments depended on follow-up duration. Discrimination was moderate and positive and negative predictive values were good over the full follow-up period.


This study examined the construct validity of the VRS-SO in a sample of 732 treated incarcerated adult male sex offenders. Results supported a three-factor model and the measurement invariance of the loadings over time. Scores from the three factors (Sexual Deviance, Criminality, and Treatment Responsivity) were correlated in conceptually meaningful ways with scores from the Stable 2000 and selected psychometric measures.


Two samples of high risk male offenders were followed for 12 months after release from prison. One sample received an intensive cognitive-behavioral treatment intervention while incarcerated, while the comparison sample did not. The Dynamic Risk Assessment for Offender Re-Entry (DRAOR) was
used to measure change using scores on the three subscale measures: Stable Dynamic Risk Factors (DRFs), Acute DRFs, and Protective Factors. At the time of release the treatment group had lower risk factor scores and higher protective factor scores than the comparison group. However, improvement on these subscale scores were comparable between the two groups over the 12-month period. The role of intensive interventions and parole for post-release offenders is discussed.

This study sought to elucidate the gender specific predictive validity of risk assessment tools for juvenile offenders. The authors conducted two separate meta-analyses identifying the predictive validity of the Youth Level of Service (YLS) Inventory and Case Management Inventory (CMI) for both male and female juvenile offenders. These analyses found no significant gender difference in the predictive validity for general recidivism or violent recidivism. Recommendations and limitations for use of these tools in research and practice are described.

This study compared the accuracy of the unstructured clinical judgements of forensic experts and the Ontario Domestic Assault Risk Assessment (ODARA) administered by psychology students in predicting long-term risk for intimate partner violence. After eight years, 20% of offenders reoffended with a violent offense. Findings indicated that the ODARA as scored by students was more accurate in assessing for long-term violence than judgments of forensic experts.

This study examined the predictive accuracy of risk and victim vulnerability factors of the B-SAFER in relation to intimate partner violence. The general criminality risk factor had the strongest relationship to recurrent IPV. The overall predictive accuracy of risk and victim vulnerability factors was weak.

This study evaluated the utility of the MMPI-2-RF in the prediction of future suicidal behaviors in a sample of 1,110 forensic inpatients. Results indicated that scales from all substantive domains of the MMPI-2-RF were significantly positively associated with future suicidal behaviors. The best predictors were scale scores from the internalizing and externalizing domains of the inventory.

This meta-analysis examined 52 studies and found that dynamic risk assessment instruments have small-to-moderate predictive properties, with Cohen’s d ranging between 0.71 for sexual recidivism and 0.43 for violent recidivism. The findings indicate that dynamic risk assessment instruments can be a useful tool for improving sex offender treatment. They have the potential to contribute to the selection of appropriate, more individually tailored treatment approaches and can assist in the evaluation of treatment effects.

This study examined time-dependent associations of maltreatment categories and subtypes with criminal persistence in a sample of 278 juveniles convicted of sexual offenses (JSOs). Results found 3 subtypes reflecting severe maltreatment, neglectful experiences, and low maltreatment. Severe maltreatment proved to be a consistent predictor of nonsexual criminal persistence, whereas overall neglectful experiences were related to sexual criminal persistence. More specifically, physical neglect appeared of major importance for criminal persistence.


The current study explored how feelings of guilt in 116 male sex offenders were related to perceptions of the police and courts. Participants were asked about their experiences during and at the end of police interviews as well as subsequent court experiences. Those who reported feeling higher levels of guilt during the interview had more positive perceptions of police and were more likely to admit to the crime. Additionally, positive perceptions of police were related to positive impressions of the court system, suggesting a “spill-over effect”. Implications for police practice and future research directions of sex offender perceptions are described.


The study qualitatively examined caregivers perceived responsibility when their child sexually offended against another child. After interviewing 16 parents in Canada, thematic coding revealed a number of themes related to caregiver emotional reactions, and caregiver responsibility for the best interests of the victim and the offender, such as actions taken to prevent recidivism.


The efficacy of a psychoeducational program for community based users of child sexual exploitation material (CSEM) was assessed. 92 adult males who were identified or convicted as users of CSEM were followed in the group based intervention. At program completion, participants showed improvement in depression, anxiety, social competency, self-esteem and distorted attitudes. The role of future community based treatments for the affective and interpersonal functioning of users of CSEM are discussed.


This study examined the relationship between adverse childhood experiences, out-of-home placements, and sexually abusive behavior. Results indicated that 97% of the sample reported adverse childhood experiences. Time survival analysis indicated that the risk of onset of aggression and sexually abusive behavior increased from early and mid-to-late childhood.

Over 7,000 sex offenders were followed for up to 25 years in an attempt to elucidate the risk of sexual recidivism over time in the community. Factors such as time sexual offense free, initial risk level, age, and nonsexual reoffending were considered in the statistical model. The longer that individuals were in the community without commission of a sex offense, the less likely they were to commit a new offense. Further, the likelihood of sexual reoffending after 10 to 15 years in the community was the same as nonsexual offenders. Additional results and application to policy are detailed.


Functional magnetic resonance imaging (fMRI) was used to investigate the neural underpinnings of empathy in juveniles who had committed sexual offenses. A review of the neural functionality of anatomical regions historically associated with empathy, found no significant differences were between the juvenile offender group \((n = 27)\) and a comparison sample \((n = 11)\). When comparing a subsample of juvenile sex offenders who had experienced childhood sexual abuse and those who had not, again no significant differences were found. Directions for future research are suggested.


The factor structure of the Child Identification Scale (CIS-R) was explored using principal component analysis (PCA). Using a sample of 217 male pedophiles, three factors were identified; Attachment to Children, Discontent with Adult Life, and Clinging to Childhood. This structure accounted for 30% of the variance. A comparison between the pedophile group and a non-pedophilic group of 22 men, indicated differences in overall CIS-R scores and the Attachment to Children factor. The ability of these factors to differentiate offenders is discussed. Implications for the understanding of emotional congruence with children in sex offending is noted.


The predictive validity of the Static-99 and Static-99R was assessed in a sample of 483 Latino sex offenders. Additional analyses compared the efficacy for a subsample of those born in the United States and Puerto Rico versus a subsample of those born outside the United States. Both the Static-99 and Static-99R were able to predict recidivism for the United States and Puerto Rican born subsample, but failed to do so for those in the non-United States born subsample. Suggestions for further research on the use of these measures in foreign born populations are made.


Data from a survey of boys aged 12 to 17 who were enrolled in treatment for harmful sexual behaviors were used to investigate the influence on juvenile sex offender registration on a number of life domains. 79 (29%) of the sample of 251 juveniles had been required to register as a sex offender. This subsample demonstrated greater impairment in a broad array of mental health factors, including a higher likelihood of having attempted suicide in the past 30 days and experiencing severe suicidal cognitions. The registered children were two times more likely to have experienced sexual assault and
five times more likely to have had an adult solicit them for sex. Implications for juvenile sex offender policy are detailed.


Aspects of mental health and childhood sexual abuse (CSA) were investigated in a sample of 498 juveniles mandated to a residential sex offender treatment center. One third of the sample reported having experienced CSA and approximately half of this subsample identified their abuser as being a relation. Those with a history of CSA had higher symptom rates of major depressive disorder and post-traumatic stress disorder. Parental attachment did not differ between the two groups. Implications for treatment planning are outlined.


The opinion of 100 Canadian men charged or convicted of a sexual offense regarding their interest in and access to secondary prevention interventions was collected. On average, deviant sexual fantasies began ten years prior to the first arrest for a sexual offense. During this time, the majority of participants did not seek out resources, with many reporting that they did know where these were available. Conversely, 93.8% reported they would use services in the future and 93.3% believed these experiences would be useful. Policy and practice suggestions for improving preventative services in sex offending are addressed.


This study qualitatively examined public opinions regarding COSA programs via online Facebook posts in Australia. Results indicated that most participants were in opposition against COSA. These participants believed that victims should be a priority for government funds, that sex offenders are not capable of change, and that COSA programs are used in lieu of prison.


This study followed 751 adult male sex offenders for an average of ten years to investigate the role of polymorphism on sexual recidivism. Polymorphic participants, which constituted 41% of the sample, had significantly greater number of victims. Rates of recidivism were associated with victim age (over the age of 15 greater than under the age of 11) and victim relationship (extrafamilial greater than intrafamilial) polymorphism. Significance was lost for these relationships when the number of victims were controlled in analyses. Implications for investigation and management practices are discussed.


This study investigated the convergent validity of three different measures of sexual sadism; diagnostic criteria from the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders, 4th ed. (DSM-IV), phallometry, and the Severe Sexual Sadism Scale (SESAS). Analyses of data taken from a sample of 72 incarcerated rapists showed no significant correlations between phalometric measurements and DSM-IV diagnosis or measures on the SESAS scale. In contrast, a correlation between SESAS scores
and a *DMS-IV* sexual sadism diagnosis were confirmed. Future research on the relationship between sexual sadism and behaviors are suggested.

**VICTIMIZATION**


This study examined Jordanian mothers’ knowledge about factors and prevention practices associated with child sexual abuse. Overall, the majority of mothers were knowledgable about child abuse, with about ninety-four percent understanding that abuse negatively impacts children. More than half believed child sexual abuse to be an issue in Jordan. Approximately ninety-five percent were knowledgeable about preventive strategies.


This study examined the rate and determinants of child maltreatment in Nepal. Results indicated that approximately half the sample experienced moderate physical abuse and more than three-quarters experienced emotional abuse. Multivariate logistic regressions revealed that higher education levels and increased household wealth were protective factors against abuse and child labor.


This study examined the relationship between child maltreatment and school readiness. Using a sample of 19, 203 children in Australia, findings indicated that substantiated allegations of abuse were associated with increased odds of poor school readiness. Compared to children who did not experience maltreatment, children with unsubstantiated allegations of abuse had an increased odds of physical, communication, and cognitive difficulties.


This study conducted a literature review of studies examining the impact of abuse in institutional settings on victims. Many studies indicated psychological impacts such as PTSD, anxiety, and depression, and social impacts such as fear and self-blame or relationship problems. Other findings indicated physical, educational, economic, and spiritual impacts, as well as vicarious trauma on behalf of their families.


Using a sample of college women, this study examined the relationship between childhood abuse, self-compassion, psychological inflexibility, and severity of PTSD symptomology. Results indicated that child abuse was related to increased levels of fear of self-compassion, psychological inflexibility, and more severe PTSD symptoms.

This study explored the relationship between cruelty to animals and various forms of childhood adversity. Researchers compared a subset of 466 juveniles who admitted to engaging in animal cruelty within a sample of 81,171 juveniles in Florida. Results indicated that compared to other juveniles, juveniles who were cruel to animals were more likely to be younger, male, and Caucasian. These juveniles were also more likely to report more adverse childhood experiences.

Using data from sexual offense records reported to the Australian police over a 20-year period, this study examined the timeliness of reports and the likelihood of legal action in child sexual abuse cases. Eighty percent of complainants were female. Individuals who made reports in adulthood were more likely to report incidents involving figures of authority, like a teacher or clergy member. Approximately fifty percent of reported incidents were reported within three months of the assault, with about twenty-five percent reporting offenses five or more years later. Likelihood of legal action differed depending on the state.

Using a sample of 390 United States Army cases, this study examined risk of different types of neglect related to deployment status at the time of neglect. Multivariate logistic regressions revealed that concurrent deployment significantly predicted a failure to provide physical needs, lack of supervision, and educational neglect. Emotional neglect was lower for concurrent deployment than it was for the never deployed group.

This study examined the relationship between maternal and paternal physical abuse on child behavioral issues. Overall, boys were more likely than girls to be abused by either parent. Bivariate analyses revealed that children who experienced physical abuse reported more externalizing behaviors. Children who experienced maternal abuse reported more internalizing behaviors. Children who were abused by both parents reported higher levels of both internalizing and externalizing behaviors compared to the non-abused comparison group.

Using fifteen parents of children who have experienced trauma, this study aimed to develop a theory about parenting strategies in reaction to childhood trauma. Analyses indicated a model of parental growth and change in response to child trauma.

Using interviews with 125 youth, this study examined the relationship between child maltreatment, beliefs about emotion, and aggression. Results indicated that maltreated youth with beliefs of poor emotional control reported more aggression. Physically abused youth reported higher levels of reactive aggression and low belief in emotional control than neglected youth.

This study investigated how the specific type of information released about a victim impacts opinions surrounding such incidents. Results suggest that the type of information released about a victim can significantly sway attitudes toward the victim and the shooter.


The study examined the mediation of social support in the relationship between exposure to school violence and mental health in adolescents. Correlations indicated that exposure to various forms of violence were related to increased mental health issues and a negative relationship with social support. Structural equation modeling found that that overall social support partially mediated the relationship between violence exposure and mental health, with effects stronger for girls than boys.


This study examined the relationship between physical punishment and cognition and school performance. Results indicated that exposure to physical abuse was related to cognitive performance such as a letter-word identification. Physical punishment (corporal and abuse) was associated with decreased school engagement.


The study examined the reliability of The Small Talk Tool to identify maltreated children in need of speech and language assessment. Results indicated that the tool had high sensitivity but low specificity.


This meta-analysis examined the relationship between childhood violence victimization and education. Childhood violence was significantly related to and increase in school dropout. Emotional violence increased risk of school dropout twofold. For males, bullying was significantly related to absenteeism from school. Violence was also related to repeating grades and a decrease ability to achieve high scores on tests.


This study examined gender differences in intimate partner violence (IPV) related to alcohol in the United States and Japan. Multinomial logistic regression revealed that gender was significantly related to IPV in both countries. Problematic alcohol use was more strongly related to IPV for males than females. Alcohol use was more strongly related to IPV in the United States than in Japan.

This study examined the prevalence of violence against children and the relationships between the experience of violence and domestic servitude. Using the Violence Against Children Survey, results indicated that being a servant was associated with an increased likelihood of experiencing violence.

Using a sample of 497 at-risk families, this study examined the role of material PTSD symptoms in the relationship between maternal intimate partner violence exposure and behavioral problems of their children. Bivariate spearman correlations indicated significant relationships between child internalizing and externalizing behaviors, maternal PTSD, and punitive parenting. Serial mediation models revealed that neither physical nor psychological intimate partner violence was directly associated with internalizing or externalizing behaviors.

This study examined the relationships between sexual abuse, cognitive and behavioral factors, and internalizing symptoms in a sample of Chilean adolescent females. Results from a path analysis revealed that the relationship to the abuser was negatively related with symptoms of PTSD. Violence used during sexual assault was associated with lower levels of self-efficacy. Greater levels of self-efficacy were related to coping skills and lower levels of symptomatology.

This study examined the effects of child maltreatment as they relate to school absenteeism. Results indicated that maltreatment was more prevalent in participants who reported absenteeism. Compared to students who did not report absenteeism, absentee students reported more personal, sexual, and ethnic harassment, psychosomatic and internalizing symptoms.

This study examined risk and protective factors of developmental trajectories in children who have been abused. Analyses identified a five-trajectory model. Physical abuse at the preschool age was a predictor of being in the decreasing trajectory group (poor language and academics), while abuse at school age decreased the likelihood of being in this group. Prosocial skills and parental responsiveness decreased the likelihood of being in the high decreasing group.

This study qualitatively examined health care experiences of a sample of 18 commercially sexually exploited youth. Three themes emerged: facilitators to care, barriers to care, and recommendations for improving health services.

Using data from the U.S. Department of Justice, this study examined victimization patterns of mentally ill inmates. Results indicated that individuals with a diagnosis of a mental illness were more likely to be victimized before incarceration, during incarceration, and were more likely to commit a violent crime than those without a mental health diagnosis.


This study examined the mediating role of self-esteem and peer attachment on the influence of abuse in early adolescence. Results indicated that exposure to abuse was related to lower self-esteem. Increases in self-esteem were related with lower rates of depression. Self-esteem partially mediated the relationship.


This study examined the relationship between adolescent sexual behavior and exposure to sexual harassment. Participants included 90,953 boys and 91,746 girls from the School Health Promotion Study. For female participants, all types of sexual harassment measured were associated with more advanced sexual experience. For males, advanced sexual experience was associated with unwelcome sexual attention and sexual coercion.


Using data from the National Survey of Child and Adolescent Well-Being, this study examined the relationship between parental substance use and child maltreatment. Weighted negative binomial regression revealed that substance use within the past year was associated with an increased frequency of physical and emotional abuse.


This study explored the prevalence and factors related to the disclosure of child sexual abuse. Approximately two percent of the sample of 11,364 children from the Finnish Child Victim Survey reported being sexually abused. Logistic regression analyses indicated that age of the time of the offense, age of the perpetrator, no experiences of emotional abuse were related to disclosure of abuse. Of those that disclosed, most reported the abuse to a friend.


This study examined parent’s perceptions of the efficacy of a school program in preventing and responding to various forms of violence against children. Using the opinions of 835 parents in Sri Lanka, analyses indicated that program exposure was moderately related to perceived child safety in school.

Using a sample of 318 maltreated youth with contact with Child Protective Services, this study examined the relationship between school connectedness and graduation from high school. Overall, approximately three-quarters of the sample graduated. Bivariate analyses revealed that participation in a club at school was related to graduation.


Using a sample of 220 adult survivors of institutional child maltreatment, this study examined the prevalence of child maltreatment and long-term mental health problems. Participants in the foster care group reported higher rates of emotional, physical, and sexual abuse and neglect. Overall, there was a higher prevalence of mental health problems in the foster care group, with PTSD being the most prevalent diagnosis.


Using a sample of 82 maltreated children, this study examined the relationship between maltreatment history and out-of-home environments on language and social skills. Neglect and emotional abuse was related to lower social skills. Language skills were not associated with maltreatment. Children placed with caregivers with higher levels of education showed higher levels of language skills.


Using data from the Fragile Families and Child Wellbeing Study, this study examined the relationship between disorganized neighborhoods, maternal spanking, and aggressive behavior in children. Results indicated that higher levels of crime in neighborhoods significantly predicted increased child aggression. Maternal spanking was related to increased aggressive behavior in children.


This study examined characteristics of child maltreatment reoffending among families served by the United States Air Force. Of 15,042 offenders, 23% reoffended with child maltreatment on the same day, and 13% reoffended of multiple dates. Offenders who were in active duty reoffended more often than officers. Reoffending was most likely to occur if the initial incident was neglect or emotional abuse.


Using data from the Northern Ireland Study of Health and Stress, this study explored the rate of childhood adversity, psychopathology, and suicidality in Irish adults. Twelve types of childhood adversity, such as parental death, family violence, and abuse, were measured. A chi square test revealed that females experienced significantly more sexual abuse than males. The most reported
mental health problem was anxiety. Parental mental illness was significantly related with mental health issues and suicidal behavior.


Using a sample of 1523 low-income women in Wisconsin, this study examined the prevalence of adverse childhood experiences among various racial/ethnic groups. Pairwise comparisons revealed significant racial/ethnic differences. American Indian participants experienced the highest prevalence of adverse experiences, such as household dysfunction, domestic violence, and incarceration. Non-Hispanic white participants were more likely than non-Hispanic black and Hispanic participants to report abuse or neglect.


Over a period of four years, this study examined the relationship between parental emotional expressiveness and child self-regulation. Results revealed that increased levels of negative emotions significantly predicted poor self-regulation for children. Parental positive emotions were not significantly related to child self-regulation.


This longitudinal, qualitative study examined barriers to pursuing a bachelor’s degree among foster youth. Overall, about half the sample obtained a degree. Approximately half the sample had a diagnosis of either anxiety, depression, or PTSD. Additional themes of emotion regulation, skipping class, and a need for counseling emerged as barriers to obtaining a degree.


This study reviewed 42 studies examining the issue of sexual exploitation of boys in various countries. Prevalence rates ranged from 1.7 percent to 4.8 percent. Results suggested that sexual exploitation occurred in different venues, varied in terms of the number of times each boy exchanged sex, and varied in terms of what was traded in return for sex.


This study examined the efficacy of the Second Step Child Protection Unit videos on parents knowledge and communication with their children about sexual abuse. Multivariate Analyses of Covariance revealed that compared to the control group, parents exposed to the video had increased knowledge about child sexual abuse and were more likely to talk to their children about abuse.


This study examined rates of maltreatment and violent discipline according to adolescents and parents in Tanzania. Of 700 Tanzanian students, 94% reported exposure to physical violence, 98% reported exposure to emotional violence, and 76% reported exposure to neglect. Ninety-nine percent
of parents reported committing an act of maltreatment toward their children in the past year. A path model revealed that parental stress was related to violent discipline.


Using a sample of 149 children, this study explored the prevalence and circumstances around violence against children in Afghanistan. Results indicated that seventy-one percent of the children reported experiencing physical violence. In terms of location, violence was most often experienced at home, the workplace, and in the greater community. Lower levels of child education were related with higher levels of violence exposure.


Using data from the National Survey of Child and Adolescent Well-Being, this study examined factors related to emotion regulation in maltreated children. Latent transition analyses revealed that most children were stable in their emotion regulation over time. Multinomial regression analyses indicated that children who experienced instability in placement were at a higher risk of exhibiting emotion dysregulation than those who exhibited emotion regulation.


This study qualitatively examined domestic violence agency staff perceptions of the needs of children exposed to domestic violence. Using thematic analysis, various themes emerged: the role of extended family, identifying with two cultures, children must be perfect, what the community will say, gender differences, and culturally-tailored resources.


Fifteen juvenile sex trafficking (JST) cases which included girls with intellectual disabilities (ID) were compared to 39 JST cases which did not. Characteristics of the victims as well as aspects of trafficker’s criminal behaviors were assessed through case records from social service agencies. High rates of prior maltreatment, especially sexual assault, were present in victims from both groups. There was some suggestion that for victims with ID these prior experiences may have triggered patterns of high-risk behavior (e.g. running away). Suggestions for the implementation of safeguards against the sexual exploitation of individuals with ID are made.


This study examined the relationship between educational factors, child protective services, and justice system involvement. Approximately eighty percent of the sample had no contact with either the justice system or child protective services. Regression analyses controlling for gender, race, and age found that involvement in a child protective services investigation was a significant predictor of justice system involvement. Educational factors emerged as a stronger predictor for justice involvement.
Using CCTV camera recordings, this study examined violence and victim resistance during robberies in the Netherlands. Results indicated that when offenders used threats of violence, they were less likely to actually commit a violent act than if they did not threaten violence. Victims were less likely to resist if offenders threatened violence. Offenders are more likely to threaten violence when victims are in possession of valuable items.

This study examined whether mental health symptoms, impulsivity, family and social dysfunction, and alcohol use mediated the relationship between adverse childhood experiences and suicidality. Results indicated that suicidality was correlated with all variables. Mediation analyses indicated that mental health symptoms, impulsivity, family and social dysfunction each mediated the relationship between adverse childhood experiences and suicidality.

This study explored protective factors in maltreated children. Results indicated that cognitive stimulation and emotional support were related with resilience. Overall, the timing of protective factors did not play an important role in resilience.

Using a prospective cohort design, this study examined the role of attachment style in the relationship between childhood abuse and adult mental and physical health. Path analyses revealed that childhood neglect was associated to increases in depression, while childhood physical abuse was associated with self-esteem. Neglect and abuse significantly predicted anxious attachment style. Anxious attachment style partially mediated the relationship between neglect and mental health outcomes such as depression, anxiety, and self-esteem.

Using a sample of 843 college students, this study examined the relationship between child sexual abuse, body shame, and discomfort in close proximity to others. Compared to males, females reported higher levels of child sexual abuse, disrupted body boundaries, self-objectification, shame, and discomfort in proximity to others. Structural equation modeling analyses indicated that overall, disrupted body boundaries mediated the relationship between child sexual abuse and discomfort in proximity to others, and between child sexual abuse and body shame.

This study examined the predictive validity or risk and protective factors of educational success of children in out of home placements in Canada. Using hierarchical regression analysis, factors such as female gender, educational aspiration, time with caregiver, and positive mental health were related to
increased educational success. Factors such as neglect, special education, behavior problems, drug use, and ethnic minority status were related to lower educational success.


This study examined the effects of maltreatment on the development of externalizing behaviors in adopted children. Using eighty-two children from a longitudinal study, results indicated that post-adoption externalizing behaviors varied depending on the type of maltreatment experienced. Higher levels of family cohesion were related to a decreased risk for arrest.


This study examined the relationship between interpersonal violence in sports as a child and adult mental health issues and quality of life. Results indicated a significant relationship between interpersonal violence and mental health problems. Participants who experienced three types of interpersonal violence reported more severe symptoms. Individuals with severe interpersonal violence had lower scores on a quality of life measure.


This study used the Maternal Self-report Support Questionnaire to examine the relationship between maternal support and children’s symptoms related to trauma. Results provided limited support for a relationship between maternal support and children’s symptoms as measured by the Trauma symptom checklist for children. The symptoms found to be associated with emotional support increased as a result of this relationship.


This study examined gender differences in child and caregiver-reported trauma symptoms in a sample of 167 children exposed to complex trauma. Chi square analyses revealed that females were more likely to be exposed to sexual abuse, while males were more likely to be exposed to domestic violence. Results found that caregivers reported more atypical symptoms for females than males, as well as depression, dissociation, and PTSD symptoms.


Using a sample of 276 children and adolescents, this study examined the relationship between trauma and sleep disturbances. Results indicated that sexual, emotional, and physical abuse were not significantly associated with sleep impairment. Exposure to domestic violence and community violence were related to sleep disturbances.

Using a sample of 220 adults who experienced childhood trauma, this study examined the effects of trauma on self-efficacy, self-esteem, and locus of control. Results indicated prolonged exposure to childhood trauma was related to lower self-efficacy and self-esteem. Trauma was also related to difficulties with emotion regulation.


The study examined the prevalence of child abuse in family as well as risk factors related to the abuse of one or more siblings in a household. Results indicated that if one sibling reported maltreatment, the other sibling was at an increased likelihood of also reporting abuse. Maternal age at the time of birth predicted physical abuse of both siblings. Father’s age at birth emerged as a risk factor for sexual abuse of only one sibling.


The risk of childhood sexual abuse (CSA) was explored for participants with heterosexual and nonheterosexual orientations, as well as varying degrees of gender conformity. Data from a Chinese online survey of 1,927 participants were included in analyses. Regardless of sexual orientation, males who were more gender nonconforming reported higher rates of CSA. This relationship was not significant for females. An instrumental variable analysis suggested that increased rates of CSA for those who identified as nonheterosexual may be the result of sexual orientation. The complex interaction between gender conformity, sexual orientation, and CSA are discussed in depth.

**WITNESS ISSUES**


The authors showed children aged 6- to 13-years old a target reading word list in video form. The next day, children provided confidence ratings for each lineup word or categorical decisions for eight lineup words presented sequentially. Results demonstrated that children’s confidence ratings provide an accurate procedure to discriminate between seen and unseen targets.


This study qualitatively examined judge instructions to child at trial prior to their testimony. Of fifty-two trials with child witnesses, judges gave 131 ground rules, of which ninety percent of the time judges asked children whether they understood the rule. There was no relationship between child age and the complexity of the ground rules offered. Logistic regression revealed that the number of ground rules did not predict guilty verdicts.


The authors tested the effectiveness of general and specific post warnings to help constrain the effect of misinformation. The specific post-warning eliminated the misinformation effect and its impact on memory monitoring. The researchers found that misinformation facilitated event memory during

This study explored the relationship between interpersonal characteristics, as measured by the Fundamental Interpersonal Relations Orientation-Behavior (FIRO-B) assessment, and co-witness suggestibility. Participants were randomly assigned to one of five conditions manipulating the size of the group providing misinformation and the unanimity of misinformation during the mock trial. Participants who scored high on the wanted control scale of the FIRO-B were more likely to report misinformation heard from co-witnesses and had less confidence in their opinions. Unanimity of misinformation significantly influenced co-witness suggestibility. The size of misinformation did not have a significant influence.


First, the authors established in 100 reports of child sexual abuse cases, that there was ambiguity in the use of ask and tell questions. In three follow-up studies, the researchers found that maltreated children typically understand telling as saying and asking as a form of telling. Children endorsed asking as telling when asked yes-no questions but distinguished between the two when asked explicitly. These results have implications for how children report prior conversations.


This study compared differences in participant responses between written vignettes and video portrayals of the same crime. Eighty three male participants were randomly assigned to either the written or visual condition of a theft situation. Independent samples t-test indicated that there was no difference between scenario type in terms of perceived realism. Similarly, there were no differences for neither perceived risk of negative consequences nor choice to intervene between scenario type.


With 313 participants, the researchers used a factorial design to test whether suspect similarity and memory strength inhibit expectancy effects. Administrators who knew who the suspect was in either single-blind or simultaneous lineups used more verbal and nonverbal behaviors to suggest who the suspect was. Witnesses were more likely to identify an innocent suspect from single-blind than double-blind lineups when suspects were presented simultaneously and witness retention intervals were long. Suspect similarity did not influence identification decisions. The authors conclude that sequential and double-blind procedures should be used.

Using data from the Forensic Basic Documentation system Baden-Württemberg, this study explored social, clinical, and criminological variables in migrant and non-migrant patients receiving forensic treatment. Patients did not differ in respect to their diagnosis, index offense or criminological history.


This study examined the relationship between proximity to crime and hitting children with objects. Results indicated that exposure to homicides and personal injuries predicted the probability of hitting children with objects.


Using archived unofficial crime data from a newspaper, the current study described the crime in Guyana over a 20 year period. Results indicated that 82% of the identified crimes were violent, and that violent crimes have increased over time. Crime mapping results also indicated that violent crimes occurred predominantly on the coastline.


This study qualitatively examined the perspectives of online female sex workers in regard to their intentions to leave their line of work and factors that influence their decisions. Results indicated that participants had different definitions of what it meant to “exit” sex work. Approximately half of participants stated that exiting sex work would be feasible for them. Most workers desired to leave sex work because it interfered with outside relationships.


Using focus groups of child protective employees, this study examined factors that play a role in employee decisions to consult a child abuse pediatrician. Workers with more experience were more likely to refer clients in the scenarios presented. Practices varied from state to state.


This study qualitatively examined the relationship between gang-related homicides and attention to gangs between 2004 and 2010. Results indicated an overall increased media exposure for gang-related homicides compared to other types of homicides.


This study examined characteristics related to the quality of child advocacy centers in the United States. Directors of child advocacy centers completed online surveys, and a cluster analysis was conducted. Results indicated three theorized types of child advocacy centers.

A meta-analysis was performed to investigate the effect of adult mental health court (MHC) participation on criminal recidivism in comparison with traditional criminal processing. A small effect was found for MHC participation on recidivism. The need for additional research to identify sources of variability in MHC effectiveness is discussed.


Using Google Trends, this study examined whether interest in the website backpage.com was related to illicit sex practices. Results indicated a small but significant relationship between interest in the website and incidences of prostitution. Using hotspot analysis, researchers were able to identify areas with the highest interest, which created “interest corridors” that aligned with driving routes known to be associated with sex trafficking.


This study was a meta-analytic review of 36 studies that examined the effects of risk factors for child neglect victimization. Twenty-four risk factors were identified and overall effects were calculated for each risk factor individually. Of the risk factors, 15 were significant and had effect sizes ranging from small to large.


Using 503 college students, this study examined the relationship between religion and rape myth acceptance. Results indicated that non-religious students had the lowest rape myth acceptance, while Catholic students had the highest rape myth acceptance. When researchers controlled for demographic and lifestyle factors, religion was no longer a significant predictor of rape myth acceptance.


Fifty-nine offenders and fifty-nine community members were given a Portuguese version of the Autobiographical Memory Test to explore autobiographical memories. Results indicated that offenders were more likely to recall negative autobiographical memories and more likely to recall negative memories. Offenders were more likely to report more intense emotions during negative events, which prompted them to have more intense emotions during recall.


This study hypothesized that laypeople’s judgments of how suspected terrorists ought to be treated are more strongly informed by retributive concerns related to deservingness. Results indicated that participants were more willing to condone rights violations when the suspect was deserving of punishment. This willingness was not affected by the continued threat manipulation. The effect of the punishment deservingness manipulation was mediated by perceptions that suspected terrorists are less deserving of having their rights upheld.

Nunes, K., Hermann, C., White, K., Pettersen, C., & Bumby, K. (2018). Attitude may be everything, but is everything an attitude? Cognitive distortions may not be evaluations
This study sought to determine whether a measure of cognitive distortions pertaining to rape, as measured by the RAPE scale, was associated with evaluations of rape, and whether these factors were in turn independently related to sexual aggression. Exploratory factor analysis resulted in a factor of RAPE items that correlated, but was independent from, evaluations of rape. Both factors had small to moderate associations with measures of sexual aggression. The utility in a distinction between cognitive distortions and evaluations of rape in understanding sexual aggression is noted.

This study examined county arson data in four states during the 2007 recession. Using a fixed-effect negative binomial regression, results indicated that the length of the recession was inversely related to the amount of arson. Similarly, unemployment lowered the likelihood of arson.

A qualitative analysis of the experience of 151 felony offenders explored the effects of legal financial obligations (LFOs) on community reintegration and post-conviction experiences. Data from in-depth interviews suggested that ex-offenders limited resources were dedicated to paying LFOs instead of social advancement opportunities. While the degree of LFOs varied across participants, a theme of resultant economic strain and dependence on others was present throughout. Suggestions for policy change in reducing negative outcomes due to LFOs and improving reintegration are outlined.

Using content analysis of online advertisements, this study compared male-for-female and male-for-male escorts. Results indicated that male-for-male escorts tended to be younger, heterosexual, mentioned their HIV status, mentioned their participation in pornography, and had ads that were more explicit.

This study qualitatively examined the experiences of caretakers whose relatives were being treated in a forensic mental health setting. Themes of “parental role, life is on hold, progress versus stagnation, not hiding away, and uncertainty about the future” emerged. Authors then connected these themes to the Attachment Theory.

This study examined the relationship between trust in caregivers and depression and self-harm in welfare system-involved children. Results indicated a negative relationship between trust and symptoms of depression and self-harm.

Using data from the College Religious Belief and Empathy survey, this study examined the relationship between religious belief and criminal behavior. Results indicated that those who question
their beliefs have higher levels of substance use and offending behavior the those who are definite or non-believers.


The influence of time spent in pre-trial detention on later experiences and conduct in state prison was investigated. Data used from a survey of 13,784 state inmates was used to identify time spent in jail and subsequent variables of interest during time incarcerated. There was a small association between the length of time spent in pre-trial detention and later prison misconduct. Jail time had significantly greater adverse effects during later incarceration for female inmates, younger inmates and those with mental health problems during later incarceration. Potential implications for improving jail and prison systems are noted and future research is encouraged.


This study used data from the United States Extremist Crime Database to examine offender justification for honor crimes. All honor crimes in the United States involved one neutralization technique. Half of the cases included perpetrators from the Middle East.


Using the collective efficacy theory, this study examined correctional officers’ perceptions of officer-inmate boundary violations. Younger officers were more likely to believe that co-workers engaged in violations of boundaries. Officers who perceived their job to be dangerous and stressful were more likely to be distrustful of their co-workers.


Undergraduates (N = 382) playing the role of an innocent defendant were randomly assigned to a 2(trial penalty: mandatory minimum of 10 years, judicial discretion of 4-6 years) by 3 (likelihood of conviction: 10%, 50%, 90%) by 2 (attorney recommendation: take the plea deal, use best judgment) between-subjects design. Compared to other conditions, rates of guilty pleas were highest when facing a mandatory minimum or when likelihood of conviction was 90%. Attorney recommendations did not impact false guilty pleas.