
Using a sample of almost 60,000 cases of child maltreatment investigations, this study examined the relationship between suicidality and self-harm and mental health referrals for children involved in the welfare system in Canada. Of the cases, about eight percent were referred for treatment. Children with suicidal thoughts were more than twice as likely to be referred.


The attitude of community mental health providers’ towards criminal justice-involved clients with serious mental illness was examined. The study included 627 Maryland psychiatric program providers. The survey assessed their experiences with, positive regard for, and perception of similarity, with their clients with serious mental illness. Providers reported lower regard (79%) for criminal justice-involved clients than for clients without (95%) criminal justice involvement.


The study examined the efficacy of a trauma-informed mental health treatment training program. Children in the intervention group had fewer substantiated reports of physical abuse and neglect. Children in this group also had more out of home placements than the comparison group.


This study examined the association between posttraumatic stress (PTS) symptoms and criminal justice involvement among 697 substance-using veterans seeking VA specialty mental health care. Veterans self-reported past-month PTS symptoms, substance use, and lifetime legal charges. Logistic regression results indicated total PTS symptoms were associated with violent, but not nonviolent charges, above and beyond age, sex, race, cocaine use, and heavy alcohol use. Intrusion symptoms, in particular, were associated with violent charges.

This study sought to measure the efficacy of the Supervision with Immediate Enforcement (SWIFT) Court program that is employed with young adult gang-affiliated probationers in Texas. The program consists of treatment, monitoring, supervision, and drug testing. After two years, SWIFT members were less likely to have their probation revoked compared to non-SWIFT gang members and high-risk young adult offenders. While SWIFT members had fewer technical probation violations, they had higher rates of medium-severity, drug-related, and gang-related violations. However, they were equally likely to recidivate as their non-SWIFT gang member counterparts. Implications for improving probation compliance programs are discussed.


Using a sample of 92 adults with a history of adverse childhood experiences, this study examined the efficacy of an emotion regulation intervention. After 12 weeks of the intervention, participants reported improved emotion regulation, physical symptoms, and psychological resilience.


This study explored the efficacy of a home-visits program for high-risk families on child maltreatment. Families who had home visits were less likely to have a substantiated CPS report.


This study examined the efficacy of a dyadic therapy in improving parent-child interactions among parents who experienced a childhood trauma. Results indicated that parents reported reductions in the amount of conflict with their children. Although not statistically significant, findings suggested improvements in adolescent’s mental health.


This study examined couple’s relationships during the male partner’s reentry from incarceration. Results indicated that overall, couples were less likely to be in a relationship post release than during the course of incarceration. Similarly, couples report lower relationship satisfaction upon reentry.


Using a sample of 1,879 post release offenders, this study examined the efficacy of program timing and duration on recidivism. Participants who entered treatment earlier participated in more programs. However, earlier program involvement did not predict reduced rates of recidivism.


This study examined the feasibility of a cognitive behavioral treatment that targets the violence behavior of people diagnosed with schizophrenia. Of the at-risk patients with schizophrenia, 14.6% were willing to participate in the intervention.

Using data from the Trenton Violence Reduction Strategy, this study explored the stressors of offenders recruited for a deterrence program. Offenders reported a history of physical and sexual abuse, mental illness, witnessing violence, financial problems, and incarceration.


This study investigated reward preferences in a sample of 34 male incarcerated violent offenders under imposed psychiatric treatment and 41 male forensic outpatients that generated, prioritized, and categorized 98 and 115 rewards, respectively. Both inpatients and outpatients tended to rate high-effort rewards as the most valuable, especially when the rewards involved the clinical environment of the patient or when rewards were associated with lower levels of arousal.


Using a sample of 100 adult male offenders with personality disorders, this study examined the efficacy of Violence Risk Scale and the PCL-R Factor 2 scores in predicting institutional adjudications and treatment completion. In the first year of treatment, both measures significantly predicted adjudications. Neither the VRS nor the PCL-R predicted treatment completion.


This study compared current diagnoses recorded in the clinical record with clinical evidence gathered during forensic assessment meeting DSM-IV criteria for SUD in 638 male forensic inpatients. Among 491 with a major mental illness diagnosis, most (61%) met criteria for co-occurring disorders but only 19% were diagnosed as such. Co-occurring disorders were associated with longer hospitalization, and with greater evidence of criminal history, antisociality, and risk of violent recidivism, regardless of how co-occurring disorder was defined.


Using a sample of 294 parents, this study examined the efficacy of the SafeCare program. Results indicated that compared to child welfare services as usual, SafeCare did not prevent recidivism nor reduce risk factors associated with child abuse and neglect.


Using a sample of 709 adolescents involved with Child Protective Services, this study examined the effects of maltreatment on the relationship between organized activities and prosocial development. Results indicated that adolescents who participated in academic clubs reported fewer symptoms of depression; those who participated in art and music reported more trauma symptoms.

Using semi-structured interviews with 12 psychiatrists in Sweden, this study examined psychiatrists’ motives for engaging in compulsory care of patients diagnosed with BPD. Three themes emerged: patients are difficult, medical and non-medical motives, and patients demand to be taken into compulsory care.


This observational cohort study examined the impact of screening on distal outcomes of all 13,281 admissions to Canadian prisons over a 33-month period. Treatment was associated with lower rates of victimization and violence for all inmates, and health incidents among screen-detected cases. Among inmates with pre-existing risk, treatment was associated with increased risk of a first incident but decreased risk of recurrent incidents.


This study sought to measure the psychometric properties of the Community Corrections Shared Decision Making Scale (CCSDM) which was designed to measure attitudes that encourage shared decision making (SDM). The sample consisted of 291 community corrections professionals who work directly with formerly incarcerated individuals with serious mental illness (SMI). The CCSDM demonstrated good internal consistency and reliability. Analyses suggested a two-factor model: the “capacity” factor which measures attitudes about the ability of individuals with SMI to engage in SDM, and the “alliance” factor which maps working alliance themes. Recommendations for the integration of this tool in the training of parole and probation supervisors are made.


As part of the National Cross-Site Evaluation of JDC and Reclaiming Futures (RF), an economic analysis of five JDC/RF programs was conducted from a multisystem and multiagency perspective. The study examined direct and indirect costs of JDC/RF and savings generated from reduced health problems, illegal activity, and missed school days. Results include average cost of JDC/RF, total economic benefits per JDC/RF participant, and net savings of JDC/RF relative to standard JDC.


Treatment readiness was assessed using baseline data of 130 homeless female offenders (HFOs) participating in a randomized controlled trial. Treatment readiness was measured using the TCU CJ Client Evaluation of Self and Treatment (CJ CEST). More than half of participants showed high levels of treatment readiness. Methamphetamine use, psychological well-being, and emotional support were all positively correlated levels of treatment readiness, while depressive symptomatology and depression secondary to poor emotional support was negatively correlated. Interventions to improve treatment success in HFOs are discussed.

Pankow, J., Willett, J., Yang, Y., Swan, H., Dembo, R., Burdon, W. M., & ... Frisman, L. K. (2017). Evaluating fidelity to a modified NIATx process improvement strategy for improving
**HIV services in correctional facilities.** *The Journal of Behavioral Health Services & Research, 45*, 187-203. doi:10.1007/s11414-017-9551-1

In a study aimed at improving the quality of HIV services for inmates, an organizational process improvement strategy using change teams was tested in 14 correctional facilities in 8 US states and Puerto Rico. Fidelity challenges included (1) lack of communication and leadership within change teams, (2) instability in team membership, and (3) issues with data utilization in decision-making to implement improvements to services delivery.


Using a sample of 50 children and their mothers, this study examined the efficacy of group treatment for children exposed to intimate partner violence. Children showed a greater reduction in symptoms with the psychotherapeutic intervention. Children with the highest levels of trauma symptoms showed the greatest benefits.


This study investigated mechanisms for positive post-release outcomes in two samples of high risk prisoners in New Zealand. The sample consisted of a case sample of 120 participants who received 8-12 months of treatment while incarcerated and a control comparison group of 151 high-risk prisoners who had received minimal or no treatment. Longitudinal structural models determined that treatment while incarcerated and readiness for release were direct predictors of reconviction rates. Numerous indirect pathways of influence were also identified. Recommendations for future research in the evaluation of the successful reentry are made.


This longitudinal study explored the lives of 50 individuals who participated in the New Orleans Homeless Substance Abusers Project. After 25 years, homeless substance abusers fared better long-term when they were in a stable relationship.


Adults with serious mental illness and comorbid alcohol dependence are at risk for high utilization of crisis-driven health care services and criminal justice involvement. Evidence-based medication-assisted treatment (MAT) for alcohol dependence may reduce both. Data was obtained for 5,743 adults. The results demonstrate MAT is associated with significant outcomes in the 12 months following initiation compared with non-MAT treatment. No benefits of MAT were found for most criminal justice outcomes.


Using a sample of 400 participants, this study examined the prevalence of psychiatric disorders among detainees in Berlin, Germany. Overall, the most frequent diagnoses included substance use
disorders, and major depressive disorder. The prevalence of psychiatric disorders was mostly consistent over the course of 19 years.


Using a sample of 217 inmates, this study examined whether psychopathy predicted treatment-seeking during the course of incarceration. Results indicated that psychopathy was not significantly related to treatment seeking both during incarceration and postrelease. Participants high in Factor 2 were more likely to seek substance use treatment upon release.


Using a case-control design, this study explored patients who received compulsory psychiatric treatment. Since the 2007 amendment, the number of overall compulsory cases decreased, the length of stay increased, and the readmission rate decreased.


Using multilevel analysis of individual and prison characteristics, the author investigated aspects of attempted suicide in a sample of 18,185 male and female inmates across 326 prisons in the United States. Individual level characteristics of a diagnosis of serious mental illness, feelings of frequent anger, hopelessness, or dissociation, and auditory hallucinations were all found to be predictive of suicide attempts. Prison level characteristics such as rates of assaultive behaviors and racial and age composition of the prison, among others, were also found to be predictive of higher rates of attempted suicide. Socioeconomic predictive factors are also noted. Policy implications for suicide prevention in prisons are discussed.


Using semi-structured interviews of mental health professionals, this study explored conditions for successful treatment of patients with antisocial personality disorder. Experts stated that utilizing a treatment team, motivational techniques, and a firm approach would be useful in treating individuals with antisocial personality disorder.


Using a measure with 24 vignettes that describe child abuse and neglect, this study examined factors that influence school workers’ ability to recognize abuse. Most situations of child abuse were recognized. Cases of emotional abuse were recognized less frequently.

Using a sample of 127 teachers and school workers, this study examined the efficacy of a program that teaches trainers about a sexual violence prevention program. Factors such as amount of training, job title, and amount of time employed in that position predicted implementation of the program.

This study examined the efficacy of child welfare workers in screening maltreated children for trauma exposure and stress. Results indicated that workers effectively screened PTSD symptoms, but were less effective in identifying arousal symptoms.

DELINQUENCY/ANTISOCIAL BEHAVIOR

The authors investigated the role that perceptions of procedural justice (police and judge related), legal cynicism, legal legitimacy, and various moderating factors, have in the recidivism of serious juvenile offenders. 1,354 male and female juvenile offenders were followed for six months. Broad relationships between perceptions of the legal system and recidivism were noted. Perceptions of chances of success were found to moderate legal cynicism at baseline and recidivism 6-months later for Black and Hispanic, but not White, individuals. Recommendations for improving juvenile offender interventions are made.

Using data from the Stockholm Birth Cohort Study, this longitudinal study examined the relationship between adolescents’ future orientation and criminal behavior later in life. Youth who perceived themselves to have poor future prospects were more likely to have low socioeconomic status and were more often convicted of a crime as adults.

In an effort to identify characteristics associated with juvenile crime, aspects of Rule-Breaking (RBS), Perspective Taking (PT), Empathic Concern (EC) and Utilitarian Judgment (UJ) were measured in an Italian sample of 67 male incarcerated juveniles and 239 male juveniles in the community. The incarcerated sample was more likely to endorse UJs, whereas the community deviant group (those in the community who reported being involved in deviant behaviors) demonstrated lower levels of affective empathy than both the community control and incarcerated sample. UJ was directly associated with the likelihood of being in the incarcerated group. Implications of these results for improvign youth intervention programs are discussed.

Interview data from 257 male youths who were followed for 10 years, roughly from the ages of 17 to 26, was used to examine parent-child and peer relationships on substance abuse and criminal offending. Increased marijuana and alcohol use occurred in the year following greater exposure to peers who were engaged in these behaviors. Increased levels of offending were observed during the
following year in the same way, but only for Black participants. The influence of peer substance use was greater during adolescence than young adulthood. Recommendations for prevention and intervention programs during this developmental period are made.

This longitudinal study examined the fluctuation in life time drug and alcohol use in a sample of youth from the Caring Communities Youth Survey. Researchers determined that a positive relationship between drug use and grade level, a negative relationship between drug use and antisocial behavior over time, and a decrease in the percent of youth who abstain from drug use would constitute normal deviant behavior. Neither marijuana, alcohol use, nor inhalants met the criteria for normal deviance.

The authors used model-based cluster analysis to identify subtypes of male incarcerated offenders \( n = 2,388 \) based on cognitive, affective, behavioral, and demographic characteristics. Six subgroups were identified and labeled: Average, Psychopathic-Positive Affect, Low Executive Functioning, Externalizing, Psychopathic-Negative Affect, and High Well-Being. The groups showed differences in treatment-related variables such as mental health, cognitive ability, and substance use. Implications for finely targeted treatment and intervention approaches in this heterogeneous population are discussed.

This study investigated the psychiatric and paraphilic conditions which differentiate offenders diagnosed with antisocial personality disorder (ASPD) who received a childhood diagnosis of conduct disorder (CD) from those who did not. Three samples of federal correctional clients were compared; those with CD and APSD diagnoses \( n = 163 \), those with APSD but not CD \( n = 46 \), and those diagnosed with neither \( n = 564 \). Overall, those with APSD diagnoses scored higher on risk assessments and had more extensive criminal histories. Comorbid ADHD was associated with a higher likelihood of prior CD, while Bipolar I, frotteurism, and sexual sadism were all associated with higher likelihood of ASPD without CD. Implications for treatment and the social development of antisocial traits are addressed.

This study was a content analysis of 179 cases of animal cruelty reported in the media. Offenders of animal cruelty were mostly adult males who were the owners of the animals. The majority of pets who experienced cruelty were dogs.

This study examined the psychometric properties of the self-report Antisocial Process Screening Device (APSD-SR), and the predictive utility of its subscales for reoffending, among Australian juvenile offenders \( n = 308 \). Survival analyses indicated that youth scoring high on the APSD-SR total score were faster to reoffend nonviolently and violently than those scoring low. Whereas the
modified grandiose-manipulative subscale predicted faster time to nonviolent recidivism as a single predictor.

Using a sample of 918 young adults, this study examined the mediating role of street code attitudes on the relationship between self-control and criminal offending. Street code attitudes were significantly associated with violent and property crime.

Using content analysis, this study examined 5 neutralization techniques of 40 serial killers. All of the offenders utilized at least one type of neutralization. Neutralization type varied for different victims or murders.

This study examined the predictive power of ADHD, substance use, and conduct disorder on history of arrest. Conduct disorder, alcohol and marijuana use predicted a history of arrest. ADHD was not a significant predictor of a history of arrest.

This study assessed the effects of gender, race/ethnicity, and pre-arrest behavioral health (BH) service-use on age at first arrest, and first arrest outcomes in 12,476 first-time offenders. Black youth were arrested at younger ages than white or Hispanic youth. Youth with psychiatric problems were arrested at younger ages than youth with substance-use, dual-diagnoses, or no BH problems. Compared to white males, black males had lower odds of detention and BH referrals. Compared to white females, black females had higher odds of release and lower odds of probation, detention, and BH referrals.

The authors sought to identify distinct patterns of institutional placement in justice involved juveniles. For seven years the authors followed 1,354 youths between the ages of 14 and 18. Four groups emerged in the data; 34.2% who spent the majority of the time in the community, 18.8% who spent the majority of the time in institutional placement, 22.5% who spent variable time institutionalized, and 24.4% who spent declining time in institutional placements. Contextual and characteristic differences between the groups are discussed. Recommendations for juvenile services are made.

Across a span of seven years, traits of psychopathic personality disturbance (PPD) were measured in 1,354 adjudicated male and female juveniles using the Youth Psychopathic Traits Inventory (YPI). Those with the highest baseline YPI scores showed the most reliable decreases in test scores. These decreases were associated with lower offending levels following the change. New perspectives on the developmental stability of PPD and its relationship with criminal propensity are discussed.


This meta-analysis reviewed 42 studies over the course of 25 years to evaluate the effect of self-esteem on delinquent behavior. The mean weighted effect size from 48 effect sizes was - .10, suggesting that self-esteem has a small and negative impact on criminal behavior.


This study investigated the correlations between diagnostic groups and stalking behaviors. 137 stalking offenders were assessed using the Structured Clinical Interview for the DSM-IV (SCID). Only 72.3% of the sample met criteria for a diagnosable mental disorder, and 44.5% met criteria for two or more diagnoses. Nearly half of the participants met criteria for a substance use disorder, which was associated with increased aggression and more extensive criminal justice involvement. Implications for the treatment of stalking offenders are discussed.


Using a sample of 634 parents and children, this study examined the transmission of psychological aggression and corporal punishment in Chinese families. Overall parental discipline was transmitted to the next generation, but the intensity of the transmission varied depending on the parent gender and the severity of discipline. High parental stress intensified the transmission of harsh discipline.


This study addressed the limitations around deficits in emotion perception in psychopathy. A sample of men \( (n = 339) \) ranging across the psychopathy continuum, recruited in and out of the German prison system, completed three psychometrically validated tasks that assessed the ability to perceive facially expressed emotions. Using latent variable modeling, results show that deficits in emotion perception associated with psychopathy are fully attributable to deficits in general mental ability.


This study utilized confirmatory factor analysis to adapt the Brief Sensation-Seeking scale for at-risk youth. A one-factor structure was a good fit. The measure demonstrated good internal consistency, convergent and discriminant validity. There were no significant differences in total scores between males and females.

Using data from the National Survey of Drug Use, this study explored risk factors for criminal justice involvement in people with severe mental illness and substance use disorders. Results indicated that being male, unemployment, young age, and in substance abuse treatment was related to an increased risk for criminal justice involvement. Individuals with co-occurring serious mental illness and substance use were more than 7 times likely to be arrested within a year.

This study examined whether the interpersonal and lifestyle facets of psychopathy contribute to predicting relevant external criteria. They conducted multiple regressions in a sample of 225 incarcerated adolescents. Results indicated ratings on the affective component of psychopathy were important to help explain variance in many of the external criterion variables, but that ratings on the interpersonal and lifestyle facets also helped explain unique variance in a range of criteria.

Using a mixed methods approach with interviews from 264 incarcerated youth males, this study examined the differences between gang and non-gang related violence. Findings indicated that gang-related violence are more likely to occur in school, or recreation areas. Violence associated with non-gang violence most often occurred in the day room. Non-gang violence is more likely to involve more diverse racial groups than gang-violence.

This longitudinal study used the Avon Longitudinal Study of Parents and children to examine the impact of owning shooter games during childhood on later conduct disorder or criminal behavior. Results indicated that exposure to shooter games did not predict conduct disorder nor criminal behavior.

This study investigated 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 interaction effects among YPI GM, CU, and II on predicting the SRDS total score. Results showed a three-factor model of psychopathy may help predict self-reported delinquency better than the individual factors.

Comparing college students who were arrested during college to student who were not arrested, this study examined whether college arrests are related to subsequent arrests as an adult. Results indicated that individuals arrested during college were more than four times as likely to be convicted of a crime as an adult.

Using juveniles in the Offending, Crime, and Justice survey, this study examined the effects of parental criminality and delinquent peers on criminal thinking. Results indicated that delinquent friends significantly predicted proactive criminal thinking. Neither delinquent friends nor parental criminal behavior predicted reactive criminal thinking.

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**FORENSIC ASSESSMENT**


This systematic review explored the psychometric properties of tools developed to assess attitudes toward incarcerated offenders. The ATP tool was most often used to determine attitudes. Two other measures, the ATI and the APSH, have not been under as much empirical scrutiny as the ATP.


Using a sample of 56 professionals, this study explored opinions about the utility of the PredAHT. Some professionals thought the tool could aid them in being more confident in their decision-making, while others questioned its usefulness in court.


This study explored personality disorders, alexithymic traits, and attachment styles in two organized crime groups. There were no significant personality differences between the two groups. Both groups had predominant borderline personality traits.


This study reviewed 1,111 court-ordered sanity evaluation reports submitted by 74 evaluators in Virginia from the first year after the state initiated an oversight system that allowed for such comprehensive review. Overall, the base rate of insanity findings was 16.9%, although base rates of insanity findings among individual evaluators varied from 0% to 50%. Similarly, most evaluators cited the cognitive criteria of the insanity defense as the basis for their findings.


This study utilized 3,457 predominately non–head injury disability claimants to examine the association between inconsistent responding on the MMPI-2-RF and performance on cognitive tests as well performance validity tests (PVTs). Both VRIN-r and TRIN-r were associated with statistically lower cognitive test scores, and TRIN-r was associated with poor performance on collaterally administered PVTs in a subsample of individuals with average reading levels.

This study evaluated whether specific aspects of psychopathological constructs assessed by the MMPI-2-RF, and specific cognitive abilities assessed by the WASI/WASI-II, were associated with length of competency restoration among 344 male pretrial defendants hospitalized at a maximum security forensic psychiatric hospital. Higher Juvenile Conduct Problems (JCP) scores were associated with restoration within 90 days, and Antisocial Behavior (RC4) predicted restoration status at 90 days. No MMPI-2-RF or WASI/WASI-II scales predicted restoration status at 180 days when controlling for age.


This meta-analysis examined the relationship between impression management, self-deception, and self-report measures containing dynamic risk factors. Self-report measures were negatively related with self-deception and impression management.


This study investigated the clinical utility and ability of the Personality Assessment Screener (PAS) to concurrently predict clinically significant elevations on the PAI and several other indicators of symptomatology and dysfunction in 1,658 offenders. Results suggested that PAS total and element scores show considerable promise in screening inmates for serious problems with emotional and behavioral functioning, though interpretive ranges used to categorize PAS scores in clinical and community settings may require revision for criminal justice populations.


This study examined the cross-language utility of the TAPIR in German, Dutch, Swedish, and Italian translations of the TriPM using 6 archival samples of community members, university students, forensic psychiatric inpatients, forensic detainees, and adolescents residing outside the United States (combined N = 5,404). Findings suggest that the TAPIR effectively detects careless responding across these 4 translated versions of the TriPM without the need for language-specific modifications.


This study conducted a meta-analysis and study space analysis on criminal responsibility outcomes. Summary effects for psycholegal cases indicated that older age, female sex, educational attainment, and unemployment were associated with insanity. Those classified insane more often had psychiatric histories and psychotic disorders. Finally, individuals opined or found insane were less likely to have criminal histories but more likely to have been opined incompetent to stand trial in the past.

This study examined the relations between the Narcissistic Personality Inventory–13 (NPI-13), Hypersensitive Narcissism Scale (HSNS), and narcissistic personality disorder (NPD; Personality Diagnostic Questionnaire [PDQ]) in a sample of 179 adult male offenders. NPI-13 and PDQ NPD scales overlapped substantially with one another and manifested similar profiles. The HSNS manifested more limited relations with other measures of NPD and related traits, as well as externalizing behaviors, and was more strongly related to internalizing symptoms.


This study examined MMPI-2-RF scores in 33 U.S. veterans who experienced military sexual trauma (MST). A majority of participants reported an attempted or actual rape during their service, averaging 1.87 MST events. The most common diagnoses assigned by diagnosticians at intake were PTSD, mood disorders, and personality disorders. With regard to MMPI-2-RF results, the sample generated elevated scores on somatic, mood, anxiety, and interpersonal dysfunction scales.


In analysis of 124 cases in Portugal, this study examined the prevalence of NGRI defendants, level of dangerousness, and proposed interventions. Of the cases, 34% were found NGRI, while only 9% of these defendants were referred for admission at a forensic hospital.


This study examined the psychometric properties of PCL-R scores in a multisite sample of 1,163 federally incarcerated Canadian indigenous and non-indigenous offenders from the Prairie Region of the Correctional Service of Canada. Indigenous men scored higher than non-indigenous men on most components of the PCL-R and had higher rates of recidivism, irrespective of follow-up. Discrimination analyses supported the predictive efficacy of PCL-R total, factor, and facet scores for violent and general recidivism across both ancestral groups.


This study explored gender-specific perceptions of the Comprehensive Assessment of Psychopathic Personality (CAPP) and the Comprehensive Assessment of Borderline Personality (CABP). Correctional staff (n=87) were asked to rate the prototypicality of these models for women and men with psychopathy. Results provide further support for the CAPP model as a promising conceptualization of psychopathy. Findings show few gender differences and lend support to psychopathy and BPD as overlapping constructs.


This study examined 139 mental health professionals’ attitudes and practices regarding using Internet data in forensic and therapeutic contexts. Results included that 23% have searched the Internet for information about a therapy client, 39% for a forensic examinee, and only 26% opposed the practice for forensic evaluators.
This study sought to develop a scale measuring perceptions of police legitimacy. Results provided evidence for a reliable and valid 34-item scale with a single-factor solution that predicted multiple outcomes, including justification of a police shooting (Study 3b) and resource allocation to a police charity (Study 3c), as well as correlations with self-reported criminal activity, right-wing authoritarianism, and social dominance orientation (Study 3d).

This study conducted a meta-analytic factor analysis of the 8 content scales from the PPI and PPI-R (total N > 18,000) and found general support for the 2 dimensions of Fearless Dominance and Self-Centered Impulsivity in community samples. However, the structure among offender samples (e.g., prisoners, forensic patients) supported a 3-factor model in which the Fearlessness content scale loaded onto Self-Centered Impulsivity (rather than Fearless Dominance).

This study evaluated the Lithuanian translation of the TriPM and extended the construct validity of this psychopathy measurement model to forensic and correctional criteria. Two samples derived from male Lithuanian correctional facilities were merged for this study. The TriPM Meanness and Disinhibition scales evinced acceptable internal reliability coefficients, whereas that for the TriPM Boldness scale was in the questionable range. All three TriPM scales were generally associated with external criteria reflecting psychopathy, aggression, and transdiagnostic clinical and personality constructs.

This study assessed the performance of the Borderline Features (BOR) Scale of the adolescent version of the PAI in 327 inpatient adolescents and 151 justice-involved adolescents. Across both samples, results indicated good internal consistency. Confirmatory factor analysis indicated poor fit of the 4-factor structure proposed by the measure’s authors. Findings suggest that the BOR scale has adequate internal consistency, convergent validity, and clinical utility, although areas for future measure evaluation (including factor structure) remain.

This study examined the factor structure and convergent and discriminant validity of the LSRP in 437 Chinese male inmates. Results showed that the 3-factor model fit the data better than the 2-factor model. The 3-factor model also showed reasonable convergent and discriminant validity. The findings were consistent with previous studies and suggested that the LSRP can be an effective self-report measure for assessing psychopathy in China.
Recommendations for application and the improvement of investigative interviewing are made. Truthfulness. The sample reported statement omissions were perceived as deceptive while repetitions and reminiscences were associated with the inconsistency types. The results suggested that police officers use contradictions more than repetitions, reminiscences, and omissions, as a sign of credibility. Further, contradictions and omissions were perceived as deceptive while repetitions and reminiscences were associated with truthfulness. The sample reported statement-evidence inconsistency to be the most useful sign of deception. Differences between the perceptions of younger and older officers are discussed. Recommendations for application and the improvement of investigative interviewing are made.

Zappala, M., Reed, A. L., Beltrani, A., Zapf, P. A., & Otto, R. K. (2018). *Anything you can do, I can do better: Bias awareness in forensic evaluators*. *Journal of Forensic Psychology Research and Practice, 18*, 45-56. doi: 10.1080/24732850.2017.1413532 Using a sample of 80 forensic mental health professionals, this study examined the bias blind spot phenomenon and whether education would increase bias awareness. Results indicated that professionals rated higher rates of bias in other professionals than they did for themselves. Education about introspection did not result in higher ratings of bias awareness.

**LAW ENFORCEMENT, CONFESSIONS, & DECEPTION**


Calderon, S., Giolla, E. M., Ask, K., Granhag, P. A. (2018). *Drawing what lies ahead: False intentions are more abstractly depicted than true intentions*. *Applied Cognitive Psychology, 32*, 518-522. doi: 10.1002/acp.3422 Hand-drawn mental images accompanying either true or false intentions (N = 56) were rated by participants (N = 117) blind to veracity of intentions. Drawings of false intentions were rated as more abstract (i.e., simple, decontextualized scenes containing details only relevant to the task) than drawings of true intentions.


Deeb, H., Vrij, A., Hope, L., Mann, S., Granhag, P., & Stromwall, L. (2018). *Police officers' perceptions of statement inconsistency*. *Criminal Justice and Behavior, 45*(5), 644-655. An international sample of 71 police officers completed a questionnaire designed to assess perceptions of statement inconsistency types. The results suggested that police officers use contradictions more than repetitions, reminiscences, and omissions, as a sign of credibility. Further, contradictions and omissions were perceived as deceptive while repetitions and reminiscences were associated with truthfulness. The sample reported statement-evidence inconsistency to be the most useful sign of deception. Differences between the perceptions of younger and older officers are discussed. Recommendations for application and the improvement of investigative interviewing are made.

Canadian police officers (n = 101) were presented with a vignette based on a true case of stalking. The vignette was manipulated to present a case of a man pursuing a woman (M-W) or a woman pursuing a man (W-M). Gender of the stalking actor did not influence police officer’s ratings of criminal charge nor the perceptions of case seriousness. However, those in the M-W condition predicted greater physical, psychological, emotional, and economic harm and anticipated greater likelihood of a prison sentence by a judge. Officers predicted equal likelihood of convictions by a jury for each condition. Implications for intimate partner aggression theory and law enforcement practice are noted.


Self-evaluation is a principal feature the police interview framework in England and Wales. Following the authors’ recent study (which found that interviewers over-rated themselves), the same interviewers completed an extensive reflective log. Interviewers regarded as skilled in the prior study were more accurate in identifying their strengths and weaknesses. But those earlier rated as least skilled were much less reflective and inaccurate in their understanding of key interview tasks. Evaluation tools need refinement.


Factor analysis was used to examine results from 215 participants who completed deception cue use questionnaires post-deception detection task. Two factors emerged: nonverbal cues to anxiety, and detail and level of involvement. The degree to which participants drew on the two cue use dimensions was unrelated to both accuracy at detecting deception and truth bias exhibited.


Using a sample of 245 undergraduates, this study examined the effects of various forms of media consumption on attitudes toward police. Participants who reported consuming online news reports were more likely to hold negative attitudes toward police legitimacy. Use of social media as a news source was associated with more favorable attitudes.


Using a sample of 25 police officers, this study explored police decision-making. Results indicated that perceptions of blame about a suspect, as well as a need to protect the community drive many law enforcement decisions.


The authors designed a theoretical framework for predicting police support of procedurally just policing practices. This theory was tested in a sample of 571 law enforcement officers of Israel’s national police agency who completed a survey measuring police attitudes. Overall, there were high levels of support for procedurally just policing. Positive relationships were found between perceived
support from the public, feelings of self-legitimacy, experience on the job, minority status, and support for procedural justice. No significant effects were found for internal procedural and distributive justice measures. Recommendations for police practice and future research are made.


The authors investigated how biases and context influence individual’s perceptions of events viewed live, from a police body-worn camera (BWC) video, or with surveillance footage. In a 3 (person: self, average American, average police officer) X 3 (perspective: live, first-person, third-person) design participants were asked to imagine a given scenario and rate the respective viewer’s susceptibility to bias. Participants showed a bias blind spot for themselves, and depending on participant’s attitudes toward police, for police officers. Across all conditions, participants reported the average American to be more susceptible to bias than the self or police officers. A discussion of public policy and the contemporary controversies of police performance is included.


502 district attorney case files were reviewed to examine the influence of confessions on guilty plea rates and plea discounts. Cases were coded as to whether the defendant was questioned by police, questioned but denied guilt, questioned and partially confessed, or questioned and fully confessed. Of those who provided full or partial confessions, 97-100% pled guilty, compared to the 70% who pled guilty after being questioned and denying the crime. 94.5% of those who were not questioned pled guilty. Of those who pled guilty, partial confessors received the smallest plea discounts of any group, while those who denied the crime when questioned received the largest discounts. Future directions for research on the role of remorse and confessions in pleas are suggested.


The authors created a scale that captures citizens’ beliefs regarding police legitimacy. Results from a series of validation studies demonstrated evidence for a reliable and valid 34-item scale that predicted multiple outcomes, such as justification of a police shooting and resource allocation to a police charity. The scale also correlated with criminal activity, right-wing authoritarianism, and social dominance orientation.


Using records compiled by The Washington Post and The Guardian, this study explored characteristics of individuals killed by police. Of the 1099 people killed, 23% had symptoms of mental illness. People with mental illness were more likely to have a knife, and more likely to be killed at home.


In England and Wales, suspects must be cautioned of their right to silence. In this study, authors the delivery of this caution to juvenile suspects; suspects’ comprehension of the caution; and how police explained the caution. Officers delivered the caution too fast for juveniles to comprehend. Juveniles claimed to understand the caution, but failed to demonstrate comprehension. Officers sometimes
incorrectly explained the caution to juveniles. Suspects’ and officers’ explanations revealed several misconceptions. The caution may not safeguard suspects.


In this paper, the authors tested whether deceptive suspects would contradict evidence against them to a greater extent than truth-tellers after a 2-month delay. Participants either committed a theft (liars) or a benign activity (truth-tellers) and were either questioned immediately or after 2 months. The researchers found that—regardless of when participants were questioned—liars contradicted the evidence more than truth-tellers. Moreover, laypeople rated the liars as more deceptive than truth-tellers after both time delays.


The authors investigated personality change in correctional officers based on time on the job. Two groups of correctional officers in the Israeli Prison Service were compared to a group of employees in the Israeli National Insurance Institution, a government security organization. Participants completed the Behavioral Tendencies Scale (BTS) which measures personality characteristics based on the Big Five Personality model. Correctional officers demonstrated increased levels of neuroticism after 3 - 4 years on the job. The authors suggest this may be the result of sustained stress and trauma involved in the profession. Practical recommendations for improving correctional officers’ work environment are made.


Two studies were conducted to investigate whether law enforcement officers (LEOs) and laypersons perceive nonverbal behaviors associated with imminent violence in the same way. The first study explored the factor structure of the Nonverbal Cues of Interpersonal Violence (NCIV) measure. A six-factor structure was identified and differences between LEOs and laypersons were noted: LEOs identified “Assumes a Boxer’s Stance” as more concerning while laypersons relied more heavily on “Angry Expression”. The second study confirmed the same six factor structure of the NCIV. Future research on the nonverbal behaviors which precede interpersonal violence was recommended.


According to work on legal socialization, U.S. citizens come to acquire three dimensions of values that determine how authorities ought to behave: (a) neutral, consistent, and transparent decision-making; (b) interpersonal treatment that conveys respect, dignity, and concern; and (c) respecting the limits of one’s rightful power. Using survey data from a nationally representative sample of U.S. adults, the authors showed that concerns over bounded authority, respectful treatment, and neutral decision-making combine to form a strong predictor of police and legal legitimacy. They found that legal legitimacy is associated with greater compliance behavior, controlling for personal morality and perceived likelihood of sanctions.

The present study sought to identify how collaborative or individual police report writing influences the accuracy and amount of information recalled. In pairs, 86 police officers completed a live training exercise. Individual-collaborative (IC) pairs wrote individual reports first and then a collaborative report while collaborative-individual (CI) pairs did the reverse. There was no significant difference in inaccuracy for the first report between the two conditions, however, there was an increase in accuracy for the second report in the IC condition. Partners who did not know each other prior to training and those who used content-focused strategies performed better than those who did not. Recommendations for police practice are made.


A modified cheating paradigm and an adaptation of Perillo and Kassin’s (2011) evidence-bluff manipulation were used to evaluate pleas and confessions within the same study. Participants were accused of cheating, either with an evidence-bluff or not, and were offered the chance to sign a confession or accept a plea deal (i.e. 2 [guilt status: innocent or guilty] x 2 [confession or plea] x 2 [evidence-bluff or no-bluff]). Innocent individuals provided different motivations for refusal in the plea condition than the confession condition. Guilty individuals also reported different reasons for agreeing to sign a plea agreement versus a confession. Future research elucidating decision making specific to plea deals are recommended.


This study examined adults’ abilities to detect the veracity of children's initial disclosures and their later recantations about a crime. Children (N=32) either lied or told the truth about an alleged theft, and then recanted their statement. Adult raters (N=108) watched both statements and determined the veracity and credibility of each. Adults accurately detected the veracity of children’s reports 53% of the time. Raters were more accurate when detecting false denials than false accusations.

### LEGAL DECISION-MAKING/JURY RESEARCH


This study explored characteristics of child sexual abuse cases that proceed to prosecution. Content and framework analyses were utilized to determine factors and case elements.


The authors conducted two studies to investigate how informing individuals of collateral consequences tied to a conviction would influence their decision making. The first study was a within-subjects design where participants were assigned as innocent or guilty in three different criminal charge scenarios. Information on collateral consequences did not influence plea decisions in any of the conditions, however, vignettes where the individual was being held in pretrial detention, there was a trend towards plea bargaining. The second study was a between-subjects design which used only one condition and manipulated guilt, pretrial detention, and presentation of collateral consequences. Again, while guilt and pretrial detention were associated with pleading guilty, knowledge of collateral consequences had no effect. Recommendations for future research on the influence of communicating collateral consequences are made.

This study used qualitative data from the interviews of 23 juvenile defense attorneys which described their experiences with juvenile clients during the plea decision making process. The results indicated that these decisions were usually had to be made quickly and attorneys felt they did not have time to inform their clients of collateral consequences. Decisions were often made based on immediate gain (e.g. being able to go home right away). The authors describe three separate consultation strategies that emerged in the data. Implications for improving attorney communication with juvenile clients are discussed.


In a within-subject design, 74 participants read scenarios involving a mock sexual assault case where rape victim age (6 years old or 26 years old), type of plea bargain (reduced prison sentence or probation), and reason for plea bargain (save victim from reliving trauma or save time in court) were manipulated. Participants then answered questions regarding the degree to which justice was served. Plea bargaining was viewed more negatively when the case involved a child, probation only, or when the rationale of saving time in court was used. A discussion of public perceptions of plea bargaining and procedural justice research follows.


The researchers tested how laypeople make financial award decision for pain and suffering damages in a personal injury tort case. The experiment varied the presence, size, and meaningfulness of an anchor number. Awards participants considered to be 'medium' (rather than 'low' or 'high') had the most variation. The gist of awards as low, medium, or high fully mediated the relationship between perceived pain/suffering and award amount. Moreover, meaningful anchors predicted unique variance in award judgments: A meaningful large anchor number drove awards up and a meaningful small anchor drove them down, whereas meaningless large and small anchors did not differ significantly.


Guided by fuzzy-trace theory (FTT), which purports that gist processing is related to developmental stage and experience, the authors hypothesized that juveniles would be influenced by superficial distinctions and verbatim-based processing during plea decision making. To test this theory, three groups, middle and high school aged juveniles (n = 149), college-aged adults (n = 200), and postcollege-aged adults (n = 187), completed a plea-decision task involving vignettes. The influence of superficial aspects (e.g. one year probation versus two) decreased with age, whereas the influence of meaning based concepts such as guilt or innocence increased with age. Implications for current juvenile law and adolescent plea bargaining are discussed.


Using a sample of 4,775 reports of child abuse, this study examined variability in credibility depending on the type of abuse. Results indicated that reports of physical abuse were less likely to be seen as credible than sexual abuse reports. Factors related to credibility included old age, and a less severe abuse incident.

This study explored the impact of various types of evidence on mock jurors using an online survey. Results indicated that none of the different types of expert evidence were related to differences in opinion regarding the persuasiveness of evidence, the jurors’ confidence about the dangerousness of the defendant, their opinion about the defendant’s likelihood of recidivism, nor their opinion about the defendant’s sentence.


This study tested whether online and student samples yield different results in a juror decision-making study. Participants read a trial transcript (varying defendant race) and then made verdict decisions. Authors tested four samples: online and in-lab community members and students. Online participants were equally likely to fail manipulation checks than in-lab participants. Online participants were more lenient towards White defendants—the presence of a research assistant during the study may have affected the expression of racial bias.


A national sample of public and private criminal defense attorneys (n = 199) responded to an online survey about client’s competence during the plea phase in juvenile court and adult criminal court. A majority of respondents endorsed questioning competence at this stage in the legal process and many reported raising the issue of competence more frequently during the pleas stage in juvenile court. Cognitive deficits, mental illness, and inability to assist counsel were cited as the top three reasons attorneys questioned competency in both their juvenile and adult clients. Implications for the process and practice of plea bargaining are noted.


This study examined whether 173 mock jurors, grouped into 30 juries, considered a defendant's meta-responsibility when determining the person's criminal responsibility. Qualitative exploration of focus groups from five juries indicated that participants across groups strongly considered meta-responsibility, but did so in a way that, along with a host of other considerations, suggested mock jurors were unable and/or unwilling to follow their duties as the triers of fact.


This study examined changes in cross-examination via a comparison cross-examination questioning in child sexual abuse cases. Results indicated that current questioning is less likely to be open-ended. Complainants today are asked three times as many questions as they were in the past.

Data from 1,659 adult probationers in drug court was used to assess the relationship between childhood maltreatment, substance abuse, mental health, and drug court outcomes. Child maltreatment history, mental health diagnosis, and number of substance use diagnoses did not influence unsuccessful completion of the drug court program, while demographic and criminogenic factors did have an influence on outcome. However, mental health and substance abuse diagnoses were found to mediate the relationship between child maltreatment diagnoses and failure to complete the program. Recommendations for drug court treatment are made.

RISK ASSESSMENT/COMMUNICATION

This study examined the concurrent validity of the HARM-FV and the AIS with the HCR-20V3 and a modified version of the Overt Aggression Scale. This study presented findings on the predictive validity of the HARM-FV in the short term for varying severities of aggressive acts. The results indicated strong support for the concurrent validity of the HARM-FV and AIS and promising support for the predictive accuracy of the tool for inpatient aggression.

This study compared the performance of a home-grown instrument (the MnSOST-3) with a global assessment (Static-99R) in predicting sexual recidivism for 650 sex offenders released from Minnesota prisons in 2012. The results showed that use of professional judgment led to a significant degradation in predictive performance. Likewise, the MnSOST-3 outperformed the Static-99R for both sexual recidivism measures across most of the performance metrics used.

This study assessed the predictive validity of the RNR-informed Level of Service/Case Management Inventory (LS/CMI) in 136 community-supervised offenders. The LS/CMI was a strong predictor of general recidivism for males and females. The LS/CMI was predictive of time to recidivism, with lower risk cases taking longer to reoffend than higher risk cases. Despite the robust predictive validity of the LS/CMI, case management plans developed by probation officers generally reflected poor adherence to the RNR principles.

This study investigated the predictive validity of five structured risk/forensic instruments for inpatient violence risk in a secure forensic hospital. Episodes of inpatient violence and the following instruments were each coded from hospital files: HCR-20V3, PCL-R, START, VRAG-R, VRS. The HCR-20V3, START, and VRS predicted inpatient violence, even after controlling for the static measures. The results indicated that structured risk instruments may be applied to the assessment of inpatient violence risk.

This study investigated the quality of risk formulation in routine clinical practice in 121 forensic psychiatric hospital patients in the UK using the Case Formulation Quality Checklist Revised. This study also compared the quality of formulations in Version 2 and Version 3 of the HCR-20. Results demonstrated that the quality was in the intermediate range, however, Version 3 formulations were of slightly better quality than Version 2. In addition, longer formulations were not necessarily associated with higher quality.

This two-part study investigated the validity and use of the Level of Service/Case Management Inventory (LS/CMI) by probation officers in Nebraska. The first study reviewed 19,344 probationer records which used the LS/CMI. Analyses showed the measure had adequate validity in predicting probation recidivism at levels equal to those found in earlier research. Risk levels were predicted equally well for women and minorities. The second portion occurred during a training study for all Nebraska probation officers. The randomized experiment showed that training sessions proved useful in recalibrating officers scoring and indicated no minority scoring bias. Recommendations for the use of the LS/CMI are made.

This within-subjects experiment was designed to assess whether probation officers measure the risk of individuals with mental illness as higher than their true risk classification. 89 probation officers reviewed two vignettes of hypothetical probationers; both of moderate risk as measured by a risk assessment tool, yet only one with a diagnosed mental illness. The results suggested that officers did not commit proxy overrides for individuals with mental illness and provided risk rates in accordance with base rates. Further, personal attitudes regarding mental illness did not predict case management decisions, while risk ratings did. Recommendations for ongoing trainings and the integration of evidence based practices in probation are made.

This study sought to develop updated risk categories and recidivism estimates for the VRS-SO. Four treated samples of 913 total sexual offenders with VRS-SO pretreatment, posttreatment, and Static-99R ratings were combined with a minimum follow-up period of 10-years postrelease. Information concerning relative risk (percentiles) and absolute risk (recidivism estimates) is integrated with common risk assessment language guidelines to generate new risk categories for the VRS-SO.

The records from 1,491 individuals found Not Criminally Responsible on account of Mental Disorder (NCRMD) were reviewed to identify factors predictive of criminal recidivism and aggression. Data was coded from criminal records, hospital reports, and review board files. Younger age, personality disorder diagnosis and number of prior convictions were associated with higher rates of recidivism as well as clinically documented aggression. Medication nonadherence was associated with aggression,
but not recidivism. Conversely, community mental health resources within a 45-minute drive was associated with reduced recidivism, but not reduced aggression. Implications for the advancement of treatment and interventions for individuals found NCRMD are addressed.

This study examined whether risk assessment tools can help manage risk of violence and offending in a sample of 73 published and unpublished studies. Results indicated that there is insufficient evidence to conclude that tools directly reduce violence or reoffending, as findings are mixed. In sum, although risk assessment tools may be an important starting point, they do not guarantee effective treatment or risk management.

This study examined the prospective validity of the Cracow Instrument utilizing the Erlangen-Nuremberg Development and Prevention Study. At the first assessment, the community sample contained 675 male and female children at preschool age. For example, for a broad scale on externalizing problems, the predictive validity was r=.52 (AUC=.78) after one year and r=.42 (AUC=.75) after five years. Overall, the predictive validity of the Cracow Instrument was satisfactory.

SEX OFFENDERS

Using thematic analysis, this study analyzed differences in sexual grooming with male versus female victims. Five themes emerged: positivity, emotional connection, self-protection, sexual content, and arranging a meeting for sex. Researchers found no distinct differences in themes depending on the gender of the victims. Male offenders used more explicit sexual content when interacting with male victims than they did with female victims.

This study sought to elucidate the prevalence and characteristics of “Romeo and Juliet” (R&J) cases of rape: those in which similarly aged teenage partners engage in consensual sexual activity which nonetheless violate age of consent laws. The authors used data from NIBRS, the incident-based recording system maintained by the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), which includes over a million sex crimes over the past 22 years. Statutory rape cases consisted of only 5% of total sex crime cases and R&J cases consisted of only 0.05%. Incident characteristics associated with varying difference in age between the individuals is described. Implications for public policy and future research are detailed.

Qualitative text analysis was used to assess 61 firsthand descriptions of male-to-female sexual assault perpetration posted on the internet. Four primary emotional themes emerged: shame, guilt, anger toward the victim, and depression, with shame as the most prominent theme. The authors suggest a model for emotional responses and repeat offending by which sexual violence results in shame and
anger, which leads to externalization of blame and hostility toward women. An alternative path describes sexual violence resulting in guilt which can promote self-growth. Clinical implications for improving targeted prevention and intervention programs are discussed.


Using statistical discourse analysis, this study examined differences between two types of child sex offenders. Sex offenders who made contact with children online were more likely to use self-disclosure grooming techniques.


The use of online dating applications (apps) and sexual abuse experiences was investigated in 666 college students in Hong Kong. Lifetime prevalence of sexual abuse (14.2%) was very similar to the one year prevalence (12.4%) rates. Those who used dating apps were more likely to report experiences of sexual abuse in the past year and were more likely to have experienced lifetime sexual abuse. Sexual minority status was also identified as a risk factor of sexual abuse. Education and prevention programs targeted at the use of online dating apps are recommended.


Using a sample of 12 men convicted of online sexual offending, this study qualitatively examined strategies utilized during the process of sexual grooming. Results indicated that perpetrators are highly persuasive and maintain distorted perceptions about minors and abuse more generally.


This study explored motives behind adolescents selling sex. Three motives emerged: emotional reasons, material reasons, and pleasure.


Using semistructured interviews, this study explored the needs of individuals at risk for committing a sexual offense against a child. Three themes emerged: moving service users forward, barriers to intervention, and prevention.


The impact of implicit theories (entitist vs. incrementalist) of human behaviors on attitudes towards sexual offenders and child abusers were explored in 252 community participants. Attitudes, perceptions of sexual offenders, and analysis of a vignette depicting an adult male, adult female, and juvenile male were reviewed. Those who endorsed entity implicit theory reported more negative attitudes towards sexual offenders and were more likely to hold conservative political views. These participants also felt sexual offending was a result of moral character and deserving of punishment.
Vignette results indicated domain specific attitudes. Implications for the public perception of sexual offending are discussed.


This study examined the demographic, mental health, and offending characteristics of 456 child exploitation material (CEM) offenders in comparison to 493 child contact sexual offenders and 256 offenders with a history of both CEM and contact offences. The results indicated that CEM offenders differed from both contact and dual offenders, and that the groups were primarily differentiated based on two factors: antisocial orientation and sexual deviance.


Using a sample of 145 children involved in child sexual abuse investigations, this study explored the case characteristics of child sexual abuse allegations. Most of the allegations were not substantiated, though child sexual abuse was confirmed in 17% of the cases. Children who were investigated often presented with psychiatric symptoms.


This study estimated the costs associated with child sexual abuse. Lifetime costs for female victims was more than $1.1 million and for males nearly $1.5 million.


The current study examined whether online and offline sexual offenders are alike or differ. Overall, Internet child pornography offenders (ICPOs) tended to score significantly differently from contact offenders on various psychological measures. These findings may imply that ICPOs have different treatment needs than contact offenders.


The authors sought to discriminate the psychological profiles of fantasy versus contact driven users of child sexual exploitation material (CSEM). 68 males were recruited from prisons and community sex offender treatment centers to complete an online survey assessing clinical and risk related variables. Spatial and numerical classification modeling led to three subtypes; Contact-Driven Users, Fantasy-Driven Users, and a subset of this second group that demonstrated more extreme content use and interaction with other CSEM users. The clinical and risk factors related to each of these groups is detailed. Future directions for research into the classification and treatment of CSEM offenders is discussed.


This study utilized a statistical method for estimating confidence intervals of the prevalence based on the well-known kappa coefficient of interrater agreement to derive confidence intervals for the
probability of a diagnosis being true (i.e., the positive predictive value). We illustrated the method and its results with empirical data for a particular type of paraphilia (pedophilia) in sexual offenders. The findings indicated that up to 1 in 3 diagnoses of pedophilia may be wrong.


Data from a mixed sample of Aboriginal (n = 393) and White non-Aboriginal (n = 670) adult federally incarcerated sexual offenders provided insight on the cross-cultural predictive properties of the Violence Risk Scale - Sexual Offender version (VRS-SO). The Static-99R was used as a comparison measure. Both measures significantly predicted recidivism outcomes for both groups. Aboriginal offenders received higher risk scores on both tools, particularly as a result of static versus dynamic factors. Results and implications are considered within the context of the Ewert v. Canada court decision.


The Violence Risk Appraisal Guide - Revised (VRAG-R) was compared to the Violence Risk Appraisal Guide (VRAG) and the Sex Offender Risk Appraisal Guide (SORAG) to investigate the measure’s predictive properties. Archival data was scored from 296 male sexual offenders followed for an average of more than 17 years. All three measures showed good discrimination between sexual and violent recidivism with both adult and child victim subgroups. Effect sizes for violent recidivism at 5 and 10 years were large for the three measures, with the SORAG better predicting sexual recidivism. Recommendations for sexual offender evaluations are made.


This study qualitatively examined public opinions regarding the causes of pedophilic behavior using social media platforms. Thematic analysis revealed four explanations: sexual orientation toward children, mental illness, choice, and a cycle of abuse.


Data from a sample of 2,238 males referred to a large outpatient sexual behavior clinic was used to investigate victim age and variability in hebephilic and pedophilic offenders. All individuals admitted to or were convicted of a sexual crime. Both hebephilia and pedophilia were associated with greater number of victims age 14 or younger and was negatively or unassociated with number of adult victims. Hebephilia, but not pedophilia, demonstrated a small positive association with victim ages 15 and 16. Implications for treatment and assessment of sexual offenders are addressed.


The authors investigated the relationship between scores on the Minnesota Multiphasic Personality Inventory-2-Restructured Form (MMPI-2-RF) with static and dynamic measures of two risk assessment instruments: the STATIC-99 and Level of Service Inventory-Revised (LSI-R). 353 males referred to a sex offender treatment program made up the study sample. MMPI-2-RF results showed
elevated scores on the under-reporting scales and scales measuring externalizing behavioral tendencies and under-controlled behavior. Internal reliability and external correlations to the comparison instruments were appropriate. A discussion of the potential integration of the MMPI-2-RF in sex offender risk assessments follows.

This study compared responses between 63 child sexual abusers and 63 nonoffending. A Go/No-Go task assessed response inhibition; the Iowa Gambling Task (IGT) and the Game of Dice Task (GDT) assessed decision-making. Child sexual abusers showed more deficits in the Go/No-Go task; also decision-making was especially impaired by child images. In the nonoffending controls images of preferred sexual cues improved decision-making. No differences in overall GDT performance were found.

The authors culled 152 cases of youth-perpetrated child sexual abuse (CSA) from the Quicklaw legal database to investigate differences in court outcomes between those who went to court for youth-perpetrated CSA as juveniles versus adults. Adults were more often convicted in court and received sentences that were an average of 10 months longer. The second portion consisted of an experiment using vignettes of child perpetrated CSA where the age of the defendant at trial and judicial instruction were manipulated. The results supported the finding that individuals were less likely to convict a juvenile and recommended shorter sentences when they did. Implications for policy involving statutes of limitations are discussed.

This study investigated the relationship between psychopathic traits and the development of therapeutic alliance (TA) in a sample of 202 incarcerated sexual offenders. All participants were enrolled in a manualized group cognitive-behavioral treatment (CBT) program. Working Alliance Inventory (WAI) and Psychopathy Checklist - Revised (PCL-R) scores were not significantly correlated, however, once those that had completed the CBT program and were only enrolled in Aftercare Treatment were removed, a significant negative relationship for client ratings, but not therapist ratings, was identified. Implications for sex offender treatment protocols are discussed.

The effects of sex offender registration and notification (SORN) laws were investigated in an analysis of convicted sex offenders who were released before (n = 250) and after (n = 300) the enactment of these laws in New Jersey. Records were available for participants up to 11 years post-release. Those released prior to the implementation of state SORN laws were not more likely to recidivate than those released after implementation. There were some differences in trends of high-risk recidivism between the two cohorts. Implications for SORN policy are discussed in depth.

This study examined whether CPS contact was related to improved mental health outcomes for adults who experienced child abuse. After adjusting for differences in sociodemographic factors and severity of child abuse, there were no differences between adults who had CPS contact than those who did not.


Using a sample of 1,270 undergraduates, this study examined the relationship between childhood maltreatment, demographic factors, and mental health. Results indicated that physical and emotional abuse during childhood were related to depression and anxiety.


This study examined adverse childhood experiences and their relationship with risk taking behavior and depression. Latent class analysis indicated that people with exposure to extreme adverse experiences were at greater risk of maladjustment as adults.


The current study explored the prevalence of child maltreatment by urbanicity. Child maltreatment, amount of poly-victimization, and physical abuse were higher in major urban areas.


This study examined whether neglected children were more susceptible to leading questions than non-neglected children. Overall, neglected children were more susceptible to leading questions. Suggestibility was associated with communication skills, assertion, and engagement.


Using a sample of 300 children with a history of abuse or neglect, this study examined the impact of abuse on SB5 IQ scores. Overall, this sample’s scores were lower than the average scores.


Using a sample of 105 traumatized adolescents, this study examined the influence of childhood sexual abuse on neuropsychological testing performance. Participants who reported a history of childhood sexual abuse showed deficits in attention and working memory.

This study explored factors associated with disclosing sexual violence in Kenyan youth. Of the youth who reported experiencing sexual violence, 44.6% of girls and 28.2% of boys reported the assault. Among males and among those who experienced more sexual violence, the odds of disclosing were lower.


Using a sample of 337 maltreated adolescents, this study examined the influence of maltreatment type and foster care placement on educational success. Logistic regression analyses revealed that neither maltreatment type nor foster care placement was related to finishing high school.


Using a sample of 933 adolescents, this longitudinal study examined whether exposure to family violence predicted dating violence victimization. Results indicate that witnessing family violence predicted dating violence victimization. Maladaptive schemas mediated this relationship in females, but not in males.


Using a sample of 176 children on the street in Haiti, this study explored traumatic experiences and coping skills. Overall, children experienced trauma such as maltreatment, neglect, physical, and sexual abuse. Despite their trauma, less than 15% of the sample scored high on measure of PTSD.


Using a sample of 1,500 students, this study examined the prevalence of abuse in Sri Lanka. Approximately 45% reported physical abuse during childhood, 27.9% reported emotional abuse, and 9.1% reported sexual abuse. Males reported physical and emotional abuse more often than females.


Using a sample of over 10,000 adolescents, this study explored mental health factors related to childhood maltreatment. Child maltreatment was related to an increased chance of having poor mental health. Physical activity, positive coping skills, and good self-esteem increased the odds of good mental health.

This study used latent class analysis to identify classes of families involved in child protection cases. Of the 440 cases, a four class solution emerged: a large household group, a harsh parenting group, a high criminality group, and a disadvantaged group.


Using a sample of 133 parents, this study examined the relationship between executive functioning, emotion regulation, and risk of child abuse perpetration. Issues with executive functioning were related to both emotion regulation problems and perpetration risk.


The authors explore the influence of psychopathic traits in the differentiation between nonvictims, single-time victims, and recurring victims. Data was used from a community sample, the National Longitudinal Study of Adolescent Adult Health (Add Health), and a clinical sample, the MacArthur Violence Risk Assessment Study (MacRisk). Psychopathic traits were highest for recurring victims. Single time victims scored higher than nonvictims. Psychopathic traits distinguished between groups in both samples. Implications for criminal justice resources and victimization prevention programs are addressed.


Using a sample of 760 Palestinian adolescents, this study examined internalizing and externalizing symptoms associated with exposure to violence. Overall, boys were exposed to more violence than girls. Exposure to community violence was a significant predictor of both externalizing and internalizing symptoms.


This study examined the relationship between substantiated reports of child maltreatment and conduct problems at age 14. Results indicated that adolescents with a history of substantiated maltreatment are more likely to have conduct problems and lower levels of guilt.


This study examined the relationship between adverse childhood experiences and preventive care. Results indicated that each adverse childhood experience was related to a decreased likelihood of receiving preventive care.


Using a sample of 126 female undergraduates, this study examined factors related to processing facial emotions. Under high cognitive load, emotional maltreatment was associated with faster identification of fear and anxiety.

This study explored the cognitions related to intergenerational transmission of trauma. Path analysis revealed that post-trauma appraisals and disorganized memory were associated with children’s internalization of symptoms.


Using a sample of 210 adolescents, this study examined the relationship between maltreatment, coping skills, and substance use. More severe maltreatment was related to increased substance use. Maltreatment was not related to coping skills.


This study explored the experiences of 133 adult survivors of child pornography. About half of the participants worried that others would believe they were willing participants. Others denied that pornographic images of them existed.


Using nearly 3,500 allegations of child sexual abuse, this study compared characteristics of cases of adolescent victims and child victims. Children were more likely to be abused by a family member, while adolescents were more likely to be abused by a stranger. Both groups most often disclosed the abuse to a parent.


Using a sample of 449 older adults, this study examined the relationship between childhood maltreatment, suicide risk, and geriatric depression. All subtypes of maltreatment and neglect were related to suicide risk. Geriatric depression did not mediate the relationship between maltreatment and suicide risk.


This study examined the relationship between sensitive caregiving, maltreatment, and adaptive experiences in mothers with substance use issues. Adaptive experiences early in life were related to increasing sensitive caregiving, while emotional abuse was negatively related to sensitive caregiving.


This study explored the prevalence of sexual assault in children with learning disabilities. Children with learning disabilities were more than twice as likely to make an allegation of sexual abuse. Type of abuse was more severe for children with learning disabilities.
This study examined characteristics of 80 victims of commercial sex exploitation and the efficacy of a tool to predict running away. Victims were likely to be sexually abused, and have either a PTSD or substance use disorder diagnosis. The tool significantly predicted running away among the sexually exploited group.

Using a sample of 5149 adolescents, this study compared protective and risk factors among violence-exposed youth to non-violence-exposed youth. The violence-exposed youth reported higher levels of alcohol and drug use, verbal aggression, and lower levels of protective factors.

This study explored protective factors for education and emotional well-being in adolescents with a history of maltreatment. Communication and social skills emerged as the most protective factors. Factors such as engaging in extracurriculars, and not being bullied were also factors.

Using a sample of 250 HIV-infected adolescents and youth, this study examined the influence of childhood adversity on the risk of HIV transmission. Adversity increased the risk for risky sexual behavior.

This study explored typologies among mothers who experienced intimate partner violence and its effects on child externalizing behavior problems. Two typologies emerged: spillover and compartmentalized. Children of compartmentalized mothers had fewer externalizing symptoms.

Using a sample of 3,156 adolescents who reported sexual abuse, this study examined gender differences in willingness to disclose child sexual abuse in comparison to other types of abuse. Findings indicated that victims of child sexual abuse were less willing to disclose than victims of other types of abuse. Boys showed more reluctance to disclose than girls.

This study examined the effects of neighborhood conditions and parental spanking on CPS involvement. Social cohesion and trust were related to lower chance of CPS involvement, while parental spanking increased the odds of CPS involvement.

Using ecological momentary assessment, this study explored factors related to victimization. Results indicated that participants who reported the highest amount of victimization were more likely to report emotional and behavioral problems.


Using a sample of 85 male adolescents, this study examined the effect of childhood neglect on violent behavior. After controlling for other factors, childhood neglect emerged as the strongest predictor of violent behavior.


This study examined the emotional trajectories of 207 youth upon removal from a maltreatment environment. Participants who were rated as abnormal tended to have more placement changes. Youth who were removed from their homes at an older age were more likely to have chronic internalizing symptoms.


Using a sample of 2,151 children, this study examined the relationship between PTSD symptoms, witnessing in-home violence and peer relationship quality. Increased levels of witnessing violence was related to increased levels of PTSD symptoms. Increased peer relationship quality was related with decreased levels of PTSD symptoms.


Using a sample of 223 Greek youths, this study examined the effects of teacher-perpetrated emotional abuse on school children’s functioning. Results indicated that exposure to emotional abuse significantly predicted behavioral problems. The effects of emotional abuse was attenuated via social support and youth self-confidence.


Using a sample of 449 older adults, this study examined the effects of abuse and neglect during childhood on adult depression. Emotional abuse, physical abuse, and neglect increased the odds of the development of depression.

This qualitative study explored interpersonal relationships of domestic minor sex trafficking survivors. Survivors indicated that interpersonal relationships were vital for protection and resiliency over their experience.


This study consisted of 152 case-control pairs of individuals with and without a diagnosis of mental illness. CSA exposure was 3 times more likely for those with mental illness in adulthood than those with no diagnosis. Rates of CSA were higher for females in both cases and controls. Family functionality was not found to moderate the relationship between CSA and adult mental illness. These results are discussed in the context of the mental health resources and legal policies of Nigeria.


Using a sample of 292 psychologists, this study examined factors related to the believability of disclosure of childhood sexual assault. Female psychologists were more likely to believe disclosures than males. Male psychologists who reported a personal history of trauma were more likely to believe disclosures than male psychologists without a history.


This study explored factors associated with maternal childhood maltreatment and child behavior. Maternal depression mediated the relationship between maltreatment history and children’s internalizing behaviors.


Using a sample of 1,915 youth, this study examined factors related to sexual revictimization. Of the sample, 11.1% reported being revictimized. Younger age, female gender, and racial minority status were factors related to an increased likelihood of revictimization.


Using a sample of over 4,000 adults, this study examined the effects of adverse childhood events on interpersonal difficulties as an adult. Adverse childhood events predicted interpersonal difficulties after controlling for demographic variables.


Using a sample of 347 high risk adolescents, this study examined the influence of maltreatment on psychiatric symptoms and the mediating role of bullying. Increasing experiences of maltreatment were associated with greater severity of symptoms. The influence of maltreatment was mediated by bullying victimization.

Using a sample of 503 adolescents exposed to violence, this study examined whether supportive parenting serves as a protective factor against school delay. Results indicated that adolescents exposed to more frequent violence were likely to have a worse school delay. For adolescents exposed to a high frequency of violence, supportive parenting had a moderating effect against school delay.


This study examined reasons why child protection workers determined children of parents with mental illness unsafe at home. Three safety threats emerged: emotional stability or cognitive deficit, failure to meet child’s needs, and threat of harm. A home was twice as likely to be determined unsafe when parents had mental illness, and more than 9 times when parents had both mental illness and substance use problems.


This study used latent class analysis to identify trauma exposure as they relate to internalizing and externalizing symptoms. Three trauma patterns were revealed. Trauma class and child maltreatment predicted internalizing and externalizing problems.


This study explored the prevalence of childhood sexual abuse among 372 Jewish adults. Former Orthodox Jews reported higher levels of involuntary penetration. Sexual abuse was related to an increased likelihood of psychiatric diagnoses, and lower religious observance.


Using latent class analysis, this study explored childhood maltreatment and dysfunction typologies in military veterans. Four different classes emerged. Childhood adversity was associated with an increased odd of incarceration as an adult.


Using a sample of 138 adolescents, this study examined the relationship between neglect, amygdala volume, and anxiety. Results indicated that amygdala volume mediated the relationship between neglect and anxiety.


Using census data and maltreatment data, this study found that predominantly African American, rural counties in the South had lower rates of child maltreatment than other counties.

Using a sample of 282 male youth, this study examined the relationship between aggressive parenting, child aggression, and callous unemotional traits. Parental physical aggression was related to children’s proactive aggression while psychological aggression was related to proactive and reactive aggression. Low callous unemotional traits mediated the relationship between parental physical aggression and proactive aggression.


Using data from the Environmental Risk Longitudinal Twin Study, this study examined the relationship between maltreatment and ADHD in childhood and young adulthood. During childhood, the relationship between maltreatment and ADHD was stronger in children with comorbid conduct disorder. Longitudinally, childhood ADHD predicted maltreatment.


Comparing adults with a history of childhood maltreatment to those without, this study examined the relationship between adversity and transitions during childhood with adult psychosocial problems. Path analyses revealed that moving residences was negatively related to education level, while changes in caregivers was positively related with unemployment.


Using a sample of 2289 women, this study examined the influence of childhood family violence on victimization or perpetration of intimate partner violence as an adult. Results indicated that individuals who experienced childhood violence were more likely to be victims and perpetrators of IPV.


Using a sample of 2890 children referred for a child abuse consultation, this study examined the frequency of injuries in children exposed to intimate partner violence. Sixty-one children were exposed to intimate partner violence, 14 of whom were directly assaulted. Fifty-nine percent sustained injuries.


Using data from the Avon Longitudinal Study of Parents and Children, this study examined the effects of maternal support in childhood and paternal involvement on the prevention of the transmission of violence. Increased levels of maternal support lowered children's maltreatment at ages up to 8 years old. Father involvement during ages 9-10 was associated with a lower risk of violence perpetration at 18-20 years old.
A content analysis of calls to a sexual assault center hotline made by males (n = 58) and a matched sample of females (n = 58) was conducted. Male callers exclusively sought out crisis counseling and counseling referrals. Males indicated more distrust through explicit verbal expression as well as hesitancy to disclose and abruptly hanging up. Recommendations for improving hotline and community-level policies and resources for male victims are made.

Using records from a child welfare agency, this study examined the influence of domestic violence and parental substance use on substantiated cases of child abuse. Multilevel modeling indicated that findings of domestic violence and substance use increased the likelihood of a substantiated allegation.

Using a sample of 718 female undergraduates, this study examined the mediating role of religion and on the relationship between self-esteem and child maltreatment. Maltreatment was related to more negative views toward God. Opinions that God is not supportive mediated the relationship between child maltreatment and low self-esteem as an adult.

Using a sample of 865 students, this study examined the relationship between abuse and substance use. A path analysis indicated that physical abuse and bullying predicted substance use, and this relationship was mediated by cognitive impulsivity.

Using a sample of 1,354 adolescents from the Pathways to Desistance dataset, this study examined the effects of PTSD on alcohol use in juvenile offenders. Among juveniles who had baseline diagnoses of PTSD the risk of high rates of alcohol use was three times as high than those with no diagnosis. Among the non-PTSD group, victimization increased the predicted amount of alcohol consumed.

This study explored factors related to maternal support after disclosure of their child’s experience of sexual abuse. The child’s age and female gender was associated with maternal emotional support. Penetration was related to increased levels of emotional support and decreased feels of doubt.

Using interviews with 25 homeless men, this study explored the experiences related to childhood trauma as they relate to adult homelessness. For all participants, an experience of trauma or neglect was cited as part of explanations for their respective homelessness.


Using a sample of 358 undergraduates, this study examined self-compassion and gratitude as protect factors against adult depression among students who experienced child maltreatment. Psychological maltreatment was associated with adult depression via decreased self-compassion. Decreased gratitude was related to neglect, sexual abuse, and adult depression.


This study examined the mediating role of behavior problems and peer popularity on the pathway from childhood abuse to adolescent victimization. Physical abuse was not related to victimization, but sexual abuse had an effect on both physical and sexual victimization. Those who had been abused were likely to have higher levels of internalizing and externalizing symptoms, as well as lower popularity.


This study examined the long-term effects of physical abuse on externalizing behavior problems and PTSD symptoms. Physical abuse was related to both externalizing behavior and PTSD symptoms.


This study explored whether parents’ negative descriptions of their children were associated with child physical abuse. Sixty percent of the children who were described negatively were abused.


This study examined the mediating role of dissociation on the effects of exposure to childhood physical and sexual violence in adulthood. Results indicated that women that experienced sexual or physical abuse before age 18 were more likely to experience IPV as an adult. Dissociation partially mediated this relationship.

WITNESS ISSUES


In this article, the authors examined whether large photo databases that use facial recognition software could enhance eyewitness accuracy by increasing filler-suspect similarity. To the contrary, the researchers found that in target present lineups, witnesses viewing lineups created from the larger databases were less likely to make correct identifications and more likely to select known innocent fillers. When the target was absent, database size was associated with a lower rate of correct rejections and a higher rate of filler identifications.

Two studies (N = 177, N = 137) received either biased or unbiased instructions while viewing a target present or target absent simultaneous lineup. Biased instructions increased average estimates that a lineup member was guilty (Study 1) but only increased choosing for those who would not have chosen anyone (induced choosers) versus those who would have chosen despite instruction type (inherent choosers; Study 2).


This study examined the use and effects of court-appointed experts and concurrent testimony (or “hot-tubbing”) using a sample of 150 venire jurors. Results indicated that participants’ pre-existing attitudes towards the insanity defense had significant effects on their comprehension of expert testimony, their evaluations of the two opposing experts, and their eventual verdicts, over and above the presentation format (i.e., concurrent vs. traditional testimony) or the use of court-appointed experts (vs. traditional adversarial experts).


Using data from 231 participants, the researchers tested whether watching a videotaped photo array administration or expert testimony could sensitize jurors to the suggestiveness of single-blind eyewitness identification procedures. The video sensitized jurors to the suggestiveness of a single-blind lineup—meaning, jurors were less likely to convict a defendant identified through a single-blind than double-blind procedure. Expert testimony did not similarly sensitize jurors. Thus video recording identification procedures could improve jurors’ evaluations of eyewitness evidence.


The researchers show participants either a target-absent or target-present showup and manipulated the instructions that participants received. Participants either learned that they would have additional opportunities to make an identification later or learned that the culprit might not be present. Interestingly, stating that the culprit might not be present failed to have an effect on eyewitness decisions. However, the additional opportunity instruction reduced innocent suspect identifications to a greater extent than culprit identifications.


Sober and cannabis intoxicated adult participants (N = 120) watched a mock crime video, were interviewed about the event, then viewed either a target-absent or -present simultaneous lineup. Cannabis intoxication was not significantly related to identification performance, but intoxicated witnesses displayed significantly higher confidence in their accurate identifications than sober participants.

Performances during two identification lineups (one target-present; one target-absent) of 6- to 11-year-old children (N = 85) were compared between children assisted by a registered intermediary versus “best-practice” lineups. Registered intermediaries significantly increased children’s identification accuracy for target-present lineups.

Episodic and semantic memories of three- to six-year-old children (N = 71) were examined using open-ended versus directive prompts. Training children to respond to open-ended prompts early in the interview resulted in in more informative disclosure at later stages of the interview.

Using a sample of 746 mothers, this study examined factors related to maternal risk of child abuse during middle adolescence. Results indicated that mothers with less education, greater perceived economic hardship, low social support, and exposure to stressful events were at a higher risk of perpetrating child abuse.

This study investigated gender-specific effectiveness (measured by rates of recidivism) of jail versus probation in a large sample (n = 15,727) of male and female offenders. Jail time increased the odds and rapidity of recidivism for both males (140% increase) and females (117% increase). Criminogenic impact of incarceration was significantly larger than the impact of probation for high-risk individuals of both genders, but had an even greater effect for high-risk women. Drug and alcohol abuse moderated this effect for men, but not for women. Recommendations for correctional policy and practice are discussed.

The authors explored the relationship between rates of homelessness and violence in 88 individuals participating in a mental health court (MHC) program and a matched sample of 81 jail detainees with mental health diagnoses. Individuals were interviewed at enrollment and at least one follow up period at 6 months and 12 months. Rates of homelessness were equitable between the two groups at baseline, but reduced sharply with MHC participation: those involved in the MHC were 3 times less likely to have experienced homelessness at follow-up. Those who had experienced homelessness were 5 times more likely to endorse violent episodes. Recommendations for improving interventions in MHCs are made.

This study explored differences in reporting between two child protection agencies. Results indicated racial disparities in the cases reported to IDPH and DCFS. Black people were reported more for cannabinoids whereas white people were reported most often for opioids and cocaine.
Using a sample of 321 college students, this study examined factors related to seeking out health-related interventions among adults with exposure to adverse childhood experiences. Participants who had greater levels of childhood adversity were less likely to be an activated patient and were not as focused on promoting positive outcomes.

This study outlined the methods and sample used in the impact study of incarceration on intimate relationships. The sample consisted of couples across five states. Couples were interviewed during the male partner’s incarceration, with follow-up interviews occurring at the 9, 18, and in some cases, 34 month-marks.

This study examined the efficacy of impact family-strengthening programs. In Indiana, men who participated in a couples-based program were more likely to remain in relationships over time. These men also reported providing more emotional support to their partners and were more likely to live with their partners after they were released from prison.

Using a mixed-method design, this study examined changes in the father-child relationship from preincarceration to release from prison. Findings indicated that fewer fathers lived with their children after prison release, provided financial support, and engaged in fewer father-child activities compared to preincarceration.

Using 1,482 incarcerated men and their partners, this study examined the challenges of maintaining a family life during the course of incarceration. Prior to incarceration, most couples reported positive experiences in co-parenting. While incarcerated, men were more likely to maintain in-person contact with children who were younger. Obstacles included high costs of maintaining contact, such as telephone calls, and institutional placements far from home.

This study examined recidivism risk factors for patients diagnosed with schizophrenia. Low socioeconomic status, unemployment, poor treatment adherence, use of antipsychotic medications, and substance use disorders emerged as risk factors.

Using a content analysis of 386 articles, this study examined media reporting of sexual assault. Results indicated that most of the articles reported facts about the crime such as relationship of the offender to the victim. Newspaper reports about rapes did not often contain rape myths.


This study assessed the influence of cultural identity on distress, agency, community safety, and discrimination for 78 indigenous prisoners in custody in Australia. Findings revealed that possessing a stronger cultural identity effected lower levels of distress. Participants with weaker cultural identities had higher levels of distress and lower levels of agency. Furthermore, a reduced feeling of safety in the broader community appeared to have a greater negative impact on participants with weaker cultural identities.


Using exoneration data between 1999 and 2009, this study examined the behavior of 118 wrongfully convicted people. Exonerees who did not have prior convictions served longer sentences and were more likely to commit another crime sooner than exonerees who had prior convictions.


This study examined the notion of bounded authority using survey data from a nationally representative sample of U.S. adults. Results indicated that concerns over bounded authority, respectful treatment, and neutral decision-making combine form a strong predictor of police and legal legitimacy. We also found that legal legitimacy is associated with greater compliance behavior, controlling for personal morality and perceived likelihood of sanctions.


Using a sample of 2057 undergraduates in China, this study examined the influence of media on attitudes toward intimate partner violence. Nearly three-quarters of the sample reported that TV and the internet influenced their thoughts about intimate partner violence. Print media was positively associated with negative attitudes toward intimate partner violence.


Using a sample of 1,345 medical students, this study examined the attitudes toward forensic psychiatry. Overall, results indicated neutral and positive attitudes toward forensic psychiatry. Participants did not demonstrate much medico-legal knowledge.


The authors provide a compendium of contemporary compassionate release laws. 46 states have a form of compassionate release legislature in place with AZ, IL, IA, MA, SD, and UT being the exceptions. Five factors are involved in granting release: age, chronic illness, terminal illness, mental
health/dementia, and cost of care. The second part of this study involved an experiment in which perceptions of compassionate release processes were evaluated in community (n = 246), student (n = 244) and warden (n = 30) samples. Wardens were as likely as community and student participants to approve of compassionate release, with community members showing more support than student participants. A discussion of the underutilization of compassionate release policies follows.