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COMMUNITY, CORRECTIONAL, & FORENSIC TREATMENT


Latent profile analysis (LPA) was used to create classification profiles of 1,263 juvenile probationers. Risk was measured using the Youth Level of Service/Case Management Inventory (YLS/CMI) which was administered by a juvenile court officer. Three latent profiles were identified; Minimal Intervention Needs, Social Behavior and Social Bonding Needs, and Maximum Intervention Needs. Each profile had distinct demographic variables (e.g. gender, age, recidivism, history of maltreatment) yet were not associated with minority status or offense type. Implications for the construction and validation of risk assessment tools are discussed.


The aim of our study is to investigate socio-demographic, criminological, psychopathological and toxicological variables among those who were referred to high security forensic services as compared to their non-referred counterpart. Results indicated that the odds of being referred to high security forensic services were related to previous admission, diagnosis of psychosis, and cannabis use disorder.


The objective of this study was to analyze the different components in the comprehension and production of language in children victims of domestic abuse in Children’s Homes. The alterations of the language observed in these children semantic suggest a lack of consolidation of phonological coding and a low use of code. Findings from this study suggest an early language evaluation in these children can be of especial interest to apply timely intervention programs with the aim of diminishing the impact caused by domestic violence on school failure which is a frequent trait in these children.


The IGEL program is a school-based intervention to prevent childhood sexual assault (CSA) in third-grade primary school children in Germany. The outcome evaluation indicates that the IGEL program is an effective intervention in terms of knowledge about CSA and known courses of action, and may therefore contribute to the prevention of CSA in primary schools. Despite this positive core finding of the intermediate outcomes, some adaptations of the program to children with different cultural backgrounds were made prior to further dissemination.
Mental disorders among prisoners have been linked to the type of crime and recidivism. Identification of the mental disorders associated with the different types of crimes and recidivism is essential in the planning and eventual service provision to the prisoners. An association was established between the category of crime, recidivism, and type of mental disorder among prisoners participating in the study.


The authors assessed the impact of four drug court participation outcomes (case dismissal, probation, jail, and prison) on recidivism in 824 substance-involved felony offenders. Those who failed the drug court program were more likely to recidivate across all measures. There were no significant differences in overall recidivism rates for those who received probation, jail, or prison compared to those put into drug court. Findings related to specific outcomes are described and policy implications are discussed.


345 male offenders enrolled in the Canadian Violence Prevention Program (VPP) were followed for three years and compared to 388 non-VPP participant offenders. Using an intent-to-treat design, comparisons were also made for offenders who did and did not complete the program. VPP completion was associated with lower recidivism rates overall. Yet, while VPP completers were statistically less likely to violently reoffend compared to VPP non-completers, there was no difference with the comparison group. Additional results investigating Indigenous and non-Indigenous subgroups are discussed. Implications for the future assessment and application of correctional program efficacy are noted.


The Leon County Pre-Arrest Diversion program offers first-time arrestees the opportunity to participate in an alternative to arrest-as-usual. This paper provided an initial assessment of participants involved in the program during the first 3 years of operation. Results indicated male participants, those who submitted a positive drug test at program initiation, and those who presented significantly greater behavioral health needs were more likely to fail to complete the program and become rearrested.


The relationship between attitudes about punishment and rehabilitation on commitment to or cynicism about a juvenile justice agency was explored in survey data from 204 juvenile justice workers. Those who reported higher levels of endorsement of incarceration approaches were more cynical of their agency, whereas those who supported rehabilitation approaches reported higher commitment to their agency. The magnitude of effect of the prior relationship was found to be stronger than the latter. Implications for organizational climate changes in juvenile justice agencies are discussed.


This study's focus was a randomized controlled trial of Healthy Families New York that included a subgroup of mothers who had at least one substantiated child protective services (CPS) report before enrolling in the
program. In light of their findings, the author’s suggest considering and further testing home visiting programs as a tertiary prevention strategy for child welfare-involved mothers.

Data from 1,238 males returning to the community from at least one year of incarceration was analyzed to explore the role of criminal justice debt on the reentry process. 44% of the sample owed debts to criminal justice agencies ($M = $872). Community supervision variables were the strongest predictors of debt in the analytical models. Differential debt patterns emerged between White and African American participants. Recommendations to policy makers are made.

The authors sought to compare whether rates of substance use disorders (SUDs) and psychiatric conditions in male jail inmates vary over time. A sample of male county jail inmates (n = 176) completed Comprehensive Addictions and Psychological Evaluation (CAAPE) interviews for DSM-IV diagnoses before 2008. This group was compared to a second sample of male jail inmates (n = 149) which completed CAAPE-5 interviews for DSM-5 diagnosis in 2016. Changes in prevalence rates for specific SUDs were noted while rates for co-occurring psychiatric conditions were more stable. Specific prevalence rates are reported in detail. Suggestions for the periodic assessment of the prevalence of mental health conditions in jail inmates are made.

This provides a contemporary comparison to the Boothby and Clements (2000) survey on the demographics of correctional mental health workers. 261 participants completed the survey and were made up of professionals who provide mental health treatment to U.S. prisoners. The survey indicated there were significantly more females and non-European American treatment providers compared to the Boothby and Clements (2000) survey. There were no significant differences in preemployment correctional training between the two survey results. However, there was an increase in Master’s level clinicians. More time was reported conducting therapy, with less time dedicated towards research. Implications for the field of forensic mental health treatment are discussed.

This investigation applied the Behavioral Model for Vulnerable Populations to study 168 jailed women with alcohol use disorders. Most participants had clinically significant levels of depression and PTSD symptoms, most took psychiatric medications, and most had been victimized. Participants reported considerable health services utilization. Younger, Black, and uninsured women utilized fewer medical and mental health services. Drug use was associated with less use of medical services, but more use of alcohol/drug services.

This study examined psychiatric and criminological characteristics among Belgian French-speaker forensic inpatients with low IQ and mental health illnesses. Compared with controls, proportionally more inpatients low IQ with mental health illnesses presented a psychiatric illness, particularly a mood disorder, and proportionally fewer presented a cluster C personality disorder. The findings highlight the specificity and heterogeneity of the psychiatric profile of this subgroup of patients.
Substance abuse has been prevalent among caregivers involved in child welfare and is a major barrier to their achieving favorable outcomes. Family Treatment Drug Courts (FTDCs) have been viewed as one of the most promising interventions but research has reported mixed effects on child welfare outcomes. This meta-analysis synthesized findings from existing evaluations to examine whether and to what extent FTDC participants achieved better reunification and safety outcomes than non-participants.

**DELINQUENCY/ANTISOCIAL BEHAVIOR**


This study examined 20 publicly reported cases of active and mass shooters who engaged in animal cruelty. Comparisons between offenders with and without this history indicated that animal-abusing offenders were more likely to be young and White, less likely to die at the crime scene, and more likely to kill and wound a large number of victims.


This study examined 22 studies reporting how psychopathic “labeling” influences perceptions on dangerousness, treatment amenability, and legal sentence/sanctions. Results demonstrated significant summary effect sizes for the three punishment outcomes studied for studies comparing a psychopathic label versus no label. Conversely, all summary effects sizes for the three punishment outcomes in studies comparing a psychopathic label versus other psychiatric label were both weak and nonsignificant.


A sample including 3,160 sexual homicide cases (151 female offenders) were reviewed for sex differences between male and female sexual homicide offenders (SHOs), with a particular focus placed on differential use of murder weapons. Male SHOs were more likely to use personal weapons (44%) while women SHOs most often used firearms (63%). When killing victims of the opposite sex, men were more likely to use weapons that were physical demanding, whereas women were more likely to use weapons that were physically less demanding. Directions for future research are identified.


In community and correctional settings, gang status is a robust predictor of offending, few studies have considered behavioral disorders of offenders and whether these disorders mediate the gang-offending relationship. Drawing on a near population of correctional clients on federal supervised release, negative binomial regression and ROC-AUC models found that gang variables were rendered insignificant or were generally weak classifiers of severe offending once behavioral disorders were specified. Gang researchers should consider behavioral disorders and other psychopathology of gang members to inform theory and research.

The authors investigated trajectories of physical aggression and nonaggressive rule-breaking using longitudinal data from a cohort of 756 youth identified as at-risk or with substantiated exposure to maltreatment. The analysis included data collected at ages 6, 8, 10, 12, and 14. Using latent class growth analysis, four classes (high, moderately high, average (desisting), and abstaining) were identified for physical aggression and nonaggressive rule-breaking models. Family adversity, negative child temperament, protective neighborhoods, prematurity, race, and gender were all predictive of latent class membership. Neurocognitive risk was not predictive. Implications for theory and policy are noted.


This study examined the predictive ability of several retrospectively identified childhood animal cruelty methods for later violent crimes toward humans using data collected from 257 anonymous self-reports by male inmates at a medium-security prison in a Southern state. Regression analyses revealed that recurrent childhood animal cruelty and stabbing animals were the only statistically significant variables in the model that predicted recurrent interpersonal violence in adulthood.


This study examined the psychometric properties of the ICU across caregiver- and youth self-report versions, as well as across genders, in a sample of justice-involved adolescents. Findings suggested that the ICU functioned differently across caregiver- and youth self-report versions. Specifically, findings supported the use of a youth self-reported ICU scale excluding reverse-coded items and the caregiver-reported full scale. Minimal gender differences emerged.


Current study examines hypothesis that higher verbal intelligence, reading ability, and executive functioning may be protective against criminal behavior. The hypothesis was supported, and the protective effect was more pronounced for violent than nonviolent crime, for the control than maltreated children, and differed by gender and race. Results suggest that interventions targeting cognitive and neuropsychological functions may serve an important role in reducing risk of crime.


This systematic review synthesized the literature on gang members’ mental health and emotions. Narrative synthesis revealed how gang members may be at increased risk of suffering from mental illnesses and negative emotions. Yet, synthesis showed that understanding remains limited regarding gang members’ experiences of self-conscious emotions and how such emotions might link to persistent offending patterns and violence. Results suggest gang members may benefit from clinically tailored interventions to support their mental/emotional health.


The authors investigated antecedents, clinical features, and life characteristics distinguishing dual-harming adolescents from those who self-harm only. A total of 2,232 twins participated. Results indicate that self-harm was associated with violent crime. Dual harmers had been victims of violence from childhood and
exhibited lower childhood self-control and lower childhood IQ than self-only harmers. However, dual harmers were not more likely than self-only harmers to have contact with mental health services.


The current study examined whether callous-unemotional (CU) traits predicted risky sexual behavior (i.e., unprotected sex, casual sex) and whether substance use and sensation seeking mediated this relationship over 24 months in justice-involved young men. Participants (N = 1,216) were an ethnically and racially diverse sample. These findings demonstrate that CU traits predict later risky sexual outcomes, and this is at least partly explained by substance use. Further, the findings highlight the importance of CU traits for several outcomes that are of significant public health concern among justice-involved adolescents, namely, risky sexual behavior and substance use.


This study examined associations between psychopathic traits and deviant sexual interests across gender in a sample of 429 community members. Correlation analyses supported the positive link between psychopathic traits and deviant sexual interests. Regression analyses indicated that the unique variance in the antisocial facet of psychopathy predicted all six deviant sexual interests. The interpersonal facet predicted voyeuristic and exhibitionistic interests, whereas the affective facet predicted pedophilic interests.


The purpose of this study was to determine whether animal cruelty and bullying, in addition to serving as behavioral markers of delinquency risk, may also serve as causal antecedents of future delinquent behavior. Findings from this study suggest that animal cruelty and bullying not only serve as early behavioral markers of delinquency risk but also play a potentially important role in delinquency growth and persistence.

**FORENSIC ASSESSMENT**


102 practicing forensic evaluators were surveyed on their use of social networking sites (SNSs) as sources of clinical information in forensic mental health assessments (FMHAs). Overall, 63.7% of practitioners reported using information from SNSs as a collateral source in FMHAs. 53.3% of respondents reflected that this material was included in discovery materials, while 42.2% sought it out on their own. Differential rates were reported as a function of the type of evaluation. Qualitative data was also collected and reviewed. Recommendations for future research and professional guidelines are made.


The psychometric properties and associations between the Essen Climate Evaluation Schema (EssenCES) and the Group Climate Instrument-revised (GCI-r) were examined. Good internal consistency was found for all subscales of both instruments. The original factor structure was confirmed for the EssenCES, but not for the GCI-r. Bivariate correlation analyses indicated that the instruments measure related concepts.

This study provides the first translation and validation of the World Health Organization ACE – International Questionnaire (ACE-IQ). Findings underscore the importance of examining adverse childhood experiences exposure within local contexts, as children’s adverse experiences may be idiosyncratic to geographic, social, and cultural norms.


This study aimed to confirm the 6-factor structure of the Brief Child Abuse Potential Inventory (BCAPI) in a German sample of mothers and fathers, and to examine longitudinal predictors of child abuse potential. Findings confirm the six-factor structure of the BCAPI among German mothers. The clinical use of the BCAPI in fathers is not recommended as it might produce data that are hard to interpret. Further research with fathers is needed to establish if this is due to limitations with this dataset or with the questionnaire.


The authors compared the predictive accuracy and incremental validity of the Static-99, Static 99R, Static-2002, and Static-2002R in a sample of 621 sexual offenders. All four measures provided moderate predictive validity of sexual recidivism and good discrimination between low-risk and high-risk sexual offenders. All measures were less effective at identifying those at moderate risk. Results indicated that the use of multiple tools did not increase predictive accuracy. Implications for clinical risk assessments are discussed.


The current study describes the development and validation of Triarchic proxy scales drawn from the HEXACO–100 item pool using two large undergraduate samples and a community sample. The HEXACO-Triarchic scales were strongly correlated with other Triarchic measures and showed theoretically predicted relations with criterion variables. The HEXACO-Triarchic scales also appear to have greater discrimination between the three Triarchic dimensions compared with alternative measures.


The Early Risks of Physical Abuse and Neglect Scale (ERPANS) was originally developed in Belgium as an observation scale for public child healthcare nurses. The present longitudinal study is an independent prospective validation of the ERPANS in a Dutch community sample of families with a new-born. Findings support the utility of at least a subset of the ERPANS items as a screening tool for child abuse risk in preventive public youth health care for new-born babies.


The Protective Factors Survey (PFS) is a self-report measure of multiple family-level protective factors against abuse and neglect. It is the only peer-reviewed valid and reliable tool collecting data on multiple protective factors, and is widely used by practitioners in child abuse prevention and related fields. The objective of this study was to revise the PFS in response to feedback from practitioners, and analyze the internal structure of new
Initial evidence from the panel data suggests that the new subscales are internally consistent. Future research will establish reliability and validity.


This study investigated whether expressive empathy from evaluators during forensic interviews leads to more disclosure of misbehavior from evaluatees. Results indicated evaluatees interviewed by an evaluator using expressive empathy techniques were no more likely than those interviewed by an evaluator avoiding expressive empathy techniques to admit to past instances of misbehavior. However, evaluators using expressive empathy rated evaluatees as less psychopathic, more conscientious, and as having engaged in less impression management than evaluators avoiding expressive empathy.

**LAW ENFORCEMENT, CONFESSIONS, & DECEPTION**


Researchers explored US jail inmates’ (N = 418) perspectives on how police should conduct interrogations. Twenty-six survey items pertaining to police tactics were examined using exploratory factor analysis. Four factors emerged – Dominance/Control, Humanity/Integrity, Sympathy/Perspective-Taking, and Rapport. Participants most strongly endorsed Humanity/Integrity and Rapport strategies (characterized by respect, dignity, voice, and a commitment to the truth) and did not support approaches involving Dominance/Control (false evidence ploy and aggression).


Researchers examined counter-interrogation strategies by mock suspects (N = 94) who were innocent of a mock crime but were either present at the crime scene to carry out a lawful act or to carry out an unlawful act. Participants were randomly assigned to either a strategic or non-strategic interview condition. Results show that the most common counter-interrogation strategy in both groups was being honest while 26.1% of the innocent suspects who performed an unlawful act reported the strategy of being deceptive. Statements of suspects who performed an unlawful act were significantly more inconsistent with the evidence in the strategic than the non-strategic interviews.


This study examined associations between the MMPI-2-RF externalizing scale scores and personal history information (biodata) and posthire performance measures in 1,226 police officer candidates and observed expected positive correlations between them. It was hypothesized that recently observed negative correlations would be replicated, and that this could be attributed to overcontrolled behavior, as reflected in low externalizing scale scores. Findings were consistent with expectations.


Labels for occurrences of alleged child sexual abuse were tracked from 23 complainants (5-15-years-old at interview) from police interviews through trials. Most labels were generated by legal actors with an average of three different labels attached to the same incident. The authors recommend allowing children to label the incident and consistent use of a singular label.
The authors tested whether priming and context reinstatement instructions could elicit disclosure in investigative interviews. In two studies (Experiment 1: N 173; Experiment 2: N 194), participants completed a checklist of illegal behaviors and misdeeds, then engaged in an unrelated task that was used to administer the priming manipulation (either the concept of “open” or “closed,” or a neutral prime). Participants then described a life event related to the most serious illegal behavior to which they had admitted, following either a direct request for information or a context reinstatement instruction. The authors found that context reinstatement led to more information disclosure but priming did not.

Dukala, K., Sporer, S. L., & Polczyk, R. (2019). Detecting deception: Does the cognitive interview impair discrimination with CBCA criteria in elderly witnesses? *Psychology, Crime & Law, 25*(2), 195-217. Eighty witnesses over 60 years old either saw a film or heard an audiotaped summary and were interviewed either with a standard interview (SI) or an Enhanced Cognitive Interview (ECI). Coders evaluated transcripts of the interviews with Criteria-Based Content Analysis and judged truthfulness of each account. Accounts from the SI group (80%) were judged correctly more often than accounts from the ECI group (40%). Only 15% of the lies in the ECI group were judged correctly vs. 80% in the SI group.

Howard, S. (2019). Exonerees in black and white: The influence of race on perceptions of those who falsely confessed to a crime. *Psychology, Crime & Law, 25*(4). XX-XX. DOI: 10.1080/1068316X.2019.1597091. Participants (N = 121) were randomly assigned to read a fictional article about either a Black or White individual who was wrongfully convicted due to a false confession. They then reported perceptions of the exoneree’s guilt, warmth, competence and aggression, deservingness of government assistance, and the likelihood that once released, the exoneree would recidivate. Results show that Black exonerees were perceived as more aggressive (but not less competent or warm), less deserving of assistance, and more likely to commit recidivate than White exonerees.

Hudson, C. A., Vrij, A., Akehurst, L., & Hope, L. (2019). The devil is in the detail: Deception and consistency over repeated interviews. *Psychology, Crime & Law, 25*(4), XX-XX. DOI: 10.1080/1068316X.2019.1574790. Researchers examined the impact of multiple interviewers and reverse order recall on liars’ and truth tellers’ consistency and amount of detail over repeated recall attempts. Participants either took part in a mock crime (liars) or an innocent event (truth tellers). Truth tellers provided more details overall and more reminiscent details than liars, but there were no differences between the number of omissions made or repetitions reported. Findings suggest that liars’ accounts tend to be slightly more consistent than those provided by truth tellers.

Makin, D. A., Willits, D. W., Koslicki, W., Brooks, R., Dietrich, B. J., & Bailey, R. L. (2019). Contextual determinants of observed negative emotional states in police–community interactions. *Criminal Justice and Behavior, 46*(2), 301–318. doi: 10.1177/0093854818796059 The authors coded body worn camera (BWC) footage from 287 police-citizen interactions. Emotional responses were measured in the context of demographic, behavioral, and environmental factors of each interaction. Female suspects were more likely to produce high negative emotional states than male suspects, yet gender did not predict officer emotional state. Officer interruptions were more likely to elicit negative emotions in suspects. Analyses involving using contextual mediating factors are described. Recommendations for the use of BWC data to inform police training and interventions are made.

Commentaries from lead researchers and practitioners review the urgent issues regarding verbal lie detection research evolving from discussion during the first international verbal lie detection workshop held at Bar-Ilan University. Attendees also offer recommendations to researchers in the verbal lie detection field.


This research examined the relationships among different interrogation tactics, suspects’ resistance to confess, and their physiologic reaction during a mock interrogation. After manipulating innocence and guilt, participants (N = 154) were accused and interrogated using either a minimization or false evidence tactic. Participants’ physiologic reactivity was operationalized using their systolic blood pressure, and confession resistance was quantified as the number of times participants refused to confess. Results demonstrated that participants exhibited more physiologic reactivity after being confronted with false evidence ploys than minimization. Furthermore, innocent participants resisted confessing more than guilty participants, but innocents confronted with false evidence resisted confessing to a greater extent than innocents confronted with minimization.


Younger (18-30 years, N = 100) and older adults’ (66-89 years, N = 100) gave lie-detection and credibility judgments when viewing children’s (9 to 11 years of age) truthful and dishonest reports. Compared to younger adults, older adults had significantly lower discrimination scores, a stronger truth bias, and greater confidence in their judgments. Similarly, older adults rated children as more competent to testify in court, credible, honest, believable, and likeable compared to younger adults.


Children (N = 108) aged 5- to 10-years old were viewed a video before being interviewed using NICHD protocol or not. Half the children received misinformation and a final memory test immediately, while half received the same one week later. Suggestibility increased when children were misinformed and interviewed immediately but not when misinformed and interviewed one week later.


Aldert Vrij reviews the past 30 years of empirical investigation of truth and lie detection. Three main sections review research on nonverbal and verbal analyses, differences in cognitive processes and strategies for liars and truth-tellers, and passive observation to active elicitation of cues. Future avenues of research are discussed.


Jury-eligible Japanese participants (N = 761) rated the fairness of five suspect interviewing techniques and the likelihood these techniques would elicit true and false confessions from guilty and innocent suspects. Perceived fairness positively correlated with perceived likelihood to elicit true confessions. Active Listening was perceived as the most fair interviewing technique, whereas Confrontation was rated as the most unfair interviewing technique.

Post-warning and free recall avoided an increased number of misled responses to leading questions in a Japanese online version of the Gudjonsson Suggestibility Scale 2 (GSS2; N = 442). Additionally the study also validated the use of the Japanese online version of the GSS2 compared to standard versions of the GSS2; however, there were significant differences between the Japanese online and British versions in nearly all GSS scores.


Serial and one-off solved and unsolved sexual crimes (N = 3346) from five countries tested behavioral consistency and distinctiveness as crime linkage principles. Area under the curve (AUC) from ROC analyses revealed high discrimination accuracy (.79-.86), similar to past, smaller-scale studies, suggesting behavioral consistency and distinctiveness are strong principles of crime linkage in an ecologically valid sample.

**LEGAL DECISION-MAKING/JURY RESEARCH**


This study utilized a sample of undergraduate participants to examine how the salience of decision costs influences laypeople's punishment judgments. Results indicated that when laypeople formulate sentencing attitudes without exposure to the costs of the punishment, they are prone to discount those costs, behaving as if punishment is societally cost-free. However, when cost information is salient, they utilize it, suggesting the operation of a genuine punishment preference.


In two studies, researchers examined whether judges’ pretrial detention decisions trigger confirmation bias in their guilt assessments. In the first study, Swedish judges (N = 64) read 8 scenarios in which they either decided themselves about detention or were told about a colleague's decision. They then rated the defendant's trustworthiness, the strength of each piece of evidence, the total evidence, and gave a guilt decision. The second study had law students (N = 80) either first rate each piece of evidence separately and then the total evidence (structured evaluation) or only the total evidence (unstructured evaluation), and then gave a guilt decision. Overall, compared to when a colleague decided guilt, participants rated the total evidence as stronger and were more likely convict when participants themselves decided guilt.


The study tested the hypothesis that jurors who hear evidence that is interdependent will be just as likely to find the defendant guilty as jurors who hear about two pieces of independent evidence. When an eyewitness's identification was the uncontaminated piece of evidence, the hypothesis was supported. However, when the confession was the uncontaminated piece of evidence, jurors understood that one piece of evidence had been influenced by another and adjusted their beliefs accordingly.


This study was comprised of two experiments which investigated the effect of facial composite construction on subsequent eyewitness identification. Experiment 1 was constructed with ecologically valid variables such as a live staged crime and delay between construction and identification. The findings suggested that composite construction did not influence subsequent line-up identification accuracy. Experiment 2 was conducted in a lab setting to influence perceptions of consequentiality and involved a sequential line up. The findings were
replicated, in which composite building did not influence subsequent identification accuracy. Recommendations for future research are made and implications for police practice are discussed.


This study examined undergraduate students and jury-eligible adults with two surveys in order to determine how respondents perceived a confession's strength. Results showed that confessions arising from lengthy interrogations were perceived to be weaker than those arising from short interrogations. However, multiple interrogators and a lack of sleep had little impact on evidence perceptions; these factors indicate a questionable confession to experts, but not to jurors.


Two studies (N = 400; N = 202) examined the relationship between religious fundamentalism and death penalty decision-making. Aspects of religious fundamentalism were associated with lower endorsement of mitigating factors and higher endorsement of aggravating factors in both survey (Study 1) and mock-juror (Study 2) designs, suggesting that religious fundamentalists tend to be more punitive in death penalty cases.


The researchers examined differences in the guilty plea decisions of youth and adults. In interviews with 64 youth and 56 adults who pleaded guilty to felonies in New York City, they found important differences between the youths and adults in their understanding of the plea process. Youth were less likely to recognize that a guilty plea resulted in a criminal record and to understand the trial process, and they reported having considered fewer potential outcomes in their decision making than adults. Like adults, youth overwhelmingly reported pleading guilty for reduced charges or penalties, but were substantially less likely than adults to understand the nature of the rights they were waiving.

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### RISK ASSESSMENT/COMMUNICATION


This study applied four risk assessment instruments (SAPROF, HCR-20, PCL-R, and VRAG) to 52 violent offenders in a Swiss prison in order to evaluate the instruments’ predictive validities. Approximately 15% of offenders committed physically violent misconduct and approximately 42% committed any misconduct. Results demonstrated that mainly dynamic assessment tools are as good predictors of physically violent misconduct as mainly static assessment tools.


This study examined the predictive validity of psychopathy for both nonviolent and general recidivism using the PCL-R (N=422 inmates), including whether predictive validity varied among European American, African American, and Latino American male offenders. Psychopathic traits were modestly predictive of nonviolent and general recidivism. Factor 2 ratings were not more predictive of nonviolent recidivism than Factor 1 ratings. Psychopathic traits were predictive of both outcomes in European American and African American offenders only.

The authors aimed to characterize longitudinal intimate partner violence and to investigate maternal maltreatment in childhood as a predictor of intimate partner violence exposure during pregnancy and postnatally in a low resource setting. Results from this study indicate that intervening early to disrupt this cycle of abuse is critical to two generations.


This study explored the impact of outcome knowledge on the decision-making process in forensic evaluation among mental health professionals. Participants provided with outcome information were significantly more likely to indicate that they would have predicted the outcome than those who were not provided with outcome information. Further, participants with outcome information endorsed higher risk ratings for violence than those who were not provided with outcome information.


This study reviewed the predictive efficacy of the pretrial risk assessment instrument (PTRA) at predicting pretrial violations. It also explored the differential efficacy of the instrument based on defendant race and gender. Four samples of PTRA data were used to assess these characteristics (N = 85,369). The results revealed that the PTRA provided good predictive validity in predicting pretrial violations. The data suggests that the PTRA predicts equally well across the ethnic and gender groups analyzed, however, Hispanics and females had lower failure rates based on the rearest outcomes assessed. Recommendations for the adjusted use of the PTRA in the federal pretrial system are made.


The efficacy of the Post Conviction Risk Assessment (PCRA) tool in measuring risk in white collar offenders was assessed. The case files and PCRA risk information of 31,306 white-collar offenders on probation or supervised release were analyzed. Contrary to common stereotypes, 9.9% of the sample were identified as moderate to high risk. The PCRA classified offenders in risk levels which were associated with likelihood of revocation. Implications for policy, supervision practices, and interventions with this group of offenders are discussed.


The authors explored the potential for racial bias in the use of the Level of Service Inventory – Revised (LSI-R) assessment tool in determining probation sentence length, probation failure, and accurate risk classification. Sentencing and assessment records were reviewed for 11,792 probationers. Analyses revealed that risk assessment scores and risk classification were negatively associated with sentence length. Significant differences were identified at Low-risk levels, where White probationers received on average 2 months longer sentences relative to Black probationers. The LSI-R had similar predictive accuracy for White and Black probationers. A discussion on bias in risk assessment tools and judicial decision-making follows.

This study examined the predictive validity of the SAVRY and YLS/CMI in justice-involved youth with FASD using a sample of 100 justice-involved youth (50 diagnosed with FASD and 50 without FASD or prenatal alcohol exposure). Results provided preliminary support for the validity of the SAVRY and YLS/CMI in predicting recidivism in justice-involved youth with FASD. Higher ratings across SAVRY and YLS/CMI domains were found in youth with FASD.


The current study assessed the effect of adverse childhood experiences on later aggression and violence across young adult relationships contexts, including intimate partners, friends, or strangers. Results provide empirical insights for clinical treatment of young adults prone to aggressive conflicts as well as input to positive youth development programming to foster healthy approaches to conflict.


This longitudinal study examined predictors of change in mothers' and fathers' PCA risk across the transition to parenthood, comparing trajectories of parents evidencing high versus low sociodemographic risk. Findings have important implications for child abuse prevention programs involving both universal and secondary abuse prevention efforts.


This study investigated the differential predictive validity and potential for disparate impact of both juvenile and adult risk assessment instruments with this age group (ages 16-24), relative to adolescents (ages 12-15) or older adults (ages 25-40). A total of 3,353 secondary data sets were obtained. Results indicate that age group generally did not moderate the prediction of any recidivism or of violent recidivism.

**SEX OFFENDERS**


The authors compared differences in criminal careers of 616 incarcerated male sex offenders. Participants were categorized as non-homicidal sex offenders (NHSOs), violent NHSOs, and sexual homicide offenders (SHOs) and completed a semi-structured interview. NHSOs had the highest number of convictions for sexual offenses and were more specialized in their offenses than the other two groups. Violent NHSOs had the greatest number of convictions and demonstrate the most versatile criminal career. Implications for practitioners and law enforcement are detailed.


This study explored characteristics of victim age, race/ethnicity, sexual behaviors, and offense category of 561 adolescents in a juvenile correctional facility. Approximately half were adjudicated for illegal nonsexual behavior (AINB; n = 215), while the rest were adjudicated for illegal sexual behavior (AISB; n = 346). Compared to those in the AINB group, those in the AISB group with child victims were 10.6 times more likely to report childhood sexual abuse and those with peer victims were 9.5 more likely. These latter groups were also more likely to be younger and have prior records. Notable sexual behavior between-group differences were
identified. Racial between-group differences are also reported. Recommendations for sexual education policy and interventions are made.


This study details a four-step process in the development of a questionnaire for adolescents with the aim of measuring online sexual solicitation and interaction by adults. The Questionnaire for Online Sexual Solicitation and Interactions With Adults (QOSSIA) consisted of 10 items developed through literature review, qualitative interviews with sex offenders, and content analysis by experts. The psychometric properties of the tool were tested in a sample of 2,731 adolescents and revealed a two-factor structure made up of “sexual solicitation” and “sexualized interactions”. Future analysis and use of this instrument are considered.


The authors examined multivariate associations in attachment styles and personality disorders (PDs) in a sample of 84 convicted child molesters and a paired sample of 80 community members matched on sociodemographic factors. In the child molester group, canonical correlation analysis revealed two variants of avoidant and anxious attachment patterns which were differentially associated with specific personality disorders. Trust was found to mediate these relationships. Implications for treatment are discussed.


This article validated a 21-item shortened version of the ATS measure (the ATS-21). Using a factor analysis followed by confirmatory factor analysis, three factors of trust, intent, and social distance were identified. Preliminary evidence of the ATS-21’s test–retest reliability, consistency across multiple testing contexts, resistance to social desirability, and independence from related measures was presented.


The authors explored relationships between scales of the Personality Assessment Inventory (PAI) and domains of risk assessment (from the Static-99 and Static-2002R) and recidivism. File review of 158 males convicted of sexual offenses were analyzed. The antisocial scale and three antisocial subscales of the PAI were strongly associated with assessed risk, yet few meaningful relationships emerged between clinical and interpersonal scales and measured risk or recidivism. The PAI did not show incremental validity over either risk measurement scale. Recommendations for integrating the PAI into a risk-needs-responsivity model of treatment are made.


Qualitative thematic analysis was used to analyze 29 transcripts of chat logs between an adult and a minor taken from five cases of sexual grooming with male offenders. Offenders were classified as having taken an indirect or direct approach to sexual grooming and specific strategies employed by both are detailed. Frequency and length of contact are also considered. The authors offer an offense process diagram of online sexual grooming and abuse based on this analysis. Directions for future research in online sexual exploitation are suggested.


The authors sought to determine the reliability of classification of indecent images of children (IIOC) and review the process of law enforcement decision-making surrounding these classifications. Four police force
employees from the United Kingdom and one image analyst researcher coded between 1,212 – 2,233 IIOC. Four of the ten dual-coding pairs reached a kappa level considered acceptable. Following this analysis, the participants consented to a focus group in which qualitative analysis was used to assess the decision-making process of identifying and classifying IIOC. Six themes were identified and discussed, yet the most common theme was difficulty in identifying the age of the victim.


This study assessed the psychometric properties the MTC Sexual Sadism Scale using a sample of 486 sexual offenders assessed at a correctional institution in Massachusetts. Results indicated that the MTC Sexual Sadism Scale possesses good psychometric properties for the dimensional assessment of severe sexual sadism with behavioral markers. Moreover, the scale captures a wide range of intensity of sadism among sexual offenders.


Using crime pattern theory, the authors investigated whether victim characteristics, victim contact location, and offense characteristics influences the likelihood of travel to a secluded area for the offense. Case data was analyzed from 114 convicted sex offenders with victims under the age of 18 who did not share a household with their victim. The dependent variable of interest was whether or not the offender traveled to a secluded location for the commission of the offending. Those who contacted victims where children typically congregate were 4 times more likely to travel to a secluded location, and those who used noncoercive strategies were 7 times more likely. Victim age and gender were not associated with this outcome. Implications for sex offender registration and residential restriction policies are discussed.


An online survey was completed by 773 respondents, who answered questions on four potential policy changes for the provision of emergency housing to sex offenders (SOs). The policies were described as a “no cost” option, an option that would involve a raise in taxes (“sacrifice policy”), a relocation of SOs to a motel within the respondent’s neighborhood (“nearby motel”), or a relocation of SOs to a motel far from the respondent (“far point motel”). Average support across all policy options was neutral, with the “no cost” policy receiving the highest support, the “sacrifice policy” receiving the lowest levels of support, and the other two policies receiving moderate and comparable support. The influence of respondent characteristics on policy support was also analyzed. Implications for policy design are discussed.


This study examined 350 male perpetrators who had committed a sexual homicide offense against a female 14 years or older in England or Wales to estimate prevalence of sadism among sexual homicide offenders. Based on the Posterior Probability of Diagnosis index, the prevalence of the disorder was estimated at 37% in the sample. Overall, results supported the usefulness of the Sexual Sadism Scale (SeSaS) for assessing forensically relevant forms of sadism.


This study compared offender characteristics of 20 solo female offenders (solo FSOs), 20 co-offending females (co-FSOs), and 40 male sexual offenders (MSOs) against children. All three groups endorsed early abuse. Solo FSOs were significantly different than MSOs in interpersonal factors such as lower self-esteem and assertiveness and greater emotional loneliness. Solo FSOs were more likely than both other groups to struggle
with mental illness. Female co-offenders had greater impairment in self-management, while MSOs had greater difficulty with sexual regulation. The authors make recommendations for differential interventions and treatments with these offending groups.

### VICTIMIZATION


The present study examined relationships between physical and sexual abuse characteristics and mental health outcomes and whether these relationships differed by sex. Overall, results of this study suggest that abuse occurring after age 5 may have the most deleterious impact on mental health.


The present study seeks to explore the effect of secondary traumatic stress on the relationships of forensic interviewers, including those with friends, family, and their respective children. Findings from this study suggest that forensic interviewers experience both positive and negative effects of exposure to crimes against children, with work-related factors being particularly impactful on the potential for secondary traumatic stress.

Charak, R., Villarreal, L., Schmitz, R. M., Hirai, M., & Ford, J. D. (2019). **Patterns of childhood maltreatment and intimate partner violence, emotion dysregulation, and mental health symptoms among lesbian, gay, and bisexual emerging adults: A three-step latent class approach.** Child Abuse and Neglect, 89, 99-110. doi: https://doi.org/10.1016/j.chiabu.2019.01.007.

Childhood abuse and neglect and intimate partner violence victimization is prevalent among lesbian, gay, and bisexual (LGB) individuals. Identification of distinct patterns of childhood and adult victimization, among LGB people is needed to facilitate identification of at-risk individuals. Findings suggest a detrimental effect of cumulative interpersonal victimization on emotion dysregulation and the mental/behavioral health of LGB emerging adults, with bisexuals and LGB-people of color at heightened risk of cumulative victimization and of related mental/behavioral health challenges.


Childhood maltreatment is one of the strongest predictors of sexual and peer bullying re-victimization. However, it is not clear which types of maltreatment are associated with the greatest risk. The findings provide an important foundation for future research examining the mechanisms driving the relation between father’s hostility, criticism, and rejection and daughters’ revictimization that can ultimately provide targets for prevention in girls at highest risk.


This study evaluated the hypothesis that three domains of resiliency would mediate the effect of trauma-related distress upon suicidal ideation, while accounting for symptoms of depression, and that the indirect effect of trauma-related distress upon suicidal ideation would be greater among survivors of childhood sexual abuse. Findings from this study demonstrate the importance of emotional reactivity with regard to suicidal ideation, as well as the association between depression symptoms and suicidal ideation in this clinical population, and suggest the potential utility of skills-based interventions, and the need for trauma-informed policy and procedures in adolescent psychiatric inpatient settings.

The current study used the Stress Process Model to investigate associations between childhood and adulthood stressors, recent stressful life events, and symptoms of depression and anxiety for mothers on probation and parole. Findings from this study highlight relationships between childhood abuse and adulthood factors and the mental health of mothers involved in the criminal justice system, with implications for theory, practice, and research.


Preliminary evidence suggests that sexual minority youth are overrepresented in child welfare services. Yet, no study to date has been able to test this hypothesis with national data. Findings from this study are the first to demonstrate sexual minority youth’s overrepresentation in child welfare, foster care, and out-of-home placement using nationally representative data and emphasizes the need for focused research on sexual minority youth involved in the child welfare system.


Previous research has generated some concern over the reliability of retrospective reports of childhood adversity, and it has been proposed that symptoms of depression may increase recall of negative memories. To investigate the stability of ACE scores over time and whether they are influenced by symptoms of depression, we recruited 284 participants from primary care clinics. This study provides support for the stability and reliability of ACE scores over time, regardless of depression status, and suggests that ACE measures are appropriate for use in healthcare settings.


The present study evaluates longitudinal pathways linking victimization and trauma to depressive symptoms in a socioeconomically disadvantaged sample of African-American adolescent girls seeking mental health services. Findings support the idea that victimization and traumatic stressors are associated with higher levels of depressive symptoms and that, among treatment-seeking low-income adolescent girls, these effects occur through both direct and indirect paths.


The purpose of this study was to determine if these factors are associated with higher education completion for childhood sexual abuse survivors. Results from this study suggest that many of these variables are significantly associated with survivors’ educational trajectory, and multiple linear regressions show that trauma symptoms, caregivers’ education levels, and age at onset of abuse are significant predictors of decreased education levels. This information can provide insight into additional risk and protective factors for childhood sexual abuse survivors in order to enhance acute and long-term management of trauma symptoms to increase levels of attainment of higher education.

The aim of this study was to derive a clinical prediction rule for pediatric abusive head trauma that incorporates the (positive or negative) predictive contributions of patients' completed skeletal surveys and retinal exams. This study provides seven variables which facilitate patient-specific estimation of abusive head trauma probability after abuse evaluation in intensive care settings.


This study aims to examine: (1) the individual and combined effects of multiple forms of child maltreatment on exclusive breastfeeding outcomes; and (2) whether postpartum depression and maternal stress act to mediate or moderate the association between child maltreatment and exclusive breastfeeding. Findings from this study offer some insight into the intergenerational effects associated with child maltreatment experiences, and underpin the need for effective policies and programs to prevent or reduce its occurrence and improve the exclusive breastfeeding outcomes.


The purpose of the current study is to examine patterns of acceptance of dating violence and teen dating violence victimization across time. Findings suggest studies are still needed to further explore longitudinal patterns of teen dating violence to better understand how to reduce the risk of teen dating violence.


This study addresses the following questions in cases of suspected child abuse and neglect in children up to four years of age: 1) How many professionals intend to seek inter-organizational consultation? 2) What types of organizations do professionals prefer to consult? and 3) What factors can be identified as facilitator(s) or barrier(s) regarding inter-organizational consultation, based on professionals’ experiences? This study demonstrated that most professionals are inclined to seek inter-organizational consultation when they suspect child abuse or neglect. The implications for research and practice are also discussed.


Child abuse is a major concern in India with frequent reports of extreme maltreatment and fatalities. Results suggest that child maltreatment and abuse was widespread. Boys reported more abuse than girls across all the categories of abuse. Abuse was more frequent in the higher age groups and classes at school. Abuse was also more frequent in nuclear families and families that reported alcohol use. Children who reported an abusive experience usually faced more than one category of abuse. There is an urgent need for improving the awareness surrounding this issue as it is a major public health challenge faced by the country.


In the present study, we examined the role of emotion reactivity and emotion regulation in emotional child maltreatment. Meta-analytic findings revealed that, in comparison to non-maltreating parents, parents who are emotionally maltreating their children report higher levels of negative affect, depression, verbal aggression, and anger. Results also indicated that in comparison to non-maltreating parents, emotionally maltreating parents report lower levels of emotional control, emotion regulation, and coping strategies.
This study aimed to investigate the relationship between childhood abuse and neglect and suicidality, and the possible mediating roles of affect dysregulation and social inhibition. Results suggest that early childhood abuse and neglect results in dysfunctional emotion regulation, which leads to suicidality in the context of impoverished social environments. The provision of psychological interventions aimed at improving social and emotional functioning may help to safeguard men who are most at risk of suicide.


This meta-analysis aimed to explore the relationship between childhood maltreatment and intimate partner violence victimization and investigate the moderating effects of gender and marital status. Results of this study found that there is an association between child maltreatment and intimate partner violence victimization, and it is moderated by marital status.


This study aimed to identify the risk for alcohol consumption behaviors, specifically binge drinking and any drinking, among adults with a history of adverse childhood experiences. Results from this study suggest that adults who experienced household abuse, are male, or possess at least some college education are at increased risk for binge drinking and any drinking.


This study explored the relationship between trauma related symptoms, perceptions of fairness, and perceptions of safety on rates of institutional misconduct in 385 juvenile offenders. No direct effect of trauma symptoms on perceptions of fairness or safety were found. Yet, perceptions of fairness and safety were positively correlated, with perceptions of safety negatively correlated with institutional sanctions. Specific gender and ethnic associations are also revealed. When controlling for age, gender, Hispanic/Latino ethnicity, there was no significant relationship between trauma-related symptoms and institutional misconduct. Recommendations for future research and interventions for increasing rates of perceived fairness and safety are made.


There is scarce research on children and youth with sexual behavior problems (SBP) and their developmental antecedents and the research that does exist is mostly retrospective and correlational. The current study includes an examination of the complete longitudinal sequence of child protective service (CPS) investigations involving young persons with SBP. Results suggest that polyvictimization was relatively common for this group throughout childhood and adolescence, which highlights the multiintervention needs of this population.


This study investigated whether preschool-aged children exposed to DV show vigilance to angry and sad faces versus happy faces and a target non-face stimulus relative to non-exposed children, and whether such vigilance relates to child social-emotional development. This study contributes to growing evidence that young children's
negative attention biases influence functioning and have important implications for children's well-being and development.


The present study sought to clarify the relation between maltreatment and mental health among youth in foster care by studying both the isolated dimensions of maltreatment and cumulative maltreatment, and to determine whether the effects of maltreatment on mental health operated indirectly through placement instability. Findings suggest that placement stability is critical for mental health for youth in foster care, regardless of the type, severity, or frequency of their maltreatment experiences. Findings also underscore the utility of comprehensive maltreatment assessment, encouraging researchers and clinicians to assess and carefully consider the relation between maltreatment dimensions and outcomes.


To date, no study has examined patterns of risk factors across countries comprehensively for different types of childhood violence, and there is a dearth of evidence of polyvictimization in lower- and middle-income settings. The authors analyze risk factors of childhood emotional (EV), physical (PV), sexual violence (SV) and polyvictimization for children aged 13–17 from nationally-representative Violence Against Children Surveys across six countries. High levels of polyvictimization highlight overlapping vulnerabilities children face, and may provide insights for policymakers and practitioners in designing strategies to protect children at greatest risk of abuse.


The objective of this study was to assess item characteristics indicative of the severity of risk for commercial sexual exploitation among a high-risk population of child welfare system involved youth to inform the construction of a screening tool. Results from this study can inform the construction of a screening instrument to assess the severity of risk for experiencing commercial sexual exploitation of children.


The current study aims to better understand the characteristics of child abduction and contribute to improving efficient investigation and rapid offender apprehension. The findings of this study emphasize the importance of rapid responses following abductions. The study provides strategies to assist with accurate decision making by investigators and fast case resolution through the early arrest of child abductors.


The authors examined whether parents’ own history of child abuse moderated the indirect effects of the Promoting First Relationships (PFR) intervention on toddlers’ secure base behavior via parental sensitivity. Findings indicated that intervention effects were only evident for parents who experienced physical abuse in their childhood. Results provide evidence for a key mechanism of change in PFR informed by attachment theory and suggest that PFR intervention effects may be stronger in parents at higher risk of the intergenerational transmission of abuse.

Previous research has examined differences in reports to child protective services (CPS) regarding prenatal substance exposure (PSE) by substance exposure and by maternal race. However, little is known regarding the frequency of immediate removals by CPS relating to PSE and maternal race. Findings indicate that most infants diagnosed with PSE were not removed by CPS and minority PSE infants were not reported to CPS or removed by CPS more than white infants. Racial differences identified in the prevalence of PSE present opportunities for targeted prevention efforts.


This study explored the role of conflict management styles and victim-offender overlap in 2,284 respondents (female = 872) who answered questions regarding their intimate and nonintimate relationships. Participants were categorized into victim-only, offender-only, both, or neither groups based on different factors of abuse (e.g. verbal, physical, sexual). The perpetration-only group made up a smaller percentage than the victim-offender overlap group on all measures of abuse. Conflict management styles were found to predict victim-offender overlap. Associations between group membership and substance use were also identified. Recommendations for prevention programs and services are made.


This study examined the relationship between child marriage and intimate partner violence (IPV) in Ghana, looking specifically for possible mechanisms driving the relationship. Researchers must pay attention to these intermediary factors when theorizing the relationship between child marriage and IPV. Policy makers in Ghana must ensure that young girls receive formal education and have the self-efficacy and skills to reject patriarchal gendered norms that threaten their security and well-being.


The purposes of the current study were to (1) examine the relationships between support and children’s sexual behaviors and (2) determine whether support is related to sexual behaviors after controlling for known predictors among treatment-seeking children their nonoffending mothers. Emotional support predicted developmentally related sexual behaviors but not sexual abuse-specific sexual behaviors. Levels of emotional support and blame/doubt predicted children’s total sexual behaviors suggesting that support may play a small role in understanding children’s sexual behaviors.


This study aimed to identify existing social and economic vulnerabilities of female adolescents in refugee camps in Rwanda. The study concludes that vulnerabilities and threats associated with gender and generation must be examined concurrently with the conditions associated with being a refugee in a setting of protracted displacement.


This study estimated the impact of official records of abuse/neglect, crime victimization, and mental health issues on recidivism in a sample of 2,792 youth in a large Midwestern diversion program. Results indicated that
youth with official records of abuse/neglect, person crime victimization, and property crime victimization were more likely to recidivate sooner than those without these victimization experiences.


The present study tested whether aspects of parenting (parenting stress, physical discipline, and disagreement with grandparents) served as the pathways between teen mother’s childhood adversity and the externalizing behaviors of their offspring at age 11, by gender. The findings of this study have implications for early intervention efforts that emphasize the need to intervene with children and parents, particularly helping teen mothers gain knowledge and skills to offset the impact of their experiences of childhood adversity on their parenting behaviors.

**WITNESS ISSUES**


It is established in the eyewitness literature that children show accuracy rates similar to adults on target-present and target-absent lineups from the age of five years until fourteen years. Researchers explored whether the same pattern occurs when voices are used instead of faces and evaluates the reliability of children as earwitnesses. Participants from six age groups (6-7-year-olds, 8-9-year-olds, 10-11-year-olds, 12-13-year-olds, 14-15-year-olds and adults; N = 334) listened to a 30 second audio clip of an unfamiliar voice and were presented with either a six person target-present or target-absent voice lineup. Performance on target-present lineups reached adult-like levels by 8-9 years of age while performance on target-absent lineups was extremely poor and remained poor through to adulthood with all age groups tending to make a false identification.


The authors investigate the contradiction between objective eyewitness accuracy and perceived eyewitness accuracy. Eyewitness identification accuracy is comparably strong when a lineup identification is accompanied by a justification that refers to either an observable feature about the suspect (“I remember his eyes”), an unobservable feature (“He looks like a friend of mine”) or just a statement of recognition (“I recognize him”). With respect to perceived accuracy, the authors find that other regard eyewitnesses as less accurate when they justify their identification by referring to an observable feature as compared to when they give any other kind of justification, except for a reference to familiarity.


In this longitudinal study, the effects of testifying were examined in a sample of 344 children at initial assessment receiving services in a Child Advocacy Centre, of which 130 children testified. This study highlights the importance of documenting the experience of child sexual abuse victims in the justice system in order to establish the adequate conditions to support child witnesses.


Legal innovators attempting to improve conditions from child witnesses instituted Section 28 (S28), which allows for prerecording of children’s testimony after a Ground Rules Hearing discussing each child’s capabilities. Comparison of cases with \( n = 43 \) and without \( n = 43 \) S28 special measures suggests that S28
successfully reduced complexity of questions. Findings suggest that GRH improves lawyers’ questioning strategies of young children (aged 6- to 15-years old).


Lawyers in cases involving alleged victims of sexual abuse where Section 28 (S28) Ground Rules Hearings (GRH) were present ($n = 43$) asked significantly fewer suggestive questions and more option-posing questions than lawyers in non-S28 ($n = 44$) cases. Findings suggest that GRH improves lawyers’ questioning strategies of young children (aged 6- to 15-years old).


The research explores whether retrieval effort cues predict eyewitness accuracy of statements about a crime event. The researchers find in two studies that cues to retrieval effort predicted memory accuracy. Moreover, they found that subjective confidence in memory accuracy relates to these cues and mediated the relationship between confidence and accuracy. The authors suggest that retrieval effort might be a helpful predictor of memory accuracy.


Experiments examined the effect of read versus spontaneous speech and background noise ($N = 34; N = 34$) on discrimination ability of lay listeners. Accuracy was highest when readings featured the same speaking style and when background noise occurred in the second recording heard.

OTHER


This study uses three forms of empathy measures (cognitive, affective, and ethnocultural) to test the relationship between empathy, racial/gender differences, and death penalty support using survey data from a sample of undergraduate students. Results demonstrated that neither a variety of other “known correlates” of death penalty support nor cognitive or affective empathy scales were able to fully account for the observed racial difference in death penalty support.


Police contacts, arrests, levels of self-control and personal responsibility were assessed annually between 12 and 17 years in a population-based sample of 2,450 adolescent females. Across adolescence, 5%–12% participants reported police contacts and 1%–4% were arrested. After adjusting for covariates, within-person increases in self-control and responsibility were associated concurrently with decreased odds of police contact. Increasing responsibility also predicted lower likelihood of police contact in the following year.

This study explored staff and peer experiences of an employment scheme for peer mentors within a community project for young people involved in offending. Thematic analysis revealed three themes of “Opportunity and Empowerment,” “Supportive Processes,” and “Role Definition and Structure.” Results suggested that meaningful employment opportunities, with holistic support and processes for reflection and mentalisation of self and others, contribute to the personal and professional development of ex-offenders in peer mentoring roles.


This study examined cognitive capacity and psychosocial maturity among adolescents. Age patterns of these constructs were assessed in 5,227 individuals from 11 countries. Importantly, whereas cognitive capacity reached adult levels around age 16, psychosocial maturity reached adult levels beyond age 18, creating a “maturity gap” between cognitive and psychosocial development. Juveniles may be capable of deliberative decision making by age 16, but young adults may demonstrate “immature” decision making in arousing situations.


The authors investigated the relationship between religiosity and spirituality on recidivism in 571 offenders. Participants identified as either spiritual and religious, spiritual only, religious only, or neither. Self-identification as spiritual but not religious was associated with higher odds of recidivism than those who identified as both spiritual and religious. A negative association was identified between recidivism and Humanist, Spiritual and Religious (HSR) event attendance while incarcerated. Recommendations for utilizing HSR programs for assistance in institutional coping and reentry support are made.


This study investigated whether people apply the objective prong in Title VII sexual harassment jurisprudence in a uniform manner, or show predictable differences. Results indicated participants’ sex and enjoyment of sexualization moderated their judgments of sexual harassment when considering the situation from both points of view, demonstrating that there is no convergence on a unified standard for evaluating whether specific behavior is sexually harassing.