
Trajectories of self-control, as measured by impulsivity and coping skills, were measured in a sample of 317 male forensic psychiatric patients. Using latent class growth models, the trajectories and stability of self-control were assessed in relation to criminal history, psychopathology, and recidivism. At the time of release, nonrecidivists had less impulsivity than violent or nonviolent recidivists, but there was no difference at entry. In contrast, nonrecidivists had better coping skills at entry, but did not differ from recidivist groups at release. Trajectories for coping skills and impulsivity were similar to one another. Implications for clinical practice and risk assessment are identified.


Using the MacArthur Competence Assessment Tool for Treatment (MacCAT-T), this study explored the relationship between age and capacity, and assessed mental capacity for treatment decisions among voluntary and involuntary psychiatry inpatients (n=125) in Ireland. Results of a multi-variable linear regression analysis showed linear mental capacity was significantly linked to voluntary admission status and younger age. The findings suggested old age and involuntary admission status were strongly associated with diminished mental capacity. Implications for interventions to support decision-making among inpatients are discussed.


This study investigated whether forensic psychiatric patients diagnosed with substance use disorder were able to learn to control EEG-activity based on a sensorimotor rhythm/theta neurofeedback protocol. Results indicated that one in five patients was able to consistently change the targeted frequency bands. All patients improved on self-reported impulsivity measures and levels of craving, but only levels of craving were associated with responding to neurofeedback treatment.


In this study, the previously validated Computerized Adaptive Test–Mental Health (CAT-MH) was administered to a sample of 475 defendants in the Cook County Bond Court. After removal of nine items that exhibited differential item functioning from the CAT-MH, correlations between scores based on the original calibration and the newly computed scores showed a correlation coefficient of r=0.96 to r=0.99.

Involuntary patients often report that their hospitalization was justified. However, patients are not always aware of their correct legal status and voluntary patients often report feeling coerced. The contribution of the legal and the perceived status of admission in predicting perceived coercion was assessed among 152 inpatients. Results showed levels of perceived coercion at admission and during hospitalization were predicted by their perceived legal status.


This study examined the effect of participants’ experiences (i.e., program satisfaction, life changes, sanction/incentives) on justice outcomes in mental health court (MHC). Findings suggested that more sanctions are associated with increased number of future arrests whereas positive life changes (e.g., daily problems, symptoms, family relationship) are associated with reduced recidivism among MHC participants. Results underscore the importance of actual changes in the offenders’ lives to decrease recidivism.


This study details a retrospective review of a sample of 163 participants delegated to a mental health court (MHC). Analyses focused on the relationship between clinical characteristics, criminogenic risk factors, program sanctions, and recidivism. Out of the total sample, 30% were issued a bench warrant and 28% were sanctioned to jail, sometimes due to a lack of available space within inpatient substance use treatment facilities. After controlling for demographic and criminogenic variables, no psychiatric characteristics were associated with bench warrants or jail sanctions. Substance use and other criminogenic factors were associated with higher rates of these outcomes. Suggestions for the integration of risk assessment and treatment in MHCs are made.


This study looked at health insurance coverage and mental health treatment among individuals with/without involvement in the criminal justice system after the key provisions of the Affordable Care Act (ACA). The sample represented ~2.0 million individuals with criminal justice involvement and ~20.9 million without. Following the implementation of the key provisions, health insurance coverage increased by 13.4% among individuals with past criminal justice involvement and by 8.1% among those without.


This study investigates the effectiveness of three principles correctional counseling (3PCC) to improve mental health in an incarcerated population. The 3PI, WEMWBS-SF, PILT, PR-Dep, PR-Anx, and PR-Ang were administered to assess three principles understanding, mental well-being, purpose in life, depression, anxiety, and anger, respectively. After 3PCC exposure, the experimental group demonstrated significant increases in three principles understanding, mental well-being, and purpose in life and significant decreases in depression, anxiety, and anger. At a five-month follow-up, 57 experimental group participants demonstrated posttest maintenance in three principles understanding, mental well-being, purpose in life, and anxiety and improvement in decreasing depression and anxiety.

This study examined the association between history of high betrayal trauma and engagement in NSSI in 100 adolescent offenders on probation. A history of high betrayal trauma was significantly associated with both lifetime and past-year engagement in NSSI. Both shame and emotion dysregulation individually mediated the association between high betrayal trauma and frequency of past-year NSSI. Emotion dysregulation emerged as a significant mediator of the association, whereas shame did not.


This study evaluated the effectiveness of a program based on the National Institute of Corrections curriculum among 167 high- and medium-risk probationers assigned to this program and a comparison group of 120 high- and medium-risk probationers matched on age and number of prior criminal charges. The treatment group probationers were more likely to complete probation satisfactorily and survive longer before rearrest. Ethnicity was associated with differences in intervention effectiveness.


This study investigates the impact of restrictive housing confinement on subsequent institutional adjustment. Logistics regressions were used to analyze a sample of 9,016 male inmates in an adult state prison. The results found no statistically significant relationship between time spent in restrictive housing and subsequent engagement in violent or nonviolent institutional misconduct. A marginally significant negative relationship was found between time spent in restrictive housing and subsequent placements in restrictive housing. Appeals are made for future research on the differential effects of subtypes of restrictive housing. Implications for policy and practice are described.


This systematic review provided current prevalence rates of a broad range of mental disorders and symptoms across youth justice populations. Thirty studies were included involving 8,153 participants. Females had higher prevalence rates for depression, separation anxiety disorder, and suicide. Males had higher prevalence rates for conduct disorder and emerging antisocial personality disorder. Emerging personality disorders were relatively common in both genders.


Exposure to trauma was investigated among a sample of male individuals in a high secure forensic hospital (n=194). Results showed that all participants were exposed to trauma, and 75% experienced trauma during childhood, with 65% experiencing more than one type of trauma in childhood. However, no significant difference was found between those with and without exposure to childhood trauma, in regards to length of hospital stay, seclusion and incidents. Recommendations for future clinical and research directions are mentioned.

The feasibility of an intervention called Resettle for offenders with personality disorders, and the possible effects of this intervention were explored. A history of offending, obtained from official records and self-report, was also assessed over the two years following release from custody. The findings did not provide clear evidence of an effect of the intervention among officially-recorded offending. Among self-reported offending, results showed no effect of Resettle in an intent-to-treat analysis. However, an effect was found among self-reported records of offending when the analysis only included those who participated in the intervention.


The authors explored the role of Indigenous status, gender, and age, in law enforcement responses to first-time juvenile offenders in Australia. Data taken from a national criminal record database in Australia provided a final sample of 53,632 cases of young adult offenders from the years of 2000 to 2010. Adjusted odds-ratio of receiving a court summons after a first offense as opposed to a diversionary alternative was approximately two times higher for Indigenous juvenile offenders. Specific interactions between Indigenous status and offense characteristics are detailed. Males were more likely than females to receive a court summons. Offenders aged 10-12 years were more likely to receive diversionary alternatives. Implications for public policy and legislation are described.


This study investigated the role of policy entrepreneurs in the formation of mental health rehabilitation programs in Israel. The authors interviewed key actors in the legislative process and examined archival materials. New information on organizations as policy entrepreneurs, inter-sectional coalitions of entrepreneurs, and possible issues arising from the concept of “leadership by example” is revealed.


This pilot study examined the preliminary effectiveness of Maintaining Independence and Sobriety through Systems Integration, Outreach, and Networking–Criminal Justice (MISSION-CJ), an intervention that targets co-occurring disorders and criminal justice risk factors within a mental health court. Participants (N=97) were enrolled in mental health court and MISSION-CJ community wraparound services. Preliminary 6-month outcomes showed significant reduction in nights incarcerated, illegal drug use, trauma symptoms, and behavioral health symptoms.


This study evaluated the relative efficacy of DBT modified for stalking offenders versus a cognitive–behavioral anger management intervention for the treatment of stalking offenders. Results indicated there were relatively low rates of reoffense when compared to past studies of untreated stalking offenders in the U.S., but treatment type had no impact on the likelihood of reoffense, nor did completion of the treatment program. There was no between-groups difference in rates of treatment completion, or on changes in self-report measures.

This exploratory study investigated the perceptions of administrators in institutions of higher education about applicants with previous sexual offense convictions. The sample consisted of 66 administrators, the majority of whom were non-Hispanic White, women, and 35 to 44 years old. The majority of surveyed institutions (61.5%) collect and factor prior sexual convictions in the admissions process, which is agreeable to the majority of institution administrators. Researchers found that private and four-year institutions were more likely to consider sexual offense convictions in the admissions process than public and two-year institutions.


This study explored the experiences of carers of long-stay patients in low-to-high-secure forensic care using two focus groups and two written responses. Focus groups identified importance of communication, and improving carer knowledge of services as methods of meaningful inclusion in treatment and recovery. Better involvement of carers may help improve trust in services and develop a strong bond between parties involved in longer-term care, treatment, and recovery.


This study investigated whether having co-occurring SUD is a barrier to PTSD treatment. A sample of justice-involved veterans served by the Veterans Health Administration Veterans Justice Outreach program who had a diagnosis of PTSD (N 27,857) was used. Results indicate majority of veterans with PTSD had a SUD diagnosis (73%), and having a co-occurring SUD was associated with higher odds of receiving PTSD treatment, after adjusting for demographic differences.


The authors explored the effect of prison climate on the well-being of adult inmates (N = 4,568) in the Netherlands. Prison climate was measured in six domains; autonomy, safety, relationships in prison, contact with outside world, meaningful activities, and facilities. Individual level and unit level analyses were conducted. Individual reports of prison climate, such as perceptions of safety, autonomy, and good peer relationships were associated with higher levels of well-being. Sleep quality and satisfaction with frequency of outside contact were also associated with higher well-being. On the unit level, average ratings of peer relationships had a negative relationship with psychological distress. Notably, most variance in well-being was found on the individual, not unit, level. Implications for individual level interventions are considered.


The present evaluation examined the extent to which offenders gained knowledge, content retention, and treatment engagement with the Changing Lives and Changing Outcomes program (CLCO). Participants consisted of male and female felony offenders in a residential treatment facility (N 130), and dually diagnosed male offenders in a residential treatment facility (N 39). Results indicated that participants in this intervention retained treatment content, and this was predictive of treatment completion.
Drug abuse by prisoners can be found in prisons all around the world. In this retrospective study, the authors analyzed the prison deaths from 2012 until 2017 in Berlin. Overall, 33 deaths were included in this study, 24 were ruled suicides, and 25% of the suicide cases included drug use as revealed by the toxicology reports. A direct influence of drug intoxication on suicide and death was not common in this data.

Characteristics of offenders detained in forensic-psychiatric settings in Germany over a 15 year period were examined in this study. The authors compared these characteristics with those sentenced to imprisonment over the same time period. The findings showed individuals in forensic care were older, more likely to be women, and less likely to have a foreign background as compared to offenders in prison. Levels of diminished responsibility and significant past offending were found in both groups.

This study investigated the challenges and benefits of providing independent mental health advocacy (IMHA) for individuals at risk for or subject to compulsory treatment. The evaluation of IMHA service revealed a greater need for better targeting limited resources effectively and ensuring timely and adequate access. Results indicate advocacy was well received by consumers, but a more coherent understanding of consumer preference and choice is needed.

The clinical utility of a meditation, mindfulness, and mantra intervention for incarcerated youth with serious mental illness was explored. Participants included males aged 16-18 years old (n=17) from a county detention center. Over a four week period, participants completed a four-session adaptation of the Inner Resources for Teens intervention, one hour per week. The findings suggest that IRT could improve symptoms of mental illness among incarcerated youth.

The authors explored psychological distress in a sample of 943 men incarcerated in Spain. Questionnaires were used to probe two aggravating factors, adverse childhood events (ACE) and substance use, and two mitigating factors, social support and resilience. Overall, 57.6% of the sample endorsed experience of at least one ACE, while 28.9% reported two or more different types of ACEs. Distress symptoms measured as depression, anxiety, and stress were associated with an accumulation of ACEs. There was a positive association between prison-based substance use and psychological distress, even after controlling for ACEs. Mixed results were identified for the measured mitigating factors. Recommendations for trauma-sensitive interventions are made.

This study sought to identify characteristics of correctional officers at risk for mistreating inmates. Questionnaires were administered to 501 prison guards within the Texas Department of Criminal Justice. Results showed that younger males who reported being dissatisfied with their jobs were at greater risk for
mistreating inmates. Officers lacking family support at home, and supervisory support at work, were also at risk
for mistreating inmates. The authors also found officers who perceived their co-workers mistreating inmates
were more likely to accept their behavior than intervene.

Behavioral Sciences & the Law, 37, 452–467. https://doi.org/10.1002/bsl.2421
This study evaluated the impact of the Sacramento County MHC in California using quantitative data and
interviews with stakeholders and MHC participants to understand how the MHC influenced individual
participants' recidivism rates, mental health, and quality of life. Results indicated that defendants had a lower
rate of recidivism after the MHC program than before it. Moreover, graduates were less likely to be rearrested
and rehospitalized than non-graduates.

Zottola, S., Desmarais, S., Neupert, S., Dong, L., Laber, E., Lowder, E. and Van Dorn, R. (2019). Results of
the brief jail mental health screen across repeated jail bookings. Psychiatric Services, 70, 1006-1012. doi:
10.1176/appi.ps.201800377
The authors examined the odds of screening positive on the Brief Jail Mental Health Screen. The sample
comprised of detainees who were booked at least twice during the 3.5-year period (N= 41,965 bookings).
Results indicate the odds of a positive screen increased with each jail booking, as did the odds of referral for
other reasons. However, the odds of screening positive for two or more current symptoms and prior
hospitalization decreased.

**DELINQUENCY/ANTISOCIAL BEHAVIOR**

under arrest: How is adolescent boys’ first contact with the juvenile justice system related to future
This study examined the extent to which being arrested during adolescence was associated with subsequent self-
reported offending and court-recorded arrests using a sample of 532 boys who had been arrested and 99 boys
who had never been arrested despite engaging in similar illegal behaviors. The groups differed in their rate of
change in self-reported offending between the two interviews and in their likelihood of being arrested during the
study period.

Bendlin, M., & Sheridan, L. (2019). Nonfatal strangulation in a sample of domestically violent stalkers: 
The importance of recognizing coercively controlling behaviors. Criminal Justice and Behavior, 46(11),
1528–1541.
The authors analyzed instances of nonfatal strangulation and coercive control in a sample of 9,884 cases of
domestic violence that involved stalking in Western Australia. Coercive control was measured in domains of
excessive jealousy, threats of death, victim fear, victim isolation, and victim belief that perpetrator will kill
them. Nonfatal strangulation was present in 16.6% of all stalking cases. All domains of coercive control were
associated with higher likelihood of nonfatal strangulation. Implications for law enforcement training on
identification of these variables are addressed.

prisoners, community adults, university students, and adolescents. Deviant Behavior, 40, 1–13. doi:
10.1080/01639625.2019.1665221
Researchers assessed prisoners, community adults, university students, and adolescents with the Psychopathic
Personality Traits Scale (PPTS) to compare their affective responsiveness, cognitive responsiveness,
interpersonal manipulation, and egocentricity. This study also sought to examine co-occurrence between
psychopathic personality traits among offending and non-offending populations. ANOVA analysis showed
significant differences between the groups on all four PPTS subscales. High psychopathy groups emerged
among prisoners and university students, while low psychopathy groups were identified across all groups.
This study investigated the prevalence and nature of structural brain abnormalities (SBAs) in batterers using neuroimaging methods. Results found that one participant had both a major and minor SBA; 13 had one or more minor SBAs. Most were judged to be not clinically relevant. SBAs were not associated with IPV. It is unlikely SBAs are responsible for the differences in brain functioning between batterers and other offenders observed in past research.

This study explored the relationship between antisocial thinking styles and violence/aggression among 74 civil psychiatric inpatients. Results demonstrated that a higher rate of aggressive incidents was predicted by higher PICTS Denial of Harm, higher BPRS Hostile Suspiciousness scores, and lower educational attainment. Violence was predicted by higher BPRS Hostile Suspiciousness, lower education, and younger age. Higher BPRS-Hostile Suspiciousness scores and lower educational attainment significantly predicted both outcomes.

Do psychopathic traits distinguish trajectories of gang membership? Criminal Justice and Behavior, 46(9), 1337-1355.
Using group-based trajectory modeling, the authors explored the influence of psychopathic traits in stages of gang membership. A sample of 1,354 adolescent offenders were followed for 84 months after an index event occurring between the ages of 14 and 18 years. Psychopathy was measured using the Psychopathy Checklist – Youth Version (PSL:YV). Factors known to influence gang trajectories (e.g. neighborhood disorder, association with delinquent peers) were controlled to isolate effects. Three trajectories were identified; Adolescent Desister, Young Adult Desister, and Adult Joiner, Persister group. Overall, Factor 1 scores were less associated with gang membership, while Factor 2 scores showed greater power in differentiating gang trajectory. Future research focused on the role of psychopathy in gang disengagement is recommended.

This study assessed self-reported psychopathic traits and trait empathy in 416 detained male juveniles. Psychopathic traits were significantly negatively correlated with empathy, although not with autonomic nervous system responses. Individuals reporting no empathy showed significantly less heart rate withdrawal compared to individuals reporting higher empathy. This implies that physiological responses may be helpful in identifying juveniles with severely impaired empathic functioning, even in a severely antisocial sample.

This study examined gender differences in bullying among 857 justice-involved males and 312 justice-involved females. Using logistic regression, researchers explored gender differences in the covariates of demographic, risk factors, and traumatic experiences related to bullying. Results showed repressive symptoms and sexual assault victimization increased odds of bullying for both recently arrested boys and girls. Girls experienced higher rates of bullying (35%) than boys (17%). Overall, the rates of bullying were higher in this sample than in the general population or school-based samples used in other studies. Treatment and prevention strategies for justice-involved youth at risk for bullying are noted.

This study used data from the youngest cohort (N = 503) of the Pittsburgh Youth Study to examine how latent classes of youth with different developmental patterns of IC across a 7-year period differed in their official records of juvenile and young adult offending, as well as young adulthood. Results indicated that youth with an early-onset chronic pattern of IC had elevated risk for a serious and persistent pattern of offending.


After controlling for aggression levels, the associations between psychopathic traits with hooliganism, and the potential associations between psychopathic traits and the likelihood of demonstrating hooliganism as leaders or followers were investigated. In a sample of 473 Cypriot football fans, callous-unemotional traits were associated with leadership and the likelihood of hooligan-related arrest, and identified as the strongest predictor of hooliganism. High impulse-irresponsibility scores were associated with hooliganism, especially in followers. Researchers suggest callous-unemotional traits and impulse-irresponsibility can be considered when developing interventions for hooliganism.


In this study, 73 adult male prisoners completed a facial emotion recognition task. For the first time in a convicted offender sample, we used pupillometry techniques to measure changes in the pupil dilation response. Our results highlight a potential role of the locus coeruleus-noradrenaline system in the pathophysiology of psychopathy and demonstrate the potential of the pupillary response as a technique for understanding attention.


This study examined individual characteristics linked to an increased risk of persistence in collective violence. Researchers defined persistence as recidivism to collective violence over a 4- to 5-year time span. Criminal career data provided by the police were obtained for a sample of collective violence offenders (n=432). Individual characteristics explored included criminal career measures, behavioral indicators of personality traits and childhood problematic behavior. Results contrast current theoretical perspectives on collective violence etiology and suggest offender characteristics can be linked to persistence in collective violence.


This study expands on the Situational Action Theory (SAT) hypotheses using the definitions of parental monitoring provided by Goal-Directed Parental Action (GDPA) model. The impact of parental monitoring, adolescent-perceived parental knowledge, and crime propensity on situational adolescent offending. The results suggested that perceived parental knowledge resulted in lower crime rates among crime prone adolescents when they are unsupervised.


Using cross-cultural analysis, researchers investigated differences in violence-related beliefs and norms across male juveniles in Germany, Bulgaria, Pakistan, and South Africa. This study sought to expand on Anderson’s theoretical approach from his work, *The Code of the Street*. Interviews were conducted with 30 participants from each country. Results showed Anderson’s concept of “the code of the street” significantly differed between the countries. Cultural influence was taken into consideration when reporting results. Researchers
suggested context-specific factors play an equally important role in understanding the street violence of juveniles.

This study examined the relationship between anger and neuropsychological functioning in a sample of 70 adults with ADHD. Results indicated that trait anger and anger out were both found to have a significant relationship to shifting attention and anxiety. Anger control was found to have a significant relationship to response inhibition.

This study explored threats and the precursors to threat-related violence (TRV) using 236 Australian threateners. Results found that 55% of threats resulted in violence with 64% occurring within 24 hours of the threat. Violent threateners had higher rates of intellectual disability and active symptoms post-threat. Previous violence did not differentiate threateners who engaged in TRV. Intellectual impairment, age, mental disorder symptoms, treatment adherence, and no substance use accounted for 46% of TRV variance.

This study sought to examine the relationship between social network and delinquency during young adulthood. Using social network analysis, racial/ethnic minority young adult males (n=119) were examined for prior criminal justice system (CJS) involvement with network composition and centrality. Results showed those with CJS involvement were highly connected with each other and had high-risk peers, but were not significantly central in their networks.

The authors explore the mechanisms of pathological narcissism, spitefulness, and impulsivity on violent behavior. A sample of 385 individuals incarcerated for violent crimes were compared to a control group of 203 participants recruited from the community. Participants completed the Aggression Questionnaire (AQ), the Pathological Narcissism Inventory, the Spitefulness Scale, and the Impulsive Behavior Scale Short form. Compared to the control sample, the violent offender group obtained higher scores on all four measures. Hierarchical regression analyses indicated that spitefulness predicted aggression scores beyond the contribution of pathological narcissism and impulsivity. Impulsivity partially mediated the relationship of aggression and grandiose narcissism as well as aggression and spitefulness. Implications for treatment are described.

This study utilized a sample of 173 incarcerated women with Alcohol Use Disorders to explore the association between ceasing alcohol use and two behavioral mediators, personal agency and self-efficacy. Researchers hypothesized that demographics, the severity of substance use, agency pertaining to social networks and sex partners, and self-care would influence alcohol self-efficacy. Results indicate that alcohol self-efficacy is associated with an absence of bodily cravings for alcohol, non-engagement in transactional sex, and engaging in self-care. Alcohol self-efficacy was not correlated with minority status, the severity of substance use, cocaine and opioid use, or agency pertaining to social networks.
This study examined the relationship between adolescent substance use, criminal activity, bullying, and other deviant behaviors. Results indicated that past-month alcohol and marijuana use were associated with driving under the influence of marijuana or alcohol, riding with a driver under the influence of marijuana or alcohol, carrying a hand gun, gambling, selling illegal drugs, and the perpetration of bullying.


The Iowa Gambling Task (IGT) was used to assess affective decision-making in violent (n = 114) and non-violent (n = 71) adolescent male offenders. The total sample performed worse on the IGT than if they had been choosing the decks at random, which suggests impaired affective decision-making. Both groups engaged in perseverative selection from disadvantageous decks that produced high reward but higher punishment. Interestingly, while the violent group performed worse on the second deck, this group showed relatively improved learning by the final block of the task compared to their nonviolent peers. Implications for juvenile justice policy are described.


Multitrajectory modeling was used to identify subgroups of early-onset offenders. The Dutch Childhood Arrestee Study provided longitudinal data on children arrested for a first offense prior to age 12, resulting in a sample of 708 childhood arrestees. Data was analyzed for frequency and type of re-offending from age 12 up to a 14-year follow-up period. Five re-offending trajectories were identified: sporadic, low, moderate, high adulthood reoffending and high adolescent reoffending. Notably, over half of the sample did not have police contact following the first offense. Trajectories were analyzed for demographic and childhood neighborhood characteristics. Implications for focused intervention efforts are discussed.


This systematic review synthesized literature using computerized neurocognitive tasks to assess two domains of impulse control in offenders: response inhibition and impulsive/risky decision-making. Using 28 studies, results largely supported the general conclusion that offenders exhibit deficits in impulse control compared with non-offenders, with studies of response inhibition more consistently reporting differences than studies using impulsive and risky decision-making tasks.


Using a rotating panel design, this study sought to determine whether child-perceived, parental acceptance of child delinquency mediates proactive criminal thinking. Researchers hypothesized that perceived parental acceptance of delinquency would mediate the effects of proactive criminal thinking on offending behavior. Results indicate that criminal cognition may follow a “mediators within mediators” pattern, with perceptions of parental acceptance of child delinquency mediating planned, calculated, and predatory features of antisocial cognition.

This study provides a test of two possibilities, namely that FD (a) interacts statistically with self-centered impulsivity (SCI) and (b) demonstrates curvilinear relations with externalizing problems such that FD is more strongly associated with these problems at high levels. A large correctional sample was used. FD was not significantly associated with externalizing problems in interaction with SCI or at higher levels of FD.


This study utilized four focus groups with 28 currently incarcerated men to investigate participation in prison-based animal programming and subsequent shifts in criminogenic masculinity. Pre-existing conceptions about gender and identity were explored alongside reconceptions of those ideas during the program. Qualitative methods highlighted that participation in the prison-based animal program increased self-awareness, empathy, and positive shifts in identity and decreased endorsement of ideas that are correlated with criminogenic masculinity, like aggression and invulnerability. Findings suggest that programs such as these promote desistance and highlight the internal shifts that must occur to cease engagement in criminal behavior(s).


The cross-cultural generalizability of the cognitive, affective, and somatic empathy scales (CASES) among Hong Kong youth (n=4,676) was investigated. The links between empathy and different forms of aggression and peer victimization were also explored. To test the validity of CASES, a subsample of youth and their parents completed additional measures. Results indicate proactive aggression was significantly linked to affective empathy and reactive aggression was significantly linked to somatic empathy. The findings support the use of CASES across cultures.


This meta-analysis evaluated the extent to which the M-FAST total score can differentiate overreporters from comparison groups. Twenty-one research reports were included, providing 25 effect sizes with nonoverlapping samples. A very large effect size was observed, indicating a substantial difference on the M-FAST total score between the two groups. A significant difference was found between effect sizes that were part of the M-FAST development and effect sizes independent from its development.


This study investigates the utility of the Personality Assessment Screener (PAS) across three archival criminal justice samples. The PAS is derived from the Personality Assessment Inventory (PAI). Results indicate the PAS effectively identified those with clinically significant elevations on the PAI and significantly correlated with various criterion measures. Existing interpretive ranges and labels used to describe PAS scores in general clinical settings may require revision for use in these contexts.

This article details the development (N = 11,110) and validation (N = 5,591) of an actuarial scale, the Risk of Administrative Segregation Tool (RAST), to assess the risk of being placed in administrative segregation in Canadian federal prisons. A scale of six static items was finalized. The scale showed high predictive accuracy, which was consistent across genders and Indigenous ancestry status. The scale provided predictive accuracy for both subtypes of segregation (jeopardy in security of institution or inmate danger). A consideration of the inclusion of a dynamic factor is presented and recommendations for further modifications are made.

This study compared forensic interviews completed with the Revised and the Standard NICHD Protocols to assess whether the Revised Protocol leads to increased emotional expressiveness. The sample consisted of physical child abuse victims in Israel. Researchers coded the forensic interviews to conclude that the use of the Revised Protocol was correlated with increased disclosure, emotional expression, emotional variation, and overall testimonial value. In all interview characteristics, older children and girls expressed more emotion and emotional variation than younger children and boys. Interview length was also positively correlated with emotional variation.

This study investigated whether Dutch forensic experts include neurobiological factors in their pre-trial forensic reports and how this information was used in recommendations. Attention to neurobiological factors in relation to forensic questions was low and did not increase over the years. Even when forensic experts mentioned a relation between neurobiological information and the index offense, this information was often not considered in questions regarding future risk and risk management.

The psychometric robustness and portability of the Assessment of Sadistic Personality (ASP) was assessed among a sample of Polish and Italian individuals. The convergent and discriminant validity, and invariance of translated versions of the ASP were explored. Data from a sample of Canadian students were used, as well. The findings supported the psychometric qualities of and use of the ASP as a valid measure across cultures.

A sample of 120 psychologists with forensic experience completed a Cognitive Reflection Task (CRT) and assessed for their familiarity with different forms of bias and bias-reduction strategies. Overall, clinicians endorsed familiarity with real biases and research-suggested bias mitigation strategies, yet there was some difficulty in discrimination between real and sham strategies. In particular, introspection was overwhelmingly, and inaccurately, endorsed as an effective strategy. Those who performed better on the CRT were better able to discriminate between research-identified biases from shams. Recommendations for future research and clinician training are described.

The psychometric properties of the Brief Self-Control Scale (BSCS), and the refined version (BSCS-R), were examined among a sample of incarcerated male youth (n=131) and males and females in a school youth sample (n=470). Using confirmatory factor analysis, the one-factor structure of the BSCS and two-factor structure of the BCSC-R obtained adequate fits. The BSCS demonstrated strong measurement invariance across setting and
gender, while the BSCS-R showed measurement invariance across gender only. Overall, the BSCS performed better than the BSCS-R in regards to various psychometric properties. Researchers caution the use of the BSCS-R among forensic settings.

## LAW ENFORCEMENT, CONFESSIONS, & DECEPTION


This study explored the effectiveness of three interview protocols in eliciting accurate and complete information from minimally verbal adults. The sample was composed of 80 adults with expressive sentence length of approximately five words, who participated in three occurrences of 30-min scripted events. Participants were then interviewed using a narrative-first protocol, an intermixed interview, or a visual interview. More correct information was obtained using the intermixed and visual cue protocols than the narrative-first interview. The narrative-first protocol resulted in fewer internal intrusions (confusing details from different occurrences) than the visual, but not the intermixed protocol. Implications for interviewing procedures with this population is detailed.


The detection response task (DRT), requiring undergraduate participants (*N* = 44) to press a button in response to tactile stimulus was used to increase cognitive load while recounting either truthful or deceptive narratives. Slowed DRT responses and increased response omissions when telling a narrative lie suggest dual-task methodologies can be used successfully for deception detection.


Student participants (*N* = 100) either lied or told the truth during a free recall or Reality Interview (RI). Overall, honest responses were longer than deceptive responses, and the RI increased this word count difference. The RI improved the discriminability of Reality Monitoring and Criteria-Based Content Analysis compared to the Free Recall.


This article examines the counter-interrogation strategies applied by mock suspects, who are innocent of a mock crime under investigation but who were present at the scene, for different reasons, at around the time the crime occurred. Half were present at the crime scene to carry out a lawful act, the other half to carry out an unlawful act. Furthermore, this study examines the effect of the Strategic Use of Evidence (SUE) technique as a strategic interviewing technique (vs. a non-strategic technique), on suspects’ statement-evidence inconsistencies. Participants were randomly assigned to the two interview conditions (strategic vs. non-strategic) and were interviewed as suspects of a crime, which none of them had committed. The results show that the most commonly used counter-interrogation strategy in both groups was honesty. However, 26.1% of the innocent suspects, performing an unlawful act, reported the strategy to be deceptive. In addition, the statements of suspects executing an unlawful act were significantly more inconsistent with the evidence in the strategic than the non-strategic interview condition.

The Strategic Use of Evidence (SUE) technique has been successfully tested in previous studies. This study sought to generate knowledge of the SUE technique by surveying police officers in Germany. Results showed only a minority of officers reported they received training on how to use evidence during an interview, and the majority of officers reported did not see potential obstacles with the applicability of the SUE technique. Elaad, E. (2019). **Plausible lies and implausible truths: Police investigators’ preferences while portraying the role of innocent suspects.** *Legal and Criminological Psychology, 24,* 229-240. Doi: 10.1111/lcrp.12155

Police officers (n = 30) and laypeople (n = 30) pretended to be innocent suspects in four imaginary crime scenarios and were provided with response options for each scenario (implausible truth, concealment, partial lie, and utter lie). While laypeople tended to select less plausible truths, police officers tended to select plausible lies instead.


This study explored police personnel’s (n = 467) endorsement of homophobia, heteronormative interpersonal violence (IPV) myths, and response to IPV as measured through randomly assigned vignettes. Vignettes manipulated sexual orientation (3), presence of evidence (2) and victim trauma response (2). Participants on average scored just above the scale midpoint on the homophobia index and below the scale midpoint on the heteronormative IPV myth adherence index. Police were significantly more likely to arrest a perpetrator from a heterosexual couple. Those who endorsed higher value of police processes were more likely to make an arrest, yet physical evidence was the strongest predictor of arrest. Recommendations for further educational programming focused on sexual minority IPV are made.


This research tested whether the perception of threat during a police interrogation mobilizes suspects to cope with interrogation demands and bolsters their resistance to self-incrimination pressures. Experimental procedures led university undergraduates (N = 296) to engage in misconduct or not, thereby making them guilty or innocent. Then, an experimenter accused participants of misconduct in a threatening or nonthreatening way. In the high threat accusation, participants showed greater cardiovascular reactions, increased attentional bias and memory for accusation-relevant information, and strengthened resistance to self-incrimination. Thus, the more threat suspects experience, the more they will resist pressure to self-incriminate.


After experiencing a crime using virtual reality simulation, university students (N = 139) were interviewed where room size (small vs. large) and sitting distance (close vs. further) differed between subjects. Though neither variable influenced disclosure rates, participants rated interview experiences and rapport more positively in the larger room than the smaller room.


This article explored the influence of race on perceptions of wrongfully convicted individuals who have been exonerated. Participants were randomly assigned to read a fictional newspaper article about a Black or White individual who was wrongfully convicted due to a false confession and then report their perceptions of the exoneree’s guilt, warmth, competence and aggression, how deserving the exoneree was of government assistance, and the likelihood that once released, the exoneree would commit a crime resulting in his reimprisonment. Results show that a Black exoneree was perceived as more aggressive (but not less competent or warm), less deserving of assistance, and more likely to commit a crime post exoneration resulting in his reimprisonment than a White exoneree. We also explored whether there were differences in terms of race on
perceptions of mental illness for wrongfully convicted false confessors and found that participants perceived a White exoneree as more mentally ill than a Black exoneree.


This study sought to experimentally compare the efficacy of two types of rapport building interview techniques; a relationship-based approach and a procedure-based approach. Undergraduate students (n = 87) from a Taiwanese university participated in a modified version of Russano et al.’s (2005) cheating paradigm in which participants complete problem-solving tasks and may engage in cheating with a study confederate. Participants were then interviewed in a no-rapport condition, relationship-based condition, or procedure-based condition. The procedure-based approach elicited significantly more true confessions. There was no difference between the three methods in the number of details disclosed. Implications for practice are noted.


To explore the use of minimization in interrogations, 45 hours of adult interrogations taken from the Robbery-Homicide Division of the Los Angeles Police Department were analyzed. The authors operationalized three minimization techniques; appealing to suspect’s self-interest, appealing to the suspect’s conscience, and offering rationalizations. These techniques were assessed in relation to “suspect engagement” variables; crying, making excuses, or seeking information. Minimization constituted 16% of all techniques used. Appealing to conscience was associated with suspect crying, appealing to self-interest was related to information seeking, and offering rationalization was associated with all measured suspect engagement behaviors. No minimization technique was associated with suspect admission. Directions for future research are fully detailed.


This study examined the impact of stigma against false confessors in post-exoneration civil lawsuits. Mock jurors read a case summary in which an exoneree sought damages after being wrongly convicted due to a false confession or eyewitness misidentification. When the exoneree falsely confessed in the absence of police misconduct, mock jurors rated him as most responsible for his own conviction and expressed the most doubt over his actual innocence.


University students (N = 150) either lied or told the truth about a trip made in the past year in a free recall control condition or received instructions to either include both big and small details or pretend to be speaking to a ghostwriter. The ghostwriter condition elicited more details and increased differences in plausibility between truthful and deceptive statements compared to the other conditions.


Arabs living in Israel (N = 107) either lied or told the truth about an actual or fabricated experience; half were provided a model statement in the second phase of the interview. During the first phase of the interview, truth-tellers reported more core details than liars. Presentation of a model statement increased reporting of core and peripheral details for liars and truth-tellers alike.

This paper examined younger (18–30 years) and older adults’ (66–89 years) lie-detection and credibility judgments when viewing children's truthful and dishonest reports. Participants viewed eight child interview videos where children (9–11 years) either provided a truthful or a coached fabricated report to conceal a transgression. Participants provided lie-detection judgments following all eight videos and credibility assessments following the first two videos. Participants completed a General Lifespan Credibility questionnaire to assess credibility evaluations across various witness ages. Lie-detection results indicated that older adults had significantly lower discrimination scores, a stronger truth bias, and greater confidence compared to younger adults. Older adults also rated children as more competent to testify in court, credible, honest, believable, and likeable than younger adults. Participants with greater differences in their credibility evaluations for truth and lie-tellers were significantly more accurate at detecting lies.


After undergraduates (*N* = 120) experienced one of two apartments in an interactive virtual reality, some participants were instructed to conceal knowledge gained during the simulation while others were not. Next, participants completed a forced choice test (FCT) with either no time limit or a 2 second time pressure for each question. The FCT discriminated between knowledge conditions, and the time pressure decreased efficient implementation of participants’ counterstrategies.


This study explored the influence of audio in perceived level of force used by a law enforcement officer. A sample of 140 undergraduate students were presented 5 arrest videos in which audio was present or absent and were asked to categorize the amount of force used by the officer as justifiable force, moderate force, or excessive force. In 2 of the 5 videos, removal of the audio track resulted in lower perception of violence, while in 1 video removal of audio resulted in increased ratings of excessive force. Overall, the results indicate that the presence or absence of an audio track can impact the perceived justifiability of force. Implications for policy and law enforcement equipment are discussed.


Both guilt and truthfulness of participants (*N* = 126) were manipulated in a study examining the detection of externally introduced alibi inconsistencies. Fewer than one-third of participants detected alibi alterations, and guilt did not moderate detection rates. Ergo, alibi manipulations are equally harmful for both guilty and innocent suspects.


This study explored how two components of procedural justice, treatment and decision-making quality influence perceptions of police legitimacy. An undergraduate sample of 619 students viewed video case vignettes of a traffic stop. The video vignettes were manipulated on three factors: treatment quality (respectful, disrespectful), decision-making quality (high, low) and driver race (White, Black). Outcomes were measured on self-report of perceptions of fairness, willingness to cooperate, obligation to obey, and trust. Treatment quality was the strongest predictor of these outcomes. Specific response patterns to the interaction of low-quality decision making and Black drivers is described. Implications for procedural justice training and supervisor emphasis were detailed.

This study examined 46 police officers from seven departments that would be considered rural and 13 that would be classified as suburban in a non-urban geographical setting using a pre/post-CIT training design. Compared to pre-CIT training, results indicated reductions in stigmatic attitudes with seven large effect sizes (ranging from $\eta^2 = .24$ to .59) across two measures about mental illness attitudes.


Two experiments ($N = 48$, $N = 169$) found that people experienced more physiological arousal and vasoconstriction when observing high-stakes lies (real crimes) than lower stakes lies (mock crimes). A third experiment ($N = 71$) generalized these findings with novel stimuli (high-stakes economic game). Two more experiments ($N = 428$, $N = 354$) trained participants to attend to these physiological signals, which increased lie-detection accuracy compared to both control and bogus training groups.


Researchers examined whether stereotype threat to police support for violence. Hypothesizing that stereotype threat undermines officers’ self-legitimacy, or the confidence they have in their inherent authority, encouraging overreliance on coercive policing to maintain control, the researchers had officers ($N = 784$) complete a survey. The results of the study reveal that concerns about appearing racist are actually associated with increased support for coercive policing—potentially further eroding public trust.


Hispanic ($n = 45$), Russian ($n = 80$), and South Korean ($n = 80$) participants recalled or fabricated a story when interviewed by a native interviewer or a British interviewer through an interpreter. Additionally, participants received no instruction or were instructed to sketch while narrating either with or without examples of detailed sketches. Truth-tellers provided more details than liars; interviewees provided less information when an interpreter was present; sketching had no effect.


Contrary to prior research (e.g., Warmelink, Vrij, Mann, Jundi, & Granhag, 2012), asking unexpected questions did not increase lie detection accuracy when undergraduate participants were interviewed about their own intentions ($N = 85$) or intentions provided by the experimenter ($N = 84$).


The researchers tested whether perceived (un)certainty of an immediate outcome influences suspects’ short-sighted confession decisions, and hypothesized that suspects are more likely to make short-sighted confession decisions when an immediate punishment is certain versus uncertain. Student participants ($N = 164$) engaged in the repetitive question paradigm, admitting or denying illegal behavior in an interview. Their admissions or denials received either immediate punishment or future punishment. The authors found that participants showed greater short-sightedness in their admission decisions when they perceived the immediate punishment to be certain versus uncertain.

This study investigated the effect of generalized arguments in legal contexts using mock-scenarios. Generalized descriptions of eyewitnesses were compared to specific descriptions. Law and social sciences students evaluated the persuasiveness of both argument versions. Overall, the results were mixed and sometimes ran counter to normative expectations.

**LEGAL DECISION-MAKING/JURY RESEARCH**


Past Commonwealth cases suggested impulse disorders in patients with Parkinson’s Disease may lead to irresistible impulses affecting decision-making capacity, behavioral control, and responsibility. The authors examined whether the testimony offered in ICD-related offending cases reflect the views of the psychiatric and neurological communities. Results suggested prosecution teams should engage their own experts in future cases of ICD-related offending.


This systematic review examined the current state of neurolaw in Latin America. In total, 61 publications were identified, but none of the published work presented empirical research. The scant literature base and high concentration of publications emanating from three countries suggest that despite its growing impact abroad, more work is needed in this area in order to influence Latin America legislation and on the development of public policies.


Amazon MTurk workers (N = 183) read a claimant’s testimony about a sexual assault, occurring either 4 or 15 years previously, which either did or did not contain hedge words. A second experiment (nstudents = 158; nMTurk = 103) added a cross-examination. Without cross-examination, participants rated testimony as more credible when the assault occurred 15 years ago; with cross-examination, participants rated testimony as more credible when the assault occurred 4 years ago and the claimant did not use hedge words.


This paper investigated the effect of dialect and race on juror decision-making. In two studies, mock jurors read a summary of an ambiguous criminal case, which included audio of a defense witness or defendant. Speaker dialect [General American English (GAE)/African American Vernacular English (AAVE)] and race (White/Black) were crossed. Additionally, Study 2 included three levels of case (Ambiguous/Prosecution/Pro-Defense) to evaluate any effects of evidentiary context. In both studies, jurors who listened to the AAVE recording found the AAVE-speaking witness to be less professional and less educated than their GAE-speaking counterparts. Jurors in Study 2 who heard the defendant use GAE were more likely to find him guilty and found him less credible when the case favored the prosecution. Secondary analyses found that AAVE predicted more negative overall evaluations of the speaker, which were associated with an increase in guilty verdicts. These findings suggest that dialect plays an under-investigated role in the courtroom, and that bias against AAVE negatively impacts juror appraisals of its speakers and can potentially influence juror decision making.

This study examined the impact of sociodemographic, psychopathological, and criminological characteristics in forensic psychiatric decisions on criminal responsibility and social dangerousness. Defendants deemed not criminally responsible displayed more psychiatric symptoms, were more likely to be female, and more likely to have a schizophrenia spectrum disorder. Results suggest the possibility of time bias on forensic judgements, as well.


The purpose of this study was to identify the meaning of impartiality among expert psychiatrists. The authors found that past personal experience, personal beliefs and perceptions, and the expert being the treating doctor of the examinees were more likely to affect the impartiality of an expert. The most important factors that could enhance impartiality included training in forensic psychiatry and past professional experience. Results indicate that impartiality is considered as a coherent concept among normative and consequentialist ethics, and is a useful reference in medico-legal psychiatry.


Undergraduate students (N = 128) read a trial transcript which varied evidence complexity (simple, complex) and presentation modality (written, PowerPoint). Participant comprehension was not influenced by either the complexity or the modality of the presented evidence. However, PowerPoint presentation of evidence significantly increased guilty verdicts compared to written evidence.


Amazon MTurk workers (N = 1,225) read vignettes varying the guilt/innocence of the defendant, the potential trial sentence if convicted (5 years, 25 years) and plea discount (25%, 50%, 75%) before responding whether they would accept or reject plea offers. Main effects were found for all variables such that guilty pleas increased for guilty defendants, shorter trial sentences, and for higher plea discounts.


The authors examine how jurors perceive and respond to juveniles with mental health issues. In this study, 252 mock jurors were instructed to read one of six profiles, of various ethnic/racial backgrounds, and determine culpability, deserved punishment, behavior regulation, and dangerousness for juveniles diagnosed with a mental disorder. Juveniles with schizophrenia were linked to less blame, punishment, and capacity for behavior regulation. Antisocial traits were associated with more blame, punishment, capacity for behavior regulation, and dangerousness, and white individuals with these traits were seen as more deserving of punishment and more blameworthy than Latinos.


Amazon MTurk workers (N = 446) were randomly assigned to view one of eight versions of a trial in a 2 (Plaintiff Attorney Credibility: BATA 1-4, BATA 5-7) x 2 (Defense Attorney Credibility: BATA 1-4, BATA 5-
7) x 2 (Plaintiff Evidence Strength: strong, ambiguous) between-subjects design. Main effects were found for plaintiff attorney credibility and evidence strength as well as a significant three-way interaction. Additionally, participants’ need for cognition also interacted with plaintiff attorney credibility.


These researchers conducted a systematic, national survey of statutes, regulations, and court rules across the United States pertaining to nine aspects of the guilty plea process, including sentencing differentials, collateral consequences, and waiver of rights, which have been identified in existing legal and psycholegal research and commentary. Using a non-systematic sampling of appellate case law, there was notable diversity in whether and how jurisdictions approached these issues.

### RISK ASSESSMENT/COMMUNICATION


This study sought to fill the gap in research on risk assessment for criminal recidivism in Ghana. The prospects and challenges of risk assessment for criminal offending in Ghana were discussed, and the validity of the Historical-Clinical-Risk Management-20 version 3 (HCR-20V3) was assessed by interviewing prisoners, their legal guardian/parents, and prison officers. The results indicate the feasibility of administering risk assessment instruments in Ghana.


The purpose of this study was to assess the predictive ability of the Iowa Violence and Victimization Instrument (IVVI) among female parolees over a 30-month follow-up period. Researchers sought to investigate the effectiveness of risk assessment measures designed for female patients and/or inmates. Results showed the IVVI was comparable across genders and its predictive power was comparable to more established measures. The authors suggest the IVVI may have greater usefulness in predicting violent and felony property offenses as opposed to misdemeanor drug and property offenses.


This study investigated (1) the association between childhood trauma and patterns of offending and (2) the association of trauma stemming from regional conflict and patterns of reoffending. Logistic regression analysis was used to investigate reoffending within Life Licence offenders in Northern Ireland. Trauma associated with regional conflict was a significant predictor of violent reoffending among Life Licence offenders with violent prior convictions, as were emotional neglect, physical abuse, sexual abuse, physical neglect, and age at release.


This study examined the ability of two juvenile probation departments to implement RNR principles with fidelity following a comprehensive implementation protocol. Probation departments evidenced strong fidelity to the risk principle, such that higher risk youth were assigned more services with higher intensity. Fidelity to the need principle was moderate at best and varied by criminogenic need, overall risk level, and the operational definition of criminogenic need.
This study compared the patterns of risk, rearrest, timing of rearrest, and risk prediction of intimate partner violence (IPV) for heterosexual and same-sex couples. A sample of 6,711 perpetrators of IPV, including 332 perpetrators of same-sex IPV, was followed for 18 months. Results indicate that rearrest for IPV was almost as frequent for female perpetrators in same-sex relationships as male perpetrators in heterosexual pairs. Female perpetrators of same-sex IPV had higher rates and likelihood of reoffending than females perpetrators with male victims. The latter group carried the lowest risk to reoffend. Implications for improving interventions with both offenders and victims are described.

This qualitative case study examined the way that school officials used 11 threat assessment questions with a student of concern, who underwent a threat assessment and 3 months later killed a classmate and himself on school grounds. After examining deposition testimony and records, findings revealed what the threat assessment team knew and might have learned. Results demonstrated the importance of multiple information sources, a multidisciplinary team, and an investigative mindset.

This study aims to identify whether anger and its different facets, either independently or when conjoined with depressed mood, affect violent/nonviolent institutional infractions. Male adolescents were administered psychometric measures of anger and depression at baseline, 1 month, and 2 months. Results indicate that individuals having high anger scores were more likely to offend over the 2-month period, compared to those with lower levels of anger.

This study explored the existence of latent classes based on risk/need domains of the SAVRY. For male adolescents, five latent classes were identified: low risk/needs (36%); low-moderate risk/needs (26%); moderate risk/needs (11%); moderate-high risk/needs (19%); and high risk/needs (8%). For female adolescents, three subgroups were identified: low risk/needs (30%); moderate risk/needs (51%); and high risk/needs (19%). Recidivism rates differentiated the subgroups. The likelihood of transition within a 12-month timeframe was low.

This study investigated whether patients’ self-reported anger added incremental validity to violence prediction beyond routinely completed violence risk assessments using 76 inpatients in secure hospitals. A total of 45% of participants were violent; self-reported anger and clinician-risk ratings were significantly positively correlated. Self-reported anger predicted aggressive outcomes but not incrementally beyond relevant risk assessment subscale and item scores.

This study examined the reliability and validity of Short-Term Assessment of Risk and Treatability (START) and Level of Service Inventory–Revised (LSI-R) assessments overall and by client race. START strength total scores and LSI-R risk estimates were the strongest predictors of recidivism. Total scores and risk estimates did not differ as a function of client race.


This study challenged the assertions that criminogenic risk assessment taps into the causes of criminal behavior, and that targeting these factors can reduce correctional supervision rates and even prevent crime. Results indicated that being arrested or convicted resulted in subsequently higher levels of antisocial attitudes, behaviors, and peers. Risks for recidivism were not identical to the risks of exposure to the criminal justice system. Results caution against the uncritical expansion of criminogenic risk assessment.


This study tested a female-specific modification to an existing risk assessment instrument, the Dynamic Appraisal of Situational Aggression: Women’s Version (DASA:WV). Nursing staff on a high secure female forensic unit rated patients on the DASA:WV. While the evidence for the predictive validity of the DASA:WV for aggression in a female forensic population was strengthened, the hypothesis that the DASA:WV would significantly improve predictive validity for female patients was not supported.


This meta-analysis examined the effectiveness of the Historical Clinical Risk-20 violence management for predicting violence in adult female populations. The authors analyzed nine databases and reference lists and all papers were reviewed with quality assessment and pre-defined inclusion criteria. The authors concluded that the HCR-20 can be a useful tool for understanding and assessing violence risk in females. Researchers suggested that future research should focus on the HCR-20 version three as the updated tool.


Inpatient violence is acknowledged as a predictor of recidivism after release from forensic institutions. This study investigates the effects of change in Dynamic Risk Indicators (DRI) on the prediction of short-term inpatient violence using the Instrument for Forensic Treatment Evaluation (IFTE). A sample of 96 patients were followed from when they entered a high security forensic hospital until their fifth measurement. Repeated measures were used to examine changes in DRI between those who committed inpatient violence and those who did not.


This study examined the factor structure of the Washington Assessment of Risks and Needs of Students using 937 court-petitioned high school students. Results revealed an invariant bifactor structure across the groups. Further analysis of reliability supported the use of the general factor to guide decision making for youth at risk for truancy and school failure. Scores deriving from the six specific factors provided insight on specific areas of risk and need.
Two studies evaluate the characteristics of the Adolescent Risk Reduction and Resilient Outcomes Work-Plan (ARROW), which was developed to accompany the Structured Assessment of Violence Risk in Youth (SAVRY) to assist in case planning. The first study assessed the ARROW in a case vignette study with 178 participants engaged in adolescent offender case planning. The second study explored the utility of the ARROW in an applied field study of 320 adolescent cases. Results indicate that the inclusion of ARROW improved case plans beyond assessments using SAVRY alone and resulted in increased recommendations for best practice strategies and greater range of strategies. Recommendations are made for further development of intervention planning tools and the sustainability of these tools.

This systematic review tested the beliefs that (1) risk assessment instruments might reduce overincarceration and recidivism rates, and (2) these tools may exacerbate racial and ethnic disparities in placements. These tools were associated with small overall decreases in restrictive placements, particularly for individuals who were low risk, and small reductions in any recidivism. However, after removing studies with a high risk of bias, the results were no longer significant.

This study explores a sample of nine Australian criminal cases that involved individuals with autism spectrum disorder (ASD) charged with online sexual offending. The authors propose the presence of ASD among offenders had little effect on criminal liability or use of alternative penal dispositions. Results indicate the Australian justice system requires greater sensitivity to the impact of ASD clinical factors in developing alternative supervisory and non-custodial dispositions for those convicted of online sexual offenses.

The authors explored personality profiles differentiating clergy members who sexually abuse children from other clergy. The Minnesota Multiphasic Personality Inventory (MMPI-2) and the Millon Clinical Multiaxial Inventory-III (MCMI-III) were used to assess the personality profiles of 697 clergy members. The sample was separated into Sexual Abuse, Sexual Misconduct, Clinical, and Control groups. There were no scales on either measure that distinguished the Sexual Abuse from the Sexual Misconduct group. Compared to all other clergy groups, the Sexual Abuse sample showed significantly elevated scores on the Aggressive/Sadistic subscale of the MCMI-III. Directions for future research are discussed.

This article details three experimental, between-subject studies, in which social and legal punitiveness toward child sex offenders in the context of good fortunes are assessed. The first study compared perceptions of a child sex offender, compared to other stigmatized individuals, receiving monetary good fortune. Type of felony offense did not impact punitiveness. The second study explored how substantiated or unsubstantiated claims of child sex offenses impact participants’ punitiveness. Those with convictions were responded to more punitively. The third study
investigated how differences in acts of sexual deviance and probatory innocence impacted punitiveness. More support was found for legal restrictions imposed on a child molester lottery winner than those convicted of other sexually deviant acts. Directions for further investigations into immanent justice reasoning theory are described.


Past research suggests Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (FASD) may place individuals at a higher risk for engaging in inappropriate sexual behavior. The authors administered surveys to professionals that provide treatment services to sexual offenders. The results indicated that professionals had a great understanding of FASD, but lacked the opportunity to receive advanced training in FASD in regards to inappropriate sexual behavior. Educational and training programs to better prepare professionals to assist clients with FASD for inappropriate sexual behavior are suggested by the authors.


A national data set of sexual assault incidents (N = 1,447) were analyzed using mobility crime triangles. Analysis focused on distances between victim and scene of the crime and identification and predictability of geographic patterns for extrafamilial sexual assaults. Results supported the distance decay hypothesis for distances between offender and scene of crime, victim and scene of crime, and offender and victim residences. There was no evidence for a buffer zone surrounding the offender’s residence, possibly due to acquaintanceship. Implications for criminal investigations are noted.


This study examined reoffense rates of a sample of individuals with offenses relating to indecent images of children (IIOC) online-only and mixed IIOC-contact offenders. Reoffending rates were 24.8% for any reconviction and 12.6% for sexual reconvictions after 13-year follow-up. The mixed group was two times more likely to receive any reconviction and three times more likely to receive a sexual reconviction. Only 2.7% of the IIOC-only group was convicted of a subsequent contact offense.


This study sought to explore a proposed taxonomy of priest sexual grooming behavior. The sample consisted of eighteen monks from a Catholic diocese in Minnesota who were credibly accused of sexual abuse. Files containing 9,636 pages of documentation were coded for eight behaviors of clergy sexual grooming according to the taxonomy previously proposed by Spraitz, Bowen, and Strange. The most common grooming behavior was abuse of respect and reverence to deter reporting and escape community detection, while the second most common was the development of a guise of mentorship and friendship. Results suggest that this taxonomy of clergy grooming behaviors are applicable across clergy samples. Directions for future research and implications for identification and prevention of clergy sexual abuse are detailed.


The authors empirically tested an etiological framework theory of sexual offending behaviors which suggests child abuse experiences (CAE) are the result of attachment problems. A structural equation mediated-moderated model was employed on a sample of 505 justice involved youth convicted of sexual and non-sexual offenses. Aspects of maternal caregiving styles, childhood abuse, and attachment characteristics were assessed. Data found direct relationships between maternal harsh/indifferent caring styles and insecure attachments and CAE’s. Childhood abuse was not associated with insecure attachments. A moderation effect was found where those
with harsh/indifferent material caregiving who had committed sexual crimes reported higher CAEs than their peers who committed non-sexual crimes. Implications for public health prevention and intervention are noted.

VICTIMIZATION


First-year female student survivors of child sexual abuse at a university in Spain were sampled to explore correlations between trait anxiety, familial conflict, and negative emotions provoked by child sexual abuse. After controlling for the effects of other types of child maltreatment and continuity of abuse, a strong positive correlation existed between trait anxiety, familial conflict, emotional insecurity, and negative emotions from childhood sexual abuse. The results highlight a positive correlation between continuity of abuse and negative emotions provoked by child sexual abuse but do not support the existence of a relationship between continuity of abuse and emotional insecurity. Such suggests that repeated instances of child sexual abuse decrease coping with familial insecurity as much as a single instance of child sexual abuse.


This study used longitudinal data to investigate the relationship between child sexual abuse and diagnosis of infectious disease, particularly in the twelve years after child sexual abuse. Researchers sought to identify types of infections that were more prevalent in child sexual abuse victims that the general population. Results highlighted that victims of child sexual abuse had 1.27 times more infectious diseases than the non-victimized general population. Such extends to respiratory and ear infections, genitourinary infections, and other types of infections but excludes skin infections. The findings suggest that victims of child sexual abuse have more diagnoses of infectious diseases.


This study investigates individual-level contributants to commercial sexual exploitation and sex trafficking and compares the trajectories of sex trafficked minors with underage victims of other forms of commercial sexual exploitation. The sampled sex trafficking victims were primarily Black and Latinx females who experienced housing instability (98%) and maltreatment (93%) as minors. The sampled commercial sexual exploitation victims were 48% female and 44% male, 50% African American, and experienced residential housing instability (89%) and maltreatment (83%) as minors. Sexual abuse was the most highly correlated form of child maltreatment for sex trafficking victims (60%) and commercial sexual exploitation victims (54%).


This study used youth from the Longitudinal Studies of Child Abuse and Neglect to investigate risk factors that are correlated with juvenile arrest. Conduct disorder symptoms were among the strongest predictors of juvenile arrest. Males who witnessed familial violence and exhibited three or more conduct disorder symptoms had the greatest risk for arrest. Other significant factors protective and risk factors included school suspension, perceived school importance, and having an incarcerated relative. Race was not demonstrated to have a significant effect on risk.


Disabled individuals experience twice the rate of violence that others do. This study examined the relationships among ableism, violence, and disability as an intersectional identity using three reports. Findings indicated that
to combat ableism and the violence it causes, oppressive systems must be named, the voices of disabled individuals must be included, and data on disability must be more systematically gathered in national efforts related to violence and violence prevention.


This study proposes that exposure to multiple types of peer victimization, on- and offline, may have significant negative consequences for teen dating violence (TDV) perpetration. The link between polyvictimization and three forms of TDV was assessed among 5,647 adolescents. Results showed that an increase in all types of TDV were associated with polyvictimization, particularly when polyvictimization was especially high. The author suggests that prevention and intervention strategies for TDV may prove most beneficial for adolescents at greatest risk for peer victimization across on- and offline domains.


National Surveys of Children's Exposure to Violence survey data was used to assess the relationship between socioeconomic indicators and child neglect. The majority of referrals involving multiple perpetrators, multiple children, substantiated sexual abuse, and/or multiple forms of substantiated maltreatment became formal cases. Low socioeconomic status was not associated with an increased risk for abuse and parental unemployment was the only socioeconomic factor that was significantly associated with all maltreatment forms. The educational level attained by the parent was evidenced to be a strong predictor of physical and supervisory neglect. Youth who reported poly victimization exhibited the highest trauma symptomology.


This study analyzed statewide child welfare data to identify correlates among substantiated referrals for child maltreatment to increase understanding about childhood exposure to domestic violence and assess the response of child welfare workers to similar cases. Formal cases were brought forth most often when a child was experiencing domestic violence and included physical or substance abuse and least often when the child was experiencing domestic violence and the included neglect.

### WITNESS ISSUES


A robust finding from the eyewitness literature is that children are as accurate as adults on target-present lineups from the age of five years, whereas they continue to make an erroneous false positive identification from a target-absent lineup up until around fourteen years of age. This article explores whether the same pattern occurs when voices are used instead of faces. A total of 334 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) listened to a 30 second audio clip of an unfamiliar voice and were then presented with either a six person target-present or target-absent voice lineup. Results show participants were more accurate with target-present than target-absent lineups. Moreover, performance on target-present lineups showed adult-like levels of attainment by 8–9 years of age. In contrast, performance on target-absent lineups was extremely poor, with all age groups tending to make a false identification. Confidence was higher when participants made correct rather than incorrect decisions for both types of lineup and this did not change with increasing age. These findings suggest both child and adult earwitness evidence needs to be treated with considerable caution.

After viewing a mock crime video, participants made identifications from a sex-person simultaneous lineup. In Experiment 1, SurvMeMonkey respondents (N = 2,678) exhibited a top row preference for false, but not true, suspect identifications. In Experiment 2, MTurk workers (N = 1,247) received instructions to evaluate all six photographs and rank-order them from best to least matching their memory, which eliminated the top row response bias. In Experiment 3, SurveyMonkey respondents (N = 2,428) replicated these results in a direct comparison.


Undergraduates (N = 219) served as blind and non-blind lineup administrators for a confederate-witness who made an ambiguous response. When ambiguous statements matched administrators’ beliefs, administrators were significantly more likely to record the statement as an identification; significantly less likely to make statements leading the witness away from the suspect; and evaluated the witness’s viewing conditions of the suspect’s face significantly more positively.


The authors explain that signal detection theory (SDT) to investigate eyewitness performance fits well for the measurement of eyewitness performance in show-ups, but not in lineups, because the application of the measures to eyewitness identifications neglects the role of fillers. In the present study, the authors present an SDT-based method to determine lineup eyewitness performance using the Multi-d' Model, which provides multiple discriminability measures. The authors apply the model to the comparison of eyewitness discriminability between lineups and show-ups, filler selection methods, eyewitness confidence, and lineup presentation modes, finding that discriminability of a guilty suspect from an innocent suspect is a function of discriminability involving fillers.


To date, no evidence-based recommendations are available for eyewitness identifications of a masked perpetrator. The experiments examined lineup identification performance depending on variations in both encoding (studying a full face vs. a partial/masked face) and retrieval conditions (identifying a target from a full-face lineup vs. a partial/masked-face lineup) in four experiments. Across all experiments, when participants had encoded a masked face, the masked-face lineup increased identification accuracy relative to the full-face lineup. The authors posit that matching lineups to original witness encoding can enhance identification accuracy.


Adult participants (N = 147) were randomly assigned to a 4 (Object: gun, knife, flamingo, binder) x 2 (Duration: short, long) x 2 (Target presence: present, absent) x 2 (Target: holding object, not holding object) mixed design where Target presence and Target were manipulated within subjects. Memory was affected more by a weapon than an unusual, non-threatening object. Threat reduced correct identifications when the event was short versus long. A WFE was found in target-absent lineup decisions for the accomplice lineup only.

University students (*N* = 93) committed a mock crime then were assigned to falsely deny, simulate amnesia, or tell the truth on a subsequent memory test. The next day, participants completed a second memory test. Memory impairment about the first session occurred only for the simulated amnesia group, who also had lower recollection and belief ratings in the occurrence of true details for the mock event.


Participants (*N* = 800) completed the EMS during the development and validation of the scale. Three distinct factors emerged: memory contentment, memory discontentment, and memory strategies. Good psychometric properties suggest this brief, easily administrable questionnaire can be used in face recognition and eyewitness contexts.


The study tested whether the Cognitive Interview (CI) improves witness descriptions specifically of a perpetrator’s appearance and whether CI-elicited perpetrator descriptions help investigators to find the perpetrator. First, 67 students witnessed a robbery and were interviewed; the researchers found that those interviewed with the CI elicited more descriptors at similar accuracy compared a standard interview. Moreover, students (*n* = 387) and police (*n* = 71) were more likely to find the perpetrator using the CI-elicited descriptors.


The researchers compared U.S. to U.K. lineup procedures to determine what aspect of U.S. procedures has previously led researchers to find that U.S. procedures led to greater discriminability and reliability. In five experiments, the researchers compared presentation format, stimulus format, number of views, and lineup size. They found that simultaneous presentation yielded better discriminability than sequential presentation. Moreover, they found that identifications made with high confidence were higher in reliability than identifications made with low confidence.


The researchers examined how a weak eyewitness recognition experience impacts identification decisions. Using undergraduate participants in two experiments (*n* = 245 & *n* = 227) participants received impaired encoding or retrieval conditions. Degrading these memory conditions resulted in a reduction in culprit identifications and an increase in innocent person identifications. These results suggest that when a lineup procedure gives a witness a weak match-to-memory experience, the witness will lower her criterion for making an affirmative identification decision.

OTHER


The authors sought to explore the neurocognitive differences between young offenders with Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (FASD) and those without. It was hypothesized that those with FASD would show greater impairment on complex neurocognitive skill sets and both groups would display similar levels of functioning on
measures of simple neurocognitive functioning. Results suggested young offenders with FASD displayed more significantly impaired neurocognitive functioning than those without FASD across multiple tasks. Implications for programming, screening, and sentencing are discussed.

This study compared three executive function (EF) components in 42 forensic psychiatric patients and 77 correctional offenders to one another and to a normative sample. Forensic psychiatric patients displayed poorer performance on EF compared to correctional offenders. Forensic psychiatric patients performed most poorly on measures of shifting. Several forensic psychiatric patients and correctional offenders displayed clinically significant deficits in all EF components compared to the normative population.

The authors employ structural equation modeling to assess the role of childhood trauma as a predictor of recidivism in a sample of 230 incarcerated women in the United States. Mental health symptoms, substance use disorders, history of interpersonal violence were measured as potential mediating factors. Childhood physical abuse, childhood sexual abuse, and childhood emotional abuse interacted with contemporary depression diagnoses to increase the risk of recidivism. Direct pathways between childhood trauma and recidivism were not identified.
Recommendations are made for gender-responsive and trauma-informed interventions with incarcerated populations.