COMMUNITY, CORRECTIONAL, & FORENSIC TREATMENT


This study examined the prevalence of individuals with mental illness charged with assaulting officers because of their behavior during a psychiatric crisis. Results suggest mentally ill individuals’ psychiatric symptoms likely influenced their behavior at the time of the offense. Authors describe different categories of relevant charges, charge classifications, final dispositions, and sentences. Further, researchers discuss the role and limitations of forensic mental health assessment in these cases and call for similar data collection across jurisdictions.


This study examined whether race/ethnicity and gender predicted sentencing to anger management therapy as a probation condition. Data was administrative and originated from an adult probation department in southern Texas. Results showed the odds of receiving anger management were 1.71 times higher for African Americans than Caucasians, and 1.68 times higher for men than women. Exploratory analyses revealed the odds of receiving anger management was significantly lower for Caucasian women than all other racial/ethnic by gender groups.


This study examines the association between community-based (C-B) substance use before and incarceration and prison-based (P-B) substance use during incarceration and between mental health symptoms and substance use during incarceration. A self-report questionnaire was administered to 943 male residents from three prisons in Spain, to explore the phenomenon. C-B and P-B substance use rates were high among respondents and P-B substance use was positively associated with depression, anxiety, and stress symptoms during incarceration. Use rates for C-B and P-B were, respectively, 72.6 and 75.3% for tobacco, 73.1 and 21.5% for alcohol, and 63.8 and 29.2% for drug use.


This article presents a pilot study assessing the feasibility of a brief motivational interviewing-based intervention. The intervention was used with a sample of incarcerated women (n = 91), with a history of drug-related offenses and sex-trading, preparing for release. The intervention consisted of two-visits and involved motivational interviewing (MI) based feedback on screening measures and release concerns. A change plan worksheet was collaboratively completed. A reflection on the feasibility of this intervention and intentions for the implementation of a randomized clinical trial follows.

Semi-structured interviews were used to explore the lived experiences and care trajectories of 23 Persons labeled Not Criminally Responsible (PNCR) in forensic mental health settings. In Belgium, PNCR’s care trajectories involve unequal power dynamics, an inability to contribute to care decisions, and a lack of transitional support. Negative experiences are heightened by indeterminate care duration and barriers to accessing forensic mental health services.


This study examined the impact of perceived usefulness of hospitalization and perceived status of admission on perceived coercion. Recruitment of 152 inpatients occurred during their treatment at Lausanne University Hospital's Psychiatry Department. Participants completed the MacArthur's Admission Experience Survey, the Coercion Experience Scale, and were interviewed about their knowledge of their legal status of admission, perceived need for hospitalization, and subjective improvement. Incorrect admission status and needing hospitalization were reported by 6.6% and 30.4% of voluntarily admitted patients and 30.4% and 44.7% of involuntarily admitted patients, respectively. Levels of perceived coercion at admission and during hospitalization were primarily predicted by perceived legal status.


This study meta-synthesized qualitative evidence about stakeholders’ perspectives of involuntary treatment orders (ITOs) in the context of mental health care. Forty-four studies met inclusion criteria and were included in the analysis. Themes resulting from the analysis are: an ITO as leverage to manage compliance and risk; legal concerns; learning to play the game; building a therapeutic relationship in a coercive context; positive and negative impacts of ITOs; family involvement; and discharge.


This research measured the prevalence of arrestees in New York treated for a major mental illness the year before their arrest and whether these individuals had a disproportionate rate of incarceration. Approximately 600,000 records were reviewed. Between 4%-6% of the arrestees were diagnosed with a major mental illness, associated with more than a 50% increase in a misdemeanor sentence. Conversely, it was unrelated to the likelihood of a felony arrest.

Age and motivation can be specific responsivity features that moderate the relationship between risk and rehabilitation outcome. *Law and Human Behavior*, 43, 558–567. https://doi.org/10.1037/lhb0000348

The current study investigated if age and motivation may explain why high-quality correctional programs do not uniformly impact all high-risk, high-needs clients. Researchers hypothesized a relationship between higher static risk and poorer program outcomes and then explored if this relationship was attenuated by age and motivation. Results indicate age and motivation can be specific responsivity features that may deserve attention in rehabilitation practice. However, observed effects may have been weakened by underdeveloped, single-indicator measurement strategies.

The current study analyzed data from a sample of 1,071 adults who participated in the Adult Civil Citation program to assess the impact of behavioral health indicators on time-to-rearrest. Participants who presented greater behavioral health needs were more likely to come into subsequent contact with police, but these indications did not influence the amount of time that lapsed between program participation and rearrest events. Researchers promote further empirical assessment and evaluation of these programs.


The current study examines the psychosocial impact of an animal-assisted intervention (AAI) for seventeen men incarcerated in Texas. Participants completed weekly depression, anxiety, PTSD, self-esteem, loneliness, and resilience measures at Time 1 and Time 2, five weeks later. PCL-C (t (df = 16), 3.030, p = .008) and CESD (t (df = 16), 1.738, p = .101) were significantly reduced after program completion. A dependent samples t-test among individuals with clinically significant scores highlighted even stronger effects on PCL-C scores (t (df = 8), 4.498, p = .002) and GAD-7 scores (t (df = 8), 2.622, p = .031). Program completion was correlated with significantly lower symptoms of PTSD, depression, and anxiety.


This study examined the perceptions of prison-equine program (PEP) staff, graduates, and community members attending a public PEP event. Findings indicated that community members reported significantly less stigma toward PEP participants than general incarcerated persons. Focus groups PEP staff highlighted personal transformation through witnessing PEP participant rehabilitation. Interviews with PEP graduates highlighted relationships with staff and peers and the barn environment as helpful factors in maintaining positive change during reentry. Thematic analysis identified four themes -- Experiencing change, Witnessing change, Mechanisms of change, and Future of the program.


This research explored the impact of mindfulness meditation on self-esteem and self-compassion among 56 local jail inmates. Participants were assigned to weekly one-hour sessions of mindfulness meditation or waitlisted as part of the control group. Meditation group participants were further classified and divided into groups of less experienced or more experienced. More experienced meditators had higher self-esteem, self-compassion, and felt less isolation than the other two groups. The less experienced meditation group experienced lower self-esteem and self-compassion compared to the control group.


The authors explored youth characteristics and behaviors associated with juvenile probation noncompliance and revocation, with a particular focus on the failure to appear at review hearings. Records from 200 youth (77% male) involved in community-based pre- and/or postadjudication supervision were coded and analyzed. The authors found a noncompliance rate of 92%, with a number of factors found to be significantly related to probation revocation. Absent without leave (AWOL) status was significantly associated with failure to appear at a review hearing and subsequent probation revocation. Recommendations for future research on AWOL status related characteristics and legal decision maker perspectives are made.
This study examined the primary barriers that prevent offender parents from accessing parenting services in the community, pathways to parenting support for parents, and the primary parenting challenges that parents experience. Correctional Services Probation and Parole staff, community agencies, and parents serving community-based corrections orders in Australia conducted 14 focus groups to explore the phenomenon. Five themes emerged from thematic analysis -- insufficient available parenting programs, concerns and fear of child protection, intergenerational parenting problems, multiple presenting issues, and the fear of being judged. Parental perception of child protection interventions was identified as a primary moderator.

This study explored potential reasons for increases in involuntary admissions to mental health facilities and Place of Safety detentions in England over the last 10 years and to ascertain the associated costs. Publicly available data was extracted between 1999-00 and 2015-16. Since 2008-09, involuntary admissions increased 38% and Place of Safety detentions increased 617%, coinciding with the implementation of austerity measures and the economic recession, respectively, costing the English NHS £6.8 billion and £120 million, respectively. Findings suggest that national initiatives may influence the reduction of involuntary admissions, the advancement of mental health equality, and substantial cost savings.

This study examined symptoms and predictors of PTSD in 150 male violent offenders using the Impact of Events Scale (IES). Subjectively disturbing events were associated with higher IES scores than the acts of violence. More recent events were associated with a greater number of trauma symptoms, and peritraumatic dissociation was positively associated with trauma symptoms. Trauma symptoms were more likely to develop if the victim was a family member or a friend.

This study interviewed 18 patients in secure hospitals in England to examine what they find restrictive in forensic care settings. The results suggested a model of restrictiveness consisting of five themes: the antecedent conditions to restrictive phenomena; restrictive phenomena themselves; how these are enacted; how these phenomena were subjectively experienced by patients; and the consequences of these phenomena as expressed by patients.

This study examined 77 police custody staff's attitudes toward schizophrenia in comparison to that of 85 members of the general population. The results found that police custody staff helped those with mental illness more so than the general population. Overall, the general population held more negative attitudes toward individuals experiencing mental illnesses than police custody staff and specifically endorsed the attributions anger, avoidance, dangerousness, and fear. Respondents who knew a family member or friend who experience mental illness produced higher scores on the help and pity attributions.

The authors identified latent profiles of trait emotion regulation (ER) skills in a sample of 578 incarcerated males. These profiles were then compared on clinician rated and self-report psychopathic traits. Structural equation modeling (SEM) was used to integrate these dimensions while taking into account psychopathological distress, verbal cognitive ability, and age. Affective features of psychopathy were associated with ER impairment, whereas interpersonal features of psychopathy had a positive relationship with ER. Results of the SEM showed the interpersonal, lifestyle, and interpersonal facets of psychopathy predicted ER. Implications for treatment are discussed.


This study compared executive functioning among three groups of adolescent: juvenile sex offenders (JSOs), general delinquents, and underprivileged nondelinquents. A battery of behavioral and psychological tests that focus on impulsivity were administered to 134 male adolescents. There were no significant between group differences in higher order executive functions, but JSOs with child victims were found to be the most impulsive subgroup and had the highest number of prescriptions for ADHD medication.


A theoretical argument regarding the possible mechanisms by which adverse childhood experiences (ACEs) negatively impact subsequent self-control is presented. This theory is then explored in two large youth samples; one in the community (n = 1,145) and one in residential confinement (n = 8,296). Results suggest that overall number of ACEs was inversely associated with self-control. In both samples, maltreatment ACEs were found to be more strongly associated with deficits in self-control than household dysfunction ACEs. Implications for policies targeting prevention are detailed.


This study examined the prevalence of sextortion behaviors among 5,568 U.S. middle and high school students. Roughly 5% of students endorsed being a victim of sextortion, and 3% admitted to threatening others. Males and non-heterosexual youth were more likely to be targeted for sextortion, males were more likely to target others, and youth who threatened others were more likely to have been a victim of sextortion.


This study examined the Childhood and Adolescent Taxon Scale – Self-report (CATS-SR) proxy measure of the persistent antisocial behavior dimension of psychopathy in a European context with female youth. The CATS-SR did not significantly differ for male and female youth seen in forensic settings, but was higher in male than female youth recruited from schools, and higher in youth seen in forensic than in school settings.


This study examined the impact of adverse childhood experiences and sexual boundary issues in the home on the development of delinquent and sexually abusive behavior. Analyses of archival records of 285 male adolescents who received treatment for sexually abusive behavior showed that household dysfunction was
related to earlier onset ($\beta = 1.19, p = 0.013$), more persistent nonsexual delinquent offending ($\beta = 1.05, p = 0.048$), and contact sexual offending ($\beta = 1.19, p = 0.010$). Sexual abuse and exposure to sexual boundary issues were associated with an earlier onset of sexually abusive behavior ($\beta = -1.08, p = 0.038$).

Rafiey, H., Alipour, F., Lebeau, R., & Salimi, Y. (2020). Development and validation of the antisocial traits scale in the general population. *Criminal Justice and Behavior, 47*(3), 369–380. This article details the development and validation of the Antisocial Traits Scale (ASTS-20), a new self-report measure for community and criminal populations, designed in the Persian-language. Potential items were derived from *Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders (DSM-5)* personality criteria and exploratory factor analysis was conducted in a community sample ($n = 2,051$). A subsequent confirmatory factor analysis was conducted from a separate community sample ($n = 2,049$). The final questionnaire includes 20 items which make up six factors: Maleficence, Distractibility, Law-Breaking, Risk-Taking, Lack of Planning, and Impulsive Decision-Making. Further validation research is recommended.

Sutherland, J. E., Cojocariu, A. M., Day, D. M., & Hehman, E. (2020). Youths’ facial appearance distinguishes leaders from followers in group-perpetrated criminal offenses and is associated with sentencing outcomes. *Criminal Justice and Behavior, 47*(2), 187–207. Three studies are presented which aim to differentiate how physical appearance may impact group-perpetrated crimes and how group members are subsequently treated within the criminal justice system. Using facial stimuli taken from real crime cases, the first study demonstrated that participants ($n = 1,014$) did not perceive leaders significantly different than followers on Dominance or Trustworthiness dimensions. Study 2 found that participants ($n = 254$) relied on indicators of Dominance and Trustworthiness in identifying leaders in a line-up. Study 3 suggested that the perceived Dominance of a defendant was unrelated to sentencing outcomes, but level of perceived Trustworthiness was associated with reduced sentencing. Future research on facial cues as an extralegal variable is recommended.

Thompson, C. M., Stewart, A. L., & Dennison, S. M. (2020). Using dynamic contextual factors to better understand the etiology and escalation of stalking violence. *Criminal Justice and Behavior, 47*(1), 99–122. Context analysis of 43 transcriptions of stalking cases was used to explore the historical and dynamic contextual factors derived from the theoretical model of stalking violence. All risk factors analyzed demonstrated utility, however, individual risk factors alone were less effective than combinations of risk factors. Stalkers with revenge motives or those who threatened harm were more likely to become violent. The role of triggering events in eliciting violence is discussed in depth. Implications for stalking risk assessment and the education of targets are noted.

Thomson, N., Galusha, C., Wheeler, E., & Ingram, L. (2019). Psychopathy and intelligence: A study on male not guilty by reason of insanity (NGRI) acquittees. *Journal of Psychopathology and Behavioral Assessment, 42*, 52-57. doi: 10.1007/s10862-019-09751-0 This present study tested the relation between the 2-factor and 4-facet models of the Psychopathy Checklist-Revised (PCL-R) and intelligence using the Wechsler Adult Intelligence Scale (WAIS) in a sample of male NGRI acquittees ($n = 101$). Results demonstrated the 2-factor construct of the PCL-R may be less sensitive at understanding correlates of psychopathic traits. These results, in part, lend support to early theorists that prototypical psychopaths display higher levels of intelligence.

Walters, G. D. (2019). Predicting early adolescent offending with criminal victimization and delinquent peer associations by way of negative attitudes toward the police. *Law and Human Behavior, 43*, 517–526. https://doi.org/10.1037/lhb0000341 This study investigated the effect of victimization experiences and peer influence on delinquency via one’s attitude toward the police. Participants were 2,623 early adolescents from the Gang Resistance Education and Training (GREAT) study, a 6-wave longitudinal survey conducted between 1995 and 1999. Results indicate violent victimization and peer delinquency contribute to participant delinquency, in part, by encouraging the
formation of negative attitudes toward the police. Implications for violent victimization, peer delinquency, and negative attitudes toward police are discussed.

Zara, G., & Farrington, D. P. (2020). *Childhood risk factors for self-reported versus official life-course-persistent, adolescence-limited, and late-onset offending.* *Criminal Justice and Behavior, 47*(3), 352–368. This study investigated the relationship between childhood risk factors and three subsequent offending patterns; life-course persistent (LCP), adolescence-limited (AL), and late-onset (LO). These categories, based on official records, were then compared to self-reported (SR) offending types. Prospective longitudinal data (n = 411) from the Cambridge Study in Delinquent Development (CSDD) was used for analysis. Official record typologies and SR types were predicted by similar childhood risk factors, including convicted parent, problematic siblings, and poor housing. Both official records and self-reports identified persistent offenders. LO offenders more closely resembled non-offenders earlier in life. Implications for the direction and specification of early intervention efforts are noted.

**FORENSIC ASSESSMENT**


The study sought to identify the prevalence of psychopathy among 66 not guilty by reason of insanity (NGRI) female offenders who were deemed socially dangerous to identify phenotypic gender-specific psychopathy features. Participants provided clinical historical information and completed SCID I and II interviews and other tests (MMPI-2, MCMI-III, R-Bans). Those who consented to participate also completed the PCL-R version validated for the Italian population. Findings concluded that high F1 and F2 PCL-R psychopathy scores were positively correlated with borderline personality disorder and that elevated psychopathy was inversely associated with psychotic disorders.


The factor structure, measurement invariance, validity, reliability, and stability of scores on the Brief Situational Confidence Questionnaire (BSCQ) were evaluated for use with incarcerated youth. Results indicated that a correlated 2-factor model best fit the data. BSCQ scores demonstrated configural and metric invariance across our 2 samples, as well as sufficient test–retest stability in Samples 1 and 2 and internal consistency. BSCQ scores were significantly associated with concurrent alcohol use and significantly predicted future alcohol use.


Researchers investigated Miranda abilities of individuals with intellectual disability and evaluated the utility of intelligence in predicting these abilities. Participants, 62 individuals diagnosed with intellectual disability, exhibited limited existing knowledge of Miranda rights and showed minimal improvement following exposure to a Miranda warning. Findings suggest verbal intelligence was an important contributor to understanding Miranda. This study may serve as a reference for evaluators, legal professionals, and law enforcement officers when working with justice-involved persons with suspected intellectual disability.


This study tested the six factor structure of the State-Trait Anger Expression Inventory-2 (STAXI-2) in a sample of 128 adult male forensic inpatients in the UK. Confirmatory factor analyses suggested a poor fit with the six
factors reported in the STAXI-2 validation study. Reliability indices of the STAXI-2 scales indicated “acceptable” internal consistency, specifically for State and Trait Anger and Anger Expression-In scales.


This study examined associations between substance use disclosure during the clinical interview and on the MMPI-2-RF Substance Abuse Scale (SUB) among 154 forensic inpatients. Results indicated that patients who endorsed alcohol or marijuana use during the clinical interview often concurrently denied substance use on the MMPI-2-RF SUB scale (the opposite was found for prescription drug abuse). The MMPI-2-RF SUB scale and other MMPI-2-RF externalizing scales were meaningfully associated with concurrent substance use variables from record review.


This study investigated the convergent and discriminant validity of the PAS by examining relationships between temporal changes on the PAS and changes on external criterion measures using a public dataset funded by the U.S. Department of Justice. The PAS demonstrated appreciable stability across all testing intervals and the full study period. Temporal changes on the PAS correlated as expected with changes on both conceptually similar and distinct external criterion measures.


This study examined rates of malingering assessment referrals for patients who were assaultive in a forensic psychiatric inpatient hospital and differences in assaultive behavior between individuals who had non-valid test performance (NVTP) on Performance Validity Tests (PVTs) and those who demonstrated valid test performance (VTP). Patients who were referred for malingering testing had significantly higher rates of inpatient aggression than the general hospital population. There was no statistically significant difference in the severity of aggression between groups. The VTP group had slightly higher severity ratings (M = 1.54, SD = 3.42) and inpatient aggression (35/87 = 40%) than the NVTP group (M = 0.90, SD = 1.44) (18/49 = 37%) but this was statistically insignificant.


This study reviewed 3,644 court-ordered CST evaluation reports submitted by 126 evaluators in Virginia since Virginia initiated an oversight system allowing for comprehensive review. Researchers found the base rate of incompetence opinions varied across evaluation type and evaluators. Results suggest strong compliance with state statutes guiding CST evaluations, but also reveal variability in forensic conclusions and identify areas in which some reports fell short of statutory requirements and practice guidelines.


This case study used the Adult Attachment Interview and the Rorschach Inkblot Method were used to examine the personality structure and internal dynamics of a rage murderer. Findings suggested the presence of a borderline spectrum, dual personality organization, characterized by a split between a more benign, overcontrolled upfront, and a self, fused by sexualized urges and sadistic rage. Masked sadism and psychopathic features were not detected in the patient’s clinical interview or in the Adult Attachment Interview, highlighting the crucial importance of multi-method assessments to identify the more covert features.

This study evaluated the reliability and criterion-related validity and characterize the internal factor structure of the European Portuguese version of the TriPM in a large community sample, and its ability to differentiate between community and prisoner samples. Reliability and criterion-related validity analysis supported the TriPM as an effective measure of psychopathic traits. ROC analyses showed that the TriPM disinhibition score is the most sensitive for differentiating between prisoner and community samples.

### LAW ENFORCEMENT, CONFESSIONS, & DECEPTION


This online study examined the influence of youth race, offense severity, and officers' color-blind racial beliefs on officers' reported likelihood of interacting with young people using a sample of 339 officers. Results show officers with lower levels of color-blind beliefs reported they would be less likely to interact with Black youth. Researchers promote greater discussion of multicultural training for officers and increasing discussions of race and racial issues.


This study tested the invariance thesis by assessing whether the effect of procedural injustice on police legitimacy varied across officer gender. Results showed that the effect of procedural injustice had a powerful and significant effect on participants' legitimacy perceptions. These effects were consistent regardless of whether the treatment was administered by a male or a female police officer. The findings provide support for the invariance thesis.


This study used a sample of 156 Latina immigrants (54.5% undocumented) to examine whether documentation status moderated the relationship between neighborhood disorder and attitudes towards police and courts. The results show that women in desirable neighborhoods viewed the police/courts as fair, effective, and lawful regardless of documentation status; however, undocumented women living in disordered neighborhood viewed the police and courts more negatively than documented women in disordered neighborhoods.


The current study assessed attitudes among individuals with mental health issues both living on crime hot spot streets and non-hot spot streets. The interaction between living in crime hot spots and non-hot spots and perceptions of these residents was also examined. Results indicate a greater fear and less trust of the police among mentally ill individuals. Findings suggest fear of crime and perceptions of police are moderated by living in a crime hot spot.


This study examined whether public opinion regarding privacy rights in electronic communications is in accordance with these Supreme Court rulings. Results suggest that cell phone location data is perceived as more
private and deserving of protections than other types of location data, but the privacy of other types of information recorded on cell phones is valued even more than location data.


The authors explored the impact of factual errors and judgment errors, both types of communication errors, on interactions in an expressive crisis intervention (Study 1) and an instrumental-oriented suspect interview (Study 2). In the first study, a sample of crisis negotiators and police officers completed a prototypical crisis negotiation role-play exercise which included factual, judgement, and control conditions. In the second study, a sample of only police officers completed a mock interview of a suspect, which included the same three conditions. Post-experiment measures of cognition and affect were administered. Any kind of error resulted in increased stress and distraction on the part of the error sender. Factual errors resulted in more distraction in the first study and more negative affect in the second study. Responses were coded and categorized. Implications for officer trainings are discussed.


This article investigated why some officers are more supportive of community policing than others. Researchers found that experience with community policing consistently influences support for the practice while officer gender, age, and education consistently do not. The findings also suggest that departmental and temporal aspects help explain why policing studies often fail to replicate or generalize to other places or contexts.


The authors evaluated the direct and interaction effects of age, race, ethnicity, and gender on jail and prison length outcomes. The liberation hypothesis, which suggests that extralegal disparity will be greater in cases of less serious crimes, guided the analysis of seven years of data from the Pennsylvania Commission on Sentencing. Direct effects and the interaction of individual demographics were evaluated. Differential patterns of extralegal disparities became apparent in jail and prison sentencing, with more significant effects found in prison sentencing, thus contradicting the liberation hypothesis. Recommendations for policy change and future research are made.


This study tested whether the reliability and validity of psychological testing underlying an expert’s opinion affect judgments made by judges, attorneys, and mock jurors. Results showed variations in scientific quality did not influence judges’ admissibility decisions nor their ratings of scientific quality nor did it influence attorneys’ decisions about whether to move to exclude the evidence. Attorneys’ ratings of scientific quality were sensitive to variations in reliability but not the testing conditions. Scientifically informed cross-examinations did not help mock jurors (N=192) evaluate the validity or the reliability of a psychological test.


The authors explored the perceptions of overt and covert police tactics in witness interviews as perceived by Canadian citizens (n = 293). Participants read a transcript describing a witness interview, which was manipulated to reflect three conditions: Threat, Minimization, or Neutral. Follow-up questions measured both general perceptions of the exchange as well as inquiries into position taking as if they were the witness. Results indicated that the threat transcript was measured as the most coercive and was associated with the highest

The current study examined the interaction effect between the presence of medical evidence and race/ethnicity of a juvenile defendant and victim using child sexual abuse case vignettes. Results show medical evidence was more impactful for cases with African American victims. Interactions were found between race of the defendant and victim in adult vs. juvenile court decisions, sex offender registration and notification requirements, and length of sex offender registration and notification. Interracial sexual offending was associated with higher punishment than intraracial offending. Implications for court-level decision-making processes are discussed.


This study examined the joint influence of defendant race (Black/White) and mental disorder type (schizophrenia/depression) on mock juror decisions in a Not Guilty by Reason of Insanity (NGRI) case. Using Amazon MTurk, 26 participants read a fictional second-degree murder case that varied mental disorder type and defendant race, then provided a verdict (guilty/NGRI) and answered questions regarding the trial. Respondents were six times more likely to vote the Black defendant guilty for a case involving schizophrenia as compared to depression. There was no such effect for the White defendant. Findings suggest that bias in insanity trials can be increased for a racialized defendant.


The authors conducted two studies exploring juror’s perceptions of the legality and impact of interrogation of intoxicated suspects (Study 1) and how these perceptions may impact verdict decisions (Study 2). The survey included in the first study (n = 825), demonstrated that the majority of respondents were unaware of or reported incorrect beliefs regarding the legality of Miranda waivers and interrogations of intoxicated suspects. Survey responses indicated that potential jurors find sober confessions more indicative of guilt than an intoxicated confession. The second study, in which participants (n = 915) read a trial summary in which presence of confession and sobriety were manipulated. Potential jurors were less likely to convict in the inebriated condition and the intoxicated confession had less of an impact on conviction decision making than the sober confession. Recommendations for investigators and prosecutors are made.


This study utilized ten focus groups and fourteen individual interviews to explore 44 stakeholders’ experiences of procedural justice tenets within the Consent and Capacity Board (CCB) hearing process in Ontario, Canada. Five themes emerged from a thematic analysis – (i) Inclusiveness (ii) Respect (iii) Fairness (iv) Finding and using one's voice, and (v) Balancing interests. The nature of legal proceedings and patients’ uncertainty of the benefits of testifying were considered possible barriers to procedural justice. With the exception of CCB panel members, most stakeholders perceived that CCB hearings were not procedurally fair.


The current study focuses on capital jury questionnaires (CJQs) employed in actual death-penalty cases. Study I examined 248 undergraduates and their responses to death-penalty relevant questions. Study II consisted of 259
community members potentially eligible for capital trial jury trials. Both studies found that CJQ items were very susceptible to denials (concealing their true views) or outright deceptions (dissembling the opposite viewpoint), irrespective of support-life or support-death views. Researchers discuss how CJQs could be improved to promote candor about death-penalty views.


The current study explored the effects of three body-worn camera (BWC) status conditions (absent, transcribed, viewed) and eyewitness race on mock jurors' case judgments when a community member (defendant) was charged with resisting arrest but the officer's use of force during arrest was controversial. Mock jurors were less likely to find the defendant guilty of resisting arrest and more likely to find the defendant credible and the officer culpable when the eyewitness supporting the defendant was White. When BWC footage was viewed, participants were less likely to vote the defendant guilty of resisting arrest, rated the officer's use of force less justifiable, and the officer more culpable and less credible.


This study explored how court magistrates’ sentencing decisions in England and Wales were impacted by knowledge of brain-disorder etiology. Using a questionnaire-based, quantitative design, magistrates were asked to sentence defendants presenting with brain damage resulting from a (fictional) disease, addiction to heroin, or more complex, mixed etiology. Prison sentences were significantly reduced when a profile resulted from disease rather than heroin addiction, and evidence of addiction was more likely to evoke punishment considerations, rather than rehabilitation.

RISK ASSESSMENT/COMMUNICATION


In this study, recidivism and recidivism predictors were examined among 74 Dutch female high-level persistent offenders in Institutions for Systematic Offenders (ISD). One year after release, 43% of the sample had contact with the justice system, primarily for non-violent property offenses. Two years after release, 58% had new contact with the justice system, similarly, for offenses, such as shoplifting, theft, and burglary. Still, there was a significant decrease in the number of offenses post-release. Offense-related, demographic, substance-related, psychiatric or personal history characteristics were not found to be predictors of recidivism.


This study examined whether the grouping certain types of parolees with higher recidivism risk in the same neighborhoods differentially influences violent and property crime. Neighborhood crime data in Cleveland, Ohio that were released between 2000 and 2009 was used to explore the phenomenon. Analyses found that increases in certain types of parolees contribute to an increase in crime. Recidivism risk factors might explain larger crime trends in neighborhoods and the broader neighborhood context that compounds these risk factors and results in higher crime rates.

This study evaluated the predictive validity of the Static-99 and Static-99R in a sample of 142 male sex offenders in Switzerland. Both tools showed predictive validity, but the Static-99R had better discrimination and calibration. A cut score of four on the Static-99R maximized sensitivity and specificity. Only 20.3% of offenders with a score ≥ 4 recidivated in a 5-year follow-up period and the predicted number of recidivists with a score ≥ 6 was 24% higher than expected.


Using logistic regression and structural equation modeling, the author explores how individual-level diagnoses and adversity history predict rule violations during incarceration. A random selection of data from the cross-sectional Survey of Inmates in State and Federal Correctional Facilities (SI-SFCF) resulted in a sample of 18,185 inmates. Four adversity typologies were created; low exposure, moderate deprivation/high violence, high deprivation/low violence, and high exposure. Overall, individuals typified as high exposure had the highest odds of rule violations (drug and major violations). The relationship of different typologies and rule violations was found to be partially and fully mediated by mental health and substance use disorders. Serious mental illness did not significantly predict rule violation but was strongly predicted by substantial adversity typology. Implications for correctional practice are discussed and recommendations for trauma-informed care are made.


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This study reports on results from a 2017 survey of instrument use by forensic evaluators carrying out sexual recidivism risk assessments and compares the findings to a similar 2013 survey. The Static-99R and Static-2002R were the most commonly used instruments. Most evaluators have adopted modern actuarial instruments and are increasingly likely to consider protective factors. A substantial minority employ Structured Professional Judgment instruments.


https://doi.org/10.1037/pas0000783

This study tested whether a self-report measure of aggression would predict later delinquency. Aggression predicted both later total and later violent self-reported delinquency, even after controlling for youths’ self-reported lifetime history of delinquent acts and callous-unemotional traits collected at initial arrest. Further, only self-reported aggression contributed independently to the prediction of arrests for violent offenses. The predictive utility of aggression was largely accounted for by physical and reactive aggression.


https://doi.org/10.1002/bsl.2435

This study explored the extent to which prosecutors and defense attorneys consider risk when advocating for given sentences in open court or during plea negotiations. Researchers surveyed all prosecutors and defense attorneys in 14 judicial circuits in Virginia. Findings show that most prosecutors and defense attorneys at least “sometimes” explicitly invoked actuarial risk estimates at sentencing hearings and during plea negotiations. However, defense attorneys were more likely to be averse to using risk assessment in either form of case disposition.


This systematic review identified studies of reentry interventions in the past 10 years that address substance use, assessed whether evidence-based treatments (EBTs) were used, and explored which interventions were effective in reducing substance use and recidivism post-release. One hundred twelve full text articles were reviewed and
38 met inclusion criteria, representing 34 unique interventions. Results highlight the need for consistent integration of EBTs for substance use into reentry interventions.


This study explored the predictive and incremental validity of protective factors using the SAPROF and HCR-20V3 in 75 secure male inpatients. Over a 12-month period, protective factors significantly predicted the absence of inpatient institutional violence and risk factors, particularly dynamic factors, predicted the presence of violence. Hierarchical logistic regression did not establish the incremental validity of the SAPROF.


This study evaluated the long-term outcomes of Rockwood’s prison-based Cognitive Behavioral Therapy/Risk-Needs-Responsibility (CBT/RNR) sex offender program. Reoffense data from Rockwood’s program (n=579) were compared with a standard sex offender treatment program (n=625) and with a group of untreated male sex offenders (n=107). Both treatment groups evidenced lower rates of sexual and violent reoffending compared to no-treatment offenders and the Rockwood CBT/RNR program evidenced the lowest recidivism rates among all three comparison groups.


This study evaluated the predictive validity of the Dynamic Risk Assessment for Offender Re-Entry (DRAOR), a gender-neutral risk assessment tool. A sample of men (n = 383) and women (n = 226) were drawn from the New Zealand Department of Corrections database of individuals serving a community supervision sentence. Propensity Score Matching was used to match men and women on relevant factors. Results indicated that the DRAOR differentiated between recidivists and nonrecidivists equally well for men and women. The DRAOR provided incremental predictive validity beyond a static risk estimate alone. The Acute subscale alone predicted reconviction for men, but not women, for whom no single subscale predicted reconviction. Directions for further research on the DRAOR as a measurement tool are recommended and implications for gender specific risk evaluations are made.


This study examined Californian’s knowledge and support for a law that would eliminate cash bail and adopt an algorithmic approach to pretrial detention decisions. The public had limited awareness of bail reform, evidenced mixed support for changes to the system, and believed an algorithmic approach may increase racial and socioeconomic disparities in the criminal justice system. The average respondent believed a 33% likelihood of failing to appear or committing a new crime constituted “low risk” (pretrial release) and a 60% likelihood constituted “high risk” (confinement).


This study tested whether providing risk assessment information interacts with a defendant’s socioeconomic class to influence judges’ sentencing decisions. Findings reveal risk assessment information reduced the likelihood of incarceration for relatively affluent defendants, but the same information increased the likelihood of incarceration for relatively poor defendants. This finding held after controlling for the sex, race, political
Researchers conclude under some circumstances, risk assessment information may increase sentencing disparities.


This study examined the predictive validity of the HCR-20v3 for violence over the course of a 2–12 month follow-up using a sample of 167 forensic inpatients. HCR-20v3 total, clinical and risk management subscale scores significantly predicted violence and physical violence specifically. For violence overall, the clinical subscale demonstrated strongest predictive validity. Even when combined with the risk management subscale, itself a significant predictor, the clinical subscale remained the strongest predictor of violence.


This study empirically evaluated risk judgments made using the Risk for Sexual Violence Protocol (RSVP). Sample included 100 adult male sexual offenders who successfully completed a community-based sex offender treatment program. Recidivism information was obtained from official records 10 years after treatment completion. Researchers hypothesized that judgments made using the RSVP would demonstrate good interrater reliability, concurrent validity, and predictive validity. The findings support the potential utility of the RSVP in practice.

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**SEX OFFENDERS**


This study examined variables that predict severity of sexual crimes compared to those that predict general aggressiveness. Researchers rated 302 adult sex offenders on the Psychopathy Checklist Revised (PCL-R), Borderline Personality Disorder (BPD), and measures of severity of sexual and nonsexual violence. The PCL-R’s Antisocialty and two externalizing BPD factors significantly predicted violence in both sexual and nonsexual crimes. In contrast, deficits in the PCL-R’s Affective facet predicted severity in sexual contexts only and the Lifestyle Impulsivity facet predicted violence in nonsexual contexts only.


This study cross validated the Sexual Sadism Scale (SeSaS) on a sample of 179 male sex offenders in Switzerland. The reliability of the scale was determined to be acceptable to high and results indicated it measures a unidimensional construct of sexual sadism with hierarchically ordered items. The SeSaS was strongly associated with sexual sadism diagnoses based on mental health manuals, but not with recidivism.


Archival records were analyzed to assess the degree to which major mental illness (MMI) contributed to sex offending within a sample \((n = 55)\) of individuals identified as sexual violent persons and civilly committed. The majority of sex offenses were not committed during periods of psychosis or mania. Analyses supported the identification of two prototypical groups; the sexual offenders major mental illness (SOMMI)-Traditional group, in which MMI symptoms and criminogenic factors functioned independently, and the SOMMI-MMI group, in which MMI symptoms were associated with increased risk-related functioning. Recommendations for practice and the applied use of these typologies are made.

This study used a data set of more than 64,000 youth referred to the Florida Department of Juvenile Justice to assess the theoretical correlates of early onset offending among juvenile sex offenders (JSOs) and juvenile nonsex offenders (JNOS). Although the number and severity of risk factors for early age of onset differ between the two groups, the specific type of risk factors that emerged align with developmental and life-course theory predictions.


This study explored the prevalence of crossover index offending on 247 male sex offenders in Portugal, and the predictive ability of sociodemographic and criminological variables. The retrospective record analysis found that of those with multiple victims (n=94), 48% had victims from different age categories, 10% had both gendered victims, and 12% had intrafamilial and extrafamilial victims. Statistical analysis successfully identified variables that differentiated noncrossover from crossover offenders and variables that predicted crossover.


This study compares the prosecution of child sexual offenses reported while the complainant was still a child with those in which the report was delayed into adulthood. Analysis of police and court administrative data in New South Wales, Australia over a 14-year period (2003–2016) concluded that criminal proceedings were more likely when the alleged victim was 7–12 years old at the time of the incident, when the suspect was an adult and at least 10 years older than the victim, and when the report to police was made when the victim was an adult.


The study examines violent crime against children with disabilities and differences in victimization, to conclude which various factors influence adolescents’ risk of violent victimization. Children with disabilities were more likely to be victims of reported violent crimes than non-disabled children – ADHD odds ratio: 2.7 (2.6–2.8), mental retardation: 2.7 (2.6–2.7), autism 2.6 (2.5–2.7), loss of hearing 1.4 (1.2–1.5), brain injury: 1.8 (1.7–1.9), physical disabilities 1.4 (1.2–1.5), and blindness 2.0 (1.4–2.8). Speech disability, epilepsy, stuttering, and dyslexia were not associated with increased risk of violent victimization.


The authors tested a structural equation model (SEM) exploring gendered differences in stress-related experiences of sexual minority status, bullying victimization, and childhood sexual assault victimization in juveniles entering the justice system. The proposed SEM, with a latent stress factor, also evaluated associations of sociodemographic characteristics, depressive symptoms, substance use, and sexually transmitted infection (STI). Data taken from a Juvenile Assessment Center (JAC) intake facility provided information on 435 females and 1,198 males. Females reported higher rates of sexual assault victimization, bullying victimization, minority sexual orientation, STI diagnosis, and depressive symptoms, compared to their male counterparts, who reported higher levels of marijuana use. The multigroup CFA supported the suggestion of a unitary stress concept. Prevention and treatment implications are noted.

A study of 699 students in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil examined the joint effect of child abuse and neglect (CAN) and community violence (CV) on adolescents with peers who commit youth violence (YV). Emotional abuse OR = 3.32 (CI 95%; 1.79–6.17), sexual abuse OR = 2.33 (CI 95%; 1.20–4.54), and physical neglect OR = 1.81 (CI 95%; 1.02–3.20) increased the risk of YV, regardless of CV cooccurrence. Physical abuse OR = 3.95 (CI 95%; 2.29–6.80) and emotional neglect OR = 2.93 (CI 95%; 1.83–4.72) were the only risk factors for YV involvement when associated with CV.


This research explores the relationship between child pornography victimization and psychopathology in adulthood, specifically, the contribution of emotional reactions during and shortly after the crime (e.g., guilt, embarrassment, and avoidance) on psychopathology. An online survey was completed by 107 child pornography adult survivors, aged 18–63, all of whom were sexually molested during the crime. The survivor’s current age predicted current psychopathology symptoms. Emotional reactions of guilt and embarrassment during and shortly after the crime were significantly associated with elevated psychopathology. Findings suggest that survivors’ reactions to victimization may be associated with their long-term mental health outcomes.


This study evaluated associations between exposure to intimate partner violence (IPV) and indicators of children’s mental health as a function of positive engagement with pets and exposure to animal cruelty (AC). Participants were 204 children and their maternal caregivers recruited from domestic violence agencies in a western U.S. state. Analyses found several moderation effects for positive engagement with pets (e.g., internalizing problems: \(b = -0.15, t(195) = -2.66, p = .008\); posttraumatic stress symptoms: \(b = -0.13, t(195) = -2.24, p = 0.026\)). Exposure to AC only moderated the association between IPV and anxious/depressed symptoms \(b = 0.32, t(195) = -2.41, p = 0.17\).


This longitudinal study explores associations between post-traumatic growth (PTG) and sexual revictimization and the moderating role of dissociation between PTG and revictimization. Participants were 111 female child sexual abuse (CSA) victims who engaged in an efficacy trial evaluating the effectiveness of group psychotherapy for CSA survivors with HIV risk factors. Dissociation moderated the associations between PTG and revictimization. PTG had nonsignificant effects on revictimization in participants with low dissociation but it predicted elevated levels of revictimization in participants with high dissociation. Findings suggest that PTG among some CSA survivors might mirror dissociative beliefs that increase their risk of revictimization.


This study used the National Child Abuse and Neglect Data System to study 42,036 children in 45 U.S. states with sexual abuse reports confirmed by child protective services (CPS), to identify children with increased risk for recurrence. In multivariate models, female gender, family hearing and vision problems, other child maltreatment, and other family violence were associated with increased recurrence risk. One-fourth of recurrence involved the same offender, who was usually a parent or caretaker. CPS services were more likely to
be provided for families with poverty, drug or alcohol problems, or other violence. In multivariable models, substance abuse services were the only interventions that significantly reduced recurrence.


Questionnaires completed by 702 students in Southwest Uganda were used to examine the prevalence of maltreatment within the family and adolescents’ mental health problems and their relation to peer victimization. At least one type of family violence was experienced by 95% of the students in the past month and 81.3% reported some degree of acceptance of violent discipline as a valid response to misbehavior. Family maltreatment was related to peer victimization ($\beta = .47$), which was mediated by mental health problems (0.002, 95% CI: 0.001–0.004).

WITNESS ISSUES


Researchers examined whether the camera perspective from which people watch police encounters influences the conclusions that people draw. Findings demonstrate that some body-camera footage—specifically videos that capture an officer using his or her body to apprehend a civilian—can lead to biased perceptions of police encounters that benefit the officer.

OTHER


This study builds on existing scholarship by examining whether health insurance coverage is associated with reductions in substance use issues in the justice-involved population. Data from the National Survey of Drug Use and Health and multivariate logistic regression models were utilized. Results support that health insurance coverage is associated with significant reductions in heavy drinking and daily cigarette smoking but had no impact on illicit substance use and daily marijuana use. These findings support prior research that suggests increases in social welfare programs can mitigate negative consequences of mass incarceration. These findings highlight the need to increase access to health insurance coverage for justice-involved individuals.


Semi-structured interviews with people incarcerated in German prisons were used to explore the rates and characteristics of self-reported false confessions and true denials among German prison inmates. False confessions were reported by 32% of respondents. Inmates indicated fear of negative consequences (81%), being presented with false evidence (61%), and beliefs that the truth will emerge (40%) as frequent reasons for false confessions. Eleven false confessors (48%) indicated that they would falsely confess again. There were no statistically significant differences in terms of mean age at the time of the investigation between false confession and true denial cases or in regard to individual factors.


This study described the population-level 5-year prevalence of mental disorders among justice-involved individuals from Canada. The study was conducted using linked health and justice administrative data for all
residents of Manitoba, Canada ages 18–64 between April 1, 2007 and March 31, 2012. Age- and sex-adjusted prevalence of any mental disorder was significantly higher among both adults accused of a crime and those who were victims of crime, 38.9% and 38.6%, respectively, compared to 26.1% in the general population. Rate ratios for specific mental disorders and suicidal behavior were 1.4–3.6 among those accused of a crime, and 1.4–3.7 among those who were victims, compared to the general population.


This study examined how bystander self-efficacy among men may increase the likelihood of successfully preventing sexual aggression. A sample of 78 male peer dyads were randomly assigned to consume an alcoholic or nonalcoholic beverage and complete a laboratory paradigm to prevent sexual aggression toward a female. Their verbalizations were subjected to quantitative analysis. Regardless of alcohol use, bystander self-efficacy increased the likelihood of successful bystander intervention via use of prosocial verbalizations.


This study assessed the viability of a values affirmation intervention given to members of the general public to reduce their discrimination against ex‐prisoners and to foster prosocial motivation towards them. Across two studies in Nigeria and the United States, results suggested that engaging in values affirmation can significantly reduce discriminatory behavioral tendencies, for instance in the employment sector, and motivate prosociality towards ex‐prisoners, such as supporting educational rehabilitation programs.


This study examined traumatic incident exposure (TIE) and PTSD prevalence and symptomatology among 294 treatment court clients and the psychometric properties of employed instruments. Using latent class analysis and bivariant analyses, results supported that TIE class patterns differentiated by gender and impacted PTSD symptomatology, evidenced by women in the low TIE class producing double the PCL-C score of men in the low TIE class. Recent or childhood TIE was associated with higher levels of PTSD symptomatology. The TIEM did not demonstrate good internal consistency but the PCL-C demonstrated good internal consistency and concurrent validity with a PTSD screener that is commonly used in SAMHSA-funded studies.