
This study explored community-based (CB) and prison-based (PB) substance use and the connection between CB substance use and PB mental health symptoms. Self-report questionnaires were administered to 943 males in three Spain prisons to evaluate psychiatric distress and substance use behaviors. Both CB and PB substance use rates were high. PB substance use, particularly the use of sedatives, was positively correlated with mental health symptoms including depression, anxiety, and stress.


This study was intended to assess the impacts of a drinking while intoxicated (DWI) specialty court. A sample of 154 clients was used to examine relationships between demographics, mentality, life circumstances, behavior and outcomes associated with successfully completing the DWI court programming. Participants were interviewed during intake, 6 months post-intake, and at the time of program completion. Life circumstances including employment, mental health issues, and military experience were correlated with clients’ drinking behaviors. At the time of program completion, clients’ self-reported drinking, drug use, depression, anxiety, and engagement in illegal activity had decreased notably.


This study examined the factor structure, model fit, and psychometric properties as the function of patient sex, race, and primary diagnosis of the MacArthur Community Violence Screening Instrument (MCVSI) using a sample of mentally ill adults (n=4,480). Results indicated a unidimensional construct and minimal differential item functioning. Overall, the findings support the use of the MCVSI as a measure of violence for mentally ill adults in the U.S., and researchers encourage further investigation of the use of the MCVSI across samples and settings.


This study examined the assessment of protective factors and their relationship with treatment change, institutional and community recidivism, and positive community outcomes using a sample of violent male offenders (n=178) followed up over 10 years postrelease in the community. Results showed that Structured Assessment of Protective Factors (SAPROF) and Protective Factors (PF) scores both predicted decreased community and institutional recidivism, while risk and protection score significantly predicted positive
Researchers concluded that protective factors may play a significant role in violence risk assessment and treatment planning when considering other positive community outcomes.


The study included adult males with serious mental illness with a length of jail stay of ≥14 days between January 1, 2016, and March 31, 2018. A sample of 302 pairs participated. Compared with the control group, those on the treatment units had lower rates per 100 person-days of injury due to violence at 30 and 60 days and higher mean medication adherence. They also experienced lower rates of self-injury.


This study aimed to identify mental health care practices that work well in prisons and whether improvements in these practices is warranted. Results revealed that good communication, a healthy balance between care and security, and positive staff-prisoner relationships supported mental health. However, access to services, need for integrated services, additional staff training, and proper transfers of patients were identified as shortfalls in mental health care service provision.


This qualitative study examined the experiences of male residents housed in a community reentry program. The sample included previously incarcerated men who were actively involved in group and individual mentoring as part of their reentry programming process. Thematic analyses highlighted the men’s positive perception and value of ongoing mentorship. The findings emphasize the vital need for supportive relationships and effective services throughout the community reentry process.


This study electronically surveyed Norway healthcare workers who are experienced with psychosis and outpatient commitment decisions. The municipalities assert that medical advisement is the only difference in follow-up regardless of whether the patient has an outpatient commitment decision, even though individualized planning is the right of patients who have an outpatient commitment. The findings highlight the lack of knowledge and education about outpatient commitment processes and the need for more collaboration between municipalities and healthcare workers.


This mixed-methods program evaluation sought to examine the implementation processes of Early Childhood Court (ECC), particularly in comparison to regular dependency court. Focus groups and interviews with ECC professionals, parents, and caregivers highlighted that ECC is child and family friendly, team-based, relationship-focused, and success-centered.

This study investigated how research and practice are integrated into offense-specific group treatment programs, focusing specifically on interventions for substance misuse, sexual offending, firesetting, and violent offending. Results indicated that evaluation is lacking in regards to published evaluations and through routine clinical practice in the UK. Researchers suggest follow-up studies of offense-specific group treatment programs with forensic patients to ensure consistency with evidence-based practice.


A sample of 291 supervising officers was surveyed to highlight predictors of support toward court-people with serious mental illness having shared decision making over their supervision plans. Officers’ ideas about the abilities of SMI patients to meaningfully contribute to their planning and their understanding of recovery services for SMI patients were correlated with positive attitudes toward SDM.


This study evaluated court-mandated treatment on individuals found not guilty by reason of insanity (NGRI) and released to the community. Ninety-three patients participated in this study. Rearrest rates were compared for three groups. Nearly half of the patients released to the community without supervision were rearrested, compared with 8.2% of patients released under supervision. In contrast, those who were restored to sanity and ultimately released had higher arrest rates (25%).


The Connecting with Kids Program (CKP) at Midwestern Correctional Facility (MCF) is intended to help incarcerated women maintain healthy relationships with their children. Interviews were conducted with 34 program participants to examine their experience of the program. Program utilization and environmental factors were the two predominant themes. Program utilization included enhanced visitation (e.g. in-person visits or technologically enhanced communication). Environmental factors included privacy and the family environment that is encouraged by CKP, which helped incarcerated women create a bond and an improved relationship with their children.


This study sought to examine involuntary hospitalization as an individual or a situational disposition and to explore characteristics of medical providers that are correlated with coercion. The sample consisted of 192 medical doctors who were qualified to make decisions on involuntary hospitalization. A decision of involuntary hospitalization was not found to be correlated with using coercion in a separate instance. The sample’s tendency to use coercion was more correlated with situational factors than with dispositional factors.

This study used systematic observations, interviews, and a focus group to examine the role and contribution of two judges in the ReNew Reentry Court program. The results highlight the judges as being supportive, authoritarian yet informal, and engaging before, during, and after courtroom sessions. Findings emphasize that judges are a vital component to the success of Reentry Court participants.


Data was collected from a transitioning house in Chicago to examine whether previously incarcerated residents receive support to manage stigma and develop a positive future outlook. Secondarily, the study examines stigma within the transitioning house itself. Participant observation, interviews, and self-administered surveys were used to explore the phenomenon. Formerly incarcerated residents were able to access therapy, employment coaching, and personal coaching, to discuss healthy responses to external. However, instances of internal stigma occurred within the transitioning house, including from speakers, staff members, and other residents. Still, the findings support that the transitioning house provided a safe umbrella for previously incarcerated residents.


This mixed method study took place at the Visitor’s Garden at Iowa Correctional Institution for Women, to evaluate the garden’s effects on the visits and relationships of incarcerated women. Garden visits were found to improve visits, including creating a more child-friendly and home-like environment, which also improved parent-child interactions.

**DELIQUENCY/ANTISOCIAL BEHAVIOR**


The primary objective of this study was to increase the literature about the needs of at-risk children and families, the nature of services they utilize, and services provided by child welfare agencies. The National Study of Child and Adolescent Well-Being (NSCAW) was used to extract a seven-year longitudinal sample of children who had contact with Child Protective Services. Researchers examined whether the use of psychotropic medications (PM) decreased self-reported delinquent behaviors and how PM use affected future juvenile justice involvement. The use of psychotropic medications did not significantly decrease delinquent behaviors nor did it affect juvenile justice involvement.


This study examined the impact of criminogenic factors, psychiatric symptomatology, and neighborhood-level factors on self-reported gun violence among criminal justice-involved youth. The sample (n=1,354) was majority male, Black, and Hispanic adolescents with felony or weapon-related misdemeanor convictions evaluated over a 7 year period. Results suggest that both environmental and individual-level factors (i.e. neighborhood gun accessibility, self-reported threat) greatly impact community risk and public safety for justice-involved youth.

This study examined self-reported aggression, impulsivity, and emotion regulation among 283 detainees and 51 non-incarcerated controls, with and without a history of traumatic brain injury (TBI). TBI was reported by 45.2% of detainees and 29.4% of controls. TBI was not evidenced to have a varied affect on behavior between the two groups. Detainees and participants with TBI had higher aggression levels. Detainees with a history of TBI reported significantly higher levels of anger and aggression and were more likely to have prior convictions than detainees without a history of TBI.


This study tested the convergent and predictive validity of the Triarchic Psychopathy Measure (TriPM) among 159 Lithuanian juvenile offenders sentenced to probation. TriPM scores were evaluated against various self-report questionnaires and validated against adverse outcomes including risk evaluations via professional risk assessments. Results indicated that TriPM scores were related to juveniles’ delinquent behavior, risk of delinquency, and previous delinquent behavior in a 3-month follow up period.


This study utilized data from the Washington State Juvenile Court Assessment to guide treatment practices for moderate and high risk youth with trauma histories. Six sample patterns were used, which pertained to family dysfunction, childhood maltreatment, and social disadvantage -- (1) Low All (40.3%), (2) Parental Incarceration and Substance Abuse (12.0%), (3) Poverty and Parental Health Problems (13.2%), (4) High Conflict and SES class (15.3%), (5) High Maltreatment (11.0%), and (6) High All (8.1%). Between-group comparisons were made to assess self-regulation, mental health, substance use, academic outcomes, family/social resources, and behavioral issues. Wide between-group variation was found for each point of assessment, highlighting the need for specialized approaches based on trauma type.


This study examined the relationship between childhood parental incarceration and later delinquency among Puerto Rican youth living in the mainland US and Puerto Rico. Longitudinal data for 1,294 Puerto Rican youth living in the South Bronx and San Juan was examined and a series of negative binomial and logistic regressions was conducted. Results showed that childhood parental incarceration and South Bronx residence were linked to delinquency but not arrest, and no interaction effect was present between parental incarceration and residence for either outcome.


This study aimed to explore the relationship between self-reported traumatic brain injury (TBI) and threat/control override (TCO), and investigated whether the presence of TCO could partially explain the relationship between TBI and violent behavior. Using a sample of delinquent youths followed up over 10 years, results indicated TBI was not significantly related to TCO and TCO does not consistently mediate the relationship between TBI and violent behavior. Further, however, paranoid ideation and psychoticism consistently predicted TCO.

This study compared levels of anxious attachment, avoidant attachment, and reflective functioning among juvenile offenders and non-offending adolescents without parental care. Secondarily, the research sought to examine gender differences among traumatized adolescents. The sample consisted of 42 juvenile offenders and 43 non-offending adolescents. After matching on age and education, both groups were found to have equally increased levels of attachment anxiety and avoidance. Male offenders scored lower on reflective functioning and higher on the control scale of idealization. There were no significant differences between female offenders and non-offending females.

**FORENSIC ASSESSMENT**


This study assessed intimate partner violence offenders (IPV; n=347) for ADHD, additional psychiatric diagnoses, and frequency of various types of IPV to compare IPV offenders with and without ADHD. Results showed that 210 (61%) participants were clinically diagnosed with ADHD and these offenders displayed higher rates of comorbid anxiety or mood disorder, substance use disorder, borderline and antisocial personality disorders, as well as increased frequency of psychological, minor physical and clinician rated IPV.


This study investigated the classification accuracy of two new detection scales, Rare Symptoms (RS) and Symptom Combinations (SC) derived from the Structured Inventory of Malingered Symptomatology (SIMS). Using archival SIMS data collected in 3 previous studies, RS and SC scores were determined for participants including 115 prison inmates (general and psychiatric population), 196 college students, and 48 community adults. Results showed support for the ability of the RS and SC scales to accurately detect individuals feigning mental illness. However, the suggested cut-off score of >6 produced poor sensitivity and the authors encourage further research before using the scales in applied settings.


In this study two samples of youth, from the community (n=2203) and clinic-referred (n=534), were administered the Antisocial Process Screening Device (APSD) to investigate the external correlates of the Callous-unemotionality (CU), Narcissism, and Impulsivity dimensions of youth psychopathy. Among both samples, CU positively related to all forms of externalizing psychopathology and aggression, negatively related to agreeableness and conscientiousness, and mostly unrelated to internalizing psychopathology. Narcissism and Impulsivity were positively related to externalizing psychopathology and aggression, negatively related to agreeableness and conscientiousness, and slightly related to internalizing psychopathology.

In this study the predictive validity of the SAVRY Protective Total and YLS/CMI Strength Total were compared, and the researchers investigated how the measures operate. The SAVRY Protective Total and YLS/CMI Strength Total inversely predicted any charges in the subsequent 2 years, and when adolescents’ protective total score increased their self-reported violence decreased. Protective factors did not, however, provide incremental validity over risk factors and the measures actually mostly captured deficits in protective factors due to their brevity and dichotomous rating system.

**LAW ENFORCEMENT, CONFESSIONS, & DECEPTION**


In this study two experiments tested whether contamination (i.e., providing suspects with critical crime details) is natural to communication within interrogations and if providing observers the full interview would decrease guilt ratings in false confessions. Results indicated that interrogators did reveal critical crime details to both innocent and guilty suspects, and false confessions did subsequently include accurate crime details. A guilt bias was observed in Experiment 2, but exposure to the full interview (not just the confession) weakened the effect for innocent suspects.


In this study child forensic interviewers (n=781) were surveyed regarding their attitudes and beliefs about forensic interviews, the information they request to know before interviewing the child, the characteristics of their interviews, and their professional experiences. Results revealed that most child interviewers wanted to know about the child, alleged abuse, and disclosure before interviewing. Interviewers described being fairly neutral, slightly leading, mostly accurate, and fairly complete. Further, interviewers more concerned with false denials had fewer years experience and sought more preinterview information than those more concerned with false allegations.


This study examined whether participants interpret the same “objective” video of an officer exerting force differently based on the officer’s race and gender. Participants (n=452) reported their perception of the officer’s effectiveness, their trust in the officer, and their degree of agreement with internal and external attributions for the officer’s behavior. Results showed that participants overall trusted officers less and perceived them as less effective when they used force, male officers were associated with decreased trust and effectiveness, and female officers were associated with increased trust and perceived effectiveness. The findings were not dependent on the officers’ race and participants’ gender.


This study examined whether a litigant’s attraction to certain legal procedures can predict their post-experience evaluation of the procedures, and whether their attendance during the procedures would moderate this relationship. Participants, 412 state court litigants, completed the initial attraction survey and 353 litigants responded to the second post-experience survey once their cases ended. Results showed that lawyer involvement and case duration better predicted litigants’ evaluation on legal procedures than their initial
attraction to procedures. Attendance was related to greater fairness evaluations for settlement relative to adjudication and initial attraction was related to fairness only when litigants did not attend procedures.

LEGAL DECISION-MAKING/JURY RESEARCH


This study used a longitudinal design to examine whether mothers’ additional exposure to the juvenile justice system, via their sons’ rearrests, would affect the mothers’ legal knowledge over a 2.5 year time period. The researchers also investigated whether the mothers’ (n=234) personal characteristics and attitudes toward the juvenile justice system are associated with their legal knowledge. Results showed that their sons’ rearrests did not improve the mothers’ knowledge over time, and Black mothers displayed less knowledge of the system when their sons were arrested frequently. No significant relationship between mothers’ attitudes toward the system and legal knowledge was found.


The testimonies of 134 child sexual abuse victims were examined to assess how prosecutors and defense attorneys determine the victim’s credibility. Prosecutors were more likely to focus on plausibility while defense attorneys were more likely to focus on suggestibility. Prosecutors were also more likely than defense attorneys to question the credibility of older children. Both prosecutors and defense attorneys were keenly focused on the victim’s consistency.


The study examined the biases of potential jurors in relation to their social media interactions. Amazon Mechanical Turk was used to survey 146 participants and evaluate their perceived victim versus defendant responsibility in a sexual assault vignette. Data supported that gender and liberal social media sharing were significant predictors of verdict and sentence, with women more likely to vote guilty and more liberal social media sharers more likely to give lengthier sentences.


Researchers investigated how the presence of interested adults (e.g. parents and attorneys) at a juvenile’s confession statement may impact jurors’ perceptions and case decisions at trial. Participants in Study 1 (n=435) and Study 2 (n=673) read a case involving a 15 year old male charged with murder and then completed a questionnaire. The type of confession was manipulated in both studies, the presence of the interested adult manipulated in Study 1, and adult advice manipulated in Study 2. Researchers found higher conviction rates for voluntary confessions while Study 1 showed an inflation of conviction rates with the interested adults’ presence, and Study 2 demonstrated no effect of the adults’ advice on the conviction rates.

RISK ASSESSMENT/COMMUNICATION

De Beuf, T. L. F., De Ruiter, C., & De Vogel, V. (2020). Staff perceptions on the implementation of structured risk assessment with the START:AV: Identifying barriers and facilitators in a residential
In this qualitative study, the barriers and facilitators to the implementation of the Short Term Assessment of Risk and Treatability: Adolescent Version (START:AV) were examined. Using focus group interviews, the perceptions of staff members in a Dutch residential youth care service was obtained within three consecutive meetings. Results linked implementation barriers to characteristics of the risk assessment, staff, and the implementation process. Communication, hierarchy, culture, and readiness for change were also identified as barriers for implementation. Facilitators included positive beliefs of the risk assessment instrument and previously experienced benefits from the instrument.


In this longitudinal study, multiple-reassessment data for 3,421 adults on supervised parole was examined to test whether reassessment using a dynamic risk instrument would better predict recidivism. The findings showed that reassessments consistently improved prediction of recidivism. Researchers encourage correctional agencies to regularly reassess for risk for recidivism during parole.


The goal of this study was to investigate how strengths may vary in prevalence or predictive validity across age. In a sample of male parolees supervised in the community (n=3,169), the prevalence of strengths did not differ across age and predictive validity was consistent across age. However, the strength variables were associated with enhanced promotive effects for older individuals, wherein prosocial relationships were related to reduced violence among older parolees.


The goal of this study was to investigate risk factors for recidivistic stalking of the same victim versus a different victim, using a Dutch sample of forensic mental health clients (n=70). Researchers found no significant risk factors associated with stalking recidivism while over 50% of clients were reported to have stalked again over a 2 year period. Psychological treatment was found to be unrelated to recidivism. Directions for future research are discussed.


This study examined the validity of the Structured Assessment of Violence Risk in Youth (SAVRY) scores for 744 youth in Canada, including Indigenous and Caucasian participants. Results indicated that the SAVRY is a reasonable tool to use for assessing Indigenous youth, with few significant differences in predictive validity revealed for Indigenous and Caucasian youth. However, Indigenous youth were scored significantly higher on all risk domains than Caucasian youth. Researchers caution scorers to use the SAVRY in a culturally appropriate manner.

The goal of this study was to understand violence risk assessment procedures and processes in Argentina, Colombia, and Mexico by examining 15 interviews with forensic professionals. Results showed that a range of procedures are used by Latin American professionals including structured violence risk assessment tools, and several culturally relevant risk and protective factors were reported. Findings may be helpful for professionals assessing culturally diverse adults.


In this study focus groups were conducted with 15 nurses to understand how risk assessments impact nurses’ care planning and risk management. Results revealed that a person-centered approach was commonly adhered to, including great efforts to see the unique individual behind the patient despite their history of violence. Further, the therapeutic alliance was deemed crucial, however, maintaining a balance between care and restricting actions is also needed.


This study sought to describe the circumstances of commercially sexually exploited youth, specifically demographic information, living situation, and juvenile detention history. The sample consisted of 83 youth in state care who had confirmed or suspected histories of commercial sexual exploitation. Results indicated that early and frequent child welfare contact, frequently unstable living situations, frequent instances of running away, and frequent juvenile detention contact were common upon the sample.


This study addresses the trade-offs involved in using algorithms as tools to predict recidivism. Specifically, critics argue that algorithms may exacerbate the racial disparities in incarceration. A matched sample of 67,784 Black and White federal supervisees who were assessed with Post Conviction Risk Assessment was used to compare how three alternative strategies may “debias” the algorithms. Results show that algorithms with access to race, as opposed to omitting race or “blinding” its effects, can minimize imbalanced error rates and maximize calibration. The researchers discuss implications for policymakers regarding efficiency of algorithms versus equity.

**SEX OFFENDERS**


This study investigated the predictive and incremental validity of the Stable-2007 versus the Static-99 in a sample of adult male sexual offenders (n=638) followed-up over approximately 8 years. Results indicated that the Stable-2007 risk categories contributed to the incremental prediction of sexual recidivism beyond the Static-

**VICTIMIZATION**


This study examined the comorbidity patterns in mental health difficulties among incarcerated women (n=2,553). Using latent class analysis, four patterns of mental health functioning were identified: serious mental illness, mood and drug use disorders, substance use only, and no/low mental health concerns. Results indicated that sexual and physical victimization in childhood affected the distinction between the classes. Researchers encourage the use of trauma-informed approaches to mental health treatment for incarcerated women.


This study examined young adult Indian women’s attitudes towards domestic violence (DV) help seeking behaviors. Participants (n=81) included young adult Indian women between the ages of 18-24 who engaged in qualitative focus groups. Findings suggested that the most accepted networks for disclosing DV victimization was through gender-focused formal support systems and informal familial systems. Other accepted networks deemed appropriate varied upon the severity of the DV and included, seeking help from women’s organizations and seeking judicial support. Further, cultural beliefs about privacy, gender roles, and prior experiences were identified as cultural barriers that influenced the women’s perspectives of the systems’ effectiveness.

**WITNESS ISSUES**


In a two part study, researchers examined the effects of post-identification feedback given one week after an initial lineup on witness confidence. Specifically, two types of feedback were investigated: typical feedback and misinformation. Participants (n=907) were asked to watch a mock crime video, make an identification, and report their confidence under unbiased lineup conditions. After receiving either confirming or disconfirming typical feedback or misinformation, participants provided a retrospective confidence score. Results revealed that post-identification misinformation feedback significantly inflated participants’ confidence judgments. Researchers suggest documenting verbatim the eyewitness’s confidence at the initial identification.


Researchers conducted two experiments aimed at understanding which eyewitness lineup looking behaviors postdict suspect guilt. Experiment 1 included 405 children who made two eyewitness identifications after viewing two live targets. Experiment 2 included 342 adults who made two eyewitness identifications after viewing a video including two targets. Results of Experiment 1 revealed that 5 variables (filler look time, suspect look time, number of suspect looks, number of filler looks, and winner look time) all postdicted target presence with a 67% accuracy score. Results of Experiment 2 revealed that 4 variables (number of suspect...
looks, number of filler looks, number of loser looks, and winner looks) collectively postdicted target presence with a 73% accuracy score.

### OTHER


This is the first study to explore the association between attachment and mentalizing in a sample of 172 incarcerated Lebanese men while looking for predictors of regret towards the committed crime. Results revealed a significant relationship between insecure attachment and lower mentalizing capacities. Further, hypamentalizing strategies predicted a lack of regret towards the committed crime. Researchers make recommendations for future intervention and prevention programs within Lebanese prisons and at-risk groups.


This study investigated whether hallucinations and delusions are exacerbated by the experience of being deaf using a sample of three deaf adult males. Using Multiple Sequential Functional Analysis, results indicated no significant evidence of deafness impacting the content and themes of hallucinations. However, a reported learning history of associating deafness with being inferior later emerged in delusions of grandeur. Further, researchers observed a lack of targeted interventions offered by forensic service providers for all three deaf participants.


To inform mental health treatment and prevention practices, telephone interviews were conducted with an international sample of 30 young adults with a sexual interest in children. Questions centered on the age when they developed a sexual interest in children, their response to that interest, and what resources could have served them. Results indicated that their sexual interests in children began in adolescence, at which time they experienced fear, shame, and isolation. Successful non-offending role models with similar sexual interests in children, familial and community support, and positive messages and successfully navigating life, positive messaging, and support from families and the community were named as helpful resources.