Mental health needs of young offenders and victims: Assessment, intervention and legal issues

ABSTRACT BOOK

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Mental health needs of young offenders and victims:
Assessment, intervention and legal issues

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phasise the need for mental health screening instruments in the juvenile justice system.

The Massachusetts Youth Screening Instrument (MAYS1-2) subscales provide useful information regarding the presence of mental health problems among juvenile delinquents.

In this research we evaluated the MAYS1-2 convergent validity by examining subscale score correlations with conceptually relevant related variables from other (criterion) measures: Youth Self-Report; Barratt Impulsiveness Scale; Posttraumatic Stress Disorder Checklist – Civilian Version; Youth Psychopathic Traits Inventory. The total sample was 183 adolescents admitted into Portuguese juvenile corrections facilities (Educative Centers).

The results show convergent validity for several MAYS1-2 subscales, namely: Angry-Irritable (AI); Depressed-Anxious (DA); Traumatic Experiences (TE).

**Self-report juvenile delinquency and victimization in Portugal: Preliminary data from the third international self-report delinquency study (ISRD-3)**

P. Martins, S. Mendes, G. Fernández-Pacheco, and I. Tendais

The International Self-Report Delinquency Study (ISRD) is an ongoing school-based study that aims 1) to assess cross-national similarities, differences and trends in juvenile delinquency and victimization and 2) to test theoretical questions related to delinquency in youth. Portugal is one of the 35 participating countries in ISRD-3 (2012-2015).

The goal of this study is to describe preliminary data on lifetime prevalence of self-reported juvenile delinquency and victimization.

A random stratified sample of 7th-12th-grade students was selected in middle and high schools of three Portuguese cities, performing a total of 5400 students (300 x 6 grades x 3 cities). Lifetime prevalence of offences (e.g., vandalism, stealing from a car or from a person, group fight) and victimization experiences (e.g., robbery, assault, cyber bullying, hate crime) was assessed by a questionnaire administered in the classroom. So far, 1182 students completed the questionnaire and 1178 were rated as valid for analysis. Participating students had 11 to 23 years of age (M = 15.44, SD = 2.35), 55.4% were female and most were born in Portugal (94%).

Self-reported lifetime prevalence of victimization ranged from 5.6% (physical parental discipline) to 31.4% (theft). Approximately half reported having suffered one (22.3%) or more victimization experiences (28.8%). Self-reported lifetime prevalence of offending ranged from 0.5% (vehicle theft) to 52.2% (illegal downloading). More than half reported having committed one (28.9%) or more (34.6%) offences.

These preliminary results suggest that significant changes have occurred since ISRD-2 and, therefore, demonstrate the importance of periodic surveys to inform public policies.

**Factor structure of the Spanish version of the Child Problematic Trait Inventory in a population sample of 4- to 13-year old children**

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Psychopathy personality has been traditionally highlighted in the study of serious and persistent forms of antisocial and violent behavior. Literature has shown that psychopathy roots lie in childhood and adolescence. The Child Problematic Traits Inventory (CPTI; Collins et al., 2014) has recently emerged as a new promising instrument for assessing psychopathic personality as a whole in school-aged children.