Emotional Intelligence and Self-Determination in Relation to Juvenile Delinquency

Jessica Silsby, MA  Elizabeth Pittner, MA
jsilsby@alliant.edu  epittner@alliant.edu
James Turner, Ph.D., Robert Leark, Ph.D., Steven Jellá, Psy.D.

10455 Pomerado Road
San Diego, CA 92131-1799
USA
(+1)858-635-4073

Context and Theory

- High juvenile delinquency rate
- Mexican-American population growth
- Underrepresentation
- Self-Determination Theory
  - Autonomy
  - Relatedness
  - Competence
- Emotional Intelligence
  - Ability Model
  - Mixed-Trait Model

Hypotheses

- **H1.** There will be a statistically significant variance between number of juvenile delinquency acts and mean total scores of EI.
- **H2.** There will be a statistically significant variance with the severity of crime and mean scores of EI.
- **H3.** The two EI measures (EQ-i:YV and MSCEIT-YV) will correlate with statistical significance.
- **H4.** There will be a statistically significant variance between number of juvenile delinquency acts and mean total scores of BPNS.
- **H5.** There will be a statistically significant variance with the severity of crime and mean scores of BPNS.
- **H6.** The total scores of BPNS and CHS will correlate with statistical significance.

Methods

- Mexican-American males, 12-17 years
  - Southern California, USA
- Severity of offense
  - 1) no offense history
  - 2) status/drug offenses* (included with property offenses due to small n)
  - 3) property offenses
  - 4) non-violent against other persons
  - 5) violent offenses
- ANOVA, MANOVA
- Total number of offenses
  - 0-18 offenses
- Inter-test correlations
  - Mayer-Salovey-Caruso Emotional Intelligence Test, Youth Version (MSCEIT-YV) and Emotional Quotient Inventory, Youth Version (EQ-i:YV)
  - Basic Psychological Needs Scale (BPNS) and Children's Hope Scale (CHS)
  - Pearson

Descriptive Statistics

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Dependent Variables</th>
<th>N</th>
<th>Mean</th>
<th>SD</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>MSCEIT-YV</td>
<td>61</td>
<td>95.87</td>
<td>19.25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EQ-i:YV</td>
<td>61</td>
<td>87.18</td>
<td>20.06</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BPNS</td>
<td>98</td>
<td>4.87</td>
<td>.67</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Independent Variable</th>
<th>N</th>
<th>Independent Variable</th>
<th>N</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ttl. # of Offenses</td>
<td>98</td>
<td>Severity Level Ttl.</td>
<td>97</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0 Offenses</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>No Offenses</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1-6 Offenses</td>
<td>44</td>
<td>Drug or Status Offenses</td>
<td>1*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7-12 Offenses</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>Property Offenses</td>
<td>17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13-18 Offenses</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>Nonviolent Offenses</td>
<td>36</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Violent Offenses</td>
<td>31</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Results: Emotional Intelligence

- **H1.** MANOVA failed to show statistical significance among juvenile delinquency acts and mean total scores of EI measurements (neither EQ-i:YV nor MSCEIT-YV)
- **H2.** MANOVA failed to show statistical significance among the severity of crime and mean scores of EI (neither EQ-i:YV nor MSCEIT-YV).
Results:

**Self-Determination Theory**

- **H4:** ANOVA failed to show statistical significance among number of juvenile delinquency acts and total scores of BPNS.

- **H5:** ANOVA failed to show statistical significance for among the severity of crime and mean scores of BPNS.

**Discussion**

- **Conclusions**
  - Scores and participant functioning
  - Construct validity

- **Limitations**
  - Sample size, uniform group sizes
  - Assessment of reading ability
  - True control group

**Results:**

**Assessment Tool Correlations**

- **H3:** Pearson correlation showed modest relationship with statistical significance between the two EI measures (EQ-YV and MSCEIT-YV).

- **H6:** Pearson correlation showed a strong relationship between the total scores of BPNS and CHS.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>MSCEIT-YV</th>
<th>CHS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>EQ-YV</td>
<td>.264, p=.022</td>
<td>n/a</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BPNS</td>
<td>n/a</td>
<td>.543, p=.001</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**References**


**Acknowledgements**

- Special recognition goes to the individuals who were willing to participate in this study. Their contributions to this study have been truly valuable and will provide a meaningful impact to using positive psychology theories in the forensic arena.

- Special acknowledgment goes to the staff of SDYS, CAT/WING, YDC's Central and North Campuses, Reflections Central and North Campuses, and JFR. Their dedication and compassion for working with this population is truly inspiring. Without their support, this study would not have been possible. Thank you for sharing your passion with us.

- We would especially like to thank our committee members, Dr. James Turner, Dr. Robert Leark, and Dr. Steven Jellà, for their generous time and commitment. Their combined dedication and guidance will have lasting impact. Without their support, this study would not have been possible. Thank you for sharing your passion with us.

- Finally, special thanks go out to Mental Health Systems for allowing us to be an active data collection site for the MSCEIT-YV, research version. We are honored to contribute to the standardization of this assessment tool.