

Emotional Intelligence and Self-Determination in Relation to Juvenile Delinquency

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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
 - ANOVA, MANOVA
- 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

Descriptives for D.V. Groups

Dependent Variables	N	Mean	SD
MSCEIT-YV	61	95.87	19.25
EQ-i:YV	61	87.18	20.06
BPNS	98	4.87	.67

Sample Sizes for I.V. Groups

Independent Variable	N	Independent Variable	N
Ttl. # of Offenses	98	Severity Level Ttl.	97
0 Offenses	13	No Offenses	13
1-6 Offenses	44	Drug or Status Offenses	1*
7-12 Offenses	30	Property Offenses	17
13-18 Offenses	11	Nonviolent Offenses	36
		Violent Offenses	31

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.

Results: Assessment Tool Correlations

- **H3.** Pearson correlation showed modest relationship with statistical significance between the two EI measures (EQ-i:YV and MSCEIT-YV).
- **H6.** Pearson correlation showed a strong relationship between the total scores of BPNS and CHS.

	MSCEIT-YV	CHS
EQ-i:YV	.264, $p=.022$	n/a
BPNS	n/a	.543, $p<.001$

Discussion

- **Conclusions**
 - Scores and participant functioning
 - Construct validity
- **Limitations**
 - Sample size, uniform group sizes
 - Assessment of reading ability
 - True control group

Discussion

- **Clinical Implications**
 - At-risk youth in general may benefit
 - Prevention outreach and treatment
- **Future Research**
 - Further research to focus on curriculum development
 - Cross-ethnic; cross-gender; underrepresented groups
 - Exploration of vocabulary deficiencies
 - Further assessment tool validation, including subscales

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Full Study Reference Available Upon Request

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