



Racial Differences on the Millon Adolescent Clinical Inventory (MACI)



Patrick K. Cook, Barry R. Burkhart, Alejandro A. Lazarte, David J. Pirtle, and Benjamin Carter
Auburn University, Department of Psychology

Introduction

Previous Research

- An extensive literature exists examining adult personality measures across racial classification.
- A consistent finding among adult literature indicates that racial differences on personality measures (e.g., MCMI, MMPI) are commonly observed.
- To date, research attention examining racial differences on measures of adolescent personality is relatively non-existent.
- An examination of the MMPI-A normative sample across racial classification reveals T-score differences ranging between 3 to 5 points on the clinical scales.
- Barry and Grilo (2002) examined a small sample of individuals on the MACI; however, they only reported results from scales related to eating disorders.

Goals

- Determine if racial differences exist on the Millon Adolescent Clinical Inventory utilizing a relatively large sample size.
- If differences exist, identify those personality scales and subsequent profiles.

Methods

Participants

- Male juvenile youth-offenders incarcerated at an Alabama Department of Youth Services correctional facility.
- Youth from throughout the state of Alabama were housed within this correctional facility.
- Average age = 16.04 ($SD = 1.46$ years).
- Average grade = 9.08 ($SD = 1.49$).
- $N = 663$.
- Demographic Breakdown: Caucasians (52.3%) and African-Americans (47.7%).
- Individuals incarcerated for a variety of offenses including sexually inappropriate behaviors, assault, property offenses, and drug offenses.

Instrument

- Millon Adolescent Clinical Inventory (MACI; Millon 1993).
- The MACI is a 160-item, self-report inventory specifically targeted to assess troubled adolescents.
- The MACI was designed to measure unique psychosocial concerns, personality styles, and clinical symptoms via a true-false format.
- The normative sample is comprised of male and female adolescents selected from a variety of mental health settings including outpatient mental health clinics, private practice settings, inpatient psychiatric and general medical units, and residential treatment units.

Figure 1. A Comparison of MACI Mean Scale Scores According to Race.

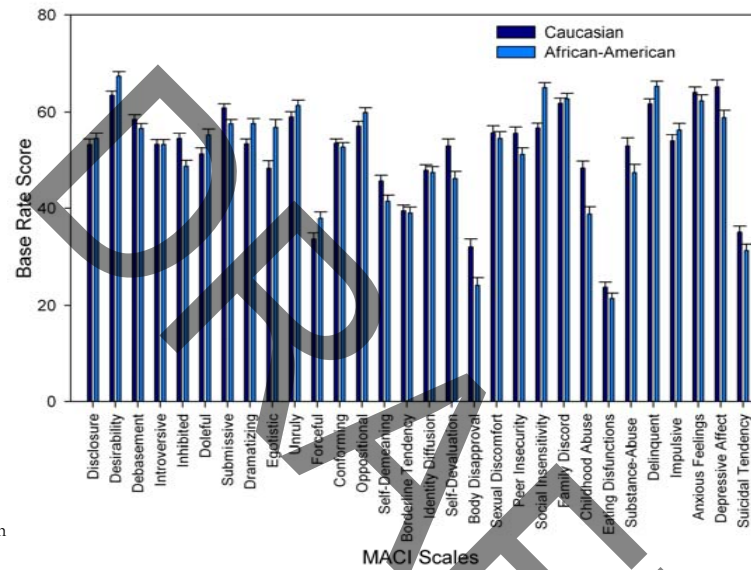
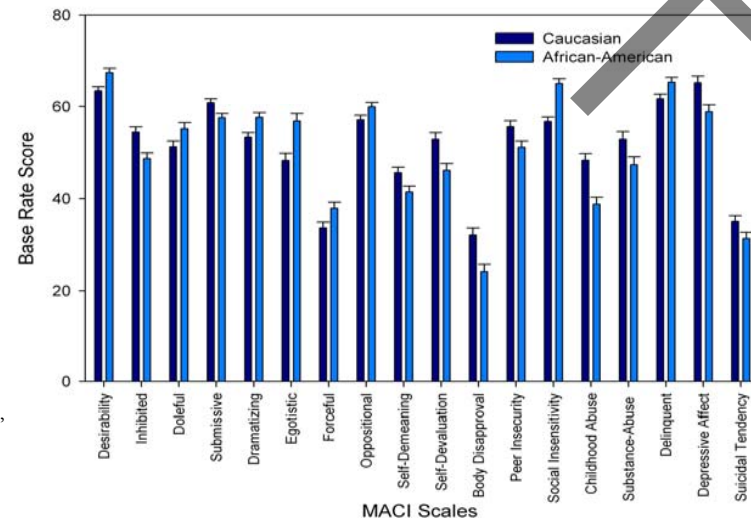


Figure 2. MACI Scales in which Racial Differences were Measured.



Results

- Significant MACI mean scale differences across racial classification were measured as determined by a multivariate analysis of covariance (MANCOVA); Wilks' Lambda = 0.772, $F(30, 630) = 6.197, p < .001$.
- Age and grade were entered as covariates (avg. age = 16.04; avg. grade = 9.08).
- Subsequent univariate analyses indicated significant mean scale score differences between racial groups based on the following 18 scales: **Desirability**, $F(1,659)=9.41, p=.002$; **Inhibited**, $F(1,659)=11.51, p=.001$; **Doleful**, $F(1,659)=4.69, p=.03$; **Submissive**, $F(1,659)=7.23, p=.007$; **Dramatizing**, $F(1,659)=8.99, p=.003$; **Egotistic**, $F(1,659)=13.82, p<.001$; **Forceful**, $F(1,659)=5.53, p=.02$; **Oppositional**, $F(1,659)=4.01, p=.04$; **Self-Demeaning**, $F(1,659)=6.04, p=.01$; **Self-Devaluation**, $F(1,659)=10.58, p=.001$; **Body Disapproval**, $F(1,659)=13.134, p<.001$; **Peer Insecurity**, $F(1,659)=5.58, p=.02$; **Social Insensitivity**, $F(1,659)=32.24, p<.001$; **Childhood Abuse**, $F(1,659)=21.00, p<.001$; **Substance Abuse**, $F(1,659)=5.49, p=.02$; **Delinquent Predisposition**, $F(1,659)=5.87, p=.02$; **Depressive Affect**, $F(1,659)=9.37, p=.002$; and **Suicidal Tendency**, $F(1,659)=4.179, p=.04$.

Discussion

- Mean scale score differences across racial classification were measured on 18 scales in an adolescent forensic sample.
- These differences across racial classification indicates a meaningful relationship between the reported level of psychopathology and race.
- These measured differences suggest, if confounding variables are minimized, the accuracy of MACI Base Rate scores may be improved with the inclusion of race-specific data.
- Overall, Caucasians provided responses indicative of a greater level of self-deprecation (e.g., Submissive, Self-Demeaning, Body Disapproval) while African-Americans reported responses suggestive of a greater level of insensitivity (e.g., Forceful, Oppositional, Social Insensitivity).
- Furthermore, these findings support those presented by Barry and Grio (2002) as Caucasian adolescents reported greater negative attitudes regarding their physical development based upon responses from the Body Disapproval scale.
- Gynther (1972, 1981) offered a general explanation of the observed differences on personality instruments by postulating that African-Americans' scores are not a measure of an increased level of psychopathology; rather, elevations are indicative of "life experiences in an oppressive culture wherein cynicism, lack of trust, and alienation are adaptive responses."

Contact Patrick Cook with any questions at cookpat@auburn.edu or visit the Burkhart laboratory webpage to view additional projects at www.auburn.edu/~burkhbr