



Examining Juvenile Offenders With the Millon Adolescent Clinical Inventory (MACI)

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Introduction

Previous Research

- Some comparisons of juvenile sex offenders to delinquent, non-sex offending peers failed to find significant differences across personality dimensions, cognitive abilities, and background characteristics.
- Limited investigations examining personality characteristics with juvenile sex offenders.
- Of those investigations, there are mixed results regarding if juvenile sexual offenders differ from juvenile non-sex offending peers on personality measures (Truscott, 1993; Valliant & Bergeron, 1997; Freeman, Mazza, & Hoffman, 2005).
- To date, no published studies examining personality characteristics of offender groups as measured by the Millon Adolescent Clinical Inventory.

Goals

- Characterize personality characteristics as measured by MACI for both juvenile sex-offenders and juvenile non-sex offenders.
- Compare groups to determine if significant personality differences do exist.
- Contribute to the divided literature regarding personality characteristics with a large and diverse sample of participants.

Methods

Participants

- 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.
- Mean age = 16.07 (SD = 17.46 months).
- N=555
- 430 Sex Offenders (charges range in severity from Sexual Misconduct to Rape).
- 125 Non-sex Offenders (charges range in severity from Violation of Parole to Assault).
- Demographic Breakdown: Caucasian (50.6%), African-Americans (46.5%), Hispanic-Americans (0.8%), and "Other" (2.1%).

Instrument

- Millon Adolescent Clinical Inventory (MACI; Millon, 1993).
- 160-item self-report inventory specifically targeted to assess troubled adolescents via true-false responses to items.
- The normative population consists of 1,017 adolescents from 28 states and Canada, involved in outpatient, inpatient, and residential treatment settings, participating in the MACI test development project.
- The MACI was developed to measure unique concerns, pressures, and situations adolescents face and was designed with a focused sample including adolescents in a variety of clinical treatment environments.

MACI Scales

Personality Patterns

- 1 – Introversive
- 2A – Inhibited
- 2B – Doleful
- 3 – Submissive
- 4 – Dramatizing
- 5 – Egotistic
- 6A – Unruly
- 6B – Forceful
- 7 – Conforming
- 8A – Oppositional
- 8B – Self-Demeaning
- 9 – Borderline Tendency

Modifying Indices

- Scale X - Disclosure
- Scale Y - Desirability
- Scale Z - Debasement

Expressed Concerns

- A - Identity Diffusion
- B - Self-Devaluation
- C - Body Disapproval
- D - Sexual Discomfort
- E - Peer Insecurity
- F - Social Insensitivity
- G - Family Discord
- H - Childhood Abuse

Clinical Syndromes

- AA - Eating Dysfunctions
- BB - Substance Abuse Proneness
- CC - Delinquent Predisposition
- DD - Impulsive Propensity
- EE - Anxious Feelings
- FF - Depressive Affect
- GG - Suicidal Tendency

Procedures

- Participants first completed the MACI after an initial facility orientation period of approximately 10 days.
- Undergraduate research assistants orally administered the MACI as a component of an assessment battery of self-report measures.
- Item responses were scored via computer scoring software and entered into a database for analysis purposes.

Results

- Significant differences between offender groups were found, Wilks' Lambda = .776, $F(30, 516) = 5.278, p < .001$.
- Additional ANCOVAs indicated significant differences between mean scale scores of juvenile sex-offenders and juvenile delinquent non-sex offenders exist on 24 of 30 MACI scales.

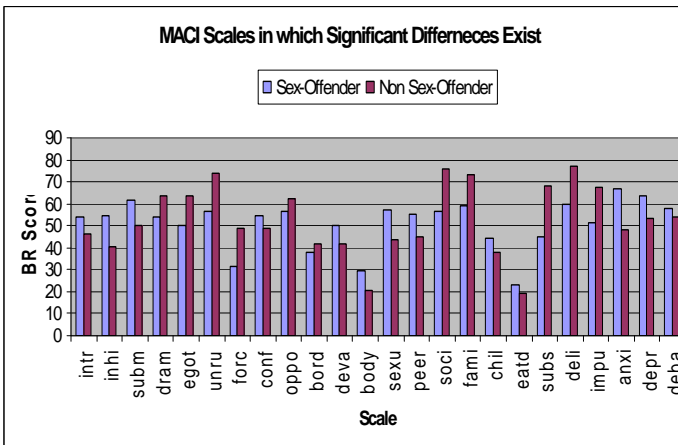


Table 1. Comparison of Groups by MACI Variables

Variable	Sex-Offender BR Score	Non-Sex Offender BR Score	F	p
<i>MACI Scales</i>				
Disclosure	51.67	57.54	2.350	.072
Desirability	65.25	67.65	2.131	.095
Debasement	57.92	53.79	5.439	.001**
Introversive	54.23	46.09	16.400	.001**
Inhibited	54.35	40.48	15.473	.001**
Doleful	52.43	51.08	1.046	.372
Submissive	61.88	50.18	18.767	.001**
Dramatizing	54.05	63.66	12.838	.001**
Egotistic	50.33	63.67	9.165	.001**
Unruly	56.56	73.99	25.655	.001**
Forceful	31.71	48.99	20.373	.001**
Conforming	54.91	48.99	10.980	.001**
Oppositional	56.72	62.12	4.362	.005*
Self-Demeaning	44.06	40.19	1.715	.163
Borderline Tendency	38.04	41.52	3.693	.012*
Identity Diffusion	46.66	47.76	0.800	.494
Self-Devaluation	50.36	42.04	6.496	.001**
Body Disapproval	29.82	20.28	9.754	.001**
Sexual Discomfort	57.31	43.53	24.483	.001**
Peer Insecurity	55.00	44.74	5.971	.001**
Social Insensitivity	56.41	75.90	47.929	.001**
Family Discord	59.13	73.05	15.048	.001**
Childhood Abuse	44.08	37.90	3.148	.025*
Eating Dysfunctions	23.11	19.40	7.524	.001**
Substance-Abuse Proneness	45.02	67.96	25.477	.001**
Delinquent Predisposition	59.95	76.99	28.075	.001**
Impulsive Propensity	51.45	67.71	17.664	.001**
Anxious Feelings	67.02	48.52	24.379	.001**
Depressive Affect	63.77	53.08	7.181	.001**
Suicidal Tendency	33.74	29.27	1.332	.263

Note. * $p < .05$, ** $p < .001$

Discussion

- Juveniles incarcerated in the state of Alabama for sexual offenses differ from juvenile non-sex offenders on 24 of 30 scales measured by the MACI. This study supports previous investigations that suggest that juvenile sex offenders differ from juvenile non-sex offending peers on personality variables.
- Given the significant differences on this measure, it may likely that a universal approach to incarceration may be insufficient given differences reported.

Future Directions:

- More in-depth comparisons regarding offense type for both juvenile sex offenders and juvenile non-sex offenders are needed.

Contact Patrick Cook with any questions at cookpat@auburn.edu