



# CORRELATES OF DISCIPLINARY INFRACTIONS AMONG ADOLESCENTS IN A RESIDENTIAL FACILITY

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# Youth in residential facilities

- Criminal justice & CJ-adjacent
- At risk for negative outcomes
  - Substance use and/or emotional problems
  - Adult criminality & employment problems
- Youth who demonstrate poorer adjustment to the facility may be especially at risk

# Disciplinary infractions

- Reprimands or punishments for problem behaviors
- In adult offenders, infractions have been correlated with:
  - Impulsivity
  - Aggression
  - Antisocial traits

# Results for youth

- Disciplinary infractions have been associated with:
  - Psychological symptoms
  - Previous delinquency
  - Aggression
- Limitations:
  - Relatively few studies
  - There are different types of infractions
  - Less focus on antisocial/CU traits in youth

# The current study

- Youth in a residential boot camp facility completed self-report measures 1 to 3 months after beginning the 22-week program
  - Peer Conflict Scale (Marsee & Frick, 2007)
  - Inventory of Callous-Unemotional Traits (Frick et al., 2000)

# The current study

- Upon discharge from the program, disciplinary files were reviewed and the number and type of infractions was recorded
- Types of infractions:
  - Physical aggression
  - Verbal aggression
  - Non aggressive acts

# The sample

- 137 youth
  - All boys
  - 63% White, 34% Black, 3% Other
- Mean age: 16.8 years
- 35% reported being arrested previously

# Infractions

- Number of infractions:
  - M=13, SD=15
  - Range: 0-84
- 56.4% were disciplined for physical aggression
- 74.6% were disciplined for verbal aggression
  - Defiance towards program staff, verbal conflicts with peers
- 75.2% were disciplined at least once for non-aggressive acts
  - Tardiness, failure to clean up



# Infractions & CU traits

- Scores on the ICU were not strongly correlated with infractions

	Physical Aggression	Verbal Aggression	Non-Aggressive
Callous	.05	.06	.06
Uncaring	.07	.09	<u>.21*</u>
Unemotional	-.09	<u>-.19*</u>	-.06

# Infractions & aggression

- Scores on the PCS correlated with verbal and non-aggressive infractions

	Physical Aggression	Verbal Aggression	Non-Aggressive
Reactive Overt	.06	.07	.05
Reactive Relational	.11	<u>.22*</u>	<u>.19*</u>
Proactive Overt	.08	<u>.19*</u>	<u>.24*</u>
Proactive Relational	.09	<u>.28*</u>	<u>.25*</u>

# Relative strength of predictors

- ICU and PCS subscales, along with their interactions, were entered into negative binomial regressions predicting disciplinary infractions
- Total infractions:
  - ICU Uncaring positively associated
    - $\text{Exp}(B) = 1.07$
  - ICU Unemotional negatively associated
    - $\text{Exp}(B) = .85$

# Relative strength of predictors

## ■ Physical aggression:

- ICU Unemotional negatively associated
  - $\text{Exp}(B) = .83$

## ■ Verbal aggression:

- ICU Uncaring is positively associated
  - $\text{Exp}(B) = 1.06$
- ICU Unemotional is negatively associated
  - $\text{Exp}(B) = .83$
- Relational aggression is positively associated
  - $\text{Exp}(B) = 1.04$

# Relative strength of predictors

## ■ Non-aggressive infractions

– ICU Uncaring is positively associated

■  $\text{Exp}(B) = 1.07$

– Relational aggression is positively associated

■  $\text{Exp}(B) = 1.04$

# Conclusions & future directions

- CU traits and aggression are associated with disciplinary infractions among youth in a residential boot camp setting
- There are main effects of CU traits on all types of infractions, and main effects of relational aggression on verbal & non-aggressive infractions
- Most variables did not associate strongly with physical aggression
- This is a preliminary investigation
  - We will have longitudinal data on the youths' behavior and success after they leave the program



# THANK YOU!

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