



ELSEVIER

Available online at www.sciencedirect.com

 ScienceDirect

Journal of Adolescence 30 (2007) 601–611

Journal of
Adolescence

www.elsevier.com/locate/jado

The relationship between psychopathic traits measured by the Youth Psychopathic trait Inventory and psychopathology in a UK sample of conduct disordered boys

Mairead C. Dolan^{a,b,*}, Charlotte E. Rennie^{a,b}

^a*Division of Psychiatry, Medical School, University of Manchester, UK*

^b*Edenfield Centre, Bolton, Salford & Trafford Mental Health Trust, UK*

Abstract

The Youth Psychopathy traits Inventory (YPI) is a newly developed self-report measure of psychopathy. There are no studies looking at the validity of this measure in UK samples. We assessed 115 male adolescents (mean age 16.22 years) with DSM-IV conduct disorder on a range of measures including the YPI, Child Behaviour Checklist (CBCL) and the Impulsivity-Venturesomeness-Empathy Questionnaire (IVE). The YPI had showed the expected positive correlations with aggression, delinquency and impulsivity. The YPI was able to identify a “psychopathic-like” subgroup with higher impulsive/aggressive and delinquent scores and lower empathy. The YPI may be of value as a screening tool for cases that require further assessment and evaluation using interview based measures of psychopathic traits.

© 2006 The Association for Professionals in Services for Adolescents. Published by Elsevier Ltd. All rights reserved.

Keywords: Psychopathic traits; Adolescence; Male; Conduct disorder; Psychopathology

*Corresponding author. Salford and Trafford Mental Health Trust, Edenfield Centre, Bury New Road, Prestwich, Manchester, M25 3BL, UK. Tel.: +44 161 772 3855; fax: +44 161 772 3446.

E-mail address: mairead.dolan@bstmht.nhs.uk (M.C. Dolan).

Introduction

The construct of psychopathy, which is characterised by a constellation of interpersonal (arrogant/deceitful), affective (callous unemotional) and behavioural (impulsive/antisocial) characteristics, is now well established in the assessment of adult criminal offenders (Hare, 1998). In recent years, there have been a number of developments in the assessment of this construct in adolescents. In the US, work has largely focused on assessments in pathological or adjudicated/incarcerated samples, based on Hare's (1991) Psychopathy Checklist—Revised (PCL-R; Forth, Kosson, & Hare, 2004; Forth & Mailloux, 2000; Frick, 2002). By contrast, in Europe, the work has been done on the development of self-report screening tools for assessing psychopathic traits in non-referred adolescents (Andershed, Kerr, Stattin, & Levander, 2002).

Much of the literature on “juvenile psychopathy” has focused on the debate about the utility and stability of the construct through the lifespan but particularly in adolescence (Edens, Skeem, Cruise, & Cauffman, 2001; Hart, Watts, & Vincent, 2002; Seagrave & Grisso, 2002; Skeem & Cauffman, 2003). Key concerns centre on the reliability and validity of current assessment tools, the developmental appropriateness of these measures and how closely the construct mimics that in adulthood (see Dolan, 2004 for a review). Some researchers (e.g. Frick, 2002; Lynam, 2002) argue that personality traits are relatively stable and that the external correlates of psychopathy are similar across cultures and across the lifespan. Others (e.g. Edens et al., 2001; Giambra, Camp, & Grodsky, 1992; Seagrave & Grisso, 2002; Spain, Douglas, Poythress, & Epstein, 2004; Vincent & Hart, 2002), however, suggest that as adolescence is a period of considerable developmental change, and a time when individuals are more sensation seeking and impulsive, this may result in high scores on psychopathic traits which might have negative implications for the young person.

However, some of these issues are increasingly being addressed. For example, Frick, Kimonis, Dandreaux, and Farrell (2003) have demonstrated that psychopathic traits are stable over a 4-year period in samples of non-referred young people. Furthermore, it has been argued that the early identification of psychopathic traits in younger samples allows for targeted interventions for high risk groups (Frick, 2002; Salekin, Rodgers, & Machin, 2001).

Psychopathy in adolescents has traditionally been assessed using interview-based checklists, e.g. the Psychopathy Checklist: Youth Version (PCL: YV, Forth et al., 2004) which was derived as a “downward extension” of the adult PCL-R (Hare, 1991). The PCL: YV, which is rated from interview and file review, has been shown to have reasonable reliability and validity (Brandt, Kennedy, Patrick, & Curtin, 1997; Kosson, Cyterski, Steuerwald, Neumann, & Walker-Matthews, 2002) outside the UK but as yet has not been extensively investigated in European samples. As the PCL: YV relies on detailed case file reviews and interviews, it is labour intensive. This has resulted in attempts to develop self-report measures of psychopathic traits in adolescence that would be suitable for screening large samples for more detailed assessment using the PCL: YV. One such measure is the Youth Psychopathic traits Inventory (YPI, Andershed et al., 2002) which was developed in Sweden. Another is the self-report version of the Antisocial Process Screening Device (APSD, Frick & Hare, 2001) which was developed in the US. To date, there have been a limited number of studies looking at the validity of these measures but at least three studies point to potential limitations with the self-report APSD as a screening tool for psychopathy (Falkenbach, Poythress, & Heide, 2003; Lee, Vincent, Hart, & Corrado, 2003; Murrie & Cornell, 2002). These limitations may be related to the transparency of the items and the fact that single trait item responses are required. In the development

متن کامل مقاله

دریافت فوری ←

ISIArticles

مرجع مقالات تخصصی ایران

- ✓ امکان دانلود نسخه تمام متن مقالات انگلیسی
- ✓ امکان دانلود نسخه ترجمه شده مقالات
- ✓ پذیرش سفارش ترجمه تخصصی
- ✓ امکان جستجو در آرشیو جامعی از صدها موضوع و هزاران مقاله
- ✓ امکان دانلود رایگان ۲ صفحه اول هر مقاله
- ✓ امکان پرداخت اینترنتی با کلیه کارت های عضو شتاب
- ✓ دانلود فوری مقاله پس از پرداخت آنلاین
- ✓ پشتیبانی کامل خرید با بهره مندی از سیستم هوشمند رهگیری سفارشات