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Title: Investigating Variations in Criminal Personality, Impulsivity, Self-Esteem and Motivation based on Crimes Committed, Frequency, and Personal Background



Abstract

Crime is a prominent problem that affects societies all over the world. Preventing crime is a concern of many people, and numerous approaches have been thought of to combat this problem. One belief is that psychological factors such as personality can impact one's decision to commit a crime or crimes. To investigate this, we compiled a multi-section survey assessing personal background (such as crime committed; created originally), personality (using the Big Five and the H-H and E items of the HEXACO), impulsivity (using the UPPS-P Impulsive Behavior Scale), self-esteem (using the Rosenberg Self-Esteem Scale), and motivation (using the BIS/BAS Motivation Assessment and the Portrait Values Questionnaire). This survey was sent out to Reddit on subreddits relating to the discussion of crime, psychology, etc. Through this, a control group of people who responded N/A as to what crime they've committed, and a small experimental group of people who had committed smaller crimes, were obtained. The data was input into a free statistical analysis tool known as Jamovi. Through the independent samples t-test, we found one statistically significant correlation between Big Five Conscientiousness and whether a person had committed a crime or not ($p = 0.011$). However, we must take this with a grain of salt given our very small sample size of $n = 10$. None of the other results proved to be statistically significant. A One-Way ANOVA was conducted, and none of those results were statistically significant (although the Big Five Conscientiousness p-value was still the lowest among them). Some limitations include our small sample size ($n = 10$), which is mostly the fault of assessments being left blank or deleted due to scoring errors, rendering those responses unusable, and also the fact that all of our usable respondents were females. Future research may repeat this with a larger sample size, or to look into the strength of personality traits of people who have committed different crimes and compare them.