

**AP-LS Research Briefs**  
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**COMMUNITY, CORRECTIONAL, & FORENSIC TREATMENT**

**Heidari, O., Shah, H., Bhagwat, A., Ahmad, N. J., Whaley, S., Sherman, S. G., Morris, M., & Saloner, B. (2024). Changes in opioid treatment programs and harm reduction provider services during the COVID-19 pandemic: Findings from 10 states. *Psychological Services, 21*(3), 658–664. <https://doi.org/10.1037/ser0000805>**

This study examines service modifications in opioid treatment programs (OTPs) and harm reduction services during the COVID-19 pandemic across 22 sites in 10 U.S. states. Results indicate that 100% of providers had to modify services, with 68% reporting increased naloxone distribution and 77% reporting increased syringe service programs. Telehealth played a significant role in maintaining service continuity. Providers emphasized the benefits of regulatory flexibility and the importance of making these changes permanent. Despite challenges, including reduced funding, the pandemic fostered innovation and increased access to critical services for opioid use disorder (OUD) patients.

**Henry, B. F., & Gray, J. (2024). Access to psychiatric and education services during incarceration in the United States. *Psychiatric Services, 75*(9), 847 - 853. <https://doi.org/10.1176/appi.ps.20230335>**

This study examines access to psychiatric and education services among incarcerated individuals with psychiatric and learning disorders in the United States. Using data from the 2016 Survey of Prison Inmates (N = 24,848), the study found that while 57.3% of incarcerated individuals reported psychiatric or learning disorders, only 8.4%–44.8% participated in relevant services during incarceration. Psychiatric disorders were linked to lower educational attainment and lower odds of education service participation, but higher odds of receiving psychiatric services. The findings highlight the need for policies to improve access to education services for incarcerated individuals with psychiatric disorders.

**Kopak, A.M., & Thomas, S.D. (2024). Jail Characteristics and Availability of Opioid Treatment Services: Results from a Nationally Representative Survey. *Journal of Behavioral Health Services & Research, 51*(3), 313–324. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s11414-024-09881-8>**

Researchers examine the accessibility and availability of opioid treatment services in 2,588 local detention centers and their characteristics, which includes screening of opioid use disorder, providing medication for withdrawal symptoms and overdose reversal, administering medication for opioid use disorder, and linking individuals to community-based care once released from the detention center. It's been concluded that facilities located in the Northeast, larger jails, in urban areas, with higher turnover rates are significantly more likely to provide a wider variety of opioid treatment services.

Verstegen, N., Peters-Scheffer, N., Didden, R., & de Vogel, V. (2024). 'You Still Need to Care for the patient'. Experiences of Forensic Mental Health Professionals with Inpatient Aggression. *International Journal of Forensic Mental Health*, 23(3), 277–288.

<https://doi.org/10.1080/14999013.2024.2354286>

Researchers highlight five different themes relating to forensic mental health professionals being exposed to inpatient aggression and the results of this exposure, including the way that they care for their patients.

## DELINQUENCY/ANTISOCIAL BEHAVIOR

Gaule, A., Martin, P., Lockwood, P. L., Cutler, J., Apps, M., Roberts, R., Phillips, H., Brown, K., McCrory, E. J., & Viding, E. (2024). Reduced prosocial motivation and effort in adolescents with conduct problems and callous-unemotional traits. *Journal of Child Psychology and Psychiatry*, 65(8), 1061-1071. <https://doi.org/10.1111/jcpp.13945>

This study explores the reduced prosocial behavior in adolescents with conduct problems (CP) and high callous-unemotional (HCU) traits. Using a modified Prosocial Effort Task, the study involved 105 adolescent boys, comparing those with CP/HCU, CP/LCU (low CU traits), and typically developing (TD) peers. Results showed that adolescents with CP/HCU and CP/LCU displayed lower prosocial choices compared to TD adolescents. However, the CP/HCU group exerted significantly less effort in prosocial tasks, highlighting their diminished engagement in prosocial behavior. These findings provide insights into the social-cognitive processes underlying reduced prosocial behavior in adolescents with CP

Rabner, J., Olino, T. M., Albano, A. M., Keeton, C. P., Sakolsky, D., Birmaher, B., Piacentini, J., Peris, T. S., Compton, S. N., Gosch, E., Ginsburg, G. S., Pinney, E. L., & Kendall, P. C. (2024). Substance use outcomes from the Child/Adolescent Anxiety Multimodal Extended Long-term Study (CAMELS). *Journal of Child Psychology and Psychiatry*, 65(7), 910–920. <https://doi.org/10.1111/jcpp.13926>

This study evaluates the long-term impact of successful anxiety treatment on substance use outcomes among 319 participants from the Child/Adolescent Anxiety Multimodal Study (CAMS) followed up for 3 to 12 years in the CAMELS study. The results show that only 3.4% of participants were diagnosed with a substance use disorder at the initial follow-up, significantly lower than the population rate of 11.4%. Successful anxiety treatment was linked to reduced rates of substance use diagnoses. However, treatment remission was not associated with differences in lifetime alcohol or tobacco use, highlighting the long-term benefits of anxiety intervention.

Rodgers, E. L., Beardslee, J., Cauffman, E., Frick, P. J., & Steinberg, L. (2024). Rearrest is associated with heightened callous–unemotional traits: No moderating effect of maternal relationship quality. *Law and Human Behavior*, 48(3), 203–213.

<https://doi.org/10.1037/lhb0000567>

This study investigated if the change in callous-unemotional traits in youth involved in the justice system can be predicted by rearrests. Also, the researchers hypothesized if maternal warmth would buffer the negative effects of rearrests on these justice-involved youth. The results

showed that rearrest predicts increases in a known risk factor for healthy socioemotional development among these youth. Also, there is no change depending on maternal warmth.

## FORENSIC ASSESSMENT

**Marcopulos, B. A., Kaufmann, P., & Patel, A. C. (2024). Forensic neuropsychological assessment. *Behavioral Sciences & the Law*, 42(4), 265–277. <https://doi.org/10.1002/bsl.2656>**  
The authors highlight and introduce the importance of forensic neuropsychological assessment on criminal and civic forensic evaluations.

## LAW ENFORCEMENT, CONFESSIONS, & DECEPTION

**Knobloch, L. K., & Owens, J. L. (2024). Moral injury among first responders: Experience, effects, and advice in their own words. *Psychological Services*, 21(3), 500 - 508. <https://doi.org/10.1037/ser0000838>**

This study investigates moral injury experienced by first responders, including law enforcement officers, focusing on the psychological impact of witnessing or engaging in morally compromising actions. Through semi-structured interviews with 36 participants, the study identifies moral injury as frequent but hard to recognize, leading to feelings of guilt, helplessness, isolation, and spiritual distress. Respondents emphasized the need for open communication, seeking help, and reducing stigma within law enforcement settings. These findings underscore the necessity of tailored interventions for law enforcement personnel, who regularly face moral dilemmas and deception in their duties.

## LEGAL DECISION-MAKING/JURY RESEARCH

**Mindthoff, A., Ferreira, P. A., & Meissner, C. A. (2024). The effect of confession evidence on jurors' verdict decisions: A systematic review and meta-analysis. *Law and Human Behavior*, 48(3), 163–181. <https://doi.org/10.1037/lhb0000563>**

Researchers conducted a meta-analysis of the effects of concession evidence (coerced or noncoerced) on jurors' decisions using 83 independent samples. The results showed that coerced and noncoerced confessions vs no confession increased convictions. Also, jurors are able to identify negative effects of coercive interrogation methods on the reliability of the confession. However, they did not fully discount unreliable confessions.

**Rettenberger, M., & Eher, R. (2024). How the risk principle reduces recidivism: The impact of legislative revisions on the release and reoffense rates of individuals convicted of sexual offenses. *Law and Human Behavior*, 48(3), 214–227. <https://doi.org/10.1037/lhb0000560>**

Researchers investigated legislative revisions regarding sexual offenses and its relationship with the release decisions and recidivism rates of sex offenders. The study included 2,610 men convicted of sexual offenses who were released from the Austrian Prison System between 2001 and 2016. The results showed that the percentage of conditional releases increased substantially since 2008. Also, the recidivism rates decreased.

## RISK ASSESSMENT/COMMUNICATION

**Groen, R. N., Wigman, J. T. W., Vos, M., Schreuder, M. J., Wichers, M., & Hartman, C. A. (2024). How a general vulnerability for psychopathology during adolescence manifests in young adults' daily lives. *Journal of Child Psychology and Psychiatry*, 65(8), 998-1009. <https://doi.org/10.1111/jcpp.13953>**

This study investigates how general vulnerability to psychopathology, indexed by the general "p factor," manifests in daily life. Data from 2,772 participants in the TRAILS study was used to estimate a bifactor model, with 133 participants completing a 6-month daily diary. Results showed that higher general factor scores were associated with greater variability (posterior mean = 4.58; 95% CI = [4.32, 4.83]) and lower inertia (posterior mean = 0.24; 95% CI = [0.21, 0.27]) in agitated-externalizing behaviors. These findings suggest that vulnerability to psychopathology is characterized by emotional reactivity rather than elevated levels of negative affect.

**Kiekens, W. J., Parnes, J. E., Treloar Padovano, H., Miranda Jr, R., & Mereish, E. H. (2024). Momentary minority stress, nicotine use, and craving: Moderation by nicotine-use motives among sexual minority youth. *Journal of Clinical Child & Adolescent Psychology*. <https://doi.org/10.1080/15374416.2024.2395267>**

This study investigates the moderating role of nicotine-use motives on the association between minority stress and nicotine use and craving among 83 sexual minority youth aged 15–19. Using ecological momentary assessment (EMA) over 30 days, results showed that minority stressors were not associated with day-level nicotine use but were linked to increased momentary nicotine craving. Stress-reduction motives moderated this relationship, such that minority stress consistently predicted higher nicotine craving. These findings highlight the importance of understanding individual motives in stress-related nicotine craving among sexual minority youth.

**Stewart, J. G., Pizzagalli, D. A., & Auerbach, R. P. (2024). Stress exposure in at-risk, depressed, and suicidal adolescents. *Journal of Child Psychology and Psychiatry*, 65(7), 942-958. <https://doi.org/10.1111/jcpp.13935>**

This study investigates the role of chronic and episodic stress in adolescents across two distinct samples: healthy youth with and without maternal depression risk (N = 87), and adolescents diagnosed with major depressive disorder (MDD) and suicide ideation (N = 57). The findings show that high-risk adolescents experience more severe chronic and interpersonal stress compared to low-risk peers. Adolescents with MDD reported higher levels of dependent and chronic stress than healthy controls, with suicide attempters reporting elevated targeted rejection events. The study emphasizes the importance of stress exposure in the development and severity of adolescent depression and suicidality.

**Wielinga, F. E., & Olver, M. E. (2024). Validity and reliability of the Violence Risk Scale–Sexual Offense version in a community sexual offense outpatient setting. *Psychological Assessment*, 36(6-7), 407–424. <https://doi.org/10.1037/pas0001318>**

Researchers examine the predictive properties of the Violence Risk Scale–Sexual Offense (VRS–SO) using a sample of 200 men attending forensic community outpatient services for sexual offenses. The results showed that the expected or predicted 5-year sexual recidivism rates showed close to the rates observed in the community sample.

## SEX OFFENDERS

**Chan, H. C. O. (2024). Sexual homicide offenders as repeat and nonrepeat offenders: An empirical study of sexual homicide cases in Mainland China. *Behavioral Sciences & the Law*, 42(4), 249–264. <https://doi.org/10.1002/bsl.2657>**

The purpose of this study is to examine the differences between the modus operandi (MO) characteristics of repeat and nonrepeat offenders that have committed Chinese sexual homicides. Using a sample of 86 male sexual homicide offenders and their MOM characteristics, the results showed that compared with nonrepeat offenders, repeat offenders were significantly more likely to commit sexual murder in outdoor locations, approach their victims initially using a non-surprise approach, engage in nonvaginal penetration, use a personal weapon, and move their victims' bodies away from the crime scene.

## VICTIMIZATION

**Georgoulis, H., Beauregard, E., & Chopin, J. (2024). Identifying victim types in sexual homicide: A latent class analysis using interactional victimology theories. *Behavioral Sciences & the Law*, 42(4), 474–489. <https://doi.org/10.1002/bsl.2678>**

Due to the lack of focus on victims in sexual homicide research, researchers identify different classification types. The researchers highlight that sexual homicide victims provide insight to the crime and this suggests that the victimization depends on the victim's lifestyles and routine activities.

**Oncioiu, S. I., Nation, K., Lim, K. X., Pingault, J. B., & Bowes, L. (2024). Concurrent and longitudinal associations of developmental language disorder with peer victimization in adolescence: Evidence from a co-twin study. *Journal of Child Psychology and Psychiatry*, 65(10), 1283-1298. <https://doi.org/10.1111/jcpp.13969>**

This study explores the association between developmental language disorder (DLD) and peer victimization in adolescence, using data from 3,400 twin pairs from the UK-based Twins Early Development Study (TEDS). The study found that adolescents with DLD experienced significantly higher levels of peer victimization at ages 11, 14, and 16, compared to peers without DLD. However, within-twin analyses revealed that the association between DLD and peer victimization was largely confounded by genetic and environmental factors shared within families. These findings underscore the importance of addressing shared confounders when studying peer victimization in adolescents with DLD.

**Warren, A. R., Relyea, M. R., Gross, G. M., Eleazer, J. R., Goulet, J. L., Brandt, C. A., Haskell, S. G., & Portnoy, G. A. (2024). Intimate partner violence among lesbian, gay, and bisexual veterans. *Psychological Services*, 21(3), 621 - 625. <https://doi.org/10.1037/ser0000797>**

This study explores intimate partner violence (IPV) among lesbian, gay, and bisexual (LGB) veterans, examining both perpetration and victimization alongside associated factors such as military sexual trauma, alcohol use, and mental health symptoms. Among the 69 LGB veterans surveyed, 23.2% reported victimization, and 55.1% reported perpetration of IPV in the past year. The study found that those involved in bidirectional psychological IPV exhibited higher rates of posttraumatic stress disorder (PTSD) and depression. These findings highlight the need for

universal IPV screening and inclusive interventions for veterans of all genders and sexual orientations.

## WITNESS ISSUES

### OTHER

**Chai, A. M. M., & Reale, K. S. (2024). Counting the days: Exploring the post-mortem interval factors in sexual homicides. *Behavioral Sciences & the Law*, 42(4), 385–400.**

**<https://doi.org/10.1002/bsl.2666>**

The researchers identify the characteristics of offenders, victims, and environments that significantly influence the number of days a sexual homicide victim remains undiscovered.

**Chopin, J., & Beauregard, E. (2024). How to get away with (sexual) murder? Unraveling cold cases in sexual homicide using a hybrid modeling probabilistic approach. *Behavioral Sciences & the Law*, 42(4), 293–312. <https://doi.org/10.1002/bsl.2661>**

The researchers explore the relationship of offender behavior, victim characteristics, and crime context with cold cases. The results show that victim intoxication, high-risk activities, and the location of the victim's body influences case solvability.