

# The role of impulsivity, aggressiveness and callous-unemotional traits in explaining antisocial and delinquent behaviours in adolescence

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## INTRODUCTION

A variety of individual variables have been shown to be related to aggressive and antisocial behaviour in adolescence for example, sensation seeking and impulsivity (e.g., Mann et al., 2017), and Agreeableness, Conscientiousness and Neuroticism (Jones et al, 2011). These variables need to be identified so that efficient intervention programs can be implemented. For this reason, the current study aims to assess how impulsivity, aggressiveness and callous-unemotional traits (CU) explain antisocial and delinquent behaviours, using the new INCA questionnaire to assess CU traits.

## METHOD

### Participants

101 juvenile offenders and 719 high-school students between 14 and 21 years old (M = 16.9; S.D. = 2.1).

Most of juvenile offenders were boys (80%). Therefore, we chose a random subsample of 316 students, with 80% of boys.

### Measures

- *Indirect-Direct Aggression Questionnaire* (I-DAQ, Ruiz-Pamies et al., 2014)
- *Barrat Impulsivity Scales for children* (BIS-11c; Cosi, et al., 2008)
- *Inventory of traits related to Callousness and Antisocial Behaviour* (INCA, Morales-Vives et al. 2019)

### Procedure

Participants were interviewed by a psychologist with experience in this field.

## RESULTS

Table 1. Comparison between the two samples

Tests	Students		Offenders		
	M	S.D.	M	S.D.	
INCA	Unemot.	50.5	7.4	51.0	6.7
	Callous.	51.7*	10.2	54.5	9.3
	Uncaring	52.1*	9.8	49.8	9.4
	Antisocial	51.1**	10.2	54.5	8.8
I-DAQ	Physical	52.5*	12.1	56.9	13.8
	Verbal	51.0	10.2	51.7	10.2
	Indirect	52.2*	9.5	56.5	11.6
	Total	52.7**	9.5	57.2	12.7
BIS-11c	Cognitive	12.6	2.4	12.6	2.4
	Non-plan.	17.4	5.3	16.7	5.1
	Motor	26.0	5.4	25.4	7.1

Table 2. Correlations

	INCA				
	Unemot	Callous.	Uncaring	Antisocial	
I-DAQ	Physical	.04	.40**	.29**	.40**
	Verbal	-.16*	.13	.27**	.20**
	Indirect	.03	.36**	.15*	.18*
	Total	-.01	.43**	.31**	.36**
BIS-11c	Cognitive	-.10	.03	-.27**	-.08
	Non-plan.	.09	.08	.52**	.20**
	Motor	-.07	.26**	.43**	.42**

\*  $p < .05$   
 \*\*  $p < .01$

## DISCUSION

- The results show the importance of impulsiveness and aggressiveness in antisocial behavior and their relationship with callous-unemotional traits.
- The results obtained with the new INCA questionnaire are similar to those obtained in previous studies.

## References

- Mann et al. (2017). Sensation seeking and impulsive traits as personality endophenotypes for antisocial behavior: Evidence from two independent samples. *Personality and Individual Differences*, 105, 30-39.
- Morales-Vives et al. (in press). The Inventory of Callous-unemotional traits and Antisocial behaviour (INCA) for young people: Development and validation in a community sample. *Frontiers in Psychology*.
- Jones et al. (2011). Personality, antisocial behavior, and aggression: A meta-analytic review. *Journal of Criminal Justice*, 39(4), 329-337.