

**Relational aggression, physical aggression and anxiety in apprehended and non-apprehended adolescent females**

The proposed study investigates the potential link between anxiety and aggression in adolescent females who have been apprehended (i.e., have been arrested or have other formal contact with the juvenile system), and a comparison group of females that has not. The primary aim of this study is to test the hypotheses that (a) physical aggression (i.e., aggression that produces physical harm to others) and anxiety will be significantly associated in apprehended adolescent females, and (b) that this association will be greater than the association between relational aggression (i.e., aggression that produces harm to relationships and reputations through gossiping, rumor spreading, etc.) and anxiety in this group of females. A secondary aim examines the hypothesis that (c) those young women who are highly anxious but have not been arrested (comparison females) will exhibit stronger association between anxiety and relational aggression, but not physical aggression.

This set of hypotheses is based on theory and empirical evidence suggesting that adolescent females who have been arrested tend to exhibit high levels of aggression and anxiety. However, risk for these problems is not exclusive to detained adolescents. Consequently, the study seeks to determine whether the associations among detained females are evident with all forms of aggression, or whether high levels of anxiety put females at risk for different forms of aggression. This study also is designed to gather a sample of racially and ethnically diverse youth to produce maximally generalizable results.