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Poster Abstract

### Gender differences in psychopathy variants and emotional disturbance among adjudicated youth

Efforts to extend the distinction between primary and secondary variants of psychopathy to children and adolescents with callous unemotional traits have illustrated higher rates of emotional disturbance in secondary groups as shown in adult samples (Kimonis et al, 2012; Vaughn et al., 2009). These findings, however, apply almost entirely to males. Model-based cluster analysis in a sample of 148 incarcerated youths (61% male) distinguished primary and secondary psychopathy as well as a non-psychopathic group. Consistent with previous research, youth in the secondary group displayed significantly greater total anxiety and depression scores than the primary group, regardless of gender. Among several novel findings were those that showed that females in both primary and secondary groups reported significantly more positive and significantly less negative affect on the Positive Affect Negative Affect Scale than their male counterparts. Furthermore, although scores were similar across gender in the secondary group, females in the primary group reported being significantly more emotionally distressed by social provocations than primary males. Overall findings suggest not only that adjudicated youths characterized by secondary psychopathy show expected elevations in negative emotionality, but that significant emotional disturbance is also evident in incarcerated females across psychopathic variant groups.