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DEMOGRAPHIC CORRELATES OF PSYCHOPATHY AND VIOLENT CRIMINAL BEHAVIORS AMONG NIGERIAN OFFENDERS

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ABSTRACT

The study investigated psychopathy and violent criminal behavior and their association with demographic variables in a Nigerian offender context. The study employed a non-experimental quantitative research design, and a total number of 141 offenders participated in the study (89% response rate) from the custodial center. Demographic data was obtained by means of a self-compiled biographical questionnaire, and levels of psychopathy were determined by using the Psychopathy Checklist-Revised (PCL-R), and four hypotheses were tested using the chi-square test for independence as a statistical tool to test the hypotheses stated in the study. Hypothesis one revealed no significant relationship between age and psychopathic violent criminal behavior among incarcerated inmates of the medium-security custodial center in Kaduna, Nigeria ($\beta = .010$, $t = .212$, $p > .05$). Hypothesis two indicated no significant relationship between educational affiliation and psychopathic violent criminal behavior among incarcerated inmates of the medium-security custodial center in Kaduna, Nigeria ($\beta = -.276$, $t = -.564$, $p > .05$). Hypothesis three showed no significant relationship between religious affiliation and psychopathic violent criminal behavior among incarcerated inmates of the medium-security custodial center in Kaduna, Nigeria ($\beta = .977$, $t = 1.276$, $p > .05$). Hypothesis four revealed no significant relationship between the nature of crime and psychopathic violent criminal behavior among incarcerated inmates of the medium-security custodial center in Kaduna, Nigeria ($\beta = -.592$, $t = -.957$, $p > .05$). The study concludes that demographic factors such as age, education, and religion do not have a significant impact on psychopathic violent behavior among inmates in Kaduna, Nigeria. Therefore, it was recommended that forensic psychologists and other behavioral scientists who engage with custodial centers should conduct comprehensive, individualized assessments of inmates to identify underlying factors contributing to their behavior, rather than relying solely on demographic characteristics.

Keywords: Checklist-Revised, Criminal, Demographic variables, Offender, Psychopathy, Violent criminal.

INTRODUCTION

The increase and escalation in crime rate in Nigeria today call for research attention. Studies of this nature could go a long way in adding to the literature and also help in curbing various violent criminal activities across the length and breadth of Nigeria. In Nigeria, and mostly on a daily basis, people are faced with constant threats to lives and property. People are very afraid to travel, either by road, rail, or even flight. Most often on the news, media, electronic and print media, and even from lucky witnesses, there are series of banditry attacks, kidnapping for ransom, armed robbery, and outright attacks on innocent rural and urban dwellers; people are being killed on the streets, villages are attacked in the dark hours of the nights, lives and properties are destroyed, military personnel and police are not spared, people have been abducted, clergymen have been abducted and after payment of ransom they were killed, and breastfeeding mothers of children have also been abducted and killed. The bombing attacks by the Boko Haram, ISWAP, and bandits are a huge problem that people all over Nigeria have been grappling with. It is pertinent to state that the evolution from Boko Haram to Fulani herdsmen into armed banditry over time has subjected Nigerians to serious mental, psychological, cognitive, emotional, and physical health problems. As a distinct psychiatric entity, psychopathy is considered a very serious personality disorder and has proven largely intractable in the face of treatment efforts (Harris & Rice, 2006; Maibom, 2014). In terms of its expression, the disorder is marked by specific personality and behavioral features, which include deficient processing of emotion (e.g., lack of empathy and guilt), egocentricity,

grandiosity, poor judgment, callous and manipulative interpersonal relationships, and sensation-seeking behavior (Brook et al., 2013; Glannon, 2014; Hare & Neumann, 2009; Hicks et al., 2010). Furthermore, psychopathy is also conceptualized as comprising overt and impulsive antisocial behaviors (Hare & Neumann, 2010). In terms of the conceptualization and operationalization of the disorder, the work of Robert Hare warrants considerable attention. Hare advanced the measurement of the disorder with the development of the Psychopathy Checklist (PCL; Hare, 1980) and the Psychopathy Checklist-Revised (PCL-R; Hare, 1991, 2003). The PCL-R comprises two highly correlated factors, with factor one representing interpersonal and affective features of the disorder and factor two indexing lifestyle and antisocial domains (McKeown, 2010). The elucidation of age, educational affiliation, religious affiliation, and nature of crime considerations in the assessment of psychopathy forms an important theoretical and conceptual backdrop to the delineation of demographic risk factors associated with the disorder.

Statement of problem

Despite the growing concern about violent criminal behavior among inmates, there is a paucity of research exploring the relationship between demographics and violent behavior in Nigerian correctional custodial centers. Specifically, it remains unclear whether demographic characteristics such as age, education, and religion are associated with psychopathic violent behavior among incarcerated inmates in Nigeria. This knowledge gap hinders the development of effective rehabilitation programs and mental health services tailored to the unique needs of this population. Thus, it becomes imperative to investigate the demographic correlates of psychopathic violent criminal behavior among Nigerian offenders, with a view to identifying the underlying factors that contribute to this complex issue. This study aims to bridge the knowledge by examining the relationships between demographic factors of age groups (younger and older inmates), educational affiliation, religious affiliation, and nature of crime among incarcerated inmates of Kaduna Custodial Centers in Kaduna State, Nigeria.

Hypotheses

The following hypotheses were tested in the study.

1. Older inmates will report significantly higher levels of psychopathic violent criminal behavior compared to younger inmates.
2. There will be a significant association between educational affiliation and psychopathic violent criminal behavior among incarcerated inmates of the Medium Security Custodial Centre in Kaduna, Nigeria.
3. There will be a significant association between religious affiliation and psychopathic violent criminal behavior among incarcerated inmates of the Medium Security Custodial Centre in Kaduna, Nigeria.
4. There will be a significant association between the nature of crime and psychopathic violent criminal behavior among incarcerated inmates of the Medium Security Custodial Centre in Kaduna, Nigeria.

CONCEPTUAL REVIEW

Age of incarcerated inmates and psychopathic violent behavior

Psychopathy is a personality disorder characterized by traits such as lack of empathy, superficial charm, manipulative ness, and impulsivity. While not all individuals with psychopathic traits engage in violent behavior, these traits can increase the risk of such behavior, especially in combination with certain other factors like environmental influences and personal history. Skeem et al. (2001) in their findings revealed that in terms of age, there is some evidence to suggest that the expression of psychopathic traits and violent behavior might change over time. Some studies have indicated that psychopathic traits, including impulsive and aggressive tendencies, tend to decrease with age. This might be due to a combination of factors such as cognitive development, increased self-control, and socialization. As individuals grow older, they often become better at

regulating their emotions and impulses, which can mitigate the impulsive and aggressive aspects of psychopathy. However, it's important to note that not all research findings align on this matter. Some studies suggest that while certain aspects of psychopathy might diminish with age, other core traits might remain relatively stable. Additionally, age alone might not be a strong predictor of violent behavior in individuals with psychopathic traits. Environmental factors, early life experiences, and other individual differences play crucial roles in determining whether psychopathic traits will manifest as violent behavior. Some evidence suggests that the frequency and severity of psychopathic criminal activities appear to decrease with age among males (Anderson et al., 1999; Hicks et al., 2010; Porter et al., 2001) and females (Lehmann & Ittel, 2012; Ullrich et al., 2003). General research provides a picture of psychopaths as exhibiting extensive criminal careers that stretch back to a history of early offending behavior.

Educational affiliation of incarcerated inmates and psychopathic violent behavior

Education exposes individuals to diverse social environments and norms. This exposure can promote prosocial behavior and discourage violent tendencies by fostering a sense of responsibility toward others. Kennealy (2010) argued that educational opportunities can lead to improved socio-economic conditions, which can reduce stressors that might otherwise contribute to violent behavior. A stable life with access to resources and opportunities might decrease the perceived need for violence. (Lykken, 1995). Hicks et al. (2010) found that secondary psychopaths attained a significantly lower level of educational achievement than control prisoners did. Hicks and Patrick (2007) found that years of education exhibited significant negative associations with PCL-R total and factor two scores and were unrelated to factor one scores. An important caveat with regard to psychopathic offenders would be the lack of opportunities for educational attainment due to earlier age of incarceration and higher rates of juvenile delinquency (Hare, 2003). In this sense, it is difficult to disaggregate psychopathy and educational level in terms of causal relationships.

Religious Affiliation of Incarcerated Inmates and Psychopathic Violent Behavior

Many religions emphasize moral values, compassion, and empathy for others. Engaging in psychopathic behaviors, such as manipulation and lack of empathy, might contradict these teachings. Individuals who strongly adhere to the moral principles of their religion might be less likely to exhibit psychopathic traits and engage in violent behavior (Smith et al., 2020). Religious communities often provide a sense of belonging, social support, and a network of relationships. These bonds can act as protective factors against the development of psychopathic tendencies and violent behavior by promoting prosocial interactions and emotional connections (Smith et al., 2020). Some religious traditions teach that immoral actions can result in divine punishment or negative consequences in an afterlife. This fear of spiritual consequences might discourage individuals from engaging in psychopathic and violent behaviors. Ruwan et al. (2023), in their findings on the relationship between psychopathy and violence on the religious affiliation of borstal students, reported that religion and age have a non-significant difference in violent behavior and aggression. Solichah (2021) reported that the Quran and Hadith provided a conceptual and holistic picture of violence and aggressive behavior as negative and harmful. Religious beliefs and practices can offer individuals coping mechanisms to deal with stress, negative emotions, and life challenges. Engaging in healthy coping strategies might reduce the likelihood of resorting to impulsive and violent behavior.

Nature of crime of incarcerated inmates and psychopathic violent behavior

Psychopathy is a personality disorder characterized by traits such as lack of empathy, superficial charm, manipulative ness, and impulsivity. These traits can influence an individual's behavior, including the types of crimes they might commit and the way they engage in criminal activities. While psychopathy is not synonymous with violent behavior, there are some tendencies and patterns that researchers have observed (Doe et al., 2022). Some individuals with high levels of

psychopathic traits might be more prone to engaging in violent crimes. This can include offenses such as assault, homicide, and sexual violence. The lack of empathy and impulsivity associated with psychopathy could contribute to a reduced ability to consider the consequences of their actions or the impact on victims (Doe et al., 2022). Alcohol and drug abuse research has shown that psychopaths are more likely than non-psychopaths to have a lifetime diagnosis of alcohol disorder and any drug-related disorder (Smith & Newman, 1990). Specific correlations have been found between alcohol/substance abuse and the antisocial/lifestyle dimension of the disorder (factor two) among males (Crocker et al., 2005) and females (Hicks et al., 2010; Kennealy et al., 2007). This corroborates findings elsewhere in the empirical psychopathy base and underlines a potential relationship between components of secondary psychopathy and alcohol/drug abuse-related behaviors in these groups. Researchers in general have found that convicted parents are one of many variables associated with psychopathy (Farrington, 2006; Farrington et al., 2010; Harris & Rice, 2006). For instance, Hicks et al. (2010) found that the proportion of secondary psychopaths who had a father with a criminal record was significantly higher than that of control prisoners. With a specific view to female offenders, Kennealy et al. (2007) found that only factor two scores of the PCL-R significantly correlated with maternal criminality. Such findings may provide tentative support for the notion that secondary psychopathy, traditionally associated with PCL-R factor two aspects of the disorder, has a distinctive pathogenesis emanating from social determinants such as poor parenting and neglect (Moreira et al., 2014; Piquero et al., 2012; Poythress et al., 2006; Porter, 1996). However, it would be pernicious to assume that exposure to parental criminality shares a direct and causal relationship with psychopathy. In terms of the types of offenses committed, psychopaths are more likely to be involved in a wider range and higher rate of violent behaviors than non-psychopathic offenders are (Hicks et al., 2010; Piquero et al., 2012).

Empirical Review of Psychopathy and the Nature of Crime

In recent years there has been a dramatic change in the perceived and actual role played by psychopathy in the criminal justice system. Formerly, a prevailing view was that clinical diagnoses such as psychopathy were of little value in understanding and predicting criminal behaviors. However, even a cursory inspection of the features that define the disorder—callousness, impulsivity, egocentricity, grandiosity, irresponsibility, lack of empathy, guilt, or remorse, and so forth—indicates that psychopaths should be much more likely than other members of the general public to bend and break the rules and laws of society. They lack many of the characteristics important for inhibiting antisocial and violent behavior and may represent the perfect prescription for asocial, antisocial, and criminal acts. With respect to violence, Silver and Monahan (1999) commented, "Psychopathy's defining characteristics, such as impulsivity, criminal versatility, callousness, and lack of empathy or remorse, make the conceptual link between violence and psychopathy straightforward." Although psychopathy is closely associated with antisocial and criminal behavior, psychopaths are, in many ways, different from others who routinely engage in criminal behavior, including those whose criminal conduct is extremely serious and persistent. There are individuals who devote most of their adolescent and adult life to delinquent and criminal activities. Among these persistent offenders are psychopaths, who begin their antisocial and criminal activities at a relatively early age and continue to engage in these activities throughout much of their lifespan. There is a strong association between psychopathy and criminal behavior (Cooke et al., 1998; Gacono, 2000; Hare, 1998; Hare et al., 1999; Hart & Hare, 1997; Millon et al., 1998; Raine & Sanmartin, 2001). This association is all the more significant because it occurs even in populations where crime and violence are the norm. Some commentators believe that psychopathy is not important for understanding criminals (Toch, 1998), but such a belief clearly is inconsistent with the empirical literature. Hare (1998) argued that psychopathy may be the single most important clinical construct in the criminal justice system.

Theoretical Framework

Learning theories highlight the interplay between fear, anxiety, and conditioning. Remorselessness may be influenced by learning trajectories, whereby the psychopath may have failed to be conditioned to develop a conscience. Also, psychopaths have been found to be more reward-driven and less sensitive to punishment. Neuropsychological evidence suggests a possible dysfunction in the amygdala in psychopaths and differences in emotional and linguistic processing in the brain. Genetic studies have found that antisocial behaviors may have a genetic component, while cognitive theories suggest cognitive biases, especially with regard to viewing others as hostile, and problems with role-taking ability. Psychopaths have been found to be less accurate in predicting others' behaviors and may not be able to differentiate their own perceptions of situations from others' perceptions. While all these theories have their advantages and disadvantages, it is important to note that the interaction of multiple factors most likely leads to psychopathy. Biological tendencies (such as temperament) could interact with learning experiences (less sensitivity to punishment) and other environmental and social factors (poor parenting), which may lead to psychopathy.

METHOD

Design

A non-experimental quantitative research design was employed to collect data from the medium custodial correctional center in Kaduna. It is important to note that the focus of this study was with a view to determining the association between PCL-R psychopathy and specific demographic variables.

Population, Sample Size, and Sampling Techniques

Following the meetings with the prison staff to discuss selection criteria, purposive and simple sampling techniques were used to recruit the sample. The sampling frame originally comprised 150 offenders from the custodial center. A few participants opted not to participate in the study for a number of different reasons (i.e., privacy, work schedule conflicts, etc.). In the end, 141 offenders participated in the study (89% response rate).

Instruments

A self-compiled biographical questionnaire and the revised version of the Psychopathy Checklist (PCL-R; Hare, 1991, 2003) was used to collect data. This instrument is the most validated of all psychopathy measures and is deemed the "gold standard" of psychopathy assessment worldwide (Casey et al., 2013). PCL-R assessments of all offenders were based on the results of an interview with the offender. In addition, for the majority of offenders, a review of file records consisting of psychological evaluations, police records, criminal history, family background, and other criminogenic data was conducted. There is evidence of good reliability of the PCL-R, as measured by intra-class correlations of .95 and above, when used with a female sample (Vitale et al., 2002).

Procedure

The researcher obtained an official letter from the department of psychology, Faculty of Arts and Social Science, Nigerian Defence Academy, Kaduna, to study area. An advocacy visit of the study area was carried out by the researcher for official permission from the authority of the medium custodial correctional center in Kaduna to conduct research. Permission was adequately granted, and informed consent was also obtained from participants, and administration of the questionnaire was carried out at the medium custodial correctional center in Kaduna.

Techniques for Data Analysis

The chi-square test for independence was utilized to test the hypotheses stated in the study. The chi-square test is a non-parametric statistical method used to examine whether there is a significant association between two categorical variables. It determines whether the distribution

of one variable differs across the levels of another variable. The test evaluates whether observed frequencies significantly deviate from expected frequencies under the assumption of independence.

RESULTS

Descriptive Results

This section examines and describes the demographic characteristics of the study participants. These findings provide a comprehensive understanding of the sample characteristics and variables of interest in the study.

Table 1

Demographic Characteristics of Study Participants

	Frequency	Percentage %
Age (Mean± SD)	31.6±7.9	
Gender		
Male	132	93.6
Female	9	6.4
Religious affiliation		
Christianity	60	42.6
Islam	81	57.4
Educational level		
Primary	46	32.6
Secondary	53	37.6
Tertiary	42	29.8
Nature of crime		
Misdemeanour	71	50.4
Felony	60	42.6
Felony and misdemeanour	10	7.1

Table 1 shows the demographic characteristics of the study participants. The table indicated that the mean age of the study participants was 31.6 years (SD = 7.9). The majority (93.6%) of the participants were males, the religious affiliation of the majority (57.4%) of the study participants was Islam. The majority (70.2%) of the participants did not have a tertiary education. Regarding the nature of crime of the study participants, most (50.4%) of the crime committed was misdemeanours.

Inferential Results

The Chi-square statistical tool was used to test the study hypotheses at the 0.05 significance level. The results are presented in Tables 2 to 5 below.

Hypothesis 1

Table 2

Chi-square for age and psychopathy

Age group	Psychopathy		Total	χ^2	p – value
	Normal	Psychopathy			
Younger age (≤ 25 years)	11	13	24	.264	.608
Older age (≥ 26 years)	47	70	117		
Total	58	83	141		

The chi-square test for independence was conducted to examine whether older inmates report significantly higher levels of psychopathic violent criminal behaviour compared to younger

inmates. The results, as presented in Table 2, indicate no significant association between age group and psychopathy, $\chi^2 = 0.264$, $p > .05$. This implies that age is not associated with exhibiting psychopathic violent criminal behaviour among the incarcerated sample. Hypothesis one is not supported.

Hypothesis 2

Table 3
Chi-square for religious affiliation and psychopathy

Religious affiliation	Psychopathy		Total	χ^2	p – value
	Normal	Psychopathy			
Christianity	28	32	60	1.320	.251
Islam	30	51	81		
Total	58	83	141		

Table 3 presents the chi-square test results examining the association between religious affiliation and psychopathic violent criminal behaviour among incarcerated inmates of the Medium Security Custodial Centre in Kaduna, Nigeria. The results indicate that the association was not statistically significant, $\chi^2 = 1.320$, $p > .05$. This means that religious affiliation is not significantly associated with psychopathic violent criminal behaviour in this sample. Hypothesis two is not supported.

Hypothesis 3

Table 4
Chi-square for educational level and psychopathy

Educational level	Psychopathy		Total	χ^2	p - value
	Normal	Psychopathy			
Primary	18	28	46	2.051	.359
Secondary	19	34	53		
Tertiary	21	21	42		
Total	58	83	141		

Table 4 presents the chi-square test results examining the association between educational level and psychopathic violent criminal behaviour among incarcerated inmates of the Medium Security Custodial Centre in Kaduna, Nigeria. The results indicate that the association was not statistically significant, $\chi^2 = 2.051$, $p > .05$. This means that educational level is not significantly associated with psychopathic violent criminal behaviour in this sample. Hypothesis three is not supported.

Hypothesis 4

Table 5
Chi-square for nature of crime and psychopathy

Nature of crime	Psychopathy		Total	χ^2	p – value
	Normal	Psychopathy			
Misdemeanor	24	47	71	3.185	.203
Felony	29	31	60		
Felony & Misdemeanor	5	5	10		
Total	58	83	141		

Table 5 presents the chi-square test results examining the association between the nature of crime and psychopathic violent criminal behaviour among incarcerated inmates of the Medium Security Custodial Centre in Kaduna, Nigeria. The results indicate that the association was not statistically significant, $\chi^2 = 3.185$, $p > .05$. This means that the nature of crime is not significantly

associated with psychopathic violent criminal behaviour in this sample. Hypothesis four is not supported.

DISCUSSION

The study examined demographic correlates of psychopathy and violent criminal behaviors among Nigerian offenders. Four hypotheses were postulated and tested in the study using the chi-square test of independence. Hypothesis one stated that older inmates will report significantly higher levels of psychopathic violent criminal behavior compared to younger inmates. Findings of hypothesis one revealed that there is no significant relationship between age group (older and younger inmates) and psychopathy. The outcome of this study disagrees with Skeem et al. (2001), where their findings revealed that there is some evidence to suggest that age is a factor in the expression of psychopathic traits of violent behavior, which might change over time, and those psychopathic traits, including impulsive and aggressive tendencies, tend to decrease with age. Consequently, Lehmann and Ittel (2012) argued that age alone might not be a strong predictor of violent behavior in individuals with psychopathic traits. And those environmental factors, early life experiences, and other individual differences play crucial roles in determining whether psychopathic traits will manifest as violent behavior. Ruwan et al. (2023), in their findings on the relationship between psychopathy and violence in the age of borstal students, reported that age has a non-significant difference in violent behavior. Furthermore, the results also did not reflect the findings of Wong and Hare (1998), where they reported that age was significantly correlated with PCL-R.

Hypothesis two stated that there will be a significant association between educational affiliation and psychopathic violent criminal behavior among incarcerated inmates of the Medium Security Custodial Centre in Kaduna, Nigeria. The outcome of hypothesis two revealed that there was no significant association between educational affiliation and psychopathic violent criminal behavior among incarcerated inmates of the medium-security custodial center in Kaduna, Nigeria. This result agrees with Hare (2003), where he reported that psychopathic offenders lack the opportunities for educational attainment due to an earlier age of incarceration and higher rates of juvenile delinquency and that the relationship between psychopathy and levels of education is limited. Lykken (1995) also argued that low intelligence may increase the sufferer's vulnerability toward chronic misbehavior and violent tendencies. However, the outcome of the result disagreed with the findings of Hicks et al. (2010), where they reported some evidence to suggest that higher education might be associated with reduced psychopathic violent behavior and that educational levels are often associated with enhanced cognitive abilities, critical thinking, and problem-solving skills. Individuals with better cognitive control might be more capable of managing impulsive and aggressive tendencies, reducing the likelihood of violent behavior. The result is also inconsistent with the findings of Kennealy (2010), where he argued that educational opportunities can lead to improved socio-economic conditions, which can reduce stressors that might otherwise contribute to violent behavior. A stable life with access to resources and opportunities might decrease the perceived need for violence.

Hypothesis three stated that there will be a significant association between religious affiliation and psychopathic violent criminal behavior among incarcerated inmates of the Medium Security Custodial Centre in Kaduna, Nigeria. The result of hypothesis three revealed that there was no significant relationship between religious affiliation and psychopathic violent criminal behavior among incarcerated inmates of the medium-security custodial center in Kaduna, Nigeria. The result is consistent with the findings of Smith et al. (2020), who opined that individuals who strongly adhere to the moral principles of their religion might be less likely to exhibit psychopathic traits and engage in violent behavior. These bonds can act as protective factors against the development of psychopathic tendencies and violent behavior by promoting prosocial interactions and emotional connections. Some religious traditions teach that immoral actions can result in

divine punishment or negative consequences in an afterlife. This fear of spiritual consequences might discourage individuals from engaging in psychopathic and violent behaviors (Smith et al., 2020). Furthermore, Ruwan et al. (2023) in their findings revealed no significant relationship between religious affiliation and juvenile psychopathic violent criminal behavior among inmates of a borstal home. In the same vein, Solichah (2021) reported religion provided a conceptual and holistic picture of negative violence and aggressive behavior.

Hypothesis four stated that there will be a significant association between the nature of crime and psychopathic violent criminal behavior among incarcerated inmates of the Medium Security Custodial Centre in Kaduna, Nigeria. Findings revealed that there was no significant relationship between the nature of crime and psychopathic violent criminal behavior among incarcerated inmates of the medium-security custodial center in Kaduna, Nigeria. The result corroborates the findings of Toch (1998), which revealed no significant relationship between the nature of crime and psychopathic violent criminal behavior and that psychopathy is not important for understanding criminals. The result of hypothesis four, however, contrasts with the findings of Silver and Monahan (1999), who reported that psychopathy is associated with antisocial and criminal behavior and that psychopaths are, in many ways, different from others who routinely engage in criminal behavior, including those whose criminal conduct is extremely serious and persistent. Furthermore, the outcome of the above result did not agree with the findings of Cooke et al. (1998) and Gacono (2000), which indicated a strong association between psychopathy and criminal behavior. Raine and Sanmartin (2001) also indicated an association with populations where crime and violence are the norm. The result corroborates the findings of Doe et al. (2022), which revealed that individuals with high levels of psychopathic traits might be more prone to engaging in violent crimes. This can include offenses such as assault, homicide, and sexual violence. Psychopathic individuals might engage in instrumental violence, and psychopathic traits might be more strongly associated with instrumental violence (Doe et al., 2022). In terms of the types of offenses committed, psychopaths are more likely to be involved in a wider range and higher rate of violent behaviors than non-psychopathic offenders are (Hicks et al., 2010; Piquero et al., 2012).

Conclusion

The study's findings indicate that demographic factors such as age, education, and religion do not have a significant impact on psychopathic violent behavior among inmates in Kaduna, Nigeria. This suggests that psychopathy and violent behavior may be influenced by other factors, such as neurobiological factors such as genetics, brain structure, or psychological elements in psychopathic violent behavior. The lack of association between demographic factors and psychopathic violent behavior highlights the complexity of this issue and the need for a more nuanced understanding of its underlying causes.

Recommendations

1. Forensic experts should adopt a multidisciplinary approach to understanding and addressing psychopathic violent behavior, incorporating insights from psychology, sociology, neuroscience, and criminology.
2. Forensic psychologists and other behavioral scientists who engage with custodial centers should conduct comprehensive, individualized assessments of inmates to identify underlying factors contributing to their behavior, rather than relying solely on demographic characteristics.
3. Forensic experts and correctional psychologists should develop and implement tailored interventions that address the unique needs and circumstances of each inmate, focusing on behavioral modification, skills development, and emotional regulation.
4. Forensic experts should design and provide ongoing training and development opportunities for corrections staff to enhance their understanding of psychopathy, violent behavior, and effective management strategies.

5. Forensic experts and other behavioral scientists should conduct further research to explore the relationship between psychopathic violent behavior and other potential factors, such as childhood trauma, mental health, and social support networks.

Implication of Finding

This study contributes significantly to the existing literature on psychopathy and violent criminal behavior. The findings provide empirical evidence supporting theoretical frameworks that suggest a lack of association between demographic factors and psychopathic violent behavior. Consequently, rehabilitation programs should focus on individualized interventions rather than relying on demographic characteristics. The study underscores the importance of comprehensive mental health screenings and support for inmates to address underlying psychological issues that may contribute to psychopathic violent behavior. Notably, the findings challenge conventional wisdom, suggesting that demographic factors are not strong predictors of psychopathic violent behavior and that other factors may play a more significant role. Ultimately, the study's findings should inform evidence-based policy-making in the development of rehabilitation programs and mental health services for inmates, as well as staff training.

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