

# Criminal Attitudes and Associates Predict Psychopathic Personality

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## Introduction

- Prior research suggests there is a relationship between psychopathic traits and criminality, including criminal attitudes/thinking (Chu et al., 2014; Mandracchia et al., 2015), violence (Chu et al., 2014) and other antisocial behavior (Hare, 2003), as well as criminal associates (Chu et al., 2014; Sherretts et al., 2016), and entitlement (Chu et al., 2014).
- However, Boccio and Beaver (2018) found that psychopathic personality traits were only associated with violent behavior, and not associated with peer socialization or criminal attitudes when taking genetics into account.
- There is conflicting research on the relationship between psychopathic personality traits and violence, entitlement, antisocial intent, and antisocial associates.
- We helped fill this gap by examining the relationship between psychopathic personality traits and entitlement, violence, antisocial intent, and antisocial associates.

## Hypotheses

- Our hypothesis was that participants who report more criminal attitudes and associates would endorse more psychopathic personality traits.

## Method

### Participants

- $N = 397$
- Age:  $M = 33.37$ ,  $SD = 12.22$ ; ranged from 18 to 76 years old
- 51.7% male, 47% female, <1% transgender, <1% other

## Participants cont'd

- 66.8% Caucasian/White, 9.8% Asian/Asian-American, 7.4% Hispanic/Latinx, 7.1% African-American, 6.9% Multiracial, <1% Arab American, <1% Other, <1% Native American or Indigenous American, <1% Middle Eastern

## Procedure

Participants completed:

- an online survey, which included demographic data
- the Psychopathic Personality Inventory Revised – 40 (PPI-R-40; Eisenbarth et al., 2014)
- the second part of the Measure of Criminal Attitudes and Associates Scale (MCAA; Mills et al., 2002)

The second part of the MCAA has four scales:

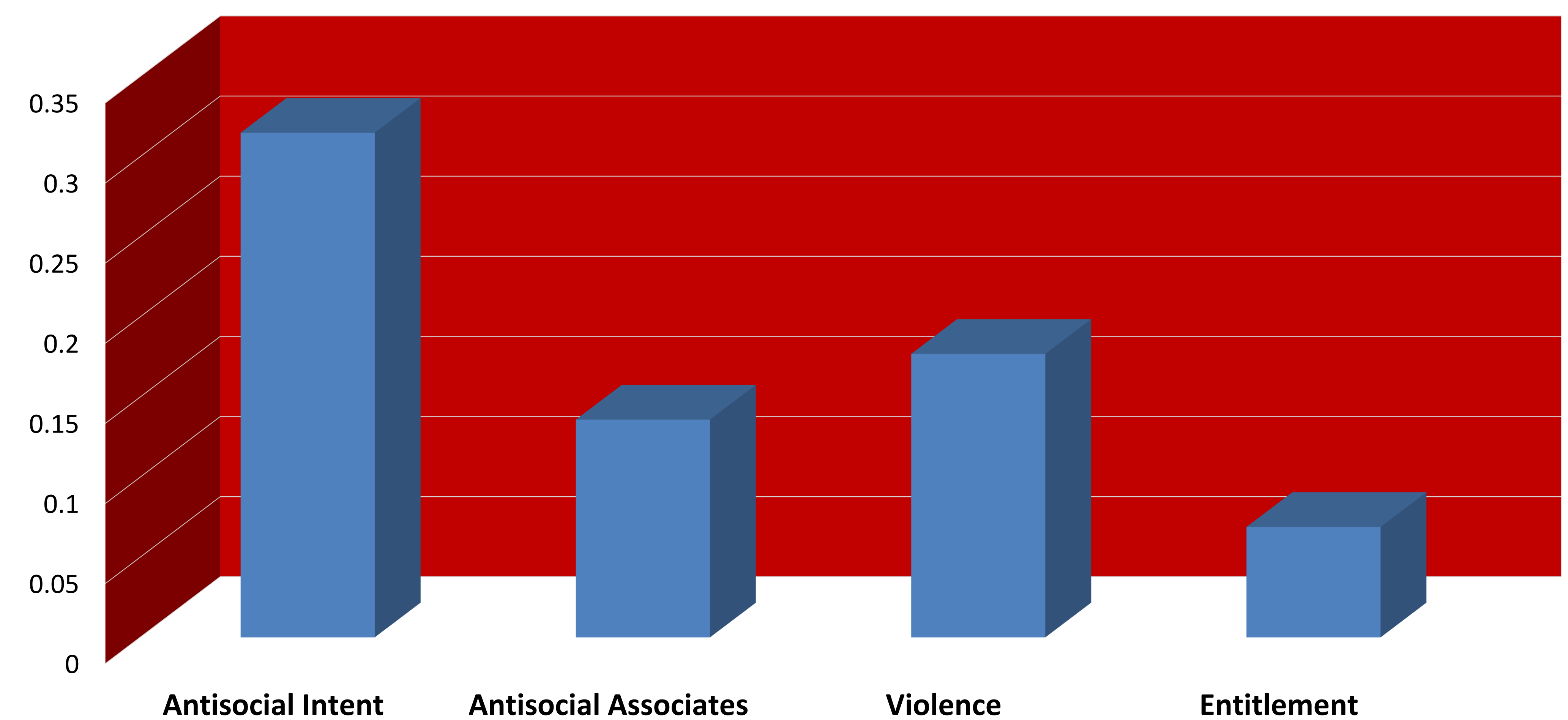
- Violence
- Entitlement
- Antisocial Intent
- Antisocial Associates

## Results

- Regression analysis was conducted with the four scales of the MCAA as predictors and the PPI-R-40 as DV.
- The full model was significant,  $F(4, 374) = 30.92$ ,  $p < .001$ , and explained 24% of the variance in psychopathic personality traits,  $adj. R^2 = .24$ .
- The antisocial intent ( $p < .001$ ), antisocial associates ( $p = .003$ ), and violence ( $p < .001$ ) scales were all significant predictors of psychopathy.
- The entitlement ( $p = .184$ ) scale was not a significant predictor.

## Results

Predictors of Psychopathy (Beta Weights)



## Discussion

- The hypothesis was that higher endorsement of acceptance of violence, antisocial associates, antisocial intent, and entitlement would be associated with more psychopathic personality traits.
- The hypothesis was partially supported.
- Violence acceptance, antisocial associates, and antisocial intent were predictors of psychopathic personality traits, however, entitlement was not a significant predictor.
- More research is needed to better understand the possible causal connection between psychopathic traits and acceptance of violence, antisocial associates, antisocial intent, and entitlement.
- It would be beneficial for attorneys and forensic psychologists to understand the relationship between psychopathic traits and criminal attitudes to better assist in evaluations of forensic cases.

## References

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