

Previous research has shown that criminal thinking is one of the main risk factors leading to criminal behavior. Mental illnesses (MI) including substance abuse and social factors increase the chances of crime. A study examined nine social determinants of health (Compton) and found they predispose individuals to poor health outcomes and contributes to the onset and worsening of mental illness. This study examines the relationship between criminogenic thinking and social disadvantage factors and mental illnesses. Previous studies support that there should be a relationship between all three variables.

The current study utilizes secondary data from a larger study. Data was gathered through a structured interview that included a self-report on demographics, mental health and criminogenic thinking. Reports on the individuals' legal history was also gathered and analyzed. In this study, I plan to use a correlation and ANOVA analysis to examine the relationship between criminal thinking and related risk factors of social disadvantage and mental illnesses.

Results showed that there were no significant differences in criminal thinking across sex, education level, race or employment and criminal thinking and age were not significantly associated with one another. In relationship to MI, criminal thinking scores and DSM cross-cutting scores are slightly positively correlated. Looking at environment(housing) in relationship to criminal thinking, individuals who were homeless had a significantly lower criminal thinking score.

The findings from this study are a start to understanding the relationship between criminal thinking, MI, and social disadvantage. Persons with MI are overrepresented in prisons thus understanding what relationships exist between these variables can be used to draw interventions and change policies for marginalized individuals who are constantly put at a disadvantage. In the future, this research can further be developed by examining the role of race considering that African Americans are overrepresented in the criminal justice system.