

Love and Violence: How Does Parental Warmth Affect Aggressive Offending for Delinquents

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Introduction

- What is parental warmth?
- Past literature shows that supportive parenting decreases delinquency (Jaggers, 2017)
- Only 18.7% of adolescence reported that their fathers listened to their point of view always
- Only 40.8% of adolescence reported that their mother listened to their point of view always (Mulvey, 2016)

Purpose of Study

- Understanding the link between parental warmth and aggressive offending can assist with parenting interventions
- RQ: "How does the level of parental warmth from both parents influence juvenile aggressive behavior?"

Data

- Used data from Pathway to Desistance study (followed 1,354 delinquents)
- Independent variable=Parental Warmth of both parents
- Dependent variable=Aggressive Offending Frequency
- Parental Warmth measured using a 4-point Likert scale questionnaire
- Used SPSS to isolate variables and run a bivariate correlation

Results

- Spearman's Rho revealed mother variable compared to aggressive offending had a probability value of 0.059
- Father's variable had a probability value of 0.217
- 0.05 needed for correlation
- See Table 1

Table 1. Correlations Between Parental Warmth and Aggressive Offending

	1	2	3
1. Mother's Parental Warmth	-		
2. Father's Parental Warmth	.48	-	
3. Aggressive Offending Frequency	-.05	-.04	-

Conclusion

- Findings did not find a correlation
- These findings suggest that parental warmth does not have an impact on juvenile aggressive offending
- Future studies could have different results or focus on different variables i.e. parental hostility or father's absence
- Mother's variable close to correlation, future studies could find it
- Father's variable not close, could be due to lack of father presence in juvenile's life

References

- Jaggers, J., Tomek, S., & Hooper, L. M. (2017, November 1). Delinquency, Anger, and Parental Warmth: An Analysis ...
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