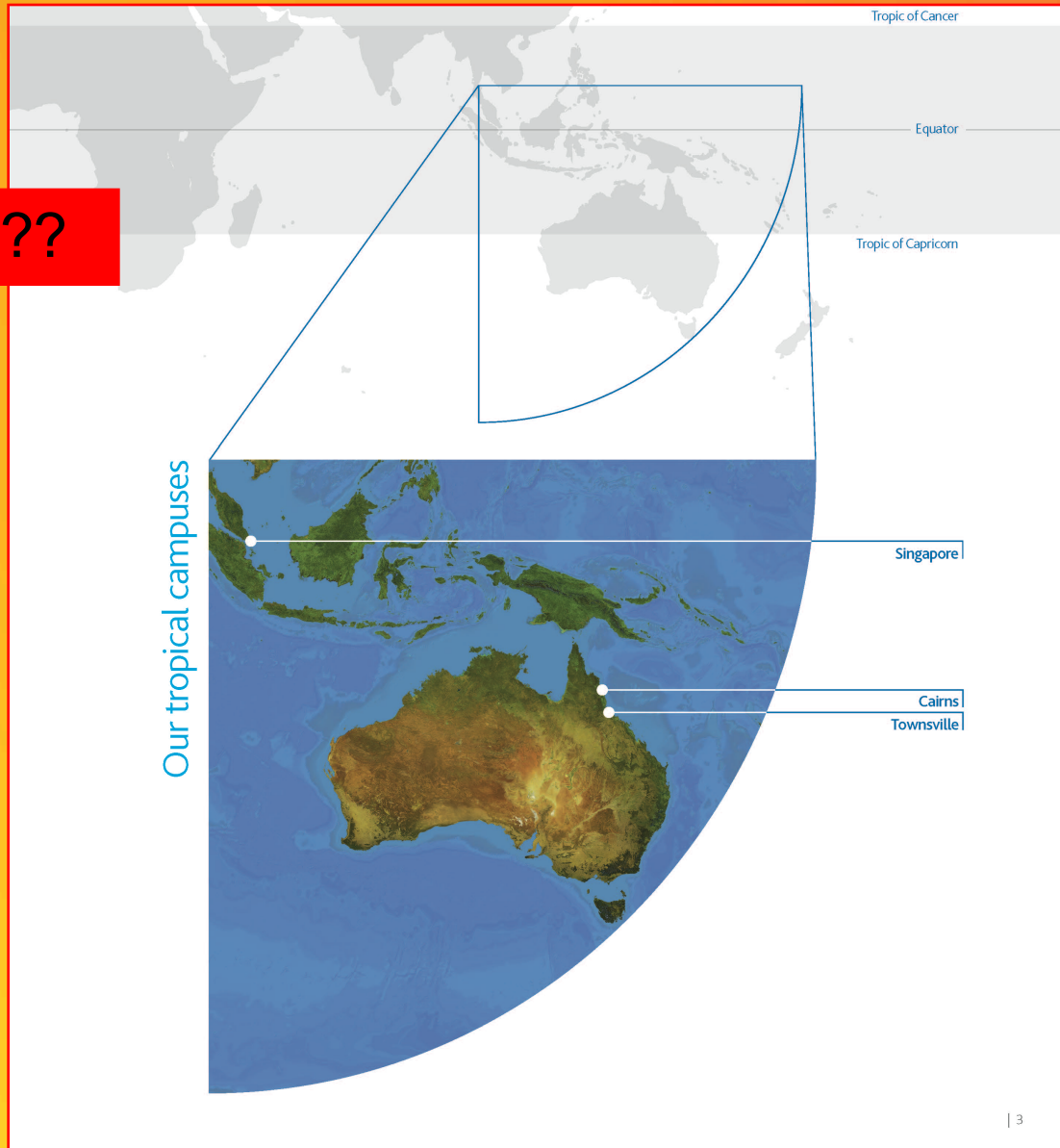


Determinants of Institutional Misconduct by Juvenile Offenders

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Where??



Juvenile gangs in Singapore

Secret societies active in Singapore for past 200 years

Outlawed by British administration > underground

Youth gangs today tend to model secret societies

Why? Friendships and sense of belonging



Determinants of Institutional Misconduct by Juvenile Offenders: Gang Affiliation and Protective Factors

Large volume of research on predictors of
institutional misconduct

So why focus on institutional misconduct by
juvenile offenders?

- Offence reduction
- Risk management
- Juvenile offenders - effective rehabilitation

Perhaps violence within prisons can be seen as an **understandable and foreseeable consequence** of life histories characterised by

disregard for rules and conventions,

exposure to violence, substance abuse,

trauma, personality traits, criminal history

Research Background

Research consistently demonstrates that institutional misconduct is more likely among inmates who are

Younger, male, members of a racial or ethnic minority,
have extensive criminal history

Gang affiliation is one of the strongest importation
predictors of institutional misconduct

Two of our research questions



1. Does **gang membership** increase the likelihood of assaultive misconduct within juvenile custodial settings?
1. Are **protective factors** associated with **decreased likelihood** of assaultive institutional misconduct?

The studied group

135 males aged between 13 and 18 years
admitted to

Singapore Boys' Home ($n = 60$)

and

Singapore Boys' Hostel ($n = 75$)

between April 2010 and November 2011

Mean period of incarceration: 15.8 months

Mean age at admission: 16 years ($SD = 1.2$)

Data Collection

- Comprehensive intake assessment
- Gang variables:
 - affiliation
 - duration
 - gang status
- Structured Assessment of Violence Risk in Youth (SAVRY)
 - 24 risk items
 - 6 protective factors

Structured Assessment of Violence Risk in Youth (SAVRY)

Example Items

Risk Domains

Historical

- History of violence
- Exposure to violence

Social/contextual

- Peer delinquency
- Peer rejection

Individual

- Negative attitudes
- Risk taking/impulsivity

Protective Factors

- Pro social involvement
- Strong social support
- Strong attachments and bonds
- Positive attitude towards intervention and authority
- Strong commitment to school or work
- Resilient personality

Assaultive Institutional Misconduct

- Attempted homicide
- Aggravated assault
- Violent sexual assault
- Fighting

Non-Assaultive Institutional Misconduct

- Drug possession
- Defiance
- Property misconduct
- Security misconduct

Gang Affiliation - Sample Characteristics



Gang-affiliated

$n = 91$

(67.4%)

Gang leaders

$n = 21$

23.1%



Non gang-affiliated

$n = 44$

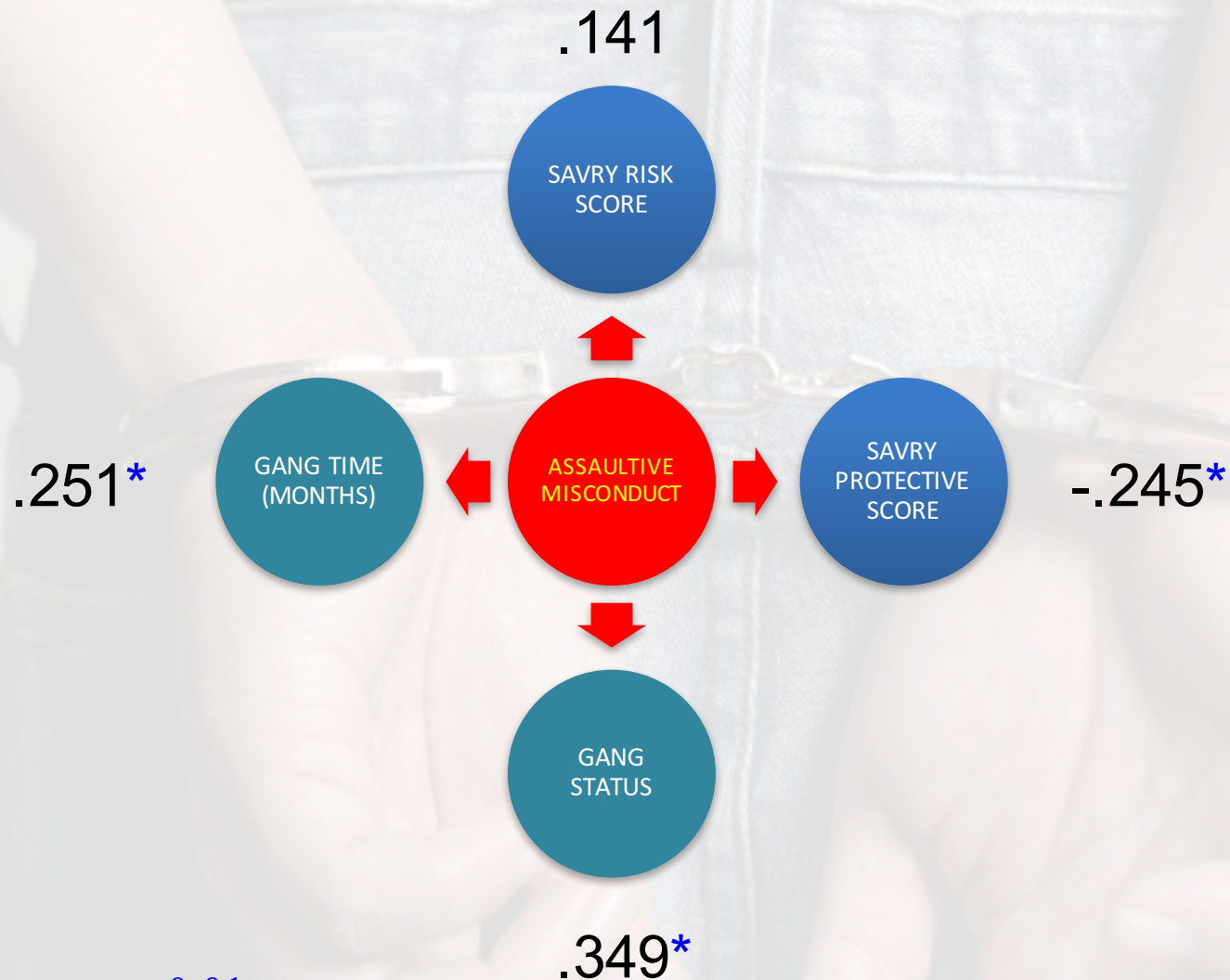
(32.6%)

Incidence of Institutional Misconduct

	Incidences	Mean	SD	Prevalence
Total	606	4.49	5.89	87.4%
Assaultive	71	0.41	0.73	42.8%
Non-assaultive	535	3.96	5.75	80.0%

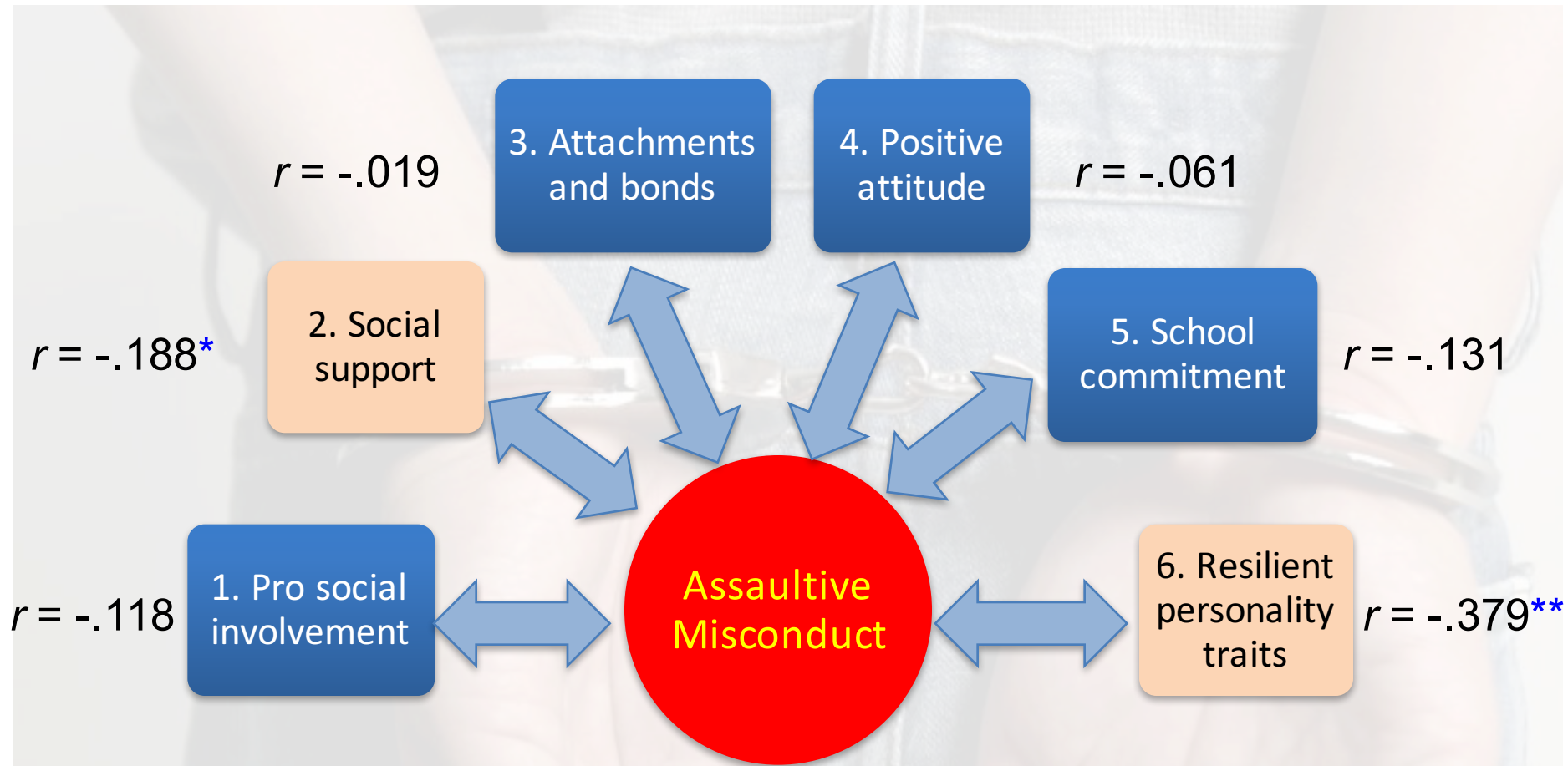
Studied group: $N = 135$

Results – Correlates of Assaultive Institutional Misconduct



* significant at $p < 0.01$

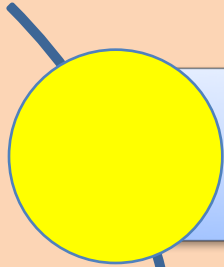
Association of SAVRY Protective Factors with Misconduct



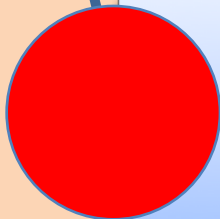
* significant at $p < 0.05$

** significant at $p < 0.01$

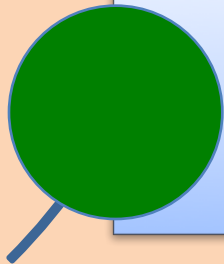
Summary



SAVRY Total Risk score was only weakly associated with assaultive institutional misconduct



Gang affiliation and gang status were both associated with increased likelihood of assaultive misconduct



Resilient personality traits and strong social support were significant predictors of non-engagement in assaultive misconduct

A photograph of a person's hands and forearms, wearing silver handcuffs. The person is wearing blue denim jeans. The image is faded and serves as a background for the text.

Thank you!

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