

Public Abstract

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Title: Predictive Validity of the Five-Factor Model Profiles for Antisocial and Borderline Personality Disorders

The current categorical classification system for personality disorders is highly problematic. Due to these problems, researchers and clinicians are proposing that a shift in the classification system of personality disorders is warranted. One of the alternative classification systems is one in which personality pathology is assessed along a continuum rather than a discrete category. The Five-Factor Model is one such dimensional model. Researchers have developed personality profiles that are prototypic of each personality disorder. Obtained scores from this personality measure can then be mapped onto the prototype scores to yield a "similarity score." This similarity score tells how closely an individual matches the prototype.

The validity of this assessment technique was tested in a study for antisocial and borderline personality disorders. The relationship between the profile scores and related variables was assessed over a period of six years in a large community sample. The profiles were related in meaningful ways to health behaviors, disinhibitory behaviors, and measures of psychopathology. The antisocial and borderline personality disorder Five-Factor Model profile scores were also uniquely related to these variables even when controlling for other personality disorders. This indicates that these profiles are specific and the results could not be explained by a general relationship between these outcome variables and personality pathology in general. Also as predicted, these variables were not related to leisure preferences and activities. Lastly, the antisocial and borderline profiles generally performed equally across the adult lifespan and across males and females.

Implications for this research include providing further support for the validity of the Five-Factor Model profiles for classifying personality disorders. Applications for using the Five-Factor Model profiles in assessment and treatment of personality disorders are discussed.