

AN ABSTRACT OF THE THESIS OF

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The present study investigated personality characteristics of incarcerated male sex offenders. Specifically, the research studied the differences between 33 incarcerated sex offenders and 24 incarcerated non-sex offenders using the Neuroticism Extraversion Openness Personality Inventory Revised (NEO-PI-R). A significant difference was found on the Extraversion Domain scale of the NEO-PI-R with the sex offender group scoring lower. Significant differences were found on several facet scales of the Domain scales. The Activity and Excitement-Seeking facet scales for the Extraversion Domain were significantly different with the sex offender group scoring lower than the non-sex offender group. On the Straightforwardness and Compliance facet scales for the Agreeableness Domain the sex offender group scored significantly higher than the non-sex offender group.

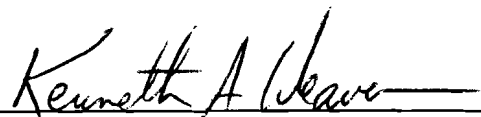
COMPARISON OF NEO-PI-R SCORES OF SEX OFFENDING
AND NON-SEX OFFENDING MALE INMATES

A Thesis
Presented to
the Division of Psychology and Special Education
EMPORIA STATE UNIVERSITY

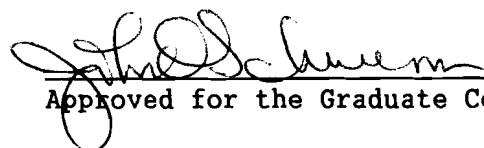
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TABLE OF CONTENTS

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS.....	iii
TABLE OF CONTENTS.....	iv
LIST OF TABLES.....	vi
LIST OF FIGURES.....	vii
<u>CHAPTER</u>	
1 INTRODUCTION.....	1
Purpose of the Study.....	1
Review of the Literature.....	2
Theories of Sexual Abuse.....	2
Prevalence of Sexual Abuse.....	4
NEO-PI and NEO-PI-R.....	4
NEO-PI and NEO-PI-R Reliability.....	5
NEO-PI Validity.....	6
NEO-PI and NEO-PI-R Validity.....	7
NEO-PI and NEO-PI-R and Sexuality.....	8
Summary.....	9
Hypothesis.....	10
2 METHOD.....	11
Participants.....	11
Instrument.....	12
Procedure.....	14
3 RESULTS.....	15
Primary Statistical Analysis.....	15
Secondary Statistical Analysis.....	21

4 DISCUSSION.....	33
Domain Differences.....	33
Facet Differences.....	35
Summary.....	37
Limitations.....	38
Future Research.....	39
Conclusion.....	39
REFERENCES.....	40
APPENDIX	45
Appendix A: Participation Consent Form.....	46

LIST OF TABLES

Table 1. NEO-PI-R Domain Scale Means and Standard Deviations of the Sex Offender Group and the Non-Sex Offender Group.. 16

Table 2. The Facet Scales Means and Standard Deviations of the Sex Offender Group and Non-Sex Offender Group..... 17

Table 3. Univariate Analyses of Variance for the Domain Scores.. 19

Table 4. Univariate Analyses for Neuroticism Facets..... 22

Table 5. Univariate Analyses for Extraversion Facets..... 23

Table 6. Univariate Analyses for Openness Facets..... 24

Table 7. Univariate Analyses for Agreeableness Facets..... 25

Table 8. Univariate Analyses for Conscientiousness Facets..... 26

LIST OF FIGURES

Figure 1. Means of the Sex Offenders and Non-Sex Offenders Graphed
for Each Domain Scale..... 20

Figure 2. Means of the Sex Offenders and Non-Sex Offenders Graphed
for the Neuroticism Facet Scales..... 27

Figure 3. Means of the Sex Offenders and Non-Sex Offenders Graphed
for the Extraversion Facet Scale..... 28

Figure 4. Means of the Sex Offenders and Non-Sex Offenders Graphed
for the Openness Facet Scales..... 29

Figure 5. Means of the Sex Offenders and Non-Sex Offenders Graphed
for the Agreeableness Facet Scales..... 30

Figure 6. Means of the Sex Offenders and Non-Sex Offenders Graphed
for the Conscientiousness Facet Scale..... 31

CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION

Although not a new phenomenon, sexual abuse has recently garnered much attention. Finkelhor (1994) indicated child sexual abuse occurs frequently among women and men, 36% and 29% respectively. Similarly, Himelein, Vogel, and Wachowiak (1994) found 38.5% of women had experienced a form of "sexual victimization" in dating ranging from unwanted sexual contact to rape.

This harmful and degrading behavior shows no signs of abatement. There are numerous treatment modalities for sexual abusers but, as with any problem, early detection and prevention is the choice method for treatment. Research has concentrated on identifying specific personality characteristics and traits that might indicate an individual's inclination to behave in a certain manner. The usefulness of this research lies in its ability to accurately identify those characteristics an individual possesses that purportedly lead to the detrimental behavior.

Purpose of the Study

The purpose of this study is to investigate personality characteristics of incarcerated male sexual abusers using the Neuroticism, Extraversion, Openness Personality Inventory Revised (NEO-PI-R; Costa & McCrae, 1992). Specifically, the NEO-PI-R's ability to accurately identify personality characteristics of the incarcerated male sexual abuser will be investigated.

If specific NEO-PI-R personality characteristics of the sex offenders are found, then the assessment technique's use as a screening device would be helpful in a number of ways. First, potential abusers

may be diverted from their harmful actions by being targeted for an ameliorative treatment strategy. The NEO-PI-R could be administered at intake and diagnostic units upon the incarcerated inmates arrival. If results indicate sex offenders have a significantly different profile from non-sex offenders, then the individual offender could be targeted for treatment programs that address potentially detrimental behavior in his life, such as, inappropriate parenting skills, poor communication skills, inadequate life skills, low self-esteem, lack of empathy, and unhealthy sexuality. Equally as important, sexual crimes against men, women, and children will be reduced.

Review of the Literature

A vast research base exists regarding sexual abuse. For the purpose of this study, the literature review will explain the perspectives of sexual abuse; the prevalence of sexual abuse; discussion of the NEO-PI-R, its reliability, validity, and past use with sex offenders and individuals with sexual dysfunctions.

Theories of Sexual Abuse

In the late 1800's, Freud was one of the first to propose a theory of sexual abuse. According to Eissler (1993), Freud's "seduction theory" was based on two "propositions." The first proposition asserted that all adults suffering from a "psychoneuroses" were sexually abused as children. Hence, Freud pointed to childhood sexual abuse as the cause of neurosis in adults. The second proposition asserted childhood was empty of "spontaneous sexuality, which implies that sexuality can manifest itself in children only through the intervention of seduction by an adult" (Eissler, 1993, p. 573).

Both of these propositions were major assumptions that left Freud's seduction theory vulnerable to falsification. Freud then turned to the more familiar 'Oedipus complex' to explain the accounts of sexual abuse (Kupfersmid, 1992) and abandoned his 'seduction theory.' This shift in perspective occurred for various reasons. One reason was the possibility that Freud would have to realize his father was a child molester since it was alleged his father sexually abused his children. Another reason was Freud's desire to be accepted in the medical community. Freud changed his unpopular view of sexual abuse (the seduction theory) to fit the more popular view of the time, the Oedipal theory (Kupfersmid, 1992).

Turning to the Oedipal theory to explain sexual abuse, Freud proposed the child's memory and fantasy were often 'intertwined' and thus early memory was subject to change, interpretation, and modification. Freud indicated children, for the most part, received their first and usually strongest genital stimulation by their primary caretaker. The child, in later years, remembers the stimulation as sexual abuse (Wilson, 1991).

Some theorists (Garland & Dougher, 1990; Groth & Burgess, 1977) have espoused a sexual abuse perspective similar to Freud's 'seduction theory.' This 'abused abuser hypothesis' suggests sexual abuse in childhood will result in pedophilia or some other sexual offense. Freund and Kuban (1994) found heterosexual pedophiles had a 'close connection between pedophilia and a self-report on childhood seduction'(p. 563). In this study, sex offenders with crimes against children self reported more childhood sexual abuse than other sex offenders. After reviewing the literature, Freeman-Longo (1986)

concluded the majority of sexual abusers have been sexually abused themselves. However, Finkelhor (1984) reported a substantial number of sex offenders who abused children claimed no sexual seduction when they were children.

A completely different view, the "feminist explanation," concluded the sexual contact between "adults and children is always a matter of patriarchal oppression" (Li, West, & Woodhouse, 1990, p. 209). This perspective, which applies largely to incest, considers male dominance to be structured into a society. Since the family is a part of society the family is included in the father's dominance. Sexual abuse is not only an expression of sexuality but an expression of power (Solomon, 1992). Solomon's (1992) research supported the "feminist explanation" of sexual abuse.

Prevalence of Sexual Abuse

There is difficulty in pinpointing the exact prevalence of sexual abuse. Research has indicated a wide discrepancy. Russell (1984) found 38% of his normative sample had been sexually abused as children. Fritz, Stroll, and Wagner (1981) reported the prevalence of their normative sample to be at 8%. Other research (Finkelhor, 1979, 1984) has indicated prevalence is between 15% and 19% for women and between 6% and 9% for men. In recent findings, Finkelhor (1994) indicated sexual abuse ranged from 7%-36% for women and 3%-29% for men. A vast majority of the findings indicate female children are abused at a higher rate than male children.

NEO Personality Inventory and NEO-Personality Inventory Revised

The NEO Personality Inventory (NEO-PI; Costa & McCrae, 1985) originally included three major personality domains: Neuroticism (N),

Extraversion (E), and Openness(O). Each of these three domains consists of six facets represented by a subscale. Neuroticism's subscales are Anxiety, Hostility, Depression, Self-Consciousness, Impulsivity and Vulnerability. Extraversion subscales are Warmth, Gregariousness, Assertiveness, Activity, Excitement Seeking, and Positive Emotions. Openness subscales are Fantasy, Aesthetics, Feelings, Actions, Ideas, and Values.

McCrae and Costa (1987) investigated the addition of two new domains: Agreeableness (A) and Conscientiousness (C). The facet subscales of the domain Agreeableness are: Trust, Straightforwardness, Altruism, Compliance, Modesty, and Tender-Mindedness. The Conscientiousness subscales are Competence, Order, Dutifulness, Achievement Striving, Self-Discipline, and Deliberation.

Costa and McCrae (1992) revised the NEO-PI (NEO-PI-R) to assess "30 separate lower ordered traits which are conceptually organized to measure 5 higher-ordered personality dimensions, each corresponding to 1 of the 5 basic dimensions of personality" (Parker, Bagby, & Summerfeldt, 1993, p. 463). The NEO-PI-R measures six facet scales for each of the five domains (Costa, McCrae, & Dye, 1991).

NEO-PI and NEO-PI-R Reliability. Research in the area of NEO-PI and NEO-PI-R reliability has indicated the inventory has acceptable reliability. In a longitudinal retest of the original normative sample, Costa and McCrae (1988) found 3 to 6 year reliability coefficients for the NEO-PI scales ranged from .68 to .83. They also indicated internal consistency reliabilities ranged from .64 to .85, with coefficient alphas for N, E, O, A, and C to be .93, .87, .89, .76, and .86, respectively. Costa and McCrae (1992) reported the coefficient alphas

for the NEO-PI-R N, E, O, A, and C Domains were .93, .90, .89, .95, and .92, respectively.

NEO-PI Validity. Research began in 1985 examining the validity of the five factor model of personality and the NEO-PI. McCrae and Costa (1985a) had participants complete the Eysenck Personality Inventory (Eysenck & Eysenck, 1964), Eysenck Personality Questionnaire (EPQ; Eysenck & Eysenck, 1975), and the extended NEO Inventory, the forerunner of the NEO-PI. All three measurements were considered "comprehensive models of normal personality" (p. 595). The authors analyzed the results to see if there were significant empirical overlap between them. The authors found the Neuroticism and Extraversion factors closely matched with the EPQ measures.

McCrae and Costa (1987) studied the five major personality dimensions among peer ratings, between peer ratings, and self-reports. This was done with the Baltimore Longitudinal Study of Aging, a sample of community-dwelling volunteers. The participants were asked to rate others on certain factors and traits. These participants were then administered an adjective-rating scale questionnaire (McCrae & Costa, 1985b) and results then were compared. The authors found the results were "straightforward, showing convergent and discriminant cross observer and cross-instrument validation for all five factors" (p. 86).

Costa and McCrae (1988) had participants complete both the Personality Research Form (PRF; Jackson, 1984) and the NEO-PI. Despite differences in theoretical orientation and scale construction strategies there were strong and clear relationships between the two. The NEO-PI and the PRF appeared to be measuring the participants' personality characteristics in a similar manner.

McCrae and Costa (1989) conducted an elaborate and complicated study involving rotation of factors to maximize the construct validity of the NEO-PI. The study employed varimax factors and validmax factors in its investigation of NEO-PI's construct validity. Self-report data from the participants were used to guide the factors. "Six alternative operationalizations of the five-factor model were used as external criteria to guide rotation"(p. 107). Analysis of the data showed evidence of construct validity for the five-factor model of personality.

Although much research conducted on NEO-PI validity is favorable, Livneh and Livneh (1989) have questioned its cross-measure validity on the "five factor model" of personality, on the NEO-PI. The authors administered the Adjective Check List (ACL) (Gough & Heilbrun, 1965) to 143 participants and compared the results to the NEO-PI. They found, contrary to their expectations, the data "failed to confirm the structure of the five factor model. None of the hypothesized sets of ACL marker scales converge to form any suggested five personality factors"(p. 75).

NEO-PI and NEO-PI-R Validity. Since 1991, NEO-PI research has centered around the validity of the NEO-PI-R. Costa, McCrae, and Dye (1991) found correlations with the NEO-PI-R and other self report scales to be significant. These self report scales included: Guilford-Zimmerman Temperment Survey (Guilford, Zimmerman, & Guilford, 1976), Buss-Durkee Hostility Indicator (Buss & Durkee, 1957), Sensations Seeking Scale (Zuckerman, 1979), and Adjective Check List (Gough & Heilbrun, 1983). The study provided evidence of convergent and discriminant validity for specific facet scales of the two new domains, Agreeableness and Conscientiousness. Further research by McCrae and Costa (1992)

corroborated convergent and discriminant validity of the NEO-PI-R facet scales.

In a comprehensive study of the new NEO-PI-R facet scales, Piedmont and Weinstein (1993) found evidence supporting "psychometric utility" of the new Agreeableness and Conscientiousness facet scales. The authors concluded the facet scales were "reliable and valid indicators of the constructs they are intended to measure" (p. 315).

Research has supported validity of both NEO-PI and the NEO-PI-R. However, Parker, Bagby, and Sumerfeldt (1993) found after confirmatory factor analysis of a normative sample there was a "poor fit between the obtained factor structure and the hypothesized dimensions corresponding to the 5-factor model" (p. 463). Furthermore, the authors indicated researchers assessing five distinct personality dimensions with the NEO-PI-R should be concerned about the relationship among domain scales.

NEO-PI and NEO-PI-R and Sexuality

Little research has been conducted with sex abusers' NEO-PI-R scores. Ramanaiah and Detwiler (1992) tested androgynous individuals and sex role groups using the NEO-PI and the Personal Attributes Questionnaire (Spence, Helmreich, & Stapp, 1975) in an effort to investigate if "the personality profile of androgynous individuals is different from those of the other sex-role groups" (Ramanaiah & Detwiler, 1992, p. 1216). The results indicated the NEO-PI profile of the androgynous group was significantly different from the NEO-PI profile of the masculine typed group.

In a similar study, Wise, Fagan, Schmidt, Ponticas, and Costa (1991) administered the NEO-PI and Derogatis Sexual Functioning Inventory (Derogatis & Melisaratas, 1979) to individuals with

transvestic fetish and other paraphiliac disorders. The results indicated ``both groups were significantly higher on neuroticism and significantly lower on the agreeableness than the NEO-PI male normative population''(p. 694).

Fagan, Wise, Schmidt, Ponticas, Marshall, and Costa (1991) investigated the NEO-PI reliability when used in a sexual behaviors consultation unit. Their participants were sexually dysfunctional men and paraphiliac men. Preliminary analyses with these patients indicated reliability and factorial validity for the NEO-PI was supported. The sexual dysfunction group and the paraphilic group had different profiles on the NEO-PI suggesting ``there are stable personality features about each group that may aid in further understanding the two group's sexual disorders and their treatment''(Fagan et al., 1991, p. 441).

Summary

The NEO-PI Inventory was developed to measure three factors of personality. A few years later the revised NEO-PI was developed to measure the additional two factors of the five-factor model.

The NEO Personality Inventory is a 240 item self report inventory that measures personality traits and characteristics. Reliability correlations of the NEO-PI-R have indicated the instrument consistently measures personality characteristics. Convergent, discriminant, and construct validity studies have been employed in an effort to establish the usefulness of the NEO-PI and NEO-PI-R. In the majority of the studies, validity has been established demonstrating the NEO-PI-R accurately assessment measures personality characteristics and traits.

However, there has been little research with sexual abusers and incarcerated male sex offenders with the NEO-PI-R. This study's purpose

is to investigate the NEO-PI-R's score of incarcerated male sex offenders. Specifically, this study will compare the NEO-PI-R scores of incarcerated male sex offenders with the NEO-PI-R scores of incarcerated male non-sex offenders.

Hypotheses

The study tested the following hypotheses:

1. The sex offender group will have higher Neuroticism scores than the non-sex offender group.
2. The sex offender group will have lower Agreeableness scores than the non-sex offender group.
3. The sex offender group will have lower Extraversion scores than the non-sex offender group.

CHAPTER 2

METHOD

Participants

Participants were 57 male prison inmates incarcerated at a midwestern state maximum security penitentiary. Thirty-three participants were convicted of a sex offense and 24 participants were convicted of a non-sexual crime. The 33 sex offenders were selected through the Sexual Abuse Treatment Program in the prison. The Sexual Abuse Treatment Program is a treatment program for prison inmates convicted of any felonious sex offense. The 24 non-sex offending participants were selected through the Alcohol and Drug Abuse Treatment Program. The Alcohol and Drug Abuse Treatment Program is for prison inmates who, upon entry into the Department of Corrections, are assessed as having abused alcohol or drugs.

The average age of the sex offender was 33 years. Their ages ranged from 23 to 55. Sixty-nine percent of the sex offenders were Caucasian and 31% were African-American. Half of the sex offenders held high school diplomas and half received a Graduate Equivalent Degree (GED). Twenty-one percent of the sex offenders had earned some college credits.

The average age of the non-sex offenders was 32 years. Their ages ranged from 21 to 58. Fifty-four percent of the non-sex offenders were Caucasian, 46% were African-American. Fifty-four percent of the non-sex offenders received GEDs and 46% held high school diplomas. Twenty-five percent of the non-sex offenders had some college credits including one participant who had an associate of arts degree and one participant who had a bachelors degree.

Instrument

Neuroticism Extraversion Openness Personality Inventory Revised.

The Neuroticism Extraversion Openness Agreeableness Conscientiousness Personality Inventory Revised (NEO-PI-R; Costa & McCrae, 1992) is a 240 item self report paper and pencil inventory. The items are answered using a Likert type scale with descriptors strongly disagree, disagree, neutral, agree, or strongly disagree. The inventory, given individually or to a group, takes 30 to 60 minutes to complete. Item scoring is balanced to control for acquiescence. The inventory is appropriate for adults with a eleventh grade reading level. Social desirability responding appears not to bias scores (McCrae & Costa, 1983).

The NEO-PI-R measures five broad domains of personality "traits that approximate normal, bell shaped, distributions"(Costa & McCrae, 1992, p. 13). Most individuals will score in the average range on the NEO-PI-R. However, the NEO-PI-R also has a high, very high, low, and a very low range. The individual's responses are given a numerical value and are tallied to get sums for each respective domain scale. These scores are converted to T scores that are plotted on the NEO-PI-R profile sheet. The T score mean is 50 and the standard deviation is 10. There are 48 items for each domain scale. Each domain scale has 6 individual facet scales. Each facet scale is comprised of 8 items. The means and standard deviations, respectively, for the five domain scales are: Neuroticism, 75.2 and 19.9, Extraversion, 108.5 and 18.5, Openness, 110.1 and 17.5, Agreeableness, 120.1 and 16.1. Conscientiousness, 123.6 and 17.4.

The NEO-PI-R does not have an elaborate validity check system but does provide some checks that clearly detect invalid tests (Costa &

McCrae, 1992). One check utilizes validity items on the inventory asking respondents to disclose if they have answered honestly and accurately, responded to all the items, and marked responses in the correct spaces on the answer sheet (Costa & McCrae, 1992). Costa and McCrae (1992) reported 99% of all volunteer subjects responded agree or strongly agree to the question asking if the respondent answered in a honest way. According to Costa and McCrae, respondents who disagree may be endorsing the item because they have not been fully honest, responded carelessly, or they have confused the response categories. If a disagree or strongly disagree response to this item is endorsed by the respondent then the inventory is considered invalid.

Two more validity items ask respondents if they have answered all of the items and marked them in the correct spaces. These items are answered "yes" or "no." If either of these items are endorsed "no" the administrator may wish to discuss with the respondents the reason for their response.

Another validity check is screening for acquiescence and nay-saying. The NEO-PI-R is roughly balanced in keying so individuals who are acquiescing will tend to have average scores. The respondents who endorse an excessive number of agree or strongly agree responses tend to receive average scores instead of extreme scores (Costa & McCrae, 1992). Screening for acquiescence consists of counting agree and strongly agree responses across all items. If respondents agreed to more than 150 items then the results should be interpreted with caution because of a strong acquiescence bias. The number of 150 was established by Costa, McCrae, and Dye (1991) who found in a large volunteer sample 99% of respondents agreed with fewer than 150 items.

Random responses may be screened by examining the items endorsed by the respondent. The authors suggest if a respondent has endorsed strongly disagree to more than 6 consecutive items, disagree to more than 9 consecutive items, neutral to more than 10 consecutive items, agree to more than 14 consecutive items, or strongly agree to more than 9 consecutive items then the validity is highly questionable.

Research has indicated the NEO-PI-R is a reliable instrument (Costa & McCrae, 1988, 1992). Also, most research has indicated the NEO-PI-R is a valid instrument (Costa & McCrae, 1985a, 1985b, 1987, 1988, 1989). Such studies include convergent, discriminant, and construct validity research to establish the usefulness of the NEO-PI-R.

Procedure

Permission to conduct this research was obtained from the Emporia State University Human Subjects Review Board and the state penitentiary's human subjects committee. Convicted sexual abusers and non-sexual abusers incarcerated in the prison were asked to participate in the study and sign a consent form (see Appendix A). After the directions were read to the participants, they were asked to complete the NEO-PI-R. The researcher administered the test to participants in groups of three to nine as well as individually. The sex offender and non-sex offender groups were never administered the test at the same time. After the inventory was completed, the participants were thanked and informed they could have access to a summary of the study. The researcher scored each NEO-PI-R by hand. Each inventory was analyzed as to its validity. Using Costa and McCrae's (1992) suggestion, if an inventory was not valid it was not be used in the research. Two of the tests were not used because of invalid scores.

CHAPTER 3

RESULTS

Means and standard deviations of the 33 sex offenders and the 24 non-sex offenders for each domain scale are reported in Table 1. The means are graphed on Figure 1. Means and standard deviations of the 33 sex offenders and the 24 non-sex offenders for each facet scale are reported in Table 2.

Primary Statistical Analysis

A multivariate analysis of variance (MANOVA) was performed using offender type as an independent variable composed of two levels (sex offender vs. non-sex offender) and using the five NEO-PI-R domain scores as correlated dependent variables. The MANOVA is for "testing the significance of differences among means as in the analysis of variance, except that the MANOVA observes the effect of the independent variable(s) on two or more dependent variable" (Yarkemo, Harari, Harrison, & Lynn, 1982, p. 148).

The MANOVA main effect for the offender group was significant, $F(6,50) = 2.47, p < .05$, corresponding to Wilk's lambda of .80. This finding suggests differences between the two offender groups on the NEO-PI-R domain scores. Table 3 provides the univariate analyses summary for the five domain scores. Specifically, the univariate F indicated sex offenders scored significantly lower than the non-sex offenders on the Extraversion scale, $F(1,55) = 4.21, p < .05$. The two offender groups were not significantly different from each other on the remaining four domain scales, although the F value for the Agreeableness scale approached significance, $F(1,55) = 3.61, p = .06$.

Table 1

NEO-PI-R Domain Scale Means and Standard Deviations of the Sex Offender Group and the Non-Sex Offender Group

DOMAIN	GROUP			
	Sex Offender (<u>n</u> = 33)		Non-Sex Offender (<u>n</u> = 24)	
	<u>M</u>	<u>SD</u>	<u>M</u>	<u>SD</u>
Neuroticism	85.60	17.31	82.66	23.45
Extraversion	103.18	17.60	112.12	14.15
Openness	109.66	13.88	113.37	10.29
Agreeableness	117.15	15.16	108.29	20.07
Conscientiousness	113.03	18.56	120.25	13.48

Table 2

The Facet Scales Means and Standard Deviations of the Sex Offender Group
and Non-Sex Offender Group

Facet	GROUP			
	a		b	
	Sex Offender		Non-Sex Offender	
	<u>M</u>	<u>SD</u>	<u>M</u>	<u>SD</u>
Neuroticism				
Anxiety	14.27	3.59	14.50	4.72
Angry Hostility	14.18	4.36	13.95	4.94
Depression	15.36	4.84	13.79	5.74
Self-Consciousness	14.81	4.14	13.62	4.41
Impulsiveness	15.45	3.38	16.58	5.23
Vulnerability	11.06	3.38	10.20	4.45
Extraversion				
Warmth	20.15	3.72	20.70	3.96
Gregariousness	15.18	5.27	14.70	4.65
Assertiveness	15.81	4.32	17.45	3.85
Activity	16.18	3.37	19.00	3.25
Excitement-Seeking	17.51	3.96	20.37	3.18
Positive Emotions	18.33	4.19	19.37	4.56
Openness				
Fantasy	16.21	4.63	16.62	4.63
Aesthetics	18.21	4.00	18.25	5.18

Table 2 (cont)

Facet	<u>M</u>	<u>SD</u>	<u>M</u>	<u>SD</u>
Feelings	19.39	4.13	19.66	3.60
Actions	16.39	2.35	17.12	2.52
Ideas	18.84	5.20	21.20	3.81
Values	20.60	3.55	20.50	3.55
Agreeableness				
Trust	18.78	5.48	16.87	5.04
Straightforwardness	20.12	4.81	16.70	4.19
Altruism	22.33	3.35	22.54	3.73
Compliance	16.78	3.68	14.54	4.68
Modesty	17.97	3.78	16.83	3.73
Tender-Mindedness	21.15	2.92	20.79	2.85
Conscientiousness				
Competence	20.60	4.00	21.33	3.04
Order	18.33	3.79	19.16	2.35
Dutifulness	19.75	3.67	21.45	2.93
Achievement Striving	18.63	5.27	20.00	2.79
Self-Discipline	20.69	4.40	21.95	4.07
Deliberation	15.00	3.47	16.33	4.47

a

n = 33

b

n = 24

Table 3

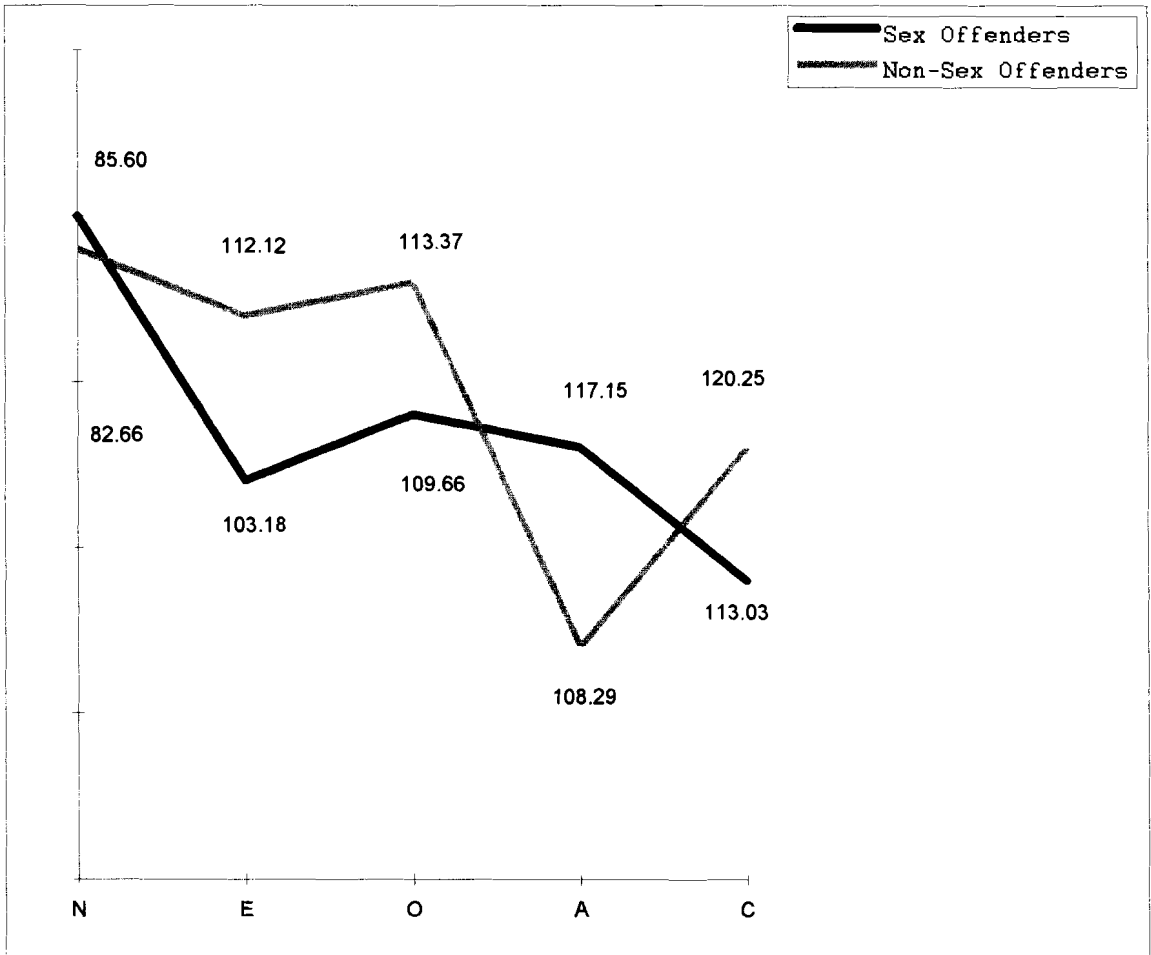
Univariate Analyses of Variance for the Domain Scores

Source	<u>df</u>	<u>SS</u>	<u>MS</u>	<u>F</u>
Neuroticism	1,55	120.05	404.49	.296
Extraversion	1,55	1111.30	264.17	4.20*
Openness	1,55	191.07	155.53	1.22
Agreeableness	1,55	1090.69	302.31	3.60
Conscientiousness	1,55	724.24	276.64	2.61

*p < .05

Means of the Sex Offenders and Non-Sex Offenders for Each Domain

Scale.



N = Neuroticism
E = Extraversion
O = Openness
A = Agreeableness
C = Conscientiousness

These findings indicate Hypotheses 1 and 2 were not supported.

Hypothesis 1 stated the sex offender group would have higher Neuroticism scores than the non-sex offender group. Although the sex offender mean was higher, the difference was not statistically significant.

Hypothesis 2 stated the sex offender group would have lower Agreeableness scores than the non-sex offender group. Contrary to what was hypothesized, the sex offender groups had a higher Agreeableness mean, albeit non significant. However, the third hypothesis was supported. This hypothesis stated the sex offender group would have lower Extraversion scores than the non-sex offender group.

Secondary Statistical Analysis

Although not a part of the formal hypotheses, since this research is explorative and there has been no previous research on the NEO-PI-R with sex offenders, additional secondary statistical analysis was computed. Specifically, a 2 X 6 MANOVA was computed for each of the five domains to determine whether differences existed between the two groups of inmates across each domain's six facet scales. The results of these analyses are shown in Tables 4-8. Figures 2-6 graph the means of sex offenders and non-sex offenders for the facet scales

The main group effect for the MANOVA computed for the Neuroticism facet scales was not significant, $F(6,50) = .995$, $p > .10$, corresponding to Wilk's lambda of .89. This finding indicates there were no differences between the two offender groups across the six Neuroticism facets.

The MANOVA computed for the Extraversion facet scales indicated a significant main effect for the two offender groups, $F(6,50) = 4.35$, $p < .01$, corresponding to Wilk's lambda of .65. Specifically, the

Table 4

Univariate Analysis for Neuroticism Facets

Source	<u>df</u>	<u>SS</u>	<u>MS</u>	<u>F</u>
Anxiety	1,55	.71	16.84	.04
Angry Hostility	1,55	.69	21.30	.03
Depression	1,55	34.33	27.41	1.25
Self-Consciousness	1,55	19.78	18.11	1.09
Impulsiveness	1,55	17.70	18.10	.97
Vulnerability	1,55	10.09	14.94	.67

Table 5

Univariate Analysis of Extraversion Facets

Source	<u>df</u>	<u>SS</u>	<u>MS</u>	<u>F</u>
Warmth	1,55	4.30	14.64	.29
Gregariousness	1,55	3.11	25.27	.12
Assertiveness	1,55	37.37	17.10	2.18
Activity	1,55	110.35	11.07	9.96*
Excitement-Seeking	1,55	113.64	13.37	8.49*
Positive Emotions	1,55	33.02	18.94	1.74

*p < .01

Table 6

Univariate Analysis of Openness Facets

Source	<u>df</u>	<u>SS</u>	<u>MS</u>	<u>F</u>
Fantasy	1,55	2.36	21.47	.11
Aesthetics	1,55	.01	20.58	.00097
Feelings	1,55	1.03	15.40	.06
Actions	1,55	7.42	5.90	1.25
Ideas	1,55	77.37	21.85	3.54
Values	1,55	.15	12.61	.01

Table 7

Univariate Analysis of Agreeableness Facets

Source	<u>df</u>	<u>SS</u>	<u>MS</u>	<u>F</u>
Trust	1,55	50.84	28.14	1.80
Straightforwardness	1,55	161.84	20.84	7.76*
Altruism	1,55	.60	12.35	.04
Compliance	1,55	70.10	17.04	4.11**
Modesty	1,55	17.94	14.18	1.26
Tender-Mindedness	1,55	1.79	8.40	.21

*p < .01

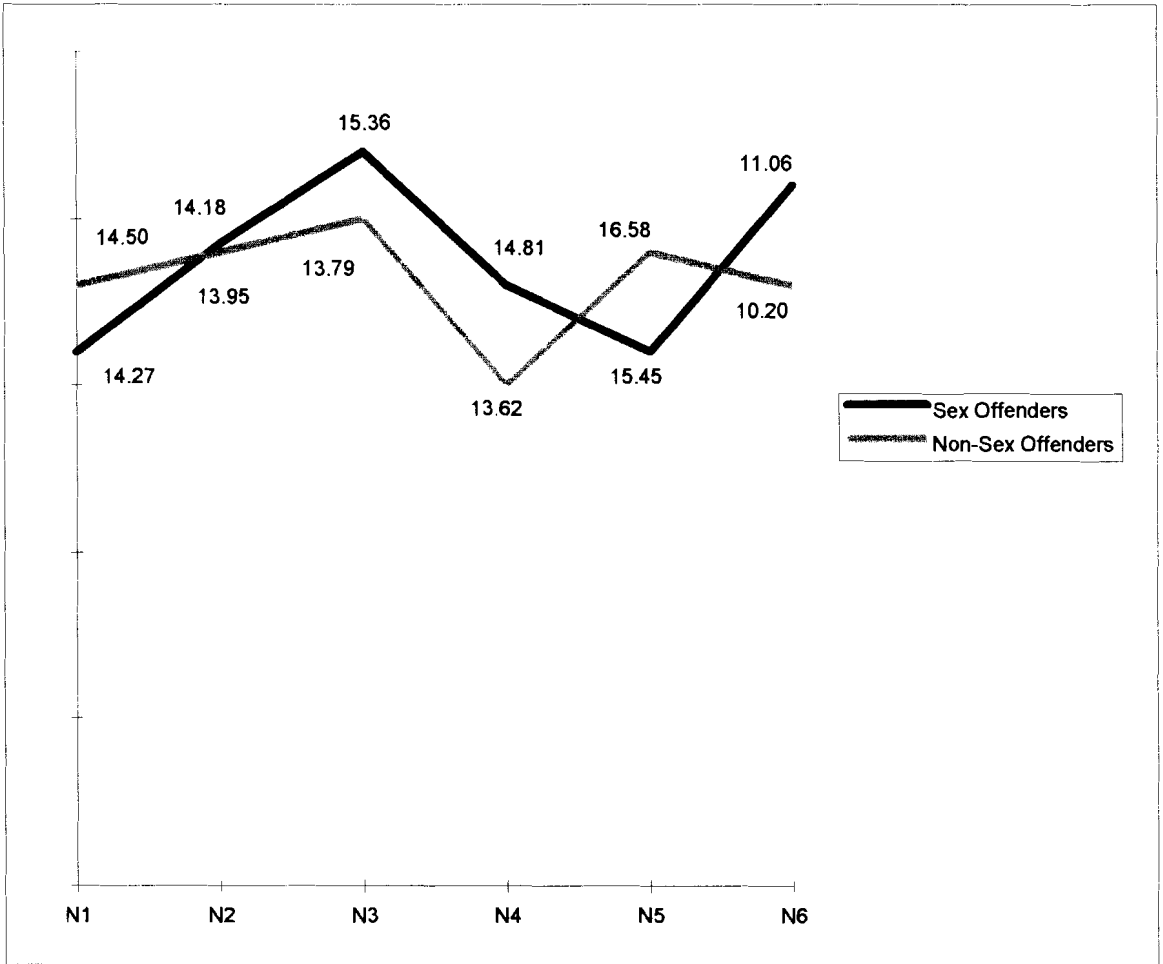
**p < .05

Table 8

Univariate Analysis of Conscientiousness Facets

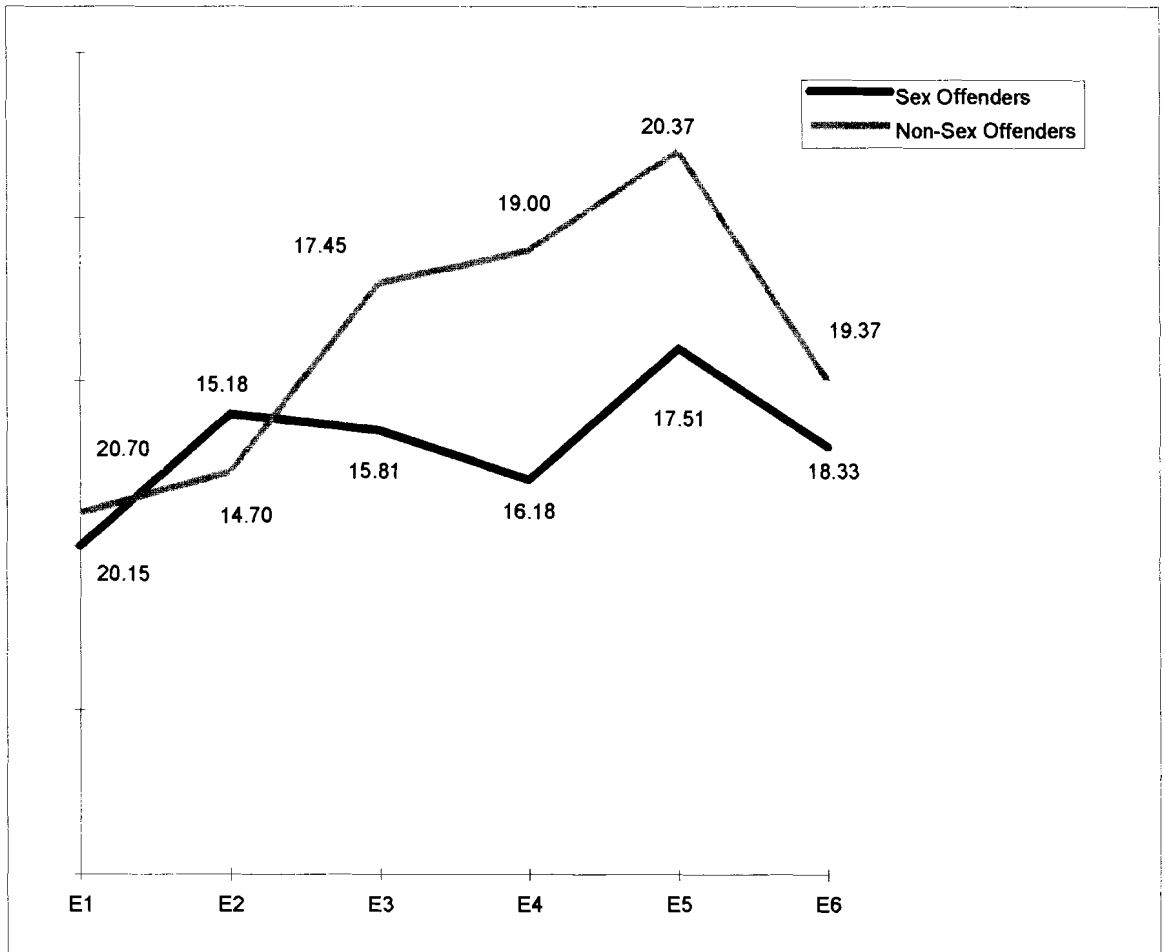
Source	<u>df</u>	<u>SS</u>	<u>MS</u>	<u>F</u>
Competence	1,55	7.34	13.22	.55
Order	1,55	9.64	10.70	.90
Dutifulness	1,55	40.19	11.45	3.50
Achievement Striving	1,55	25.83	19.48	1.32
Self-Discipline	1,55	22.10	18.21	1.21
Deliberation	1,55	24.70	15.40	1.60

Means of the Sex Offenders and Non-Sex Offenders Graphed for the Neuroticism Facet Scales.



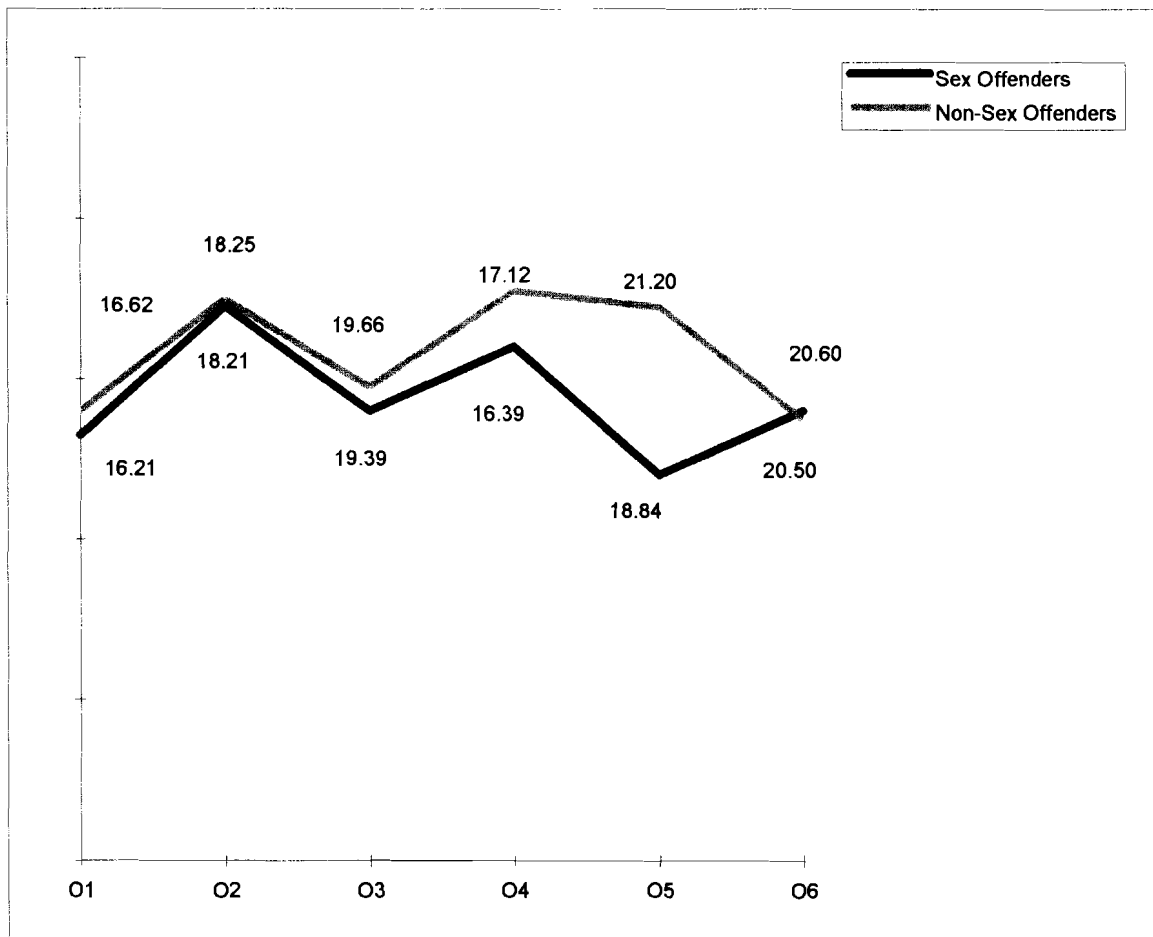
- N1 = Anxiety
- N2 = Angry Hostility
- N3 = Depression
- N4 = Self-Consciousness
- N5 = Impulsiveness
- N6 = Vulnerability

Means of the Sex Offenders and Non-Sex Offenders Graphed for the Extraversion Facet Scales.



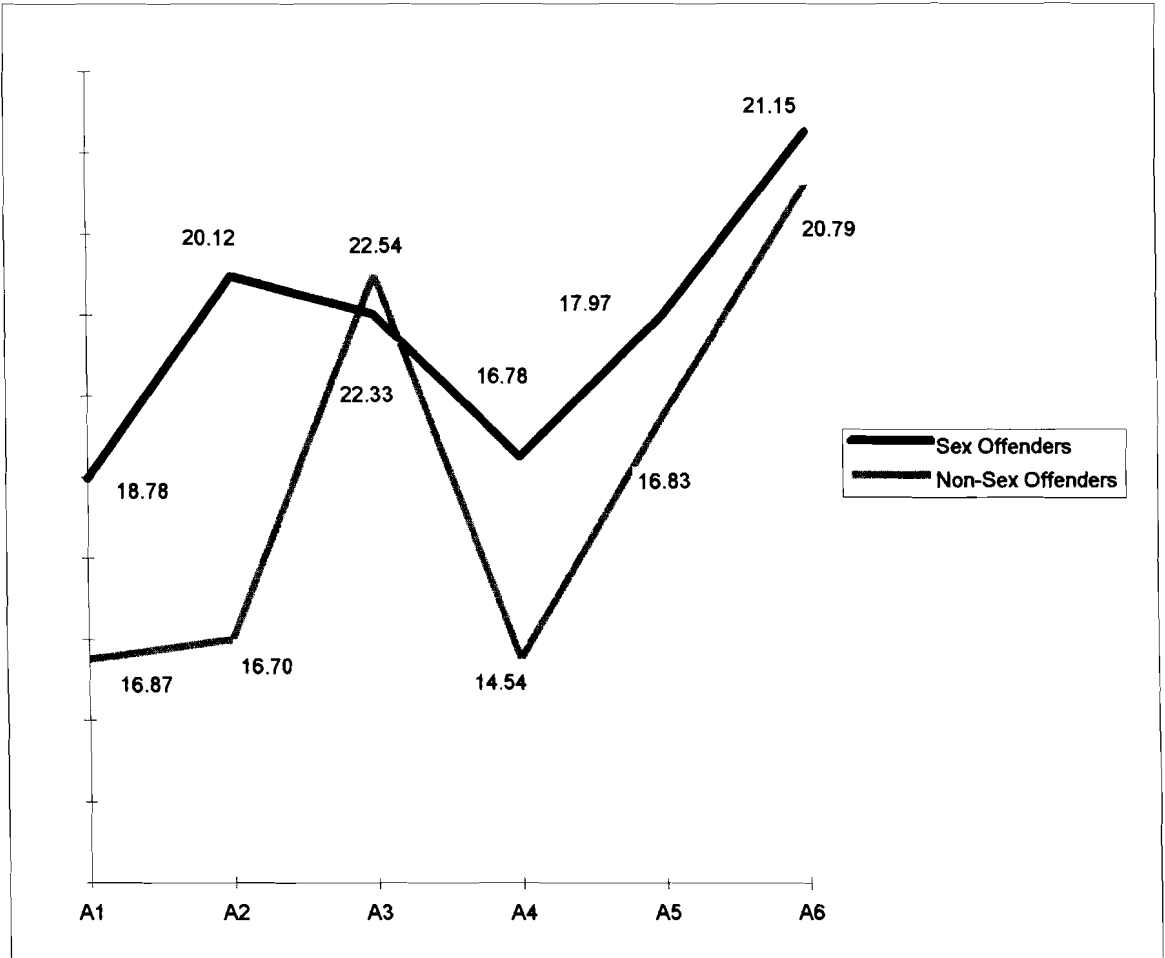
- E1 = Warmth
- E2 = Gregariousness
- E3 = Assertiveness
- E4 = Activity
- E5 = Excitement-Seeking
- E6 = Positive Emotions

Means of the Sex Offenders and Non-Sex Offenders Graphed for the Openness Facet Scales.



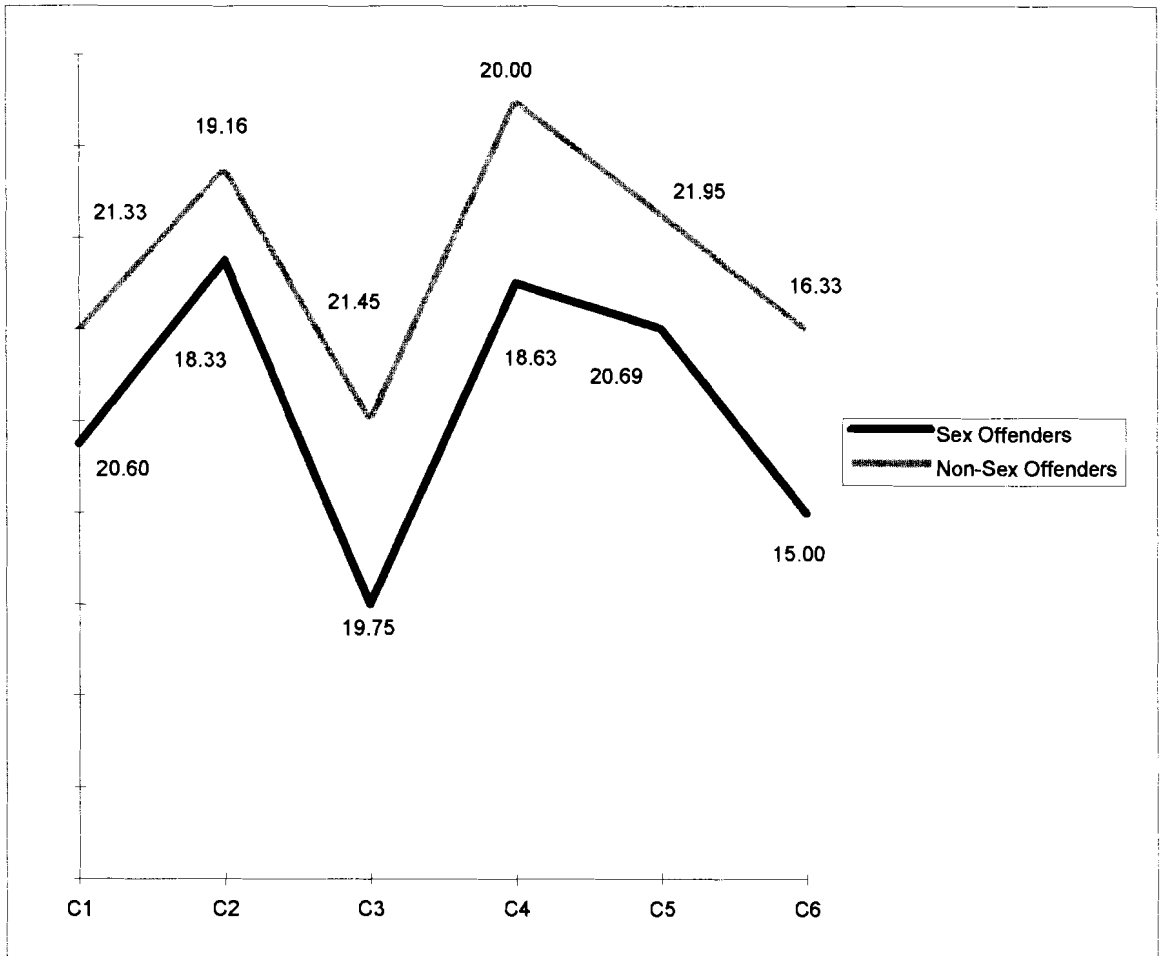
- O1 = Fantasy
- O2 = Aesthetics
- O3 = Feelings
- O4 = Actions
- O5 = Ideas
- O6 = Values

Means of the Sex Offenders and Non-Sex Offenders Graphed for the Agreeableness Facet Scales.



- A1 = Trust
- A2 = Straightforwardness
- A3 = Altruism
- A4 = Compliance
- A5 = Modesty
- A6 = Tender-Mindedness

Means of the Sex Offenders and Non-Sex Offenders Graphed for the Conscientiousness Facet Scales.



- C1 = Competence
- C2 = Order
- C3 = Dutifulness
- C4 = Achievement Striving
- C5 = Self-Discipline
- C6 = Deliberation

univariate F values indicated the sex offenders scored significantly lower than the non-sex offenders on two facet scales, Activity, $F(1,55) = 9.96$, $p < .01$, and Excitement-Seeking, $F(1,55) = 8.49$, $p < .01$.

The MANOVA performed for the Openness facet scales indicated there was no difference across facet scales between the two offender groups, $F(6,50) = .76$, $p > .05$, corresponding to Wilk's lambda of .91. However, an univariate analysis indicated the Ideas facet scale approached significance, $F(1,55) = 3.54$, $p = .065$, with sex offenders scoring lower than the non-sex offenders.

A MANOVA indicated a significant difference across the Agreeableness facets between the two offender groups, $F(6,50) = 2.79$, $p < .05$, corresponding with Wilk's lambda of .74. Specifically, the univariate F value indicated two facet scales, Straightforwardness, $F(1,55) = 7.76$, $p < .01$, and Compliance, $F(1,55) = 4.11$, $p < .05$, were significantly different between the two offender groups. Sex offenders scored higher than the non-sex offenders.

The MANOVA computed for Conscientiousness indicated there was no difference between the two offender groups, $F(6,50) = 7.13$, $p > .05$, corresponding with Wilk's lambda of .92. However, an analysis of variance indicated the Dutifulness facet scale approached significance, $F(1,55) = 3.50$, $p = .066$, with the sex offender mean score lower than non-sex offender mean score.

CHAPTER 4

DISCUSSION

In the present study, the revised NEO Personality Inventory (Costa & McCrae, 1992) profiles of incarcerated sex offenders and incarcerated non-sex offenders differed significantly on one domain scale and four facet scales. The domain and facet differences will be discussed separately.

Domain Differences

On the Extraversion domain scale the non-sex offenders' means were significantly higher than the sex offenders. The Extraversion scale measures an individual's sociability, liking people, preference for large groups and gatherings, assertiveness, activeness, and talkativeness (Costa & McCrae, 1992). Low scores on the Extraversion scale do not necessarily suggest the individual is a loner, or happy as opposed to unhappy, friendly as opposed to hostile (Costa & McCrae, 1992). Individuals with lower Extraversion scores perhaps are well adjusted but enjoy a slower paced lifestyle by themselves.

These results are compatible with the theory that an antecedent to some sexually offending behavior is isolation and non-expression of feelings (Freeman-Longo & Bays, 1994). The sex offender, perhaps, is an individual who is more comfortable with himself, stays away from crowds, and is less talkative and assertive than the non-sex offender. Possibly the sex offender becomes too comfortable with his solitude and eventually withdraws and isolates from others. In turn, this withdrawal and isolation can lead to a non-articulation of such feelings as anger, confusion, and loneliness.

Wise's et al. (1991) research indicated individuals with sexual dysfunctions (i.e., transvestic fetishists and other paraphiliacs) had significantly higher Neuroticism domain scores than a male normative population. The present study found no significant differences between the two incarcerated groups, contrary to the proposed hypothesis. One possible explanation is the Wise et al. study's normative subjects were not incarcerated. The participants in the present study all were incarcerated. The prison environment could cause all participants to have an elevated Neuroticism scale because a prison atmosphere can heighten the descriptors (anxiety, anger, hostility, depression, vulnerability, and self-consciousness) of the Neuroticism scale.

This study found a difference approaching significance between the two groups, sexual offenders and non-sexual offenders, for the Agreeableness domain scale. The sex offender group had higher scores than the non-sex offender group. However, this finding is opposite of this researcher's proposed hypothesis. Wise et al. (1991) found individuals with sexual dysfunctions had significantly lower Agreeableness scores than a normative group. Costa and McCrae (1992) indicated the Agreeableness scale measures an individual's altruistic tendencies. An individual who scores high on this scale is sympathetic to others and eager to help them. Low scores indicate an individual who is less trusting of others' intentions and is perhaps competitive rather than cooperative.

This study's finding that the non-sex offenders' Agreeableness scores were higher than the sex offenders', though not significant, is somewhat surprising. However, the explanation possibly lies in the sex offender participants actually knowing the examiner. Their trust of the

examiner was possibly higher than the non-sex offenders thus explaining the higher score on the Agreeableness facet. The non-sex offender group were possibly skeptical, leery, or untrusting of the examiner who had no contact with them prior to the testing day. Also, there is the possibility the treatment the sex offenders were receiving effected their Agreeableness scores. Perhaps the Sexual Abuse Treatment Program directly effects the agreeableness of the sex offender raising their score.

Although Openness and Conscientiousness domain scales were not significantly different for the two offender groups, each domain scale had one facet scale approaching significance. Since this study is explorative the differences in facet scores for each domain will be discussed.

Facet Differences

On two facet scales of the Extraversion domain, Activity and Excitement-Seeking, the sex offenders had significantly lower mean scores than the non-sex offenders. The Activity facet scale measures the individual's rapid tempos, vigorous movements, and need to keep busy. Individuals with lower scores are those who are more leisurely and relaxed in tempo. The Excitement-Seeking facet scale measures the individual's craving for excitement and stimulation. Lower scores indicate an individual who has little need for thrills (Costa & McCrae, 1992). Since the sex offender group scored lower on these scales, the present findings suggest the sex offender is less likely to have a fast paced life, keep busy, seek thrills, excitement, and stimulation when compared to the non-sex offender.

Facet scores for Straightforwardness and Compliance, from the Agreeableness domain, were significantly higher for the sex offender group compared to the non-sex offenders. Higher scores on the Straightforwardness scale measures an individual's frankness, sincerity, and ingenuity. Lower scores indicate a person's willingness to manipulate others through flattery, craftiness or deception. The Compliance scale measures an individuals deferment to others, an inhibition to aggression, and a willingness to forgive and forget. These descriptors are indicative of individuals with high scores but low scorers are inclined to be more aggressive, prefer to compete than cooperate, and reluctant to express anger when necessary.

The sex offenders higher scores was unique. This finding is contrary to previous research (Wise et al., 1991). As mentioned before, possibly the Sexual Abuse Treatment Program had an effect on the sex offenders explaining their higher Straightforwardness and Compliance scores.

Although the non-sex offenders scored higher on the Openness' Ideas facet scales than the sex offenders, the differences were not significant. The Ideas facet scale measures individuals' "pursuit of intellectual interests for their own sake, but also in open-mindedness and a willingness to consider new, perhaps unconventional ideas" (Costa & McCrae, 1992, p. 17). A low score suggests a limited curiosity and a narrow focus. The present finding suggests a tendency for the sex offender to be more conventional and less likely to explore new ideas than the non-sex offender. Perhaps the sex offender tends to be more rigid than the non-sex offender group.

On the Conscientiousness' Dutifulness facet scale the sex offender group scored lower than non-sex offender group. The Dutifulness scale measures an individual who adheres to ethical principals and fulfills his/her moral obligations. Low scores would indicate an individual who is more casual about such matters and may be unreliable and undependable (Costa & McCrae, 1992). Both non-sex offender and sex offender scores were profiled in the low average and low range, respectively. Perhaps the Dutifulness scale is detecting lack of dutifulness among the study's sample of sex offenders and drug and alcohol abusers. However, there is a possibility sex offenders are less inclined to fulfill moral obligations than the non-sex offending prison inmate.

Summary

Overall, this present study found sex offenders had significantly lower scores on the NEO-PI-R domain scale of Extraversion. Specifically, the two facet scales, Activity and Excitement-Seeking, were significantly different. These findings suggest the incarcerated sex offender is less likely to enjoy crowds, less talkative, less sociable, less assertive, leads a slower paced life, is more leisurely and relaxed in tempo, and does not seek as much excitement when compared to his incarcerated non-sex offender counterpart.

A finding in this present study not supported by past research was the sex offenders' higher facet scores on the domain scale, Agreeableness. Specifically, the sex offender scored significantly higher on the facets Straightforwardness and Compliance. Past research has indicated (Wise et al., 1991) individuals with sexual dysfunctions scored significantly lower than a normative group. The reason for this study's findings possibly lies in the trust the participants had toward

the examiner. All of the sex offenders knew and had contact with the examiner while the non-sex offenders had not known the examiner prior to the day of testing. Another possibility lies in the treatment effect the Sexual Abuse Treatment Program had on the sex-offender participants. Also, contrary to past research (Wise et al., 1991) there was no difference found in the participants' Neuroticism scales.

Finally, the facet scales Ideas and Dutifulness (for domains Openness and Conscientiousness respectively) were different. These present findings suggest the incarcerated sex offender is limited in curiosity, less likely to explore unconventional ideas, is narrowly focused, less likely to adhere to ethical principals, and less likely to fulfill their moral obligations than the incarcerated non-sex offender.

Limitations

The present study had certain limitations that may need to be reviewed and corrected for future research. The study was explorative and the results should be interpreted with caution. The sample size should be larger to increase the representativeness of both groups of offenders. Also, the smaller sample size likely had an effect on significance of some facet scales. Thirty-one of the 33 sex offender participants were in a sexual offender treatment program. After a final screening for sex offenses, it was determined two participants in the non-sexual offender group actually had a sex offense. Their scores were included in the sex offender group. The Sexual Abuse Treatment Program could have effected specific scores or all scores on the NEO-PI-R. The treatment could have had an impact on the scores because the program addresses specific areas the NEO-PI-R measures (e.g., Extraversion). As mentioned previously, trust of the examiner could have played a role in

the participants' responses. Suspicion of the examiner and the test itself could have determined some of the non-sex offender participants' responses. The environmental setting possibly caused acquiescence. Lastly, although the non-sex offenders participants were screened for any sexual offense, there is a possibility some non-sex offender participants actually had a sex offense. Possibly the sex offense had gone undetected, unreported, or perhaps sex offense charges were dropped.

Future Research

The current study suggests possible differences in personality characteristics between incarcerated sex offenders and incarcerated non-sex offenders. Future research should examine how types of sex offenses effect NEO-PI-R scores. There is a possibility rapists, child molesters, and incestors have significant different NEO-PI-R scores. In addition, future research should examine age, race, treatment history, marital status, educational level, and socioeconomic status and their effects on NEO-PI-R scores. The present study represents an initial step in exploring the personality characteristics of incarcerated male prison inmates as measured by the NEO-PI-R.

Conclusion

The findings of this present study suggest there are significant differences between incarcerated sex offenders and non-sex offenders in the areas of seeking excitement and tempo of life style. Other areas approach significant differences. These differences imply the sex offenders have unique personality characteristics when compared to other incarcerated non-sex offenders.

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APPENDIX

APPENDIX

PARTICIPATION CONSENT FORM

Read this form. If you have any questions ask the experimenter and he will answer the question if possible.

You are invited to participate in a study involving male prison inmates. You will be asked to complete a personality inventory. The inventory is 240 questions and takes approximately 30 to 60 minutes to complete.

Information obtained in this study will be kept confidential. Any published material resulting from this study will not disclose the identity of the individual participants. Your participation in this study is completely voluntary. Should you wish to terminate your participation, you are welcome to do so at any point of the study. Withdrawal from the study may be done without any questions asked or any consequences.

Thank you for your participation.

I, _____, have read the above information and have decided to participate. I understand my participation is voluntary and I may withdraw at any time without any prejudice after signing this form should I chooses to discontinue participation in this study.

Signature of participant

Date

Signature of experimenter

Date

I, Phillip E. Hart, hereby submit this thesis to Emporia State University as partial fulfillment of the requirements for an advanced degree. I agree that the Library of the University may make it available for use in accordance with its regulations governing materials of this type. I further agree that quoting, photocopying, or other reproduction of this document is allowed for private study, scholarship (including teaching) and research purposes of a nonprofit nature. No copying which involved potential financial gain will be allowed without written permission of the author.

Phillip E. Hart
Signature of Author

July 28, 1996
Date

Comparison of NEO-PI-R Scores

of Sex Offending and Non-Sex

Offending Male Inmates
Title of Thesis

Ray Cooper
Signature of Graduate Office
Staff Member

July 30, 1996
Date Received