

DARK TRAITS AND DARK FAMILIES: FAMILY DYSFUNCTIONS, PSYCHOPATHY AND SADISM AS FACILITATORS OF ADOLESCENT CRIMINAL BEHAVIOR*

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Psychopathy and dysfunctional family characteristics have been shown to facilitate criminal behavior and criminal recidivism. The role of trait sadism has not been explored in this context. We measured family dysfunctions (single or dual-parent families, quality of relations in families, presence of risk-factors), psychopathy (Interpersonal, Affective and Lifestyle traits) and sadism in a small sample of convicted adolescents (N=100). We collected measures of criminal behavior as well: the onset of criminal behavior, number of corrective measures, offences and convictions. The data showed that participants who grew up in dysfunctional families had more pronounced psychopathy and criminal behavior. Interpersonal and Lifestyle psychopathy traits positively correlated to criminal behavior as well. Sadism had a negative correlation with the onset of criminal behavior. In a regression model predicting general criminal recidivism (the first principal component extracted from the measures of criminal behavior), only low quality family relations and high Lifestyle traits had an independent contribution to the prediction. We did not find interactions between the dark traits and family dysfunctions in the prediction of criminal recidivism. The data extends on previous knowledge regarding the role of the dark traits and family characteristics in adolescent criminal behavior.

KEYWORDS: *psychopathy / sadism / dysfunctional family / criminal behavior / adolescents*

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INTRODUCTION

1. PSYCHOPATHY AND ITS DEVELOPMENTAL TRAJECTORIES

Psychopathy represents a syndrome of behavioral dispositions consisting of several traits. One of the prominent psychopathy models (Hare & Neumann, 2009) describes these traits as follows: Interpersonal (egocentric manipulation and superficial charm), Affective (diminished tendency to experience negative emotions, especially guilt, fear and emotional empathy), Lifestyle (impulsiveness, irresponsibility and a lack of long-term plans) and Antisocial characteristics (criminal behavior, developmental conduct problems). These four traits load on two super-ordinate factors: Interpersonal and Affective traits constitute Factor 1, while Lifestyle and Antisocial characteristics constitute Factor 2 (Hare, 2003). Psychopathy is associated with various forms of immoral and antisocial behavior like violence, exploitation of others, immoral decision-making, bullying, repeatable criminal behavior, etc. (Međedović, 2015). This is why the study of psychopathy is important both to behavioral science and to practitioners. Psychopathy is measured via rating protocols (Hare, 2003) and parallel self-report measures (Paulhus, Neumann, & Hare, 2015).

Psychopathy can be detected in early stages of ontogeny, with necessary limitations regarding the qualitative differences in behavioral traits between adults and children. However, rating protocols for assessing psychopathy in four-year olds revealed a similar factor structure to the one obtained in adults: Grandiose/Deceitful, Callous/Unemotional and Impulsive/Need for Stimulation traits (Colins, Andershed, Frogner, Lopez-Romero, Veen, & Andershed, 2014). It seems that psychopathy is relatively stable during childhood and adolescence, although there are data showing that individuals with higher scores on psychopathy show a decrease in these characteristics through adolescence (Frick, Kimonis, Dandreaux, & Farell, 2003). Psychopathy has been found to be associated with various forms of maladaptive behavior in childhood like attention deficiency, conduct problems, externalizing behaviors and ADHD symptoms in general (DeLisi, Vaughn, Beaver, Wexler, Barth, & Fletcher, 2011; Forsman, Larsson, Andershed, & Lichtenstein, 2007; Freidenfelt & af Klinteberg, 2007). Furthermore, psychopathy is related to aggressive and antisocial behavior in youth, including bullying and peer violence: a lack of empathy and emotional callousness, together with narcissistic and impulsive characteristics are important predictors of bullying in adolescence (Ciucci & Baroncelli, 2014; Fanti & Kimonis, 2013). All of this data show that the connections between psychopathy and maladaptive behavior are present in early stages of ontogeny as well.

2. PSYCHOPATHY AND CRIMINAL BEHAVIOR

Psychopathy is found to be reliably positively correlated with criminal and antisocial behavior. Some researchers even suggested that psychopathy represents a key behavioral disposition related to criminal activity (DeLisi, 2009). Indeed, psychopathy is positively associated with a criminal career index – a composite score composed of age at onset of offending, contacts with the police, substance use, court appearances etc. (Vaughn & DeLisi, 2008). Psychopathy can predict criminal recidivism as well, which is particularly important information since recidivists are especially harmful for society. Some studies

show that the predictive potential of psychopathy is very high since it can predict criminal recidivism even when several other related variables related to delinquency are controlled, like education, intelligence, previous offenses, delinquent peers and substance abuse (Salekin, 2008). Furthermore, psychopathy predicts recidivism above and beyond basic personality traits which means that it does represent some of the crucial personality characteristics related to criminal behavior (Mededović, Kujačić, & Knežević, 2012).

However, if we take a closer look at the particular psychopathy traits which predict recidivism, a problem emerges. It is based on a *tautological relation* between psychopathy and stable criminal behavior. The problem is reflected in the fact that only Factor 2 is related to criminal recidivism in most of the studies (Leistico, Salekin, DeCoster, & Rogers, 2008). In fact, some data suggest that only Antisocial psychopathy characteristics are related to recidivism (Walters, Knight, Grann, & Dahle, 2008). This association is tautological since the predictor and the criterion measure represent the same behavior. It is certainly useful for practitioners, but it does not explain the origins of criminal behavior. The question of Factor 1 traits relations to criminal behavior is still open. One of the crucial moderators in this relationship can be the type of criminal offense. For example, Affective characteristics are positively related to specific types of offenses like stalking (Storey, Hart, Meloy, & Reavis, 2009) or violent crimes in general (Roberts & Coid, 2007). On the other hand, if the type of offense is not controlled for, Affective traits can be negatively related to criminal recidivism (Burt, 2004; Mededović, 2015).

For the purpose of the present study it is important to mention that psychopathy predicts criminal recidivism in adolescents as well. Psychopathy is more pronounced in delinquents than the compared control group (Chabrol, Van Leeuwen, Rodgers, & Séjourné, 2009). Psychopathy positively associates with delinquent and aggressive behavior, externalizing problems, earlier onset of alcohol consumption academic behavior problems and expulsion from school (Campbell, Porter, & Santor, 2004). In the sample of adolescent delinquents in Serbia, psychopathy significantly predicted the number of criminal offenses as a measure of criminal recidivism, but interestingly, Factor 1 was the key predictor in this study (Mededović, Kujačić, & Knežević, 2012a).

3. SUBCLINICAL OR "EVERYDAY" SADISM

In recent years researchers have tried to provide a more precise topography of the space of immoral and antisocial personality traits (Mededović, 2012). This resulted in the so called Dark Tetrad concept where the immoral side of human personality is described via four traits: psychopathy, Machiavellianism, narcissism and sadism (Chabrol et al., 2009; Mededović & Petrović, 2015). It is worth pointing out that egocentrism and manipulative behavior (the key features of narcissism and Machiavellianism) are already present in the four-factor model of psychopathy as a part of Interpersonal characteristics. However, trait sadism probably represents an important addition to the description of dark personality traits (Bulut, 2017). Sadism and psychopathy have a common core - a lack of emotional empathy to the distress of others (O'Meara, Davies, & Hammond, 2011). On the other hand, sadism has some additional characteristics which are not present in psychopathy: pleasant emotions which emerge as a reaction to the pain of others (Mededović, 2017). The research showed that sadism is positively associated with various immoral and antisocial outcomes like hurting others without provocation and no discernible benefits (Buckels,

Jones, & Paulhus, 2013), vandalism (Pfattheicher, Keller, & Knezevic, 2018) or aggressive forms of humor and antagonism towards immigrants (Međedović & Bulut, 2017).

Research on the link between sadism and criminal behavior is still scarce. Until recently, the involvement of sadism in criminal behavior has been examined almost exclusively in the context of sexual sadism (Kingston, Seto, Firestone, & Bradford, 2010). However, recent findings have shown that sadism may be associated with various forms of criminal behavior, not only offenses marked by sexual violence (DeLisi, Drury, Elbert, Tahja, Caropreso, & Heinrichs, 2017). Finally, the data on adolescents showed that sadism can predict delinquency even when psychopathy is controlled in the analysis (Chabrol et al., 2009). These data suggest that sadism is not a redundant predictor of delinquency and that it can explain the variance of criminal behavior which is not accounted for by psychopathy.

4. DYSFUNCTIONAL FAMILY ENVIRONMENT IS RELATED BOTH TO DARK TRAITS AND CRIMINALITY

Of course, criminal behavior is not a consequence of personality characteristics alone. Various environmental characteristics are related to the production of criminal behavior. Certainly, one of the most explored environmental factors that contribute to criminality, are various indicators of dysfunctional family relations. The existing data are congruent in finding links between the dysfunctions in interpersonal relations within the family and criminal behavior, both in adults (Jonson-Reid et al., 2010) and adolescents (Bender, Postlewait, Thompson, & Springer, 2011; Moffitt & Caspi, 2001). Furthermore, adverse family relations, especially childhood maltreatment has been found to associate with psychopathy traits as well (Borja & Ostrosky, 2013; Međedović, Petrović, Želeskov-Đorić, & Savić, 2017). The existing data shows that the presence of family maltreatment is positively related both to higher expressions of affective psychopathy traits (Kerig, Bennett, Thompson, & Becker, 2012) and to impulsive and reckless behavior (Poythress, Skeem, & Lilienfeld, 2006). So far, there is no data on the links between family dysfunctions and trait sadism. Finally, there is an interaction between the personal characteristics of individuals and family relations in the predictions of antisocial behavior. For example, negative parental practices are more related to problematic behavior in adolescents with low behavioral control (Van Leeuwen, Mervielde, Braet, & Bosmans, 2004).

5. GOALS OF THE PRESENT RESEARCH

The existing data and theory suggest that subclinical sadism could be one of the dark personality traits which are important for understanding criminal behavior. However, the data regarding this link is still scarce. Furthermore, the predictive role of sadism in explaining criminality should be tested together with psychopathy since these two traits have some common characteristics. Finally, the dark traits could interact with adverse family relations and multiplicatively contribute to the emergence of criminal behavior. This is why we tested the relations between psychopathy, sadism, dysfunctional family characteristics and criminal behavior in a sample of institutionalized adolescents. We assumed that: 1) criminal behavior would be more pronounced in dysfunctional families; 2) Factor 2 psychopathy traits would have a larger role in the prediction of criminal behavior than Factor 1 traits; 3) trait sadism would have an independent role in the prediction of criminal behavior; 4) dark traits and family characteristics would interact in the prediction

of criminal behavior: individuals with high psychopathy and sadism who lived in families with aberrant interpersonal relations would express the highest levels of antisocial behavior; conversely, individuals with low psychopathy and sadism and with a more beneficial family environment would show the lowest levels of criminal behavior.

6. METHOD

6.1. Sample

We sampled individuals serving their sentence in the Correctional Facility for juveniles in Kruševac. One hundred participants volunteered to participate in the research ($M_{\text{age}}=17.6$ years; $SD=1.49$). All participants had elementary reading skills. The data was collected in small groups and the researcher was present at the time of data collection.

6.2. Measures

We measured psychopathy via SRP4 scale (Paulhus et al., 2016). It measures four psychopathy traits: Interpersonal, Affective, Lifestyle and Antisocial characteristics. Every trait is measured via 16 items. Please note that we dropped Antisocial characteristics from the analyses since the relation of this trait and criminal behavior is tautological in nature; furthermore, if kept in the multivariate analysis it could buffer non-trivial relations between psychopathy and delinquency, i.e. the link between Lifestyle traits and criminal behavior (Međedović, 2015).

We measured sadism via the Core sadism scale from the Variety of Sadistic Tendencies (Paulhus & Jones, 2015) inventory. It is a seven item scale which captures crucial features of sadistic personality (items example: "I enjoy making people suffer"; "I enjoy mocking losers to their face").

We measured three indicators of family environment. We asked the participants if they lived with both or only one parent: dual-parent families are coded by 1 while single parent families are coded with 0. Participants estimated the quality of relations with each parent, together with the quality of relations between the parents themselves on a five-point scale ranging from 1 - "very bad" to 5 - "very good". The average score on these three items was used in the analyses (if a participant lived with one parent, that single measure was used in the analyses). Finally, we measured several family risk-factors which are shown to correlate with psychopathy and criminal behavior - the presence of parental criminal behavior, psychological dysfunctions, alcoholism and substance abuse. All measures were binary coded - the presence of a risk-factor was coded by 1 while absence was coded by 0. The measure of family risk-factors was analyzed as a sum of these four scores.

We measured criminal behavior via four items: the onset of criminal behavior (the age when a participant committed their first offense), the number of offenses, legal convictions and previous corrective measures. We used these individual scores in the analyses but we calculated the total score of criminal recidivism by extracting the first principal component from these four indicators (all scores except the onset of criminal behavior had positive loadings; Eigenvalue=1.28; 31.89% of original indicators' variance explained).

7. RESULTS

7.1. The relations between the examined measures

First we showed descriptive statistics, the reliabilities of multi-item measures and the bivariate associations between the examined measures. Pearson's coefficient of linear correlation was used as the measure of association; point-biserial correlation coefficient was used in order to explore the associations between binary (dual vs. single-parent family) and continuous measures. Since the sample size is small, we showed and interpreted coefficients with marginal statistical significance as well. The results of these analyses are shown in Table 1.

Table 1: Descriptive statistics, reliabilities and correlations between the examined measures

	M	SD	α	1.	2.	3.	4.	5.	6.	7.	8.	9.	10.	11.
1. Dual-parent family	/	/												
2. Family risk-factors	1.88	1.32		-.34**										
3. Relations in family	3.62	0.99		.55**	-.26*									
4. Interpersonal	2.83	0.89		-.13	.12	-.17 [†]								
5. Affective	2.86	0.86		-.07	.14	-.12	.64**							
6. Lifestyle	3.32	0.86		-.21*	.16	-.18 [†]	.65**	.59**						
7. Sadism	2.39	0.87		-.14	.05	-.08	.58**	.55**	.49**					
8. The onset of criminal behavior	12.52	2.45		.23*	-.15	.18 [†]	-.18 [†]	-.23*	-.21*	-.20*				
9. No. of corrective measures	0.60	0.49		-.13	.26**	-.21*	.02	.15	.13	-.02	-.11			
10. No. of offenses	14.2	7.30		-.17 [†]	.08	-.23*	.16	.03	.07	.10	-.11	.09		
11. No. of convictions	10.49	6.52		.16	-.12	.02	-.08	-.18 [†]	.14	-.12	.00	.06	.01	
12. Criminal recidivism	0.06	0.93		-.22*	.20	-.31**	.23*	.20	.32**	.15	-.64**	.53**	.51**	.34**

Notes: [†] - $p < .1$; * - $p < .05$; ** - $p < .01$.

We can see from Table 1 that the relations between family characteristics generally depict a higher vs. lower presence of family dysfunctions: a higher frequency of family risk-factors is detected in single-parent families and in families with lower quality relationships. There are high positive correlations between the dark traits, as expected. The quality of relations in participants' families correlated negatively to psychopathy (Interpersonal and Lifestyle traits) and criminal behavior. Individuals who grew up in families with a higher number of risk-factors showed an elevated number of corrective measures. Participants who were raised by both parents had lower levels of psychopathic Lifestyle and criminal behavior as well. Interestingly, all dark traits are negatively related to the onset of criminal behavior. However, only psychopathy was positively associated to the general factor of criminal recidivism (Interpersonal and Lifestyle traits) and negatively to the number of convictions (Affective psychopathy characteristics).

7.2. Dark traits and family dysfunctions as predictors of criminal behavior

Since dark traits and family dysfunctions positively correlate between themselves, we wanted to test their power to predict criminal behavior in a context where these correlations are controlled. Furthermore, we controlled the variance of participants' age since it is a crucial covariate of the frequency of criminal behavior. We set age, family dysfunctions and dark traits as predictors while general factor of criminal recidivism was set as the criterion measure (four participants were removed from the analysis as multivariate outliers). We conducted the analysis only for this criterion measure in order to decrease the number of analyses and consequently, the type 1 error probability; at the same time, this variable is representative for the whole set of criminal behavior indicators. However, we wanted to evaluate the relative contribution of individual vs. family characteristics in the prediction. This is why we set two hierarchical models of multiple linear regression. In the first one, we set age on the first level, dark traits on the second and family dysfunctions on the third level. Age explained 5% of criterion's variance ($F_{(1,95)}=5.38$; $p=0.02$), the dark traits explained an additional 12% on the second level ($\Delta F_{(4,91)}=3.11$; $p=0.02$) while family dysfunctions explained an additional 6% to the variance on the third level ($\Delta F_{(3,88)}=3.11$; $p=0.07$). In the second regression model we switched the predictors on the second and third level: in this case family dysfunctions explained 10% of criterion's variance above the participants' age ($\Delta F_{(4,91)}=3.49$; $p=0.02$) while dark traits explained 8% of variance above and beyond the predictors on the previous levels of regression ($\Delta F_{(3,88)}=2.29$; $p=0.07$). We show only the contributions of individual predictors in the full model of the regression in Table 2. As we can see, only three predictors had independent contributions to the prediction of criminal recidivism: age and the quality of relations in the family were negatively associated, while psychopathic Lifestyle was positively related to the criterion measure. We also searched for interactions between the dark traits and family dysfunctions, but we did not detect statistically significant interactions.

Table 2: Dark traits and family dysfunctions as predictors of criminal recidivism

	B	se	β	t
age	-0.17	0.07	-0.27	-2.53*
Dual-parent family	0.10	0.22	0.05	0.45
Family risk-factors	0.02	0.07	0.03	0.30
Relations in family	-0.26	0.11	-0.28	-2.38*
Interpersonal	0.05	0.15	0.05	0.34
Affective	-0.15	0.16	-0.14	-0.96
Lifestyle	0.36	0.15	0.33	2.44*
Sadism	0.00	0.13	0.00	0.03

Notes: * - $p < .05$.

8. DISCUSSION

In the present study we tried to further contribute to the existing knowledge of the relations between dark personality traits, family environment and criminal behavior in adolescents. The first two hypotheses we set were supported by empirical data: family dysfunctions and psychopathy were significantly positively associated to criminal behavior. Lifestyle psychopathy traits and low quality of the relations in family were especially good predictors of stable criminal behavior. However, our latter predictions were not corroborated by the data: trait sadism showed relatively low associations both to detrimental family characteristics and delinquency; furthermore, there were no interactions between the individual and family characteristics in the prediction of criminal recidivism.

8.1. Dark traits are positively associated to dysfunctional family characteristics

Generally, the present data revealed positive correlations between psychopathy and dysfunctional characteristics in adolescents' families. This finding is in line with previous data showing an elevated expression of psychopathy traits in families where abuse, neglect or other dysfunctional behavior of the parents was present (Borja & Ostrosky, 2013; Međedović et al., 2017). Lifestyle characteristics were particularly affected by family conditions since they were less pronounced in participants who grew up with both parents and in families with a higher quality of interpersonal relations. This finding is congruent to previous data which shows elevated levels of impulsive and reckless behavior in individuals who experienced maltreatment in childhood (Poythress et al., 2006).

Interestingly, sadism was not related to adverse family conditions. This is not in line with previous data showing negative relations between sadism and attachment to parents in adolescents (Chabrol et al., 2009). There may be moderators that can account for the lack of associations between family characteristics and sadism. According to some authors, sadism represents a malicious, destructive and hypertrophied form of aggressiveness (Knežević, 2003). Therefore, it is possible that dysfunctional family characteristics facilitate the development of sadistic traits only in children who are particularly prone to aggression. There is also another possibility for the lack of these associations. Higher expression of psychopathy in adverse environmental conditions may be due to the potential adaptive role of psychopathy in a harsh environment – higher resilience to stress which may serve to buffer stress-related pathology (Glenn, Kurzban, & Raine, 2011; Međedović, 2015). However, there is no theoretical rationale for the assumption that trait sadism may have adaptive potentials as well.

8.2. Dark traits as predictors of criminal behavior

Psychopathy and sadism were generally related to a higher frequency of criminal behavior. The onset of criminal behavior was especially affected by the variance in dark traits: all four dark personality characteristics were negatively associated with this indicator of criminality. The result that Interpersonal psychopathy traits were related to delinquency

is especially interesting – this could corroborate the possibility that Factor 1 psychopathy traits are related to criminal behavior (Mededović, 2015). Furthermore, Affective traits were negatively related to the number of convictions which is in line with the notions that Affective traits may have a protective role in regard to criminal behavior (Burt, 2004; Mededović, 2015). However, the regression model showed that only Lifestyle psychopathy characteristics independently contribute to the prediction of criminal recidivism. These findings are in line with the data showing that only Factor 2 psychopathy traits are related to stable criminal behavior (Leistico et al., & Rogers, 2008). It seems that a lack of impulse control and long-term plans, followed by an irresponsible and parasitic lifestyle are key psychopathy predictors of delinquency in adolescents, similarly as in adults.

The lack of sadism's power to predict repeated offending is not in line with previous findings which demonstrated that sadism can predict criminal behavior in adolescents when other dark traits are controlled in the analysis (Chabrol et al., 2009). In fact, there are data showing that sadism is the best predictor of delinquency in youth (Chabrol, Bouvet, & Goutaudier, 2017). Again, there could be moderators which can be responsible for the absence of this link. Sadism, similarly to Affective psychopathy traits, should be especially related to specific forms of criminal offending – acts with violent characteristics. However, we did not control for the type of offense in the present study. Still, previous research showed that sadistic traits are related to repeated criminal offending in adults (Mededović, 2015; Mededović et al., 2012). Thus, it is possible that the role of sadism in criminal behavior is more prominent in adults than in adolescents.

8.3. Family, individual characteristics and criminal behavior

Individuals who lived with both parents and had better family relations had a lower frequency of offending and they started with criminal activity later in ontogeny. These results are in line with the large amount of data showing that troublesome relations in a family facilitate criminal behavior both in adults (Jonson-Reid et al., 2010) and adolescents (Bender et al., 2011; Moffitt & Caspi, 2001). Hence, the present findings further highlight the importance of family relations in facilitating or buffering criminal behavior. In the present research dysfunctional family characteristics had a similar power in recidivism prediction as the dark traits did (although, the latter predicted a little bit more variance of recidivism than family characteristics). The contributions of dysfunctional family characteristics and the dark traits in the prediction of criminal recidivism were additive in nature: detrimental family characteristics did not interact with the dark traits, as we assumed.

8.4. Limitations and future directions

The present study has several important limitations. The first and most obvious one is the small sample size. It reduced the power of the study and thus elevated the probability of type 2 error - failure to detect the effects which exist in a population. Thus, we should be cautious in interpreting the absence of expected effects: they may still be found in a study with a larger sample size. Another limitation of the present research is the fact that we obtained all the measures from the participants themselves, which makes the present study mono-methodic. It would be better if some information, especially regarding the criteria measures, would be collected from an independent source - penitentiary dossiers, for example. Finally, the design used in the present study is retrospective; consequently we

cannot make causal inferences regarding the relations between the variables. A design where recidivism would be operationalized as a follow-up relapse in committing criminal offence, after the information about personality and environment would be gathered, would provide causal evidence for the determinants of stable criminality.

CONCLUDING REMARKS

In the present study we tried to contribute to the existing knowledge of the predictors of adolescent criminal behavior. This topic is especially important since existing empirical studies show that the corrective and therapeutic programs aimed at changing psychopathy traits are effective in children and adolescents; furthermore, these programs are especially successful if they involve the parents of the children with behavioral problems as well (Kolko, Dorn, Bukstein, Pardini, Holden, & Hart, 2009). The present data clearly show why this is the case: family environment and adolescents' personality traits are independent predictors of criminal behavior. This is why empirical studies on this topic are so important: they can precisely point the practitioners to personality or family characteristics which should be targeted in the treatment. Such results could lead not only to more effective corrective programs, but to better prevention as well. In this way, we could divert at least some of the children who are at risk of delinquency and strengthen their potentials for different life choices.

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MRAČNE CRTE I MRAČNE PORODICE: PORODIČNE DISFUNKCIJE, PSIHOPATIJA I SADIZAM KAO FACILITATORI KRIMINALNOG PONAŠANJA KOD ADOLESCENATA

U ranijim istraživanjima je pokazano da psihopatija i disfunkcionalne porodične karakteristike facilitiraju kriminalno ponašanje i kriminalni povrat. Uloga crte sadizma u ovom kontekstu nije empirijski istraživana. U ovom istraživanju merili smo porodične disfunkcije (prisustvo jednog ili oba roditelja, kvalitet odnosa i prisustvo faktora rizika u porodici), psihopatiju (Interpersonalne, Afektivne i karakteristike Životnog stila) i sadizam u malom uzorku institucionalizovanih adolescenata (N=100). Takođe, prikupili smo i mere kriminalnog ponašanja: uzrast prvog počinjenog krivičnog dela, broj vaspitnih mera, krivičnih dela i pravnosnažnih osuda. Nalazi su pokazali da porodične disfunkcije, psihopatija i kriminalno ponašanje sistematski pozitivno asociraju između sebe. Sadizam je negativno korelirao sa uzrastom prvog počinjenog krivičnog dela. U regresionom modelu predikcije kriminalnog recidiva (ekstrahovanog kao prva glavna komponenta mera kriminalnog ponašanja) samo su nizak kvalitet porodičnih odnosa i visoko izražena karakteristika Životnog stila nezavisno predviđali kriterijumsku meru. Nisu pronađene interakcije između mračnih crta i disfunkcionalnih porodičnih karakteristika pri ovoj predikciji. Nalazi istraživanja proširuju postojeće znanje o ulozi mračnih crta i porodičnih karakteristika u kriminalnom ponašanju kod adolescenata.

KLJUČNE REČI: psihopatija / sadizam / disfunkcionalna porodica / kriminalno ponašanje / adolescenti