

Longitudinal Associations between a Health Risk Factor and Juvenile Justice Placement among Persistent Juvenile Offenders

Jennifer Wareham¹, Richard Dembo², and James Schmeidler²

¹Wayne State University

²Mount Sinai Medical Center

October 18, 2022

Abstract

Little is known about longitudinal health risks and justice involvement among juvenile justice system (JJS) populations. This study used a sample of $n = 388$ males involved in the JJS to examine longitudinal associations of a latent health risk factor, comprised of depression, marijuana use, and sexually transmitted infections, with post-JJS placement. Results indicate the health risk factor was relatively stable over three time points of JJS entry and associated with present and future JJS placement. Youths who were Hispanic, older, or living with a family member struggling with alcohol use had higher health risk. These findings underscore the need for JJS services that address health risks among persistent juvenile offenders, with consideration of cultural and family dynamics.

Hosted file

Health risk longitudinal_Main Document.docx available at <https://authorea.com/users/515460/articles/590815-longitudinal-associations-between-a-health-risk-factor-and-juvenile-justice-placement-among-persistent-juvenile-offenders>