

Clinical Correlates of Adverse Childhood Experiences and Criminal Behavior Among Individuals Receiving Psychiatric Treatment: A Cohort-Based Investigation

Maria Belen Grace Mendoza-Ong¹, Edison C. Galindez¹,
Marc Eric S. Reyes²

¹*National Center for Mental Health, Philippines, Mandaluyong City, Philippines*

²*Department of Psychology, College of Science, University of Santo Tomas, Manila, Philippines*

This study examines the association between Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) and criminal behavior among individuals receiving psychiatric treatment. Using a retrospective cohort design, the investigation analyzed medical records and ACE survey data from the National Center for Mental Health (NCMH) to determine the extent to which early adverse experiences contribute to later involvement in criminal activity. Results revealed that high levels of neglect, emotional and physical abuse, occasional sexual victimization, and family instability characterized the participants' childhood experiences, suggesting that early trauma may contribute to later psychiatric difficulties and criminal behavior. The findings have implications for developing evidence-based prevention and intervention strategies aimed at mitigating the long-term psychological and behavioral consequences of ACEs. The results may support the implementation of comprehensive, trauma-informed approaches to prevention, treatment, and ongoing support for affected individuals in partner agencies of NCMH.

Keywords: adverse childhood experiences, criminal behavior, psychiatric treatment

Access to Full Text

The full text of this article is available through institutional subscriptions via major academic databases and aggregators, including **EBSCO, ProQuest, and Cengage**. The *North American Journal of Psychology* is indexed in **Scopus** and **APA PsycINFO**, and access to full articles is typically available through university and research library systems.

Author info: Correspondence should be sent to: Dr. Maria Belen Grace Mendoza-Ong. National Center for Mental Health, Philippines, Mandaluyong City.
Email: gracem.ong888@gmail.com

North American Journal of Psychology, 2026, Vol. 28, No. 2, 1144-1164
© NAJP <https://doi.org/10.65696/001c.162720>