

Firesetting in a Male Prison; An Investigation into the Personality Differences in Firesetters and Non-firesetters

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Abstract : Abstract Objective: The current study investigated if there was a difference in personality factors in prisoners who had a recorded history of firesetting and who had no recorded history of firesetting. Participants: Participants were 64 male prisoners in a Category B male prison. Participants who had set a fire were identified through the prisons data base, and prisoners who had not set a fire were selected at random. Method: The study used the International Personality Item Pool-50 to measure personality factors, and prisoners who had set a fire were identified through a range of sources accessible to the prison. Analytical evaluation was done by the Multivariate Kruskal Wallis and Mann-Whitney tests. Findings: There was a significant difference between the the firesetting and non-firesetting group in the scores of the personality factor of Contentiousness. Contentiousness was significantly lower in the firesetting sample compared to the non-firesetting sample. Conclusions: Implications for clinical practice and future research are discussed.

Keywords : firesetting, personality, arson, prison, prisoners

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