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

Authors: Elinor Bull, Faye Horsley

Abstract: 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 database, 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 firesetting and non-firesetting group in the scores of the personality factor of Contentiousness. Conclusions: Implications for clinical practice and future research are discussed.

Keywords: firesetting, personality, arson, prison, prisoners

Conference Title: ICFDMFPFP 2023: International Conference on Forensic Decision Making and Forensic Practice in Forensic Psychology

Conference Location: Istanbul, Türkiye

Conference Dates: December 18-19, 2023