

Washington University in St. Louis

## Washington University Open Scholarship

---

Volume 12

Washington University  
Undergraduate Research Digest

---

Spring 2017

### The Effects of Psychopathic Personality Factors and Gender on Substance Use, Depression, and Anxiety

Lauren Fournier

*Washington University in St. Louis*

Follow this and additional works at: [https://openscholarship.wustl.edu/wuurd\\_vol12](https://openscholarship.wustl.edu/wuurd_vol12)

---

#### Recommended Citation

Fournier, Lauren, "The Effects of Psychopathic Personality Factors and Gender on Substance Use, Depression, and Anxiety" (2017). *Volume 12*. 57.

[https://openscholarship.wustl.edu/wuurd\\_vol12/57](https://openscholarship.wustl.edu/wuurd_vol12/57)

This Abstracts A-I is brought to you for free and open access by the Washington University Undergraduate Research Digest at Washington University Open Scholarship. It has been accepted for inclusion in Volume 12 by an authorized administrator of Washington University Open Scholarship. For more information, please contact [digital@wumail.wustl.edu](mailto:digital@wumail.wustl.edu).

# THE EFFECTS OF PSYCHOPATHIC PERSONALITY FACTORS AND GENDER ON SUBSTANCE USE, DEPRESSION, AND ANXIETY

*Lauren Fournier*

*Mentor: Deanna M. Barch*

Psychopathy is personality disorder often associated with antisocial behavior, criminality, and emotional and interpersonal deficits such as a lack of remorse. These characteristics can be divided into two factors: Factor 1 (callous-unemotional interpersonal-affective traits) and Factor 2 (impulsive-antisocial behavior). Though the relationship between psychopathic personality and substance use has previously been studied, the literature on this topic is somewhat lacking with regard to gender differences and differential relationships to factor scores. Previous studies have also found psychopathy to be inversely related to depression and anxiety, but a closer examination of gender and factor score differences is needed in this domain as well. The present study investigated the relationships between self-reported psychopathic personality factors, participant gender, substance use, and depression and anxiety using data collected as part of the Human Connectome Project ( $N = 1321$ ). We hypothesized that Factor 2 traits would be positively related to measures of substance use, depression, and anxiety, while Factor 1 traits would not. The relationships between Factor 2 and substance abuse were expected to be stronger in men than in women, and relationships between Factor 2 and depression and anxiety were expected to be stronger in women than in men. Results from regression analyses supported these hypotheses, showing stronger relationships of Factor 2 to substance use, depression and anxiety. We also expected an interaction between the factors, such that higher Factor 1 traits would be protective against the relationship between Factor 2 traits and substance abuse, depression, and anxiety. This interaction between Factor 1 and Factor 2 was found for some measures of substance use, but was not present for depression and anxiety. These results contribute to an understanding of impulsive-antisocial traits as the more maladaptive factor of psychopathy when compared to interpersonal-affective traits, which are less associated with negative outcomes.