

# **Abstract**

## *Personality and Criminal Behaviour*

The personality is presented as a remarkable factor of criminal behavior.

There seems to be unanimity on the importance of certain personality traits may influence the criminal behavior of the subject. This is why we've designed the present study, comparing previous results with those of the prison population in Portugal.

Founding a contribution to help clarify what influences the behavior of offenders, this study aims to examine, in subjects convicted of murder in subjects convicted of crimes against property and individuals convicted of violent crimes and dangerous, personality traits of Eysenck's theory and the theory of sensation seeking Zuckerman, as well as factors of the life history of the subjects that are related to his criminal career.

The sample consists of 78 inmates, all adults and males. The sample is divided into three groups i) 28 individuals convicted of murdering ii) 25 individuals convicted of violent crimes and hazardous iii) 25 individuals convicted of crimes against property.

For this study used a questionnaire composed of three parts: i) socio-demographic data, ii) the Eysenck Personality Questionnaire - Short Version (EPQ-SS), iii) Sensation Seeking Scale form V (SSS-V) Zuckerman.

The results show differences between the three study groups. The murderers are characterized by low levels of psychoticism and neuroticism, are less deviant behavior over time and a smaller and have fewer career criminal history of drug and alcohol use in relation to violent and subject to subject property.

The violent and dangerous individuals and subject property have high levels of neuroticism and psychoticism and are more likely to commit crime under the influence of drugs than murderers. Indeed, the violent and dangerous offenders have higher values in the search of sensations and are more intolerant of boredom that subjects murderers, and begin their criminal careers earlier, younger than in relation to both groups.

Correlating personality traits with the deviant behavior, the more psychoticism and neuroticism is most unstable labor sooner you start practicing more crimes and if it is in contact with the system of formal control. For its part, the more extroversion and sensation seeking more if it is early in the commission of deviant behaviors and crimes.

We also note that the trait sensation seeking is positively related to extraversion and negatively with lie.

According to the results obtained in this study, which corroborate with the international results, we contribute to the understanding of this phenomenon and for the characterization of a population that shows certain peculiarities.