

Statistics in criminological psychology

For each of the following scenarios, choose and justify the appropriate statistical test for analysing the data.

1. A researcher classified a group of offenders as 'violent' or 'non-violent' using their criminal records. They used medical records to ascertain whether there had been birth difficulties when the offender was born.
2. A researcher observed whether lone drivers would choose to park in a parking bay marked 'parents and children only' or park further away if only two spaces were available. The researcher recorded the drivers' numberplates and used this information to find out how many 'points' each driver had on their license.
3. A researcher measured Psychoticism in a sample of students using the Eysenck Personality Questionnaire. They left a bowl of sweets marked 'for ALL participants to share' on the table where the participant completed their questionnaire. When each participant left, the researcher counted how many sweets they had taken.
4. A researcher measured aggression by allowing participants to administer blasts of white noise to a confederate who had provoked them. The overall duration of the noise blasts was recorded. The same participants returned to the lab a week later and did the same test. This time, the participants were given an alcoholic drink equivalent to 2 standard units half an hour before the test.

Extension: using your knowledge of criminological psychology, suggest a rationale, an alternative and null hypothesis for this study.

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