

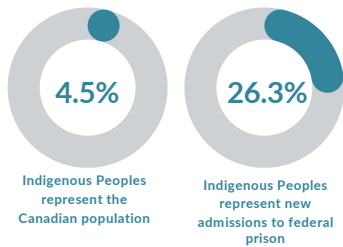
A Culturally-Informed Examination of Risk Factors for Crime among Indigenous Peoples



PRESENTER:
Ashley Kyne, School of Criminology

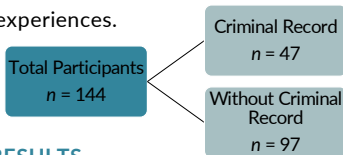
BACKGROUND

Existing risk assessment tools tend to predict reoffending worse for Indigenous offenders. Indigenous offenders are also more likely to be classified as high risk.



METHODS

The purpose of this study was to identify correlates of criminal behaviour among Indigenous individuals (n = 144). In consultation with Indigenous stakeholders, I developed a culturally-informed questionnaire whose questions focus on issues unique to Indigenous experiences.



RESULTS

- Being in a foster care ($p = 0.04$) was significantly related to criminal behaviour.
- In contrast, adoption ($p = 0.75$) and living on reserve/reservation during childhood/teen years ($p = 0.14$) was not significant.

A culturally-informed questionnaire shows alcohol and illegal drug use were significantly related to criminal behaviour among Indigenous Peoples.

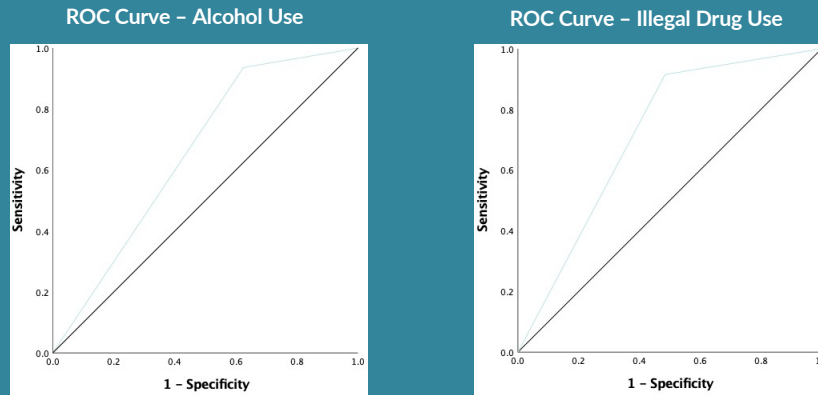


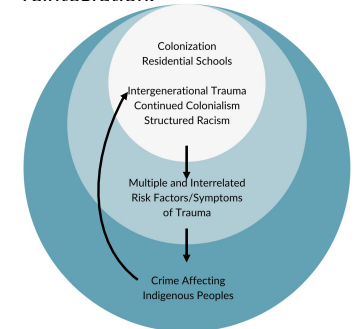
Table 1: ROC Analysis for Predicting Convictions and Charges

Theme	Variable	AUC	Effect size	P	95% CI	
					Lower	Upper
Identity	Indigenous status	.48	Small	.40	0.36	0.56
	Participated in culture in last 12 months	.41	Small	.09	0.31	0.51
Gender Abuse	Male	.61	Small	.02	0.51	0.72
	Physical	.59	Small	.01	0.48	0.68
	Mental	.57	Small	.18	0.49	0.68
Substance Use	Sexual	.58	Small	.10	0.47	0.67
	Alcohol	.56	Small	.03	0.56	0.75
	Illegal drugs	.71	Large	.01	0.63	0.80

Note: Following rough approximations between AUCs and Cohen's d as reported by Rice and Harris (2005), AUCs of .56, .64, and .71 correspond to small, moderate, and large Cohen's d values.

DISCUSSION

- Information on culturally-relevant factors could be important for enhancing sentencing decisions, treatment, and community reintegration.



Note: Adapted from Marchak (2016). The colonial problem: An Indigenous perspective on crime and justice in Canada, p. 173, Figure 6.2

DECOLONIZING RISK ASSESSMENTS

Commonly used risk assessments

- Are founded on cultural values that largely represent non-Indigenous Peoples.
- Inadequately capture the of Indigenous offenders to reoffend.
- Fail to consider unique cultural risk and protective factors for Indigenous peoples.

MOVING FORWARD

To address their treatment needs, researchers need to validate current risk scales or explore factors that are potentially unique for Indigenous offenders.

REFERENCES

Colman, C., Morrison, M., & Hanson, S. G. (2016). Where we live and don't live: about the placement with offenders of indigenous heritage. *Journal of Threat Assessment and Management*, 2(2), 97-106. <https://doi.org/10.1089/jtam.2015.0004>

McPherson, L. & Morrison, T. (2016). *Criminal Justice of the State: Factors Affecting the Indigenous Justice Assessment Process* (Research Report No. 6-2016). Correctional Service of Canada.

Marchak, L. (2016). *The colonial problem: An Indigenous perspective on crime and justice in Canada*. University of Toronto Press.

Public Safety Canada (2016). *Correction and conditional release historical overview - Annual report 2016* (Research Report No. P51-34-P01).

Rice, M. L., & Harris, G. M. (2005). Combining prediction of violence in children and adolescents. *Journal of Law and Human Behavior*, 29(5), 415-420. <https://doi.org/10.1002/ljlb.10001>

Ashley Kyne, akyne@sfu.ca

