



# What Factors Can Lead to a Violent Criminal?

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## INTRODUCTION

The development of one's personality is a combination of their environment and genetic makeup, and certain people's development is interrupted by the formation of potentially destructive, abnormal personality traits. How a person's personality develops and how their traits solidify as they age, greatly influences every aspect of their behavior, even their violent tendencies. These traits can often times be categorized into differing personality disorders that are sorted into clusters. Cluster B disorders are societally correlated with violence: histrionic, narcissistic, antisocial, and borderline. This study has a focus on what impacts violence in people with borderline personality disorder with a concentration on childhood adversity, genetic components, and childhood intervention.

## DATA AND FINDINGS

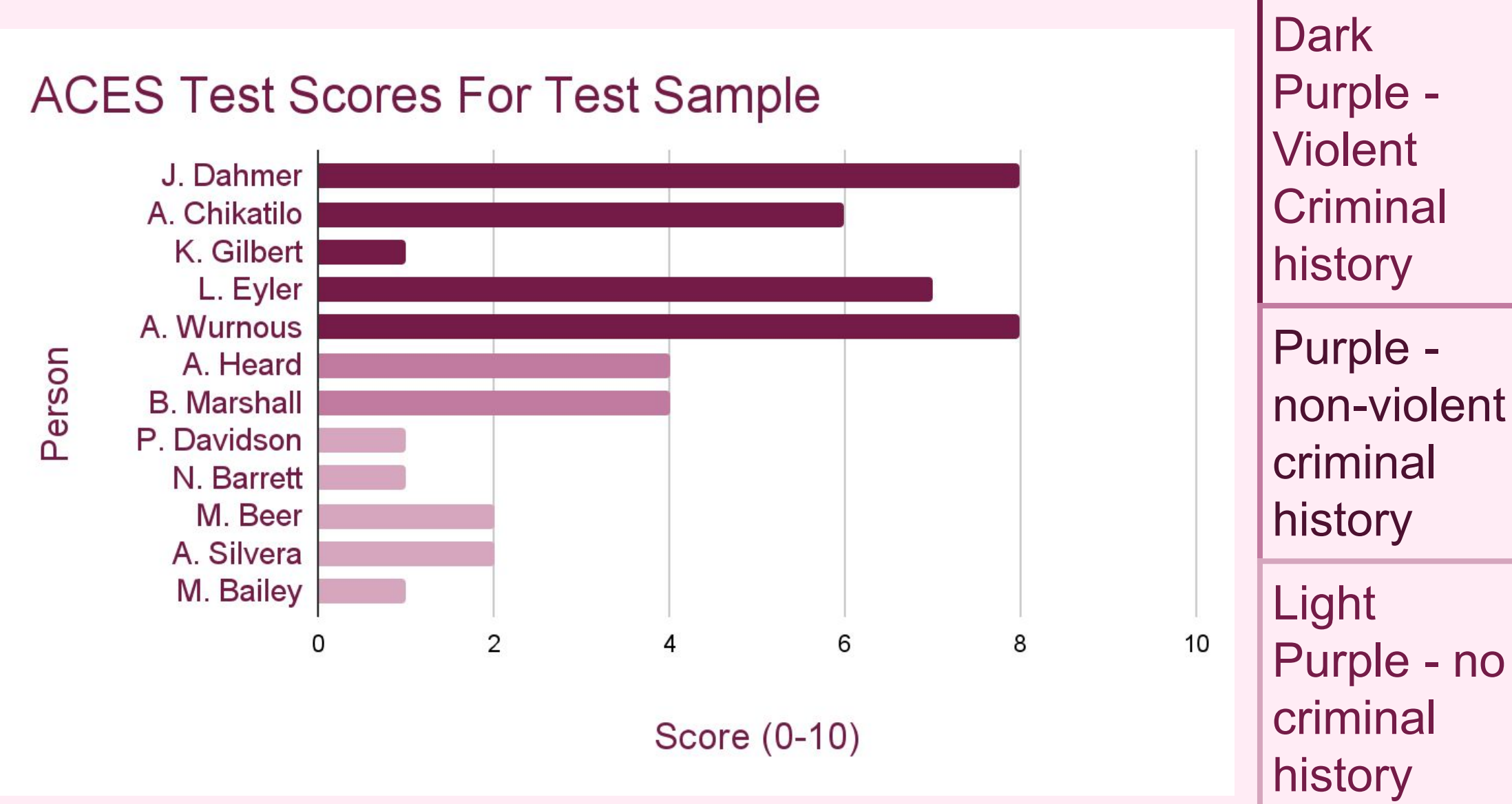


Figure 1: This bar graph depicts the ACES Childhood Trauma Scoring for all individuals of this study. It is a psychological test that produces a number up to ten to measure the level of childhood adversity.

Person	Gender	Intervention	Comorbidities	Family History
Jeffrey Dahmer	Male	No	Developmental	Personality, Psychotic, Mood, Anxiety
Andrei Chikatilo	Male	No		Possible
Kristen H. Gilbert	Female	No		
Larry Eyler	Male	No		Substance
Aileen Wuornos	Female	No	Personality	Substance
Amber Heard	Female	Unclear	Personality	Substance
Brandon Marshall	Male	No		Substance
Pete Davidson	Male	Yes	Mood, Anxiety	Possible
Nessa Barrett	Female	Yes	Developmental, Mood	Possible
Madison Beer	Female	Yes	Anxiety	Possible
Adam Silvera	Male	Yes	Anxiety, Mood	Personality, Psychotic, Mood, Anxiety
Madison Bailey	Female	Yes	Anxiety	Possible

Figure 2: The table above captures a variety of factors that may have impacts on a person's inclination for violent, criminal behavior. The color scaling system is included in the methodologies section.

## RESEARCH METHODOLOGIES

The research for this project is purely for educational purposes and is likely not to be applied. Every person's mind and behavior could be subject to change and unpredictability. The data in this research is qualitative; it is a meta analysis of the psychological examinations of people with a criminal past to those without. This is a study of behavioral correlations between violence and different factors of childhood including psychiatric treatment and childhood adversity in people with Borderline Personality Disorder, so it has a heavy focus on things observed and shared rather than numbers.

Five individuals with recorded histories of violent criminal behavior, two individuals with criminal histories, and five people with no history of criminality were researched and analyzed. It was most beneficial to select individuals with extensive background information to make it easier to cross-examine and ensure the most accurate results. I chose notorious violent criminals like Jeffrey Dahmer and Aileen Wuornos along with recognizable figures like Pete Davidson in order to ensure I have a variety of sources to cross-reference. News clippings, court cases, interviews, research papers, and other sources were utilized in order to appropriately derive the necessary information on each test subject.

My data was collected through the analysis of and research on their ACES results, family history of mental illness, comorbidities, and recorded attempts of psychiatric care prior the the age of eighteen. For the conduction of the ACES testing, I used information found in a variety of sources to make an educated assumption on whether or not the individual would indicate yes or on when asked the differing questions.

For the scaling of the table, the different dot colors each representative a psychiatric disorder. They are not to indicate severity in any way because psychiatric disorders affect people, their genetics, and their families in differing severities no matter the societal view on the severity. Personality disorders could be argued to be the most severe because they are within a different sphere of impact than other disorders.

- Personality
- Psychotic
- Mood
- Anxiety
- Substance
- Developmental
- Possible

## EVALUATION, IMPLICATIONS, AND NEXT STEPS

There are a lot of ethical concerns when approaching this subject because of the stereotyping. It is important to remember everyone's behavior and mental processes are their own and are unique to them. It is unethical to apply this data to everyone it may encapsulate. People with BPD are a diverse subset of individuals that have different experiences, actions, and beliefs.

The data may also be skewed because of people's perception. Abuse, behavior, violence, and tons of other things that factor into criminal behavior often lay into a person's perception. For example something that may have deeply affected one person may be insignificant to another. A person's psyche is often a science of a person's perception.

## DISCUSSION, ANALYSIS, AND CONCLUSION

Based on the results of the ACES test there is a clear differentiation between the scores of violent criminals and non-criminals. Most violent offenders, such as Larry Eyler, have ACES scores above 5 while the famous figures without a history of brutality have scores below 2. The higher ACES score the higher the correlational relationship to violence. Studies show the higher the score the higher the likelihood to be a victim of substance abuse, medical conditions, mental health issues, and a plethora of other issues. Violence could easily be one of those factors that may be increased.

In terms of gender, there is no relationship to gender and any of the factors studied. There is a relationship between gender and forms of violence, but solely for likelihood to commit acts of violence following the factors studied, there is no relationship.

The data shows that comorbidities are common in people that do not commit acts of violence. This pushes forward the idea that mental illness does not encourage acts of violence and that stigma is wildly inaccurate. It also important to note that mental illness affects everyone differently so while one thing might apply to one person it will not apply to another.

For family history, psychiatric disorders are common across all types of individuals with substance abuse being the most common. Substance abuse is linked to the ACES line of questioning and can play a major role in childhood trauma. An important thing to note is that mental illness can impact family members in a variety of ways. One may claim schizophrenia is the most severe on family, but there are lots of people living with schizophrenia that are in remission. Mental illness is such a diverse experience that it can not be a hundred percent the same across the board for everyone.

Intervention is the clearest trend. People with violent criminal histories have no record of psychiatric care prior to 18 while people with no criminal histories all had psychiatric care. However, people respond to care differently so this can not be a solid tool to base predications on, a hundred percent of the time. A violent criminal may have gone to therapy, but they may have been unreceptive. The same can be said about someone who has no violent history but simply never required therapy.

All of this data is tied to people with BPD, so the conclusions derived are focused on individuals with that disorder. The trends seen here could apply to any person, but the study is concentrated on BPD.

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS / REFERENCES

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### \*\*\*Works Cited:

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