

# Criminality and Antisocial Behavior in Young Adult

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## ABSTRACT

Crime is a social phenomenon caused by normative deviations that are detrimental and cannot be tolerated. During the COVID-19 pandemic, the crime rate increased by 19.47% which was dominated by conventional crimes. The high crime rate that occurs can cause anxiety and concern in the community. Crime is a manifestation of antisocial behavior which refers to a series of actions outside the norms, rules, and laws that apply in social groups. Individuals with antisocial behavior exhibit impulsive, irritable, aggressive behavior, and are less able to accept social norms. This causes individuals to tend to commit violations continuously. Antisocial behavior usually begins to appear in early adolescence and will decrease in adulthood, especially in young adults. In its development, there are factors that cause individuals to tend to maintain their antisocial behavior, such as (a) economy (poverty and unemployment); (b) culture (juvenile delinquency, moral decadence, and promiscuity); (c) social problems (prostitution, crime, and gambling); and (d) a racist system. This research method uses descriptive quantitative and data is collected using a measuring instrument Subtype of Antisocial Behavior (STAB). Participants in this study consisted of 160 criminal offenders currently serving detention time in Jakarta and Tangerang Sectoral Police Station. The results showed that 44.2% had antisocial behavior in the high category. Participants who had a history of dropping out of school, motives, and individuals with a history of recidivism had higher antisocial behavior scores. Future research is expected to be able to examine participants based on a more specific type of crime.

**Keywords:** *Criminals, Crime, Antisocial behavior, Young adults.*

## 1. INTRODUCTION

Crime is a social phenomenon that arises due to normative deviation, which is indicated by against law. Criminal acts are detrimental to others, so they cannot be tolerated [8]. Based on statistical data from 2016 to 2018 it is explained that the number of crimes that occurred in Indonesia was 652,466 incidents, where the risk of each experiencing a crime (crime rate) was 113. The higher the crime rate, the higher the level of vulnerability to crime in an area will be [4].

The high crime rate that occurs can cause anxiety and concern in the community. Karopenmas Mabas Polri, Brigjen Pol Argo Yuwono stated that during the COVID-19 pandemic, there was an increase in the crime rate of 19.47% [16]. Combes Pol Ahmad Ramadhan explained that the type of crime that has

increased is dominated by conventional crime, or what is commonly referred to as street crime [6].

Forensic psychologists [18] stated that two factors cause individuals to commit criminal acts, (a) personal factors, which consist of biological and psychological factors; and (b) situational factors. In addition, there are risk factors that cause individuals to engage in criminal acts continuously, such as social, family, and psychological experiences, so it is important for researchers to study risk factors and individual development, especially in the early stages of development [7]. The criminological perspective explains the importance of understanding the development of criminals to understand the differences in criminal behavior based on the stage of individual development. Usually, criminal behavior begins in early adolescence and will decline in adulthood. In reality, different facts

are found, where many criminals start their crimes in adulthood, especially early adulthood [10].

Criminal behavior is a manifestation of antisocial behavior [15]. Antisocial behavior refers to a series of actions outside the norms, rules, laws of social groups, such as physical aggression, theft, and violation of social rules. Individuals who exhibit antisocial behavior are individuals who are impulsive, irritable, aggressive, and fail to accept social norms. Individuals with antisocial behavior tend to exhibit criminal behavior continuously [7,15].

## **2. VARIABLES**

### **2.1 Antisocial Behavior**

#### *2.1.1 Definition*

Antisocial behavior is usually used in psychology and psychiatry to refer to delinquent behavior and criminal behavior that occurs repeatedly in adolescents and adults. Based on the general concept, this antisocial behavior includes not only criminal offenses but also some related behaviors that are socially disruptive or contrary to existing social norms and rules [10]. Antisocial behavior is an act that harms other people, violates social norms, and/or violates the personal rights or property rights of others, such as theft, assault, vandalism, racism, and spreading rumors that can harm others [2]. In addition, antisocial behavior can be defined as all forms of behavior that violate the customs of society which are considered to disturb social order and harm others so that they must be subject to social sanctions [8].

#### *2.1.2 Type of Antisocial Behavior*

Antisocial behavior is divided into three types: first, physical aggression, which involves physically injuring another person, such as hitting, kicking, stabbing, to committing murder. Second, social aggression, which involves behavior that is shown (threatening to end friendships and ostracizing others) or done secretly (spreading rumors or slander). Third, rule-breaking, which involves non-aggressive behavior, such as lying, stealing without confrontation, and vandalism [2].

### **2.2 Criminality**

#### *2.2.1 Definition*

Crime is an antisocial behavior that gets a reaction from the state in the form of sanctions [8]. Legally, crime is an individual's behavior or failure to comply with the laws that govern people's lives. Individuals who violate the law have the possibility of being punished once the verdict has been handed down by the court [5]. Criminology explains various points of view on the concept of crime: first, a crime from the legal point of view. The limitation of criminality from this point of view is any behavior that violates the criminal law, thus behavior that does not violate the criminal law cannot be categorized as a crime because it is considered an act that is seen as violating social norms. Second, a crime from a sociological point of view views crime as any act that violates the norms prevailing in society or customs. Such a crime can be assumed to be a harmful act, including immoral acts. This action can also cause concern in certain people's lives so that people reject the act [8]

#### *2.2.2 Type of Criminals*

Experts consider the influence of social and personality on criminal behavior, along with the mental processes that may mediate the behavior. Personality can refer to all the biological influences, psychological traits, and cognitive features of humans that psychologists identify as important in controlling behavior. Psychological criminology focuses on several factors that can influence individuals to commit criminal acts, first, the cognitive approach [5].

Cognitive refers to the attitudes, beliefs, values, and thoughts that individuals believe about the social environment, interrelationships, human nature, and themselves. The perpetrators of serious crimes tend to show cognitive distortions. Second, the biological or neuropsychological approach explains that there is a relationship between biology (including neuropsychology) and human behavior. The biological approach focuses on aggression and violent behavior. Neuroscientists explain that brain damage, deficits, or abnormalities that individuals have are related to their antisocial behavior, especially violent behavior. Third, the developmental approach. Studying how criminal behavior begins and the development of criminal

behavior is very important. This developmental approach describes the changes and factors that influence and contribute to the formation of antisocial and criminal behavior. Fourth, the trait approach. Traits of character are relatively stable and enduring tendencies that are shown in certain behaviors and can be specific differences in one individual and another [5].

### 3. METHODS

#### 3.1 Participants

Participants in this study consists of 160 criminal offenders aged 21-40 years currently serving detention time in Jakarta and Tangerang Sectoral Police Station. Demographic data of participants can be seen in Table 1.

**Table 1.** Demographic Data

Data	Total (N=160)	Significant Test	
		F	$\rho$
<b>Age</b>			
21-25 years	43.1%	.889	.597
26-30 years	31.3%		
31-35 years	13.1%		
36-40 years	12.5%		
<b>Marital Status</b>			
Single	50.6%	1.119	.329
Married	39.4%		
Divorced	10.0%		
<b>Occupation</b>			
Private sector employee	26.9%	1.171	.323
Self-employed	15.6%		
Laborer/part-time workers	28.1%		
Unemployment	29.4%		
<b>Education</b>			
No education	0.6%	.510	.729
Primary school	17.4%		
Junior high school	34.8%		
Senior high school	44.7%		
Bachelor	1.9%		
<b>Dropping out of school</b>			
Never	76.3%	2.363	.042**
Lack of funds	4.4%		
Delinquent	19.3%		
<b>Crimes committed</b>			
Drugs (users and dealers)	36.9%	1.344	.179
Robbers	42.5%		
Molester	1.2%		
Prostitution	3.1%		
Persecution	5.7%		
Fraud	5.6%		
Extortion	3.1%		
Possession of sharp weapons	1.9%		

**Table 1.** Demographic Data (Cont.)

Data	Total (N=160)	Significant Test	
		F	$\rho$
<b>Background of committing a crime</b>			
Economic	71.8%		
Social influence	13.1%	1.955	.056
Drugs addiction	11.3%		
Revenge	3.8%		
<b>History of recidivist</b>			
First time	81.9%	5.092	.000**
Recidivist	18.1%		
<b>Recidivist case</b>			
First time	81.9%		
Drugs dealers	3.8%		
Drugs users	0.6%		
Robbers	7.5%	3.979	.000**
Persecution	2.4%		
Homicide	1.9%		
Extortion	1.3%		
Possession of sharp weapons	0.6%		

\*\* $\rho < .05$

**3.2 Measurement**

This research method uses descriptive quantitative. The research instrument used was the Subtype of Antisocial Behavior (STAB) [2]. The researcher then adapted this measuring tool into Indonesian. This measuring instrument is based on three constructs of antisocial behavior, such as: (a) physical aggression, (b) rule-breaking, and (c) social aggression. This measuring instrument consists of 32 self-report items consisting of 10 items on the construct of physical aggression and 11 items on the construct of rule-breaking and social aggression. This measuring instrument is based on a Likert scale with a score of 1 (never) to 4 (always).

In addition, this measuring instrument shows good validity, where the physical aggression construct = .84; social aggression = .85, and rule

violation = .78 [2]; physical aggression = .84 -.91, social aggression = .83 -.90, and rule violation = .71 -.87 [11]; and physical aggression = .86; social aggression = .82, and rule violation = .84 [3]

This questionnaire will be filled out by research participants who meet the criteria as research samples that represent a population. The data that has been collected will be processed in the form of numbers and processed statistically. Through SPSS data processing, Cronbach's alpha reliability coefficient is 0.890 (Table 2), so the STAB measuring instrument is categorized as having high reliability.

**4. DISCUSSION & CONCLUSION**

This study aims to identify the relationship between crime and antisocial behavior found that

**Table 2.** STAB Reliability Test

Instrument	Items	Cronbach's Alpha
<b>Antisocial Behavior</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>.890</b>
Physical Aggression	10	.786
Social Aggression	11	.791
Rule-breaking	11	.711

criminals show a high category of antisocial behavior. However, some criminals also show a low category of antisocial behavior (Table 3).

unobservable characteristics of antisocial behavior [9, 13].

**Table 3.** Descriptive Analysis Antisocial Behavior in Criminals

Categories	Frequency (N=160)	Percent
High	73	44.2%
Moderate	63	38.2%
Low	24	14.5%
Total	169	100%

Based on the data obtained, it was found that as many as 71.8% of the participants committed criminal acts to fulfill their daily (economic) needs. Economic crises and difficulties in getting a job can have a significant impact on individuals' moral perceptions and social values. This then causes someone to commit crimes, such as theft, robbery, to theft with violence to fulfill their life [17, 14].

Environmental factors can also play a dominant role in increasing antisocial behavior [12]. This is indicated by the results of the study which stated that participants who had a history of dropping out of school, motives, and individuals with a history of recidivism had higher antisocial behavior scores. Individuals with antisocial behavior tend to show irritable, aggressive, impulsive behavior and are less able to accept prevailing social norms. This condition is caused because individuals' lack of social sensitivity, empathy, and lack of understanding of social perspectives can place individuals at a higher risk for engaging in antisocial behavior [1, 5]. So that these individuals tend to engage in behaviors that harm others, such as violence, intimidation, and rule violations [11].

This study also shows that the level of education does not affect antisocial behavior. The results of this study showed that 44.7% of criminals in this study had studied up to high school and 1.9% were undergraduates. This result is in line with previous research which states that there is a negative relationship between antisocial behavior and education level. This is because the education level of criminals is not able to explain individuals with

## 5. LIMITATION & FUTURE DIRECTION

In this research, several things can be developed by further research. Because this research was conducted during the COVID-19 pandemic, which caused researchers to experience limitations in taking research samples and choosing a place to collect the data. The next researcher is expected to be able to choose the number of participants with a more specific case description. Future researchers are also expected to be able to conduct qualitative research by conducting in-depth interviews and using psychological assessments to consider the factors that cause individuals to engage in criminals acts continuously (social, family, and psychological experiences).

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