

MEETING ABSTRACT

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# Dominant temperament traits among the inmate population: a comparative study

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## Background

Multiple studies document specific personality traits, relatively homogeneous in the structural aspect. We attempt to extrapolate a purely psychological examination approach, applying the clinical conceptualizations of H. Akiskal. This study aims to assess the existence of statistically significant differences between the TEMPS-A scale ratings of subjects serving a prison sentence and a control group.

## Materials and methods

We examined a total of 148 patients divided into 2 groups, balanced in quantity and gender: an experimental (prison inmates) (N = 74) and a control group (N = 74). The experimental group included subjects serving sentences in penitentiary institutions within the Republic of Bulgaria's territory. The control group was randomly selected. The TEMPS-A scale was applied to subjects in both groups.

## Results

We found statistically significant differences between the average values in the two groups regarding all scales except for the Hyperthymic temperament.

## Conclusions

The Hyperthymic temperament does not have a specific prognostic value regarding criminal behavior. This temperament can be expected to reflect the degree of adaptation. A question stands as to whether the TEMPS-A scales describe the temperament of pre-morbid personality or can register changes in the structure of personality as a consequence of substance abuse.

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