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# **Measures of Criminal Attitudes and Associates**

**User Guide**

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# Measures of Criminal Attitudes and Associates

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Mills, J. F., Kroner, D. G., & Forth, A. E. (2002). Measures of Criminal Attitudes and Associates (MCAA): Development, factor structure, reliability and validity. *Assessment, 9*, 240-253.

Mills, J. F., Anderson, D., & Kroner, D. G. (2004). The antisocial attitudes and associates of sex offenders. *Criminal Behaviour and Mental Health, 14*, 134-145.

Mills, J. F., Kroner, D. G., & Hemmati, T. (2004). The Measures of Criminal Attitudes and Associates (MCAA): The Prediction of general and violent recidivism. *Criminal Justice and Behavior, 31*, 717-733.

# Contents

Contents .....	ii
Tables.....	iii
Acknowledgments.....	iv
Authors' Preface .....	iv
Chapter 1: Introduction .....	1
Chapter 2: Administration and Scoring.....	3
Administration .....	3
Scoring .....	3
Part A.....	3
Part B.....	3
Reading Level.....	4
Chapter 3: Interpretation and Use of the MCAA.....	5
Scale Considerations .....	5
Violence .....	5
Entitlement .....	5
Antisocial Intent.....	5
Associates.....	5
Chapter 4: Psychometric Properties of the MCAA.....	7
Reliability and Stability.....	7
Scale Intercorrelations.....	7
Validity .....	8
Convergent Validity.....	8
Divergent Validity .....	8
Comparative Criterion Validity.....	8
Predictive Validity .....	8
Factor Structure .....	11
Sex Offenders .....	11
Chapter 5: Development Of The MCAA.....	13
Antisocial Attitudes and Antisocial Behaviour .....	13
Antisocial Associates and Antisocial Behaviour.....	13
Theoretical Underpinnings of A New Measure of Criminal Attitudes and Associates (MCAA).....	14
Violent Attitudes.....	14
Attitudes of Entitlement.....	15
Rationalization/Justification: A Distinction In Moral Disengagement.....	15
Antisocial Intent.....	16
Criminal Associates .....	17
Empirical Development of the MCAA.....	17
Study 1.....	17
Study 2.....	18
Study 3.....	19
Study 4.....	20
References .....	21
MCAA Questionnaire .....	25
Scoring Guide to the MCAA .....	33
MCAA Scoring Sheet.....	37
MCAA Profile Sheet.....	39
Authors .....	39

# Tables

Table 1.1	Scales of the MCAA .....	1
Figure 2.1	MCAA Part A Scoring Guide.....	4
Table 2.2	Number of Items Per Scale .....	4
Table 3.1	Offender Means and Standard Deviations.....	5
Table 3.2	Student Means and Standard Deviations.....	5
Table 3.3	Offender Percentile Ranks .....	6
Table 4.1	Internal Consistency (alpha) .....	7
Table 4.2	Test-Retest Reliability .....	7
Table 4.3	MCAA Scale Intercorrelations (Offender Sample) .....	7
Table 4.4	MCAA Scale Intercorrelations (Student Sample).....	7
Table 4.5	Correlations of the MCAA Scales with Measures of Antisocial Attitudes and Associates (Offender Sample).. .....	9
Table 4.6	Correlations of the MCAA Scales with Measures of Antisocial Attitudes and Associates (Student Sample).....	9
Table 4.7	Correlations of the MCAA with Measures of Negative Affect.....	9
Table 4.8	Correlations of the MCAA with Criminal Attributions.....	10
Table 4.9	Comparative Correlations of Antisocial Attitude and Associate Measures with Criminal History Indices .....	10
Table 4.10	Comparative Correlations of Antisocial Attitude and Associate Measures with Self-Reported Antisocial Behaviour.....	10
Table 4.11	AUC for Prediction of Post-release Failure.....	8
Table 4.12	Sorted Orthogonal Procrustes Rotated Factor Loadings.....	12
Table 4.13	Descriptive Statistics for Sex Offenders.....	11
Table 4.14	MCAA Scale Intercorrelations for Sex Offenders .....	11

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## Authors' Preface

This User Guide is meant to assist those interested in using the MCAA. In addition to tapping into new domains of antisocial attitudes, the MCAA offers a standardized approach to identifying and quantifying criminal associates. It is commonly understood that criminal associates play an important role in antisocial behaviour and we believe that the MCAA contributes to measuring criminal associates. We are grateful for those who have contributed to the area of antisocial attitudes and associates research and we are hopeful that the MCAA can build on these previous contributions.

User Guide 2001 employs the same MCAA items as earlier versions. This update of the guide reflects additional data and analysis only.

The views expressed in this User Guide are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the views of the Correctional Service of Canada.

The authors grant permission for the use of this instrument to anyone who would employ it in a manner consistent with APA guidelines for test instruments. The authors urge users to contact them for updated information before using this instrument for clinical or applied purposes.

*Jeremy F. Mills & Daryl G. Kroner*

June 2001  
Kingston, Ontario

# Chapter 1: Introduction

The MCAA was developed to provide measures of antisocial attitudes and associates which are central to criminal and antisocial behaviour. A more complete review of the theoretical underpinnings and empirical development of the MCAA are found in Chapter 5 of this guide.

Throughout the stages of development, the MCAA's item selection was made in accordance with basic psychometric principles (e.g. reliability, item endorsement, and validity). Four sequential studies using offender samples were undertaken to arrive at the 46-item measure of attitudes.

The MCAA was designed to be used in both applied and research settings. More specifically applications involve:

- Assessment of antisocial and criminal attitudes
- Assessment of criminal associations
- Treatment changes
- Program evaluation

Some important features of the MCAA include the following:

- Completed in 15 minutes
- Individual or group administration
- Forensic and non-forensic uses
- Quantifies 'Criminal Associations'

The MCAA is a two-part instrument. Part A is a self-report measure that quantifies the number of criminal associates a person reports to have. Part B is an attitude measure consisting of four scales. Table 1.1 lists the MCAA scales.

**Table 1.1**  
**MCAA Scales**

---

**Part A**

Number of Criminal Friends  
Criminal Friend Index

**Part B**

Attitudes Towards Violence  
Sentiments of Entitlement  
Antisocial Intent  
Attitudes Towards Associates.

---





# Chapter 2: Administration and Scoring

## Administration

The MCAA (Parts A and B) can be completed by most people within 15 minutes. Those with reading difficulties or those who have English as their second language may take slightly longer to answer the items. Administering Part B via a computer will further reduce the administration time (Kroner, Muirhead, & Mills, 1998). There is no time limit for administering the MCAA.

The MCAA can be administered either individually or in supervised groups. Administration should occur in a quiet supervised setting that is free from distractions. In a group administration setting, the respondents should be arranged so that they cannot observe each other's responses. Within criminal justice systems, incarcerated should not be completing the MCAA in their living quarters.

The instructions to the respondents need to include the aims and purpose of the assessment. In addition, the instructions should emphasize that there are no right or wrong answers. Including these two areas in the verbal instructions will increase the respondent's motivation and also reduce the likelihood of response styles.

If a respondent has a question about an item, the test administrator can clarify the definition of words, but should avoid suggesting how to respond.

## Scoring

Parts A and B of the MCAA have separate scoring procedures.

### Part A

Part A produces two indices which have been used in research to date: The *Number of Criminal Friends* and the *Criminal Friend Index*. An example of Part A is shown in Figure 2.1 and the method for calculating the values of these two indices is as follows.

The score values are shown in *bold italics* in Figure 2.1 and are not part of the instrument. Each participant is asked to answer the questions in Figure 2.1 for the four adults they spend the most free time with. A response of 'Yes' to any of the four questions labeled B, C, D or E means the participant has identified that person as a criminal friend. The total *Number of Criminal Friends* can therefore range from 0 to 4.

The *Criminal Friend Index* includes the element of time spent in the company of criminal associates. To calculate this index, take the following steps for each of the friends.

Step 1: Add the number of 'Yes' responses for each of the friends identified, this value will fall between 0 and 4.

Step 2: Multiply that value by the value associated with the time spent (1-4). This will result in a value between 0 and 16 for each of the four friends.

Step 3: Add the values of the four friends together to produce the 'Criminal Friend Index'.

### Part B

For Part B, there are both positive-keyed and reversed-keyed items. For complete details see "Scoring Guide to the MCAA". For reverse-keyed

items (indicated with a 'minus' sign) a response of "Disagree" receives a score of "1". For positive-keyed items (indicated with a 'plus' sign) a response of "Agree" receives a score of "1". To score each scale, the reverse-keyed items and the remaining items are added. It should be noted that only the Scales Antisocial Intent and Associates contain both positive and negative-keyed items.

In cases where one or two items are omitted for a scale, the responses can be pro-rated using the following procedure. First, determine the respondent's mean score for the scale. Multiply this score by the total number of items in the scale (Table 2.2). Round the product to the next highest whole number. If there are more than eight items omitted, the total Part B score is of questionable reliability and validity.

**Table 2.2**  
**Number of Items per Scale**

Attitudes Towards Violence	12 items
Sentiments of Entitlement	12 items
Antisocial Intent	12 items
Associates	10 items

## Reading Level

The MCAA's reading level is approximated at a Grade 5 level. If the respondent's reading skills are below this level, the MCAA can be administered orally. In comparing the assessment modes of antisocial attitudes, evidence suggests that the verbal administration is equivalent to paper-and-pencil (Di Fazio, 1998).

**Figure 2.1**  
**The MCAA ~ Part A**

Consider the 4 adults you spend the most time with in the community, when you answer Part I.  
**No names please of the people you are referring to.** Then answer the questions to the best of your knowledge.

1.

A. How much of your free time do you spend with person #1? (Please Circle Your Answer)

less than 25%	25% - 50%	50% - 75%	75% - 100%
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)

B. Has person #1 ever committed a crime? Yes (1) No (0)

C. Does person #1 have a criminal record? Yes (1) No (0)

D. Has person #1 ever been to jail? Yes (1) No (0)

E. Has person #1 tried to involve you in a crime? Yes (1) No (0)

# Chapter 3: Interpretation and Use of the MCAA

The MCAA has been employed in three studies thus far: Two offender samples and one student sample.

To assist in interpreting scores the following means (Table 3.1 and Table 3.2) and percentile ranks (Table 3.3) are provided.

**Table 3.1**  
**Offender Means (Part A, n = 101; Part B, n = 342)**

	Mean	SD
<u>Part A</u>		
Number of Criminal Friends	1.2	1.3
Criminal Friend Index	5.7	7.4
<u>Part B</u>		
MCAA Total	13.6	7.9
Violence	2.3	2.4
Entitlement	4.2	2.3
Antisocial Intent	2.3	2.7
Associates	4.9	3.0

**Table 3.2**  
**Student Means (n = 60)**

	Mean	SD
Number of Criminal Friends	1.5	1.6
Criminal Friend Index	4.2	5.4
MCAA Total	17.4	6.9
Violence	4.6	3.0
Entitlement	4.6	2.2
Antisocial Intent	4.0	2.9
Associates	4.2	2.4

## Scale Considerations

### Violence

An elevation on the Violence scale indicates an endorsement of attitudes that are supportive of violence. Associated with this scale is a tolerance toward violence. The perceptions of these individuals are guided by a willingness to use violence to obtain a desired goal. Their attitudes include violence as a common method of social interaction.

### Entitlement

High scores on the Entitlement scale measure attitudes focusing on a right to take whatever they want. Their belief of what they deserve and have coming to them is based on their own egocentric desires. Their perception of what others typically deserve is harsher than the perception of the typical individual.

### Antisocial Intent

The Antisocial Intent scale contains items that refer to potential antisocial actions that the respondent believes that he could commit in the future. Assessed are perceptions of what will guide their future behavior.

### Associates

Elevations on the Associates scale include the endorsement of items that indicate an association with others who are involved in criminal activities. These behaviors suggest attitudes that are favorable to having antisocial friends.

**Table 3.3**  
**Percentiles of the MCAA Raw Scores (Male Offenders, n=342)**

<b>Raw Score</b>	<b>MCAA Total</b>	<b>Violence</b>	<b>Entitlement</b>	<b>Antisocial Intent</b>	<b>Associates</b>	<b>Criminal Friends</b>	<b>Criminal Friend Index</b>
40	99						
39	99						
38	99						
37	99						
36	98						
35	98						
34	98						
33	98						
32	97						99
31	96						99
30	95						98
29	94						98
28	94						98
27	93						98
26	91						98
25	91						96
24	90						96
23	89						96
22	87						96
21	85						96
20	83						95
19	81						91
18	78						91
17	76						90
16	71						86
15	69						85
14	65						84
13	62						83
12	55						81
11	49	99					79
10	42	98	98				77
9	35	97	97	97	95		74
8	28	96	96	96	89		71
7	21	96	92	93	77		69
6	14	94	85	91	66		60
5	08	90	74	87	52		57
4	06	88	60	81	44	92	55
3	05	79	40	75	34	82	46
2	02	68	23	68	27	65	45
1	01	44	9	55	20	44	44

# Chapter 4: Psychometric Properties of the MCAA

## Reliability and Stability

A scales internal consistency and test-retest stability are important measures as to its reliability. The internal consistency of the MCAA as measured by coefficient alpha is reported in Table 4.1. The coefficient alphas are higher for the offender sample than for the student sample, which is not unexpected, given that the scale was developed on offender samples. Nonetheless, the alphas for the student sample fall within an acceptable range.

**Table 4.1**  
**Internal Consistency (alpha)**

	Alpha Offender Sample (n = 342)	Alpha Student Sample (n = 60)
MCAA Total	.89	.82
Violence	.78	.79
Entitlement	.63	.50
Antisocial Intent	.84	.76
Associates	.84	.74

A test-retest study was undertaken with an additional sample of 41 offenders. A four-week testing interval was chosen. As reported in Table 4.2 test-retest reliabilities exceeded .73 for most of the scales.

**Table 4.2**  
**Test-Retest Reliability**

	Test-Retest Correlation Offender Sample (n = 41)
MCAA Total	.82
Violence	.74
Entitlement	.77
Antisocial Intent	.79
Associates	.66

Overall, the three studies combine to demonstrate that the scales of the MCAA are internally consistent and stable over time.

## Scale Intercorrelations

Scale intercorrelations demonstrate the relationship of the scales within the measure to one another. In general antisocial attitudes are often moderately to strongly related to each other. Antisocial attitude scales that are moderately related to each other, may be said to tap into different content areas. Low correlations between the scales are not expected. Within the offender sample interscale correlations range between .33 and .55 (Table 4.3). Student sample intercorrelations were generally lower, suggesting that the students made better distinctions between the content areas of the scales (Table 4.4).

**Table 4.3**  
**MCAA Scale Intercorrelations**  
**(Offender Sample, n = 342)**

	Total	Viol	Entlmt	Antisocial Intent
MCAA Total	-			
Violence	.70	-		
Entitlement	.73	.47	-	
Antisocial Intent	.85	.49	.48	-
Associates	.74	.25	.33	.55

**Table 4.4**  
**MCAA Scale Intercorrelations**  
**(Student Sample, n = 60)**

	Total	Viol	Entlmt	Antisocial Intent
MCAA Total	-			
Violence	.65	-		
Entitlement	.50	.23	-	
Antisocial Intent	.81	.24	.21	-
Associates	.66	.12	-.01	.64

## Validity

### Convergent Validity

Tables 4.5 and 4.6 demonstrate the convergent validity of the MCAA scales. The MCAA scales were correlated with the Criminal Sentiments Scale and the Pride in Delinquency scale, in addition to the Number of Criminal Friends and the Criminal Friend Index from Part A of the MCAA. Stronger correlations between the MCAA scales and other attitude scales exist for the offender sample than for the student sample. This is consistent with the pattern found in the scale intercorrelations. The MCAA scale's moderate to high correlations with other attitude measures that are theoretically linked to the MCAA supports its validity.

### Divergent Validity

Conversely, the MCAA should not be strongly correlated with other self-report scales that are not theoretically related. The MCAA scales were correlated with measures of negative affect within the offender sample (anger, anxiety and depression)(Table 4.7), and with criminal attributions (internal and external) within the student sample (Table 4.8).

As expected the correlations between the MCAA scales and negative affect are low to moderate for the offender sample. Within the student sample the correlations with criminal attributions are all low.

### Comparative Criterion Validity

Since there are other measures of antisocial attitudes it is also important to demonstrate that the MCAA scales are at least as strongly related to relevant criterion variables as existing measures. Table 4.9 shows a comparison of the MCAA scales with the CSS scales and the PID as they relate to the criterion variables of criminal history within an offender sample. In general the

MCAA scales are related as strongly to these indices of criminal history as are the CSS scales and the PID. The Attitudes Towards Violence scale is not as strongly related to the criterion variables as are the other scales.

Within the student sample a similar pattern emerges (see Table 4.10) as the scales are correlated with self-reported antisocial behaviour as measured by the Antisocial Behaviour Scale (Forth & Brown, 1996). The MCAA scales meet and exceed the correlations of the other attitude measures with the criterion variables. The Violence and Entitlement scales share low correlations with the criterion variables.

### Predictive Validity

A preliminary predictive study was undertaken by following up the post release performance of 70 male offenders. The base rate for "New Charges" and "Suspensions/Revocations" was 20% and 49% respectively. The average time at risk was 213 days. Receiver Operating Characteristics (ROC) analysis was utilized and the Area Under the Curve calculated for the MCAA, CSS and PID for both outcome measures and are reported in Table 4.11.

**Table 4.11**  
**AUC for the Prediction of Post-Release Failure (n = 70)**

	New Charges	Suspension/ Revocation
MCAA Total	.70	.64
Violence	.56	.57
Entitlement	.61	.55
Antisocial Intent	.64	.58
Associates	.72	.64
Criminal Friends	.73	.63
Friend Index	.72	.64
CSS	.59	.56
PID	.56	.55

Overall the MCAA performed better in the prediction of post release failure than other measures.

**Table 4.5**  
**Correlations of the MCAA Scales with Measures of Antisocial Attitudes and Associates**  
**(Offender Sample, n = 101)**

	CSS	CSS_LCP	CSS_TLV	CSS_ICO	PID	Number of Criminal Friends	Criminal Friends Index
MCAA Total	.75	.66	.73	.74	.67	.54	.60
Violence	.58	.53	.57	.45	.57	.16	.30
Entitlement	.53	.41	.62	.59	.40	.41	.37
Antisocial Intent	.68	.63	.60	.62	.66	.48	.42
Associates	.57	.49	.51	.64	.45	.65	.69

CSS = Criminal Sentiments Scale, CSS\_LCP = Attitudes Towards the Law, Courts and Police, CSS\_ICO = Identification with Criminal Others, CSS\_TLV = Tolerance of Law Violations, PID = Pride In Delinquency Scale.

**Table 4.6**  
**Correlations of the MCAA Scales with Measures of Antisocial Attitudes and Associates**  
**(Student Sample, n = 60)**

	CSS	CSS_LCP	CSS_TLV	CSS_ICO	PID	Number of Criminal Friends	Criminal Friends Index
MCAA Total	.47	.30	.48	.54	.60	.38	.48
Violence	.12	.07	.15	.13	.34	.02	.15
Entitlement	.11	.03	.12	.21	.13	.04	-.02
Antisocial Intent	.53	.35	.55	.57	.63	.44	.49
Associates	.47	.33	.41	.53	.44	.55	.58

CSS = Criminal Sentiments Scale, CSS\_LCP = Attitudes Towards the Law, Courts and Police, CSS\_ICO = Identification with Criminal Others, CSS\_TLV = Tolerance of Law Violations, PID = Pride In Delinquency Scale.

**Table 4.7**  
**Correlations of the MCAA with Measures of Negative Affect**  
**(Offender Sample, n= 101)**

	Anger_Con	Anger_In	Anger_Out	State Anxiety	Trait Anxiety	Depression
MCAA Total	-.33	.30	.27	.08	.26	.14
Violence	-.28	.29	.25	.08	.20	.21
Entitlement	-.19	.03	.20	-.04	.01	-.08
Antisocial Intent	-.25	.32	.19	.04	.25	.12
Associates	-.29	.25	.19	.14	.31	.16

Note. Anger\_Con = Anger Control (STAXI), Anger\_In and Anger\_Out are both from the STAXI (State-Trait Anger Expression Inventory; Spielberger, 1979), State and Trait Anxiety are both from the State-Trait Anxiety Inventory (Spielberger, 1977), Depression is from the Beck Depression Inventory (Beck, 1978)



**Table 4.8**  
**Correlations of the MCAA with Criminal Attributions (Student Sample, n = 60)**

	Criminal Attributions (Kroner & Mills, 1998)	
	External	Internal
MCAA Total	.13	-.11
Violence	-.03	-.03
Entitlement	.17	-.07
Antisocial Intent	.20	-.06
Associates	.01	-.14

**Table 4.9**  
**Comparative Correlations of Antisocial Attitude and Associate Measures with Criminal History Indices (Offender Sample, n = 101)**

	Convictions	Incarcerations	Violent	Non-violent	Sexual
Number of Criminal Friends	<b>.41</b>	<b>.51</b>	.31	<b>.42</b>	-.26
Criminal Friend Index	<b>.37</b>	<b>.45</b>	.30	<b>.38</b>	-.27
MCAA Total	<b>.41</b>	<b>.52</b>	.29	<b>.41</b>	-.19
Violence	.06	.18	.12	.06	-.10
Entitlement	.27	.34	.18	.28	-.07
Antisocial Intent	<b>.37</b>	<b>.47</b>	.25	<b>.38</b>	-.21
Associates	<b>.53</b>	<b>.59</b>	.35	<b>.52</b>	-.19
CSS	.25	.35	.27	.25	-.18
LCP	.23	.30	.28	.22	-.15
TLV	.18	.28	.20	.18	-.18
ICO	.32	<b>.45</b>	.15	.34	-.18
PID	.22	.28	.17	.23	-.20

Note. Correlations > .35 in bold. Violent = Number of Violent Offences, Non-violent = Number of Non-violent Offences, Sexual = Number of Sexual Offences. Violent, Non-violent, and Sexual sum to equal the total number of Convictions.

**Table 4.10**  
**Comparative Correlations of Antisocial Attitude and Associate Measures with Self-Reported Antisocial Behaviour (Student Sample, n = 60)**

	Current	Lifetime	Antisocial	Criminal	Violent	Sexual
Number of Criminal Friends	.26	<b>.64</b>	.46	<b>.62</b>	<b>.53</b>	.34
Criminal Friend Index	.39	<b>.68</b>	.48	<b>.66</b>	<b>.58</b>	.32
MCAA Total	<b>.60</b>	<b>.63</b>	<b>.50</b>	<b>.58</b>	<b>.57</b>	.21
Violence	.21	.18	.15	.15	.27	.14
Entitlement	.22	.18	.09	.18	.26	-.02
Antisocial Intent	<b>.62</b>	<b>.62</b>	<b>.57</b>	<b>.56</b>	.49	.23
Associates	<b>.53</b>	<b>.67</b>	.49	<b>.66</b>	.49	.17
CSS	.29	.45	.38	.40	.41	.27
LCP	.09	.33	.22	.31	.32	.24
TLV	.44	.45	.46	.37	.40	.23
ICO	.42	.41	.43	.34	.30	.14
PID	.48	<b>.53</b>	.49	.45	<b>.52</b>	.35

Note. Correlations >= .50 in bold. Current = Number of antisocial behaviours reported in the past 6 months. Lifetime = Number of antisocial behaviours reported ever. Lifetime antisocial behaviours are further broken down into Antisocial, Criminal, Violent and Sexual.

## Factor Structure

Data used in the factor analysis came from 342 participants who were not involved in the final item selection process.

The 46 items from the MCAA were subjected to a confirmatory factor analysis. Orthogonal Procrustes was used to evaluate how well the factor structure corresponded with the proposed scoring key of the four scales. This procedure performs a principal components analysis on the correlation matrix and then completes an orthogonal Procrustes rotation to the least-squares best fit of the target matrix. The target matrix consisted of each item being keyed to its respective scale. The significance level of the congruence coefficient was determined with 100,000 permutations of the target matrix versus the capitalization of chance for the keyed items. Thus, a  $p < 1.0 \times 10^{-5}$  level indicates that for a scale not 1 of the 100,000 random permutations resulted in a better fit than the original items keyed to the respective scale.

The Procrustes rotated factor structure solution is shown in Table 4.12. Congruence coefficients between the correlation matrix and the target matrix were .84 ( $p < .00001$ , Attitudes towards Violence), .73 ( $p < .00004$ , Entitlement), .79 ( $p < .00001$ , Antisocial Intent), .85 ( $p < .00001$ , Attitude Towards Associates). These congruence coefficients indicate strong associations between the observed item responses and the proposed scoring key of the four scales. This provides further support for the discriminant validity among the scales and for interpreting the purported constructs of violence, entitlement, antisocial intent, and attitude towards associates.

## Sex Offenders

Data from 90 sex offenders were analysed separately. Normative data is reported in Table 4.13. Statistically significant differences were found between types of sex offenders on the

MCAA Total ( $F(89) = 7.5, p < .01$ ) score and prior incarcerations ( $F(89) = 12.6, p < .001$ ). No statistical difference was detected between groups on the Number of Criminal Friends ( $F(70) = 1.9, n.s.$ ). The findings suggest that rapists as a group hold more antisocial attitudes than other sex offenders and are more like non-sex offenders in this regard.

**Table 4.13**  
Descriptive Statistics for Sex Offenders by Offence Type

	Rapists ( $n=33$ )	Incest ( $n=27$ )	Child Molesters ( $n=30$ )
<u>Part A</u>			
# Criminal Friends	1.3 (1.3)	0.5 (0.9)	1.0 (1.3)
Criminal Friend Index	5.9 (8.2)	2.2 (3.9)	5.2 (8.8)
<u>Part B</u>			
MCAA Total	17.2 (7.5)	10.7 (5.4)	12.6 (7.1)
Violence	3.4 (2.7)	2.8 (1.7)	2.4 (2.0)
Entitlement	4.8 (1.9)	3.8 (1.6)	3.9 (2.3)
Antisocial Intent	3.0 (2.7)	0.9 (1.4)	2.2 (2.9)
Associates	6.0 (2.9)	3.2 (2.9)	4.0 (2.5)
<u>Criminal History</u>			
Convictions	16.3 (10.6)	7.4 (7.2)	10.7 (6.1)
Incarcerations	5.9 (3.9)	2.2 (2.5)	2.9 (2.5)
Violent (Non-Sexual)	2.1 (2.2)	0.4 (0.8)	0.4 (0.8)
Non-Violent	12.2 (9.5)	3.2 (6.9)	5.3 (6.1)
Sexual	2.1 (1.4)	3.9 (2.4)	5.2 (5.2)

The range of interscale correlations is lower for sex offenders than offenders in general as seen in Table 4.14.

**Table 4.14**  
MCAA Scale Intercorrelations for Sex Offenders

	1.	2.	3.	4.	5.	6.
1. MCAA	-					
2. Violence	.68	-				
3. Entitlement	.67	.39	-			
4. Antisocial Intent	.79	.44	.32	-		
5. Associates	.78	.25	.39	.51	-	
6. Number of Criminal Friends	.43	.00	.27	.31	.62	-
7. Criminal Friends Index	.43	.05	.36	.29	.54	.85

**Table 4.12**  
**Sorted Orthogonal Procrustes Rotated Loadings for the MCAA Items (n= 342).**

Items	Scales			
	Violence	Entitlement	Antisocial Intent	Associates
13. Someone who makes you very angry deserves to be hit.	<b>.721</b>	.085	.040	.110
41. There is nothing wrong with beating up someone who asks for it.	<b>.701</b>	.011	.158	.111
1. It's understandable to hit someone who insults you.	<b>.678</b>	.131	-.018	.111
21. Its all right to fight someone if they stole from you.	<b>.609</b>	.119	.310	.121
17. People who get beat up usually had it coming.	<b>.592</b>	.294	.096	.070
37. Someone who makes you really angry shouldn't complain if they get hit.	<b>.551</b>	.006	.068	-.178
33. It's not wrong to fight to save face.	<b>.481</b>	.214	.119	.177
44. It is reasonable to fight someone who cheated you.	<b>.464</b>	-.076	.178	-.130
9. Sometimes you have to fight to keep your self-respect.	<b>.443</b>	.129	.261	.211
5. There is nothing wrong with beating up a child molester.	<b>.430</b>	.131	.304	.129
30. Taking what is owed you is not really stealing.	<b>.402</b>	.269	.389	.087
25. Its not wrong to hit someone who puts you down.	<b>.273</b>	.261	.025	-.003
29. Child molesters get what they have coming.	<b>.233</b>	.177	.147	-.146
18. I should be treated like anyone else no matter what I've done.	-.203	<b>.624</b>	-.154	.131
42. No matter what I've done, its only right to treat me like everyone else.	-.120	<b>.550</b>	-.127	.052
38. A person should decide what they deserve out of life.	.050	<b>.515</b>	-.031	.019
14. Only I should decide what I deserve.	.387	<b>.440</b>	-.017	-.003
10. I should be allowed to decide what is right and wrong.	.099	<b>.397</b>	.058	.021
45. A lack of money should not stop you from getting what you want.	.088	<b>.382</b>	.261	.030
23. I could easily tell a convincing lie.	-.083	<b>.369</b>	.313	.280
34. Only I can decide what is right and wrong.	.212	<b>.319</b>	.012	-.065
15. In certain situations I would try to outrun the police.	.185	.225	<b>.636</b>	.260
11. I could see myself lying to the police.	.110	.074	<b>.630</b>	.306
39. For a good reason, I would commit a crime.	.194	.080	<b>.565</b>	.168
43. I will not break the law again.	-.041	-.136	<b>.540</b>	.036
7. I would keep any amount of money I found.	.079	.312	<b>.522</b>	.207
46. I would be happy to fool the police.	.324	.223	<b>.521</b>	.192
3. I am not likely to commit a crime in the future.	.053	-.098	<b>.521</b>	-.076
19. I would be open to cheating certain people.	.280	.157	<b>.516</b>	.099
35. I would run a scam if I could get away with it.	.265	.221	<b>.508</b>	.185
31. I would not enjoy getting away with something wrong.	.025	.135	<b>.490</b>	.210
2. Stealing to survive is understandable.	.137	.140	<b>.457</b>	.264
4. I have a lot in common with people who break the law.	.185	.202	<b>.434</b>	.193
26. A hungry man has the right to steal.	.232	.187	<b>.425</b>	.160
16. I would not steal, and I would hold it against anyone who does.	-.048	-.101	<b>.418</b>	.318
27. Rules will not stop me from doing what I want.	.299	.290	<b>.388</b>	.132
6. A person is right to take what is owed them, even if they have to steal it.	.293	.296	<b>.354</b>	.034
22. Its wrong for a lack of money to stop you from getting things.	-.013	.212	<b>.227</b>	-.025
8. None of my friends have committed crimes.	.046	.052	.030	<b>.807</b>
28. I have friends who have been to jail.	.048	.014	.053	<b>.796</b>
32. None of my friends has ever wanted to commit a crime.	-.037	-.035	.031	<b>.760</b>
12. I know several people who have committed crimes.	.045	-.011	.111	<b>.698</b>
40. I have friends who are well known to the police.	.100	.045	.228	<b>.676</b>
36. I have committed a crime with friends.	.000	.050	.298	<b>.606</b>
24. Most of my friends don't have criminal records.	.052	.153	.134	<b>.556</b>
20. I always feel welcomed around criminal friends.	.190	.344	.263	<b>.347</b>

## Chapter 5: Development Of The MCAA

### Antisocial Attitudes and Antisocial Behaviour

The importance of attitudes among delinquent and criminal adults has long been asserted (see Glueck & Glueck, 1930, 1934). Early studies with prisoners identified the presence of attitudes of self-justification, loyalty, belief in luck, and the tendency to exaggerate society's shortcomings (Mylonas & Reckless, 1963). In addition attitudes towards legal institutions, legal authority, and criminal others (Gendreau, Grant, Leipziger, & Collins, 1979), along with shame or pride in delinquent acts (Shields & Whitehall, 1994), and cooperativeness (James & Johnson, 1983) have all been associated with criminal offending or antisocial behaviour. Generally, correlations among these dimensions of antisocial attitudes are moderate to strong, which is not unexpected. In a series of studies, Millar and Tesser (1986) examined the effect of thought and schema on attitude polarization. They found that a greater correlation among an attitude's dimensions is associated with increased polarization of the attitude. The application to antisocial attitudes suggests that a negative attitude in a particular dimension (e.g. social authority) could result in a generalized antisocial attitude.

Several theories of behaviour examine the criminal attitude-criminal behaviour relationship. According to differential association theory (Sutherland, 1947), criminal behaviour is learned through association within social groups and an element of that learning includes the development of attitudes specific to the social group.

In a more recent model of criminal behaviour, Andrews and Bonta (1994) seek to focus on "a rational empirical understanding of individual differences in criminal activity" (p. 1). While this approach differs substantially from the

sociological perspective of Sutherland (1947), it shares the belief that attitudes are an important contributor to criminal behaviour. "Thus, both personal attitudes and social facts regarding the dominant attitudes of groups are highly relevant variables in a psychology of crime" (p. 15, Andrews & Bonta, 1994).

Research has supported the attitude-behaviour relationship. In a meta-analysis of predictors of criminal behaviour Gendreau, Goggin, Chanteloupe and Andrews (1992) found that antisocial attitudes/associates provided the strongest correlation with criminal conduct ( $r = .22$ ) of six groups of risk factors. The five others groups included social class, personal distress or psychopathology, educational /vocational achievement, parental /family factors, and temperament/personality. Similar findings were evident in another meta-analysis conducted on 133 studies to determine the best recidivism predictor domains (Gendreau, Little and Goggin, 1995). The results showed that the best predictor domains in order of mean correlation values were; adult criminal history, companions, criminogenic needs (includes anti-social attitudes), antisocial personality (includes PCL-R). In addition to community criminal behaviour, antisocial attitudes were found to be among the strongest of 16 domains in the prediction of prison misconduct (Gendreau, Goggin & Law, 1997).

### Antisocial Associates and Antisocial Behaviour

Antisocial attitudes and antisocial associates are closely tied both theoretically and empirically. When studying the marijuana use in adolescence, Andrews and Kandel (1979) found that peer influence has a considerably stronger additive effect than attitude in the subsequent use of marijuana. The authors found that the norms of the peer group that are favourable towards the

behaviour interact with the positive attitude towards the behaviour to produce the highest rates of the behaviour. In a similar vein of research, Bagozzi & Burnkrant (1979) found that the attitude-behavior relationship is more consistent when normative pressures are consistent with the attitude. That is to say if the social milieu supports the attitude, the relationship between attitude and behavior is stronger. Additional empirical support comes from Gendreau, et al. (1992) who applied meta-analysis to 372 studies that reported correlations on recidivism. The domain of companions, drawn from 46 studies was the single best predictor of recidivism using a standardized correlation coefficient. The authors concluded that future research in the area of criminal classification and recidivism should focus on the domains of criminal associations and criminal attitudes.

Attitudes and associates play major roles in criminology theories and research. Agnew and White (1992) compared elements of the general strain theory with social control theory and differential association/social learning theory. They concluded that while strain theory focuses on negative relationships, social control theory focuses on the absence of positive relationships and differential association theory focuses on the positive relationships with deviant others. An obvious outcome of the comparison is the central role that relationships with others has within each of the three theories.

Agnew and White then went on to empirically compare their general strain theory with differential association theory within a delinquent sample. They found that the differential association variable of Friend's Delinquency was the strongest predictor variable of both delinquency and drug use. However, when an interaction term of Strain variables by 'Friend's Delinquency' was entered into the multiple regression equation, it added significantly to the R square. This research reinforced the central importance of delinquent friends to the research on antisocial behaviour.

## **Theoretical Underpinnings of A New Measure of Criminal Attitudes and Associates (MCAA)**

The development of the initial MCAA items and scales was based on clinical impressions and research, with a view to developing a scale that tapped dimensions of practical and theoretical relevance to criminal behaviour. Further, it was hoped that developing the scale with federal offenders would maximize the sensitivity of the measure to this rather homogeneous group. It was hoped that the instrument would cross-validate readily for use with other less severe, but criminally oriented groups because of the increase in variance of responses.

This section describes the theoretical rationale for the MCAA's scales and items. The importance of theoretical rationale has been underscored by researchers involved in scale construction (Jackson, 1970; Novaco, 1994). Further, it briefly chronicles the development of a new Measures of Antisocial Criminal and Associates (MCAA) through its four developmental versions. The scale in its current form is comprised of two parts. Part A is a quantifiable measure of criminal associates, and Part B measures the domains of Attitudes Towards Violence, Sentiments of Entitlement, Antisocial Intent and Attitudes Towards Associates. In addition to the specified domains, the scale makes a unique contribution to the measurement of attitudes and associates through the use of rationalization/justification item couplets and through a self-reported and quantifiable method of measuring criminal associates.

### **Violent Attitudes**

Understanding and predicting violent behaviour is important in terms of identifying offenders at high risk for interpersonal violence. As such, a scale of the MCAA was created in an attempt to measure attitudes towards violence. There is support in the literature for the construct validity using concurrent or postdictive measures as the outcome variable. Caprara, Cinanni and Mazzotti

(1989) psychometrically tested a scale that measured tolerance toward violence. In addition to determining the psychometric suitability of the instrument, these researchers found that tolerance toward violence was a more powerful predictor of postdictive involvement in violence than any socioeconomic variable measured. Similarly, measures of physical aggression were significantly associated with the postdictive criminal indices of prior convictions, prior incarcerations, and prior assaults in a sample of violent offenders (Mills & Kroner, 2001).

### **Attitudes of Entitlement**

Clinically, a sense of entitlement is often detected through the course of interviews and interventions with offenders. This attitude of entitlement often underlies the reason offenders engage in antisocial behaviour. Walters and White (1989) consider entitlement to be a criminal thinking style. His research has been on the cognitive characteristics of criminals, and his model has identified eight primary cognitions, among which is entitlement. Walters and White (1989; Walters 1995b) view entitlement as the cognition that “tells them they have a right to take whatever they want from whoever has what they desire” (p. 4). A psychometric evaluation of Walter’s (1995a) Inventory of Criminal Thinking Styles showed that entitlement was one of two cognitions most highly correlated with age of first arrest, and age of first incarceration. In addition of the eight thinking styles, entitlement was generally more strongly correlated with the other thinking styles, suggesting a diffuse relationship with many criminal cognitions. In addition, research among sex offenders also reports the prevalence of criminal entitlement.

Hanson, Gizzarelli and Scott (1994) investigated the differences between incest offenders and two comparison groups; male batterers and a community group on cognitive distortions. Results showed more deviant attitudes among the incest offenders, specifically; a perception of children as being sexually attractive, a minimization of harm to the victim, and an endorsement of male sexual entitlement. The

identification of male sexual entitlement is also evident in the rape literature (Scully & Marolla, 1984).

### **Rationalization/Justification: A Distinction In Moral Disengagement**

A theoretical framework that distinguishes rationalizations from justifications was imposed on the scales measuring violence and entitlement. Rationalizations are commonly employed by most, if not all, people in excusing inappropriate behaviour (e.g., late for work, losing one’s temper). Rationalization of criminal behaviour is not an uncommon phenomenon, and can be predictive of antisocial behaviour (Bandura, Barbaranelli, Caprara, & Pastorelli, 1991). Rationalizations typically involve the use of external attributions as explanations for behaviour. There are also occurrences where offenders justify their behaviour. Justification is viewed as a more forceful defence of behaviour in that it changes the wrongfulness or antisocial nature of the behaviour into appropriate behaviour (Bandura et al., 1991).

Another way of considering this is rather than adding up a number of items considered relevant to an attitude domain (a purely cumulative model), the rationalization /justification dichotomy allows for the same content area an item is measuring, to be examined for degree of moral attachment. That is to say, if one rationalizes their criminal or antisocial behaviour they are employing a common defence mechanism (often external attributions) to allay personal responsibility, whereas if someone justifies their behaviour they are asserting the correctness of their actions and hence their strong identification with the appropriateness of their behaviour. There is ample empirical support for this dichotomization.

A distinction has been made between excuses and justifications in studying the accounts of rapists (Scully & Marolla, 1984) and interpersonally violent offenders (Henderson & Hewstone, 1984). These distinctions interacted with level of admittance in the former study and attribution in

the latter. The distinction between the two types of accounts is based on Scott and Lyman's (1968) definition. Excuses are a denial of personal responsibility or causality for the act, often attributing cause to external factors, whereas justifications are an acceptance of personal responsibility but attempts to justify the act (deny it was wrong) in terms of social norms.

Justifications in particular have been shown to relate to different intrusive and antisocial behaviour. For example, Blumenthal (1973) examined the difference between students who were arrested or participated in street disturbances for social change and college students in general. The arrestees were more likely to have negative attitudes towards the police, and most of the differences could be accounted for by the arrestees' justification of violence.

Justifications also played a role in college students' proclivity to rape. Osland, Fitch and Willis (1996) studied the proclivity to rape or force sex in college males. The 34% who reported some proclivity to rape or force sex gave more justifications in the more violent scenarios than did those who did not report any proclivities to rape. Those who reported no proclivities were more likely to report that violence was not justified under any circumstances. An important finding in the research was that the perception of the level of violence in each of the scenarios did not differ between groups.

Two scales that tap, in different ways, the issue of justifiability have been shown to account for antisocial behaviour. Bandura et al (1991) refers to "moral justifications" as a mechanism of moral disengagement which is employed directly towards the behaviour in the process of reconstructing the antisocial behaviour to be more personally and socially acceptable. These authors employed a scale measuring moral disengagement in their study of elementary and junior high school children. The results showed high moral disengagers to be more likely to exhibit delinquent behaviour, were less prosocial and were less troubled by 'anticipatory' guilt.

Shields and Whitehall (1994) developed a neutralization scale for use with delinquents. Their scale consisted of four vignettes which were followed by five questions "asking whether or not a fictional protagonist is morally justified in committing these delinquent acts in light of various neutralizations" (p. 227). Scores on the neutralization scale were significantly higher for predatory offenders and for delinquent recidivists.

The implications of justification (moral explanations) as being involved in antisocial and aggressive behaviour is further supported by the work of Forgas, Brown and Menyhart (1980) who sought to identify the primary attributes used to discriminate between a broad range of typical aggressive situations. These researchers found that justifiability was one of the four cognitive dimensions that accounted for 70% of the variance. Moral considerations have also been found to assist in explaining the intention-behaviour relationship by distinguishing between moral and non-moral situations. Gorsuch and Ortberg (1983) tested Fishbein and Ajzen model of behavioural intention, and found that moral considerations added to the variance accounted for by attitude and social norms in the relationship with behavioural intention. This finding held true in 'moral' situations but not so in 'non-moral' situations. For most individuals, crime has a strong moral aspect, therefore it was felt that the rationalization/justification distinction might add valuable information by accounting for some degree of moral disengagement in support of the attitude. Therefore to account for both rationalizations and justifications within the same item content domain, the scales of violence and entitlement included item couplets that measure the same content area but one with a voice of rationalization, and one with a voice of justification.

### **Antisocial Intent**

Recent research has shown that the Alienation scale of the Basic Personality Inventory (BPI; Jackson, 1989) to be predictive of criminal offending (Palmer, 1997), and institutional

misconduct (Mills & Kroner, 2001). A closer examination of the scale revealed many items to be future oriented or expressing an intention. This is consistent with theory and research in the attitude literature (Ajzen, 1988; Ajzen & Fishbein, 1980) that shows behavioural intention a better predictor of future behaviour than attitudes in general.

A scale which covered general antisocial attitudes within the context of intent has been included in the MCAA.

### **Criminal Associates**

Research has shown that "associates" is the single best predictor of criminal behaviour (Gendreau, 1997). Yet the literature is void of a consistent method of collecting and qualifying criminal associates. To that end the new scale includes a section devoted to assessing degree of criminal association. This self-report measure of criminal associates asks for information on the four adults that one spends the most time with in the community. For each of these adults, it asks how much spare time is spent with them, and then asks four questions regarding their criminal involvement. These questions are; "Has this person ever committed a crime?", "Does this person have a criminal record"?, "Has this person ever been to jail?", and "Has this person tried to involve you in a crime?". From these questions we can determine if the participant regularly associates with criminal others, how much time they spend with them, and the degree of their associates criminal involvement. In addition to the quantified measure just described, the MCAA contains a scale that measures respondents attitudes towards antisocial others. This provides both a quantifiable measure, as well as an attitude measure of the same construct.

## **Empirical Development of the MCAA**

The section will briefly recapitulate the scales' development by reporting on five separate samples. The first three samples were

instrumental in the item and scale development and resulted in the fourth developmental version (DV.4) of the MCAA. The MCAA DV.4 was then employed in studies four and five on a student and offender sample respectively, and were the basis of the final item selection.

The initial scales developed included Attitudes Towards Violence, Sentiments of Entitlement, General Antisocial Attitudes, Attitudes Towards Associates, and Attitudes Towards the Police. Attitudes Towards the Police was initially measured as it was viewed to measure attitudes towards authority, and the police are often the first line of societal authority encountered by criminals. The first three scales were also developed to include the rationalization/justification item couplets.

### **Study 1**

In the first study, 74 federally sentenced men completed the 47-item MCAA Developmental Version 1 (DV1) within their first week of arrival at Millhaven Institution. They were volunteer offenders who participated in the study as a part of their orientation week. The MCAA DV.1 was administered as a paper-pencil test. Participants were tested in groups of fifteen to twenty under the supervision of the author in a room away from the secure living unit. Participants in the subsequent two studies were also found in the same manner.

The means of each scale fell in the bottom portion of the possible range of scores, suggesting overall low endorsement of the items. Coefficient alpha for the scales ranged from .58 to .81 with a total scale alpha reliability of .92. The scales are generally moderately to highly correlated, with intercorrelations ranging from .48 to .65. It was believed that rationalization items would be more frequently endorsed than justification items. For the most part this held among the item couplets.

All scales correlated well with Number of Criminal Friends (Part I), and better with an index of criminal association. The number of criminal



friends was calculated by adding up the number of friends (0-4) who were reported to have a criminal background. The index of criminal association was calculated by adding up the number of “yes” responses to the four questions of criminal behaviour regarding the four people with whom they spent the most time.

Given the attrition rate of items in the first round (due to item endorsement issues), more items were created and added to the scale. The Attitudes Towards the Police scale was dropped in its entirety. Attitudes Towards the Police had a .65 correlation with General Antisocial Attitudes. It was decided that many of the items in the former tapped a general antisocial orientation and not a distinctive domain of attitudes towards authority, as originally intended. The rationalization/justification dichotomy seemed to be tentatively validated by the higher endorsement rates of rationalization items over justification items. This was not the case for each couplet, but the general trend was there which suggests that at some level offenders are making the distinction between the items.

## **Study 2**

In the second Study, 62 federally sentenced men completed the 53-item MCAA DV.2. Incorporating the changes discussed in Study 1 resulted in four scales being included in the MCAA DV.2; Attitudes Towards Violence, Sentiments of Entitlement, General Antisocial Attitudes, and Associates. As before the first three scales were also developed to include the rationalization/justification item couplets.

As before, the means of the scales fall in the lower half of the possible range of scores. Item endorsement/non-endorsement improved over the MCAA DV.1. Internal reliability of the scales also improved. Despite the revisions to the MCAA DV.1, there were still problems with the rationalization/justification dichotomy for some of the couplets. As a proportion, the scales of Attitudes Towards Violence and Sentiments of Entitlement had the most problem. This seems to be tied to a general trend to not endorse items in these categories.

Correlations of the scales with the self-reported Number of Criminal Friends and Index of Criminal Association showed a strong relationship with the attitudes towards Associates.

Items were also examined for their corrected item-total correlation. In general, corrected item-total correlations that are below .30 result in a reduction of internal consistency (alpha) if the item remains in the scale. For the Associates and Sentiments of Entitlement scales there were no items that fell below .30 corrected item-total correlation. The Attitudes Towards Violence and General Antisocial Attitudes scales had two and three items below .30 corrected item-total correlation, respectively.

The purpose of this developmental round was to identify and reduce the number of items with extreme endorsement/non-endorsement. Also, to examine the internal consistency of the scales more closely. Finally, to ensure the efficacy of the rationalization/justification dichotomy.

The rationalization/justification couplets continued to show the trend of differential endorsement overall, but there were a number of couplets which did not meet the criteria (e.g. the justification item was endorsed more than the rationalization item). All of these couplets were examined closely and changes made while at the same time keeping the items consistent with their focus and rationalization or justification orientation. It became apparent that items which used language suggesting absolutes (e.g., completely, always) were not appropriate for rationalization items. Intuitively this makes sense, since rationalizations are not absolutes by nature.

Sixteen of the 53 items of this version were altered. Three items were deleted entirely. Only the Associates scale remained unchanged in its composition. The results also showed that the scale General Antisocial Attitudes, Attitudes Towards Violence, and Sentiments of Entitlement remained highly correlated. It is expected that different domains of criminal attitudes will be

moderately to highly correlated. However, in order to make a distinction between the domains of criminal attitudes, a minimum goal of scale intercorrelations below .60 was set, with preference to intercorrelations below .50. In anticipation of having to eliminate items which correlate highly with other scales as a means to achieving a reduction in scale intercorrelation, additional items were added.

### **Study 3**

Ninety-five federally sentenced men completed the 67-item MCAA DV.3. Official criminal history data were collected on 73 offenders. A CPIC (offence record) was obtained for these offenders, and the criminal history was categorized. For each of the offenders, the number of convictions, incarcerations, assaults, sex assaults and break and enters were calculated.

The scales remained the same as in the MCAA DV.2. Extreme item endorsement/non-endorsement has been reduced to seven items with greater than 85% endorsement, of which only two exceed 90% endorsement. Given the low proportion of items with extreme endorsements, greater emphasis was placed on other issues in scale development. The means of the rationalization and justification items within the three scales were compared and the differences found statistically significant; Attitudes Towards Violence  $t(95) = 7.4$ ,  $p < .001$ , Sentiments of Entitlement  $t(95) = 7.7$ ,  $p < .001$ , and General Antisocial Attitudes  $t(95) = 7.0$ ,  $p < .001$ .

Measures of internal consistency remained moderate to high. Scale intercorrelations were reduced slightly from the earlier version. However, General Antisocial Attitudes continued to be highly correlated with the other scales.

There was a marked improvement in the area of the rationalization/justification dichotomy. The Associates scale continued to be more strongly associated with the self-reported measures of criminal associations than did the other scales. This revealed an increasing ability of the scale to differentiate between attitude and associates.

The scales and self-report measures of criminal association were correlated with the offenders' criminal history for 73 participants. Overall, the Associates scale was the most strongly correlated with criminal history, followed closely by the Criminal Friend Index. The other attitude scales did not correlate with criminal history in general but there were specific instances of significant relationships. The Attitudes Towards Violence was correlated .26 with number of assault convictions. General Antisocial Attitudes correlated significantly and negatively with sexual assault convictions. Interestingly, the number of criminal friends did not correlate with criminal history unless one accounted for the friends' degree of criminal activity as reflected in the Criminal Friends Index.

In its current form MCAA DV.3 item endorsement and internal reliability issues have been resolved for the most part. The primary concern at this point in the scale's development is the high intercorrelation of three of the attitude scales; General Antisocial Attitudes, Sentiments of Entitlement, and Attitudes Towards Violence. Ten of the eighteen General Antisocial Attitude items correlated with the two other scale with greater or close (within .07) association than it did with its own scale. These correlations were not corrected for each item's inclusion in its respective scale, which would overestimate the item's relationship with its own scale. Reducing the high intercorrelations between these scales was the focus of the scales next developmental stage.

Theoretically, General Antisocial Attitudes is likely to overlap other scales. However, Sentiment of Entitlement and Attitudes Towards Violence are conceptually different enough to make pursuing their development worthwhile. For instance, conceptually an offender could have a strong sense of entitlement that may contribute to his property offending, yet he may not endorse violent behaviours. However, this same offender is very likely to have more general antisocial attitudes.

Substantial changes were undertaken in order to make the General Antisocial Attitudes scale conceptually distinct from the other scales. First, the rationalization/justification dichotomy was dropped, and second, the items were reworked and new ones added to reflect Antisocial Intent. A total of 19 items, both positively and negatively keyed were created for the scale. The additional items create the 72-item version of the MCAA DV.4.

#### **Study 4**

Eighty-three federally sentenced men completed the 72-item MCAA DV.4. Final item selection was determined from this study. An item's inclusion into the scale was determined following consideration of a number of psychometrically important analyses.

For each item the following analyses were undertaken.

- (1) Corrected item-scale score correlation.
- (2) Correlation with Impression Management.
- (3) Correlation with other scales.
- (4) Item endorsement frequency.

In addition the authors rated each item as to face (construct) validity as a fifth test.

46 items were retained and included as part of the final instrument.

<u>Scale</u>	<u># of Items</u>
Violence	12 items
Entitlement	12 items
Antisocial Intent	12 items
Associates	10 items

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# MCAA Questionnaire



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Name:

Identifying #

Date

## Questionnaire (MCAA)

This questionnaire has two parts (Part A and Part B). The first part asks some questions about your friends and acquaintances. The second part is a series of statements for which you can respond by showing whether you agree or disagree with the statement. There are no right or wrong answers. Please answer all the questions.

### Part A

Consider the 4 adults you spend the most time with in the community, when you answer Part A. **No names please of the people you are referring to.** Then answer the questions to the best of your knowledge.

1.

A. How much of your free time do you spend with person #1? (Please Circle Your Answer)

less than 25%      25% - 50%      50% - 75%      75% - 100%

B. Has person #1 ever committed a crime?      Yes    No

C. Does person #1 have a criminal record?      Yes    No

D. Has person #1 ever been to jail?      Yes    No

E. Has person #1 tried to involve you in a crime?      Yes    No

2.

A. How much of your free time do you spend with person #2? (Please Circle Your Answer)

less than 25%      25% - 50%      50% - 75%      75% - 100%

B. Has person #2 ever committed a crime?      Yes    No

C. Does person #2 have a criminal record?      Yes    No

D. Has person #2 ever been to jail?      Yes    No

E. Has person #2 tried to involve you in a crime?      Yes    No

3.

A. How much of your free time do you spend with person #3? (Please Circle Your Answer)

less than 25%      25% - 50%      50% - 75%      75% - 100%

B. Has person #3 ever committed a crime?      Yes    No

C. Does person #3 have a criminal record?      Yes    No

D. Has person #3 ever been to jail?      Yes    No

E. Has person #3 tried to involve you in a crime?      Yes    No

4.

A. How much of your free time do you spend with person #4? (Please Circle Your Answer)

less than 25%      25% - 50%      50% - 75%      75% - 100%

B. Has person #4 ever committed a crime?      Yes    No

C. Does person #4 have a criminal record?      Yes    No

D. Has person #4 ever been to jail?      Yes    No

E. Has person #4 tried to involve you in a crime?      Yes    No

## Part B

### **Please Answer All The Questions**

**A = Agree D = Disagree (Circle One Answer)**

- A D 1. It's understandable to hit someone who insults you.
- A D 2. Stealing to survive is understandable.
- A D 3. I am not likely to commit a crime in the future.
- A D 4. I have a lot in common with people who break the law.
- A D 5. There is nothing wrong with beating up a child molester.
- A D 6. A person is right to take what is owed them, even if they have to steal it.
- A D 7. I would keep any amount of money I found.
- A D 8. None of my friends have committed crimes.
- A D 9. Sometimes you have to fight to keep your self-respect.
- A D 10. I should be allowed to decide what is right and wrong.
- A D 11. I could see myself lying to the police.
- A D 12. I know several people who have committed crimes.
- A D 13. Someone who makes you very angry deserves to be hit.
- A D 14. Only I should decide what I deserve.
- A D 15. In certain situations I would try to outrun the police.
- A D 16. I would not steal, and I would hold it against anyone who does.
- A D 17. People who get beat up usually had it coming.
- A D 18. I should be treated like anyone else no matter what I've done.

**A = Agree    D = Disagree    (Circle One Answer)**

- A   D    19. I would be open to cheating certain people.
- A   D    20. I always feel welcomed around criminal friends.
- A   D    21. It's all right to fight someone if they stole from you.
- A   D    22. It's wrong for a lack of money to stop you from getting things.
- A   D    23. I could easily tell a convincing lie.
- A   D    24. Most of my friends don't have criminal records.
- A   D    25. It's not wrong to hit someone who puts you down.
- A   D    26. A hungry man has the right to steal.
- A   D    27. Rules will not stop me from doing what I want.
- A   D    28. I have friends who have been to jail.
- A   D    29. Child molesters get what they have coming.
- A   D    30. Taking what is owed you is not really stealing.
- A   D    31. I would not enjoy getting away with something wrong.
- A   D    32. None of my friends has ever wanted to commit a crime.
- A   D    33. It's not wrong to fight to save face.
- A   D    34. Only I can decide what is right and wrong.
- A   D    35. I would run a scam if I could get away with it.
- A   D    36. I have committed a crime with friends.
- A   D    37. Someone who makes you really angry shouldn't complain if they get hit.
- A   D    38. A person should decide what they deserve out of life.

**A = Agree    D = Disagree    (Circle One Answer)**

- A   D    39. For a good reason, I would commit a crime.
- A   D    40. I have friends who are well known to the police.
- A   D    41. There is nothing wrong with beating up someone who asks for it.
- A   D    42. No matter what I've done, it's only right to treat me like everyone else.
- A   D    43. I will not break the law again.
- A   D    44. It is reasonable to fight someone who cheated you.
- A   D    45. A lack of money should not stop you from getting what you want.
- A   D    46. I would be happy to fool the police.

## **Scoring Guide to the MCAA**

### Attitudes Towards Violence:

<u>Item #</u>	<u>Item</u>
1.	It's understandable to hit someone who insults you. (R)
25.	It's not wrong to hit someone who puts you down. (J)
29.	Child molesters get what they have coming. (R)
5.	There is nothing wrong with beating up a child molester. (J)
9.	Sometimes you have to fight to keep your self-respect. (R)
33.	It's not wrong to fight to save face. (J)
37.	Someone who makes you really angry shouldn't complain if they get hit. (R)
13.	Someone who makes you very angry deserves to be hit. (J)
17.	People who get beat up usually had it coming. (R)
41.	There is nothing wrong with beating up someone who asks for it. (J)
44.	It is reasonable to fight someone who cheated you. (R)
21.	It's all right to fight someone if they stole from you. (J)

### Attitudes Towards Entitlement:

<u>Item #</u>	<u>Item</u>
2.	Stealing to survive is understandable. (R)
26.	A hungry man has the right to steal. (J)
30.	Taking what is owed you is not really stealing. (R)
6.	A person is right to take what is owed them, even if they have to steal it. (J)
10.	I should be allowed to decide what is right and wrong. (R)
34.	Only I can decide what is right and wrong. (J)
38.	A person should decide what they deserve out of life. (R)
14.	Only I should decide what I deserve. (J)
18.	I should be treated like anyone else no matter what I've done. (R)
42.	No matter what I've done, it's only right to treat me like everyone else. (J)
45.	A lack of money should not stop you from getting what you want. (R)
22.	It's wrong for a lack of money to stop you from getting things. (J)

### **Anti-Social Intent:**

<b><u>Item #</u></b>	<b><u>Item</u></b>
3.	I am not likely to commit a crime in the future. (-)
7.	I would keep any amount of money I found. (+)
11.	I could see myself lying to the police. (+)
15.	In certain situations I would try to outrun the police. (+)
19.	I would be open to cheating certain people. (+)
23.	I could easily tell a convincing lie. (+)
27.	Rules will not stop me from doing what I want. (+)
31.	I would not enjoy getting away with something wrong. (-)
35.	I would run a scam if I could get away with it. (+)
39.	For a good reason, I would commit a crime. (+)
43.	I will not break the law again. (-)
46.	I would be happy to fool the police. (+)

### **Attitudes Towards Associates:**

<b><u>Item #</u></b>	<b><u>Item</u></b>
4.	I have a lot in common with people who break the law. (+)
8.	None of my friends have committed crimes. (-)
12.	I know several people who have committed crimes. (+)
16.	I would not steal, and I would hold it against anyone who does. (-)
20.	I always feel welcomed around criminal friends. (+)
24.	Most of my friends don't have criminal records. (-)
28.	I have friends who have been to jail. (+)
32.	None of my friends has ever wanted to commit a crime. (-)
36.	I have committed a crime with friends. (+)
40.	I have friends who are well known to the police. (+)

### **Scoring Notes:**

The items in the scales Attitudes Towards Violence and Sentiments of Entitlement are all positively keyed. Therefore, every "agree" response contributed to the scale score. Both of these scales have item couplets, one as a rationalization (R), and one as a justification (J). These distinctions may be useful for research purposes only, but for applied purposes only total scale scores should be used.

Some items in the scales Antisocial Intent and Attitudes Towards Associates are negatively keyed and are indicated by the (-). Similarly, positively keyed items are indicated with a (+).





# **MCAA Scoring Sheet**

## MCAA Scoring Sheet

### Attitudes Towards Violence:

<u>Item #</u>	<u>Agree</u>	<u>Disagree</u>
1.	1	0
5.	1	0
9.	1	0
13.	1	0
17.	1	0
21.	1	0
25.	1	0
29.	1	0
33.	1	0
37.	1	0
41.	1	0
44.	1	0

Total: \_\_\_\_\_

### Anti-Social Intent:

<u>Item #</u>	<u>Agree</u>	<u>Disagree</u>
3.	0	1
7.	1	0
11.	1	0
15.	1	0
19.	1	0
23.	1	0
27.	1	0
31.	0	1
35.	1	0
39.	1	0
43.	0	1
46.	1	0

Total: \_\_\_\_\_

### Attitudes Towards Entitlement:

<u>Item #</u>	<u>Agree</u>	<u>Disagree</u>
2.	1	0
6.	1	0
10.	1	0
14.	1	0
18.	1	0
22.	1	0
26.	1	0
30.	1	0
34.	1	0
38.	1	0
42.	1	0
45.	1	0

Total: \_\_\_\_\_

### Attitudes Towards Associates:

<u>Item #</u>	<u>Agree</u>	<u>Disagree</u>
4.	1	0
8.	0	1
12.	1	0
16.	0	1
20.	1	0
24.	0	1
28.	1	0
32.	0	1
36.	1	0
40.	1	0

Total: \_\_\_\_\_

**Scoring Notes:** The items in the scales Attitudes Towards Violence and Sentiments of Entitlement are all positively keyed. Therefore, every "agree" response contributed to the scale score. Some items in the scales Antisocial Intent and Attitudes Towards Associates are negatively keyed therefore a "Disagree" response will contribute to the scale score.

## **MCAA Profile Sheet**

Name

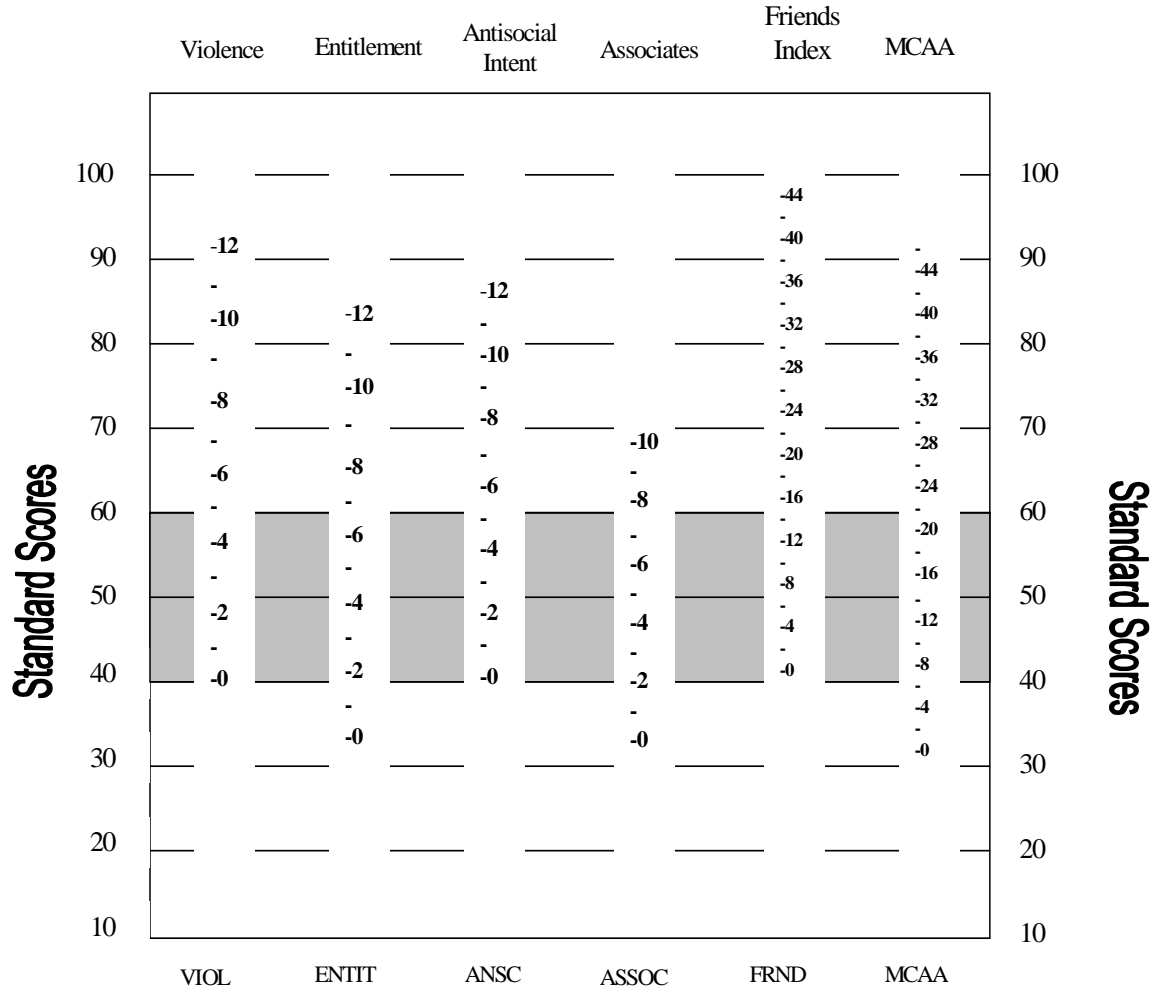
Age

Date

Identifying #

# Measures of Criminal Attitudes and Associates

Profile Sheet: Adult Male



Raw Score

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Jeremy F. Mills & Daryl G. Kroner (1999)



# Depression, Hopelessness and Suicide Screening Form

Jeremy F. Mills  
Bath Institution

&

Daryl G. Kroner  
Pittsburgh Institution

The DHS was designed to be used in both applied and research settings. The utility of the DHS is in its ability to screen large numbers of individuals for the domains of interest.

Some important features of the DHS include the following:

- Completed in 15 minutes
- Individual or group administration
- Forensic and non-forensic uses

The DHS screens for the presence of depression and hopelessness in a true/false format with both negatively-keyed and positively-keyed items. The DHS also contains a Critical Item Checklist with questions relevant to current and prior risk for suicide.

### **Depression (17 items)**

An elevation on the Depression scale indicates an endorsement of items that are indicative of a depressed affect. Associated with this scale are sad thoughts and emotions, feelings of fatigue, sleep disturbances, social

withdrawal, loss of appetite, and a reduced interest in previously enjoyed activities.

### **Hopelessness (10 items)**

High scores on the Hopelessness Scale suggest a more profound sense of despondency. High scores are indicative of someone who feels despair. Associated with this scale are cognitions of a bleak future and an inability to anticipate future life enjoyment. As well, a lack of self-efficacy is indicated.

### **Correlations of the DHS with File Review and Interview Reports**

	DHS	
	Depression	Hopelessness
<u>File Review</u>		
History of Depression	.30***	.28**
History of Psychiatric	.44***	.19*
History of Psychological	.18*	.18*
<u>Interview</u>		
Recent Psychological/Psychiatric Contact	.28**	.20*

### **Critical Item Checklist**

4. I have been diagnosed as being depressed by a psychiatrist or psychologist in the past.
8. I have close friends or family members who have killed themselves.
12. Suicide is not an option for me.
16. I have had serious thoughts of suicide in the past.
20. I have intentionally hurt myself.
24. If circumstances get too bad, suicide is always an option.
28. In the past my suicidal thoughts have led to a suicide attempt.
32. I have attempted suicide more than once in the past.
34. I have attempted suicide in the past two years.
36. I have recently had thoughts of hurting myself.
38. Life is not worth living.
39. I have a plan to hurt myself.



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Together Dr. Mills and Dr. Kroner have developed and published the following instruments which are available upon request at no cost.

Mills, J. F., & Kroner, D. G. (1999). *Measures of Criminal Attitudes and Associates*. User Guide.

Kroner, D. G., & Mills, J. F. (2002). *Criminal Attribution Inventory*. User Guide.

Mills, J. F., & Kroner, D. G. (2003). *Depression, Hopelessness and Suicide Screening Form*. User Guide.