

Williams, T. (2000). *The interacting influences of arousal and fear-anxiety on conduct disorders*. Unpublished doctoral dissertation, Auburn University, Alabama.

#### DISSERTATION ABSTRACT

The purpose of this investigation was to examine the effects of Affective Arousal on Conduct Disorders with a sample of 86 children in grades 5 through 8. Previous research had indicated that there was a strong relationship between levels of Arousal and Fear-anxiety on Conduct Disorders. It was hypothesized that children with low levels of Affective Arousal and high levels of Fear-anxiety would score significantly higher than on measures of Conduct Disorders than children with high levels of Affective Arousal and low levels of Fear-anxiety.

Using a causal-comparative design, children were divided into high and low groups based on the Affective Error Response latency scores of the Visual Similes Test II (as a measure of Arousal) and high and low groups based on the combined Withdrawn and Anxious/Depressed scores of the Teacher's Report Form of the Child Behavior Problem Checklist (as a measure of Fear-anxiety) and compared on the Aggressive Behavior, Delinquent Behavior, and Externalizing Behavior scales of the Teacher's Report Form of the Child Behavior Problem Checklist (as measures of Conduct Disorder). Main effects for Affective Arousal and Fear-anxiety as well as the interaction effects between Arousal and Fear-anxiety on Conduct Disorders was examined.

Results of a multi variate analysis of variance indicated that there were no significant mean effects for levels of Affective Arousal or levels of Fear-anxiety on the Conduct Disorder measure of Aggressive Behavior and Delinquent Behavior. There were no significant interaction effects found for levels of Affective Arousal and Fear-anxiety on the Conduct Disorder measures of Aggressive Behavior and Delinquent Behavior.

Results of an Univariate Analysis of Variance indicated that there were no main effects for levels of Affective Arousal or levels of Fear-anxiety on Externalizing Behavior and that there was a significant interaction effect for level of Affective Arousal and Fear-anxiety on the dependent measure Externalizing Behavior. The results of the analyses suggested that the proposed Arousal and Fear-

anxiety interaction effect is partially supported by the data. Limitations and implications for future research are discussed.