Cognitive Reactions to Committed Crimes
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INTRODUCTION

Stereotypes
- U.S. states where Black people committed higher rates of violent crimes show a stronger Black-violence stereotype (Johnson & Chopp, 2019).
- U.S. states where white people committed higher rates of violent crimes show a weaker Black-violence stereotype.
- Nonetheless, Black-violence stereotypes still persist everywhere.

Inherent Racism in the Criminal Justice System
- Crack users typically receive a longer sentence than any other drug (Nolan, 1997).
- 80% of crack users identify as Black/African American.
- Defendants accused of race stereotypic crimes were more likely to be perceived as guilty (Gordon, 1993).

PROCEDURE

Conducted survey over a period of 4 months.
Survey consisting of a vignette about a physical assault with the race of the offender different in each condition (Black, Hispanic, White).
Survey concluded with a series of demographic questions.

METHOD

Participants
- 67 university undergraduates
- 48 were female, 16 were male, and 3 were non-binary.
- 62.7% were Caucasian, 13.4% Asian, 23.9% Hispanic/Latino, 7.5% Black/African American, 1.5% Native Pacific Islander, and 4.5% other.

Materials
- Survey consisting of a vignette about a physical assault with the race of the offender different in each condition (Black, Hispanic, White) and 4 measures.
- Survey concluded with a series of demographic questions.

RESULTS

One-way between groups ANOVA was conducted to compare the effect of perceived guiltiness on race in white, Black, and Hispanic offenders.
There was not a significant effect of perceived guiltiness on race at the p<.05 level for the three races, F(2,66) = .116, p = .890, n² = .248.
Post hoc comparisons were unnecessary.

HYPOTHESES

Participants will perceive the Black and Hispanic offenders as more guilty than white offenders.
The perpetrator will be blamed more if the offender is a minority.
Participants who enjoy thinking more will have similar perceptions of blame and guilt for all three races.

CONCLUSIONS

While the study did not yield significant results, it is still important to continue to study the issue of racism within the criminal justice system.
The continued study of this field can help educate people on where the criminal justice system fails people of color and things that can be done to change these failings.

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