



# Gender Differences in Psychopathy and Machiavellianism Traits

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## INTRODUCTION

- Psychopathy and Machiavellianism are two constructs that make up the Dark Triad.
- Recent studies suggest men score higher on psychopathy and Machiavellianism.
- The goal of the current study is to provide further evidence of gender differences shown in the expression of Machiavellianism and psychopathy traits within an undergraduate sample.

## METHODS

- Participants ( $n = 191$ )
  - Undergraduate students at OSU
- Measures
  - The Dirty Dozen (DD; Jonason & Webster, 2010)
  - Elemental Psychopathy Assessment (EPA; Lynam et al., 2011)
  - Mach-IV Scale (Christie & Geis, 1970)

Table 1.  
*Gender Differences in Machiavellianism & Psychopathy*

Measure	Females <i>M (SD)</i>	Males <i>M (SD)</i>	t(190)	p
DD Psych	8.80 (5.5)	12.98 (7.9)	-3.47	<b>&lt;0.01</b>
DD Mach	13.46 (6.9)	15.85 (7.5)	-2.02	<b>0.05</b>
Mach-IV	66.88 (11.3)	69.94 (13.4)	-1.38	0.17
EPA	420.37 (65.4)	450.29 (55.3)	-2.44	<b>0.02</b>

*Note.* DD Psych = The Dirty Dozen Psychopathy; DD Mach = The Dirty Dozen Machiavellianism; Mach-IV = Mach-IV; EPA = Elemental Psychopathy Assessment.

## REFERENCES

- Christie, R., & Geis, F. L. (1970). *Studies in Machiavellianism*. New York: Academic Press.
- Jonason, P. K., & Webster, G. D. (2010). The Dirty Dozen: A concise measure of the Dark Triad. *Psychological Assessment, 22*, 420-432.
- Lynam, D. R., Gaughan, E. T., Miller, J. D., Miller, D. J., Mullins-Sweatt, S. N., & Widiger, T. A. (2011). Assessing the basis traits associated with psychopathy: Development and validation of the elemental psychopathy assessment. *Psychological Assessment, 23*, 108-124.

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## RESULTS

- Men scored higher on all measures used to assess psychopathy and Machiavellianism
- Three of the four measures showed statistically significant differences between males and females.

## DISCUSSION

- Men have higher levels of both psychopathy and Machiavellianism traits.
- A limitation of the current study was the use of an undergraduate sample. Additional research in justice-involved populations would be useful.
- Future research should focus on gender differences between individual psychopathy and Machiavellianism subscale traits to assess where gender differences occur.
- Future research should examine these findings in relation to the third construct of the Dark Triad, narcissism.