

## Expressions of Antisocial Behavior in Relation to Age and Crime

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In general, crime peaks in adolescence or early adulthood and declines with age. However, given the projected population growth, there is an expected increase in crimes committed by the elderly (Berger, 2018). Compared to their younger counterparts, elderly offenders tend to be arrested for alcohol and drug-related offenses, such as public intoxication and driving under the influence (Berger, 2018; Black, 2015). Ulmer and Steffensmier (2014) suggest that older offenders may be less likely to be arrested because they have learned to conceal their criminal behavior by trading a higher-risk crime for a lower-risk crime, such as from burglary to white-collar. Offenders may not age out of crime so much as they engage in unreported criminal activity, such as workplace theft.

For the psychopath, affective and interpersonal factors associated with antisocial behavior remain relatively stable over the lifespan while the expression of antisocial behavior appears to change with age (Shaw & Porter, 2012; Huchzermeier et al., 2008). Namely, an individual may engage in different types of antisocial behavior as they age. These changes can be explained in part by changing environmental factors, such as the opportunity to commit crime. Therefore, a reduction in crime likely does not represent a fundamental change in personality but rather an adaption made by the antisocial personality to avoid detection by the criminal justice system. Still, while these offenders cause fewer issues for the community, problems typically persist with family and friends due to the psychopath's affective and interpersonal deficits. More research is needed to investigate the changing nature of crime across individual lifespan.

*Keywords:* aging out of crime, psychopathy, antisocial behavior

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