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Relationships Between Psychopathology and Tattoos in Those Receiving Physical Examination for Conscription at Korea Military Manpower Administration

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Object : This study was aimed to discover the correlation between those getting tattoos and their psychopathology relating to their delinquent behavior and emotional problems.

Methods : Data for this study was collected from 19-year-old men who were receiving a physical examination for conscription at the Korea Military Manpower Administration. 400 data sheets were collected among them. All of subjects were evaluated on the following measures : sociodemographic variants, Juvenile delinquency scale, State-trait anger expression inventory, Beck depression inventory, State-trait anxiety inventory, and Positive affect and negative affect schedule.

Results : In comparison with those without tattoos, those with a tattoo scored higher in the scales that were related to delinquency, anger, depression, and negative emotion. Furthermore, there were positive correlations between the number of tattoos and the scores for the Juvenile delinquent tendency and behavior scale as well as on the State-trait anxiety scale.

Conclusion : Those with tattoos had experienced anger, anxiety, and depression more strongly in comparison with those without tattoos. These results recommended that tattooed males should be evaluated more on their regrading psychopathology compared to those without tattoos.