

**MASSACHUSETTS YOUTH SCREENING INSTRUMENT – VERSION 2 (MAYSI-2):
PORTUGUESE CONVERGENT VALIDITY STUDIES IN MALE JUVENILE OFFENDERS**

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Abstract

The prevalence of psychological problems among juvenile offenders emphasise the need for mental health screening instruments in the juvenile justice system.

The Massachussets Youth Screening Instrument (MAYSI-2) subscales provide useful information regarding the presence of mental health problems among juvenile delinquents.

In this research we evaluated the MAYSI-2 convergent validity by examining subscale score correlations with conceptually relevant related variables from other (criterion) measures: *Youth Self-Report*; *Barratt Impulsiveness Scale*; *Posttraumatic Stress Disorder Checklist – Civilian Version*; *Youth Psychopathic Traits Inventory*. The total sample was 183 adolescents admitted into Portuguese juvenile corrections facilities (Educative Centers).

The results show convergent validity for several MAYSI-2 subscales, namely: Angry-Irritable (AI); Depressed-Anxious (DA); Traumatic Experiences (TE).