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**PSYCHOPATHS: WHAT WERE THEY LIKE AS CHILDREN?
RESEARCH PUBLISHED BY SAGE IN SPECIAL ISSUE OF *CRIMINAL JUSTICE & BEHAVIOR***

Los Angeles, London, New Delhi, and Singapore (February 28, 2008) – How did psychopaths develop? Were there signs of the disorder when they were children? If so, could those factors have been mitigated, making it possible for them to grow up to live normal, healthy lives? The February special issue of *Criminal Justice and Behavior*, published by SAGE, explores recent research examining those very questions.

Beginning with the question of whether psychopathy is a stable disorder throughout life, the researchers attempted to trace its development back to its roots. In studying it over time, they found that child/adolescent psychopathy looks quite similar to the adult version but there did seem to be some areas of instability in the young version that could provide hope to those hoping to mitigate it before it's too late. The articles in the special issue examine many different aspects of psychopathy in the young and over time, including such variables as:

- Genetics
- Temperament
- Parenting styles
- Environment
- Internal and external symptoms
- Peer relations

“By conducting such investigations, possible points of intervention can be pinpointed in an effort to prevent early psychopathic characteristics in youth from leading to persistent deviant behaviors that have severe implications for the individual and society,” write guest editors, Randall T. Salekin and John E Lochman in the introduction. “Although considerable work remains to be done, this special issue serves as a starting point, providing the groundwork for future research in this area.”

The special issue of *Criminal Justice and Behavior*, the official journal of The American Association for Correctional and Forensic Psychology, entitled “Child and Adolescent Psychopathy: The Search for Protective Factors,” and guest edited by Randall T. Salekin and John E Lochman of the University of Alabama, is available at no charge for a limited time at <http://cjb.sagepub.com/content/vol35/issue2/>.

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