

MAO-A Gene

- Codes for Serotonin in the brain
 - Low Activity: Low amounts of **serotonin**
 - High Activity: High amounts of **serotonin**
- Impacts the development of the amygdala
- Also known as the “Warrior Gene” because those who have a variation of it **do not feel the calming effects of serotonin**

VIDEO LINKS HERE: <http://tuhspych.weebly.com/biological-level-of-analysis.html>

Ferguson et al. (2011)

- **Aim:** To investigate the relationships between the MAOA gene, exposure to violence, & violent behavior
- **Method:**
 - Participants: 398 males in New Zealand who had demonstrated antisocial behavior
 - Performed genetic test when 28-30 years old
 - Surveyed the men for exposure to violence/trauma as children & their own violent behaviors

Ferguson et al. (2011)

- **Findings:**
 - Those who had Low-Activity MAOA Gene were significantly more likely to commit violent crimes than men with the High-Activity Gene IF they had experienced significant trauma
- **Conclusion:**
 - Low-Activity MAOA Gene PLUS Trauma increase rates of violent behavior
- **Critical Thinking?**

Antisocial Personality Disorder

- A condition that leads to a general lack of empathy for others, a disregard for the rights of others, a lack of guilt, and often a disregard for laws or social morals.
- Psychopath: Lack of connections with others but are able to present charming personalities. Often times very successful and can appear normal. Crimes are often highly calculated.
- Sociopath: Easily agitated and nervous. Can often make limited connections with others. Holding down jobs or gaining an education is difficult. Crimes are often disorganized and spontaneous.