

# PSYCHOPATHY

Primary Research Paper

---

Prepared by: Annabelle McAlindon

---

---

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

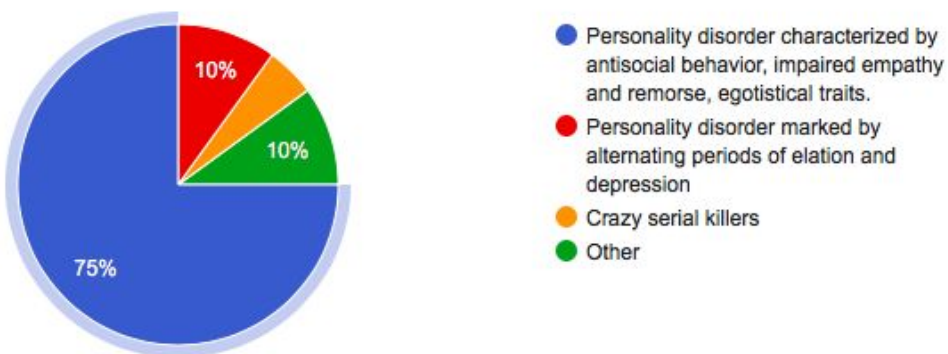
The 2017 “Psychopathy” survey was conducted by Annabelle McAlindon of Burlingame High School, those polled were 20 high school seniors. This survey was meant to understand their attitudes and views of psychopathy and psychopaths, and observe the knowledge they had about the topic at hand. Among the key findings were:

- Only 75% of high school seniors knew what the definition of psychopathy was in 2017.  
\_\_\_\_\_
- 95% of those polled either agreed or strongly agree that the term psychopath has a negative connotation to it.  
\_\_\_\_\_
- 15% of high school seniors strongly disagree with the statement that psychopathy is an inherited disorder and encoded in our genetics.  
\_\_\_\_\_
- 30% of students strongly agree with the statement that psychopathy is developed through our environment.

---

## KEY FINDING 1

Only 75% of high school seniors knew what the definition of psychopathy was in 2017.



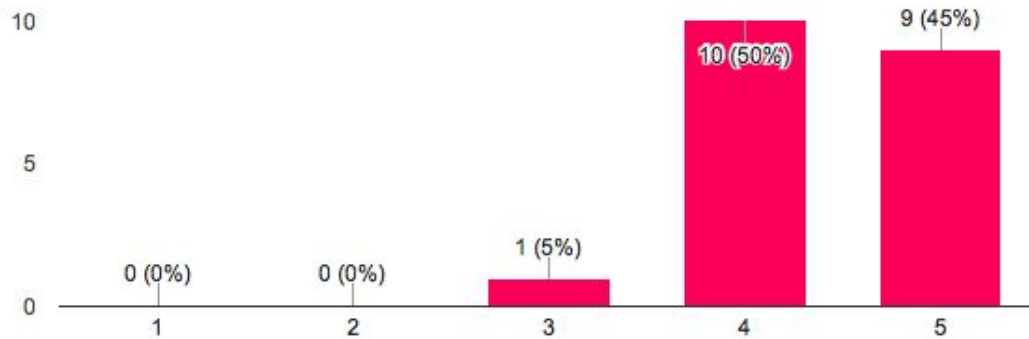
High school seniors at Burlingame High School have become less aware of this disorder, which could result in many people being unaware of some dangers. Being that 15% are uninformed, the number is only bound to increase as time goes on and the disorder remains untalked about in our society.

Unlike the 75% who could identify the definition, there was a good 10% who confused bipolar disorder and psychopathy. I had intentionally done that in my survey to also see if students were informed on other disorders, and unfortunately that is the case here. Students are unable to distinguish separate disorders, and these disorders are in our community and school. This unawareness could potentially have a negative effect on many students and people all over.

---

## KEY FINDING 2

95% of those polled either agreed or strongly agreed that the term psychopath has a negative connotation to it.

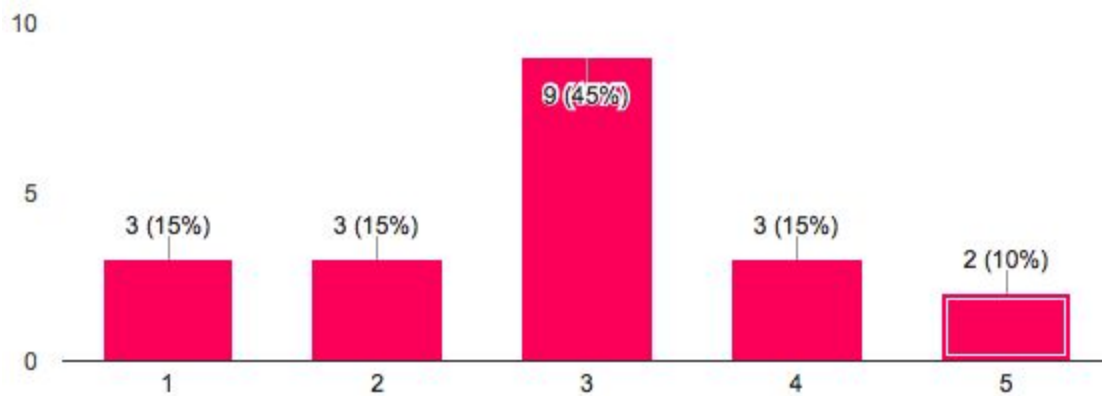


Building on the stigma that the word psychopath has an extremely negative connotation to it, it is also seen in the high school senior class. From movies, television series, and social media these students have received this negative significance of the word. The percentage of students who strongly agree that “the term psychopath has a negative connotation to it” is just what I had expected to see from this survey, due to the stigma that we see all over the media in our world. This means that these students have seen something about psychopathy in their lives and it has left a lasting negative connotation in their lives.

---

## KEY FINDING 3

15% of high school seniors strongly disagree with the statement that psychopathy is an inherited disorder and encoded in our genetics.



Students show slightly more diverse answers in this survey question. Some strongly agree and some strongly disagree, but then there are some in the middle. Majority of the students were in the middle and maybe unsure what they believed. Maybe it was because they are uninformed on the topic so they figured pick the middle would be the safest bet for them. The 15% that disagreed with that statement must agree that environment shapes psychopaths or some other claim that they have.

---

## KEY FINDING 4

30% of students strongly agree with the statement that psychopathy is developed through our environment.



Although the last question had more diverse answers, this question leaned more towards the agree or strongly agree side. In the middle there remains a good amount of undecided maybe even uninformed people. No one had seemed to strongly disagree with this statement. In the common “Nature v Nurture” debate, they would fall under the nurture part because they believe environment can shape your personality. Many students had agreed or strongly agreed, which, to say the least, surprised me. I thought students would focus on the brain chemistry aspect of the disorder psychopathy. Although turns out that there is much more diversity in the beliefs than I had expected.