



# Forensic Psychology in Nigeria: Psychological Factors Underpinning Criminal Behaviour

Chinedu Okoli<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> University of Benin

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**Correspondence:** [cokoli@outlook.com](mailto:cokoli@outlook.com)

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## Author notes

*Chinedu Okoli is affiliated with University of Benin and focuses on Psychology research in Africa.*

## Abstract

Forensic psychology in Nigeria addresses the complex interplay between psychological factors and criminal behaviour. Conducted semi-structured interviews with forensic psychologists, law enforcement officials, and community leaders in Nigeria. Analysed data using thematic analysis. Themes emerged included childhood trauma, mental health disorders, and social isolation; a significant proportion (45%) of respondents cited the role of childhood abuse as a primary factor. The qualitative approach revealed critical psychological factors contributing to criminal behaviour in Nigeria. Recommendations focus on integrating forensic psychology into rehabilitation programmes and community support initiatives. Integrate forensic psychology into existing rehabilitation programmes, particularly focusing on addressing childhood trauma. Implement community-based interventions targeting social isolation and mental health disorders.

**Keywords:** *Criminal justice system, criminology, forensic psychology, psychological disorders, offender profiling, qualitative research, victimology*

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