Chapter 4 Studying Abnormal Behavior: Research Methods

Basic Components of a Research Study

- Hypothesis
- Research Design
- Dependent Variable(s)
- Independent Variable(s)

- · Internal Validity
 - Confound
- External Validity

VALIDITY AND CONFOUNDS Strategies to ensure internal validity • Control Groups • Randomization

· Analog Studies

Research Strategies

- · Case Study Method
- Correlational Methods
- Experimental Methods
- Single-Case Experimental Designs
- Genetics
- Studying Behavior Over Time
- Combined Methods and Strategies

Correlational Methods

Positive Correlation



Negative Correlation



Zero Correlation



Experimental Methods

- Group Experimental Designs
 - Placebo effect
 - Placebo control groups
 - Double-blind control
- Comparative Treatment Research
- · Process Research
- · Outcome Research

- Single–Case Experimental Designs
 - Repeated Measurements
 - Withdrawal Designs
 - •Baseline
 - •Beginning of treatment
 - •Treatment is withdrawn ("return to baseline")
 - Multiple Baselines

Genetics

- Phenotypes
- Genotypes
- Family Studies
 - Proband
- Adoption Studies
- Twin Studies
 - Identical (monozygotic) twins vs. fraternal (dizygotic) twins
- Genetic Linkage & Association Studies

Studying Behavior Over Time

- Cross Sectional Designs Correlational
 - -Cohorts
 - -Problem:
 - •Cohort Effect
- Longitudinal Designs
 - -Problem:
 - · Cross Generational Effect
 - -Sequential Design

- Studying Behavior Over Cultures
- Integrative Program of Research
 - e.g., Gerald Patterson & colleagues at the University of Oregon Replication

• Research Ethics

- Removing or withholding treatment
- Informed Consent
- Protection of Subjects (Institutional Review Boards)