



Thesaurus of Psychological Index Terms[®]

2026 Fall Update

As psychological research evolves in response to technological change, emerging societal challenges, and new areas of inquiry, the *APA Thesaurus of Psychological Index Terms* continues to evolve with it, expanding coverage of contemporary concepts and strengthening the terminology, relationships, and hierarchies that support accurate retrieval, precise indexing, and enhanced research discovery.

The 2026 Fall Update includes:

- **83 new Postable Terms and 44 new Nonpostable/Cross-Referenced Terms** reflecting rapidly evolving and high-interest areas of psychological research, including:
 - » Crime, Violence, and Forensic Psychology
 - » Law Enforcement, Policing, and Public Safety
 - » Law, Legal Rights, and Courts
 - » Political Psychology and Social Identity
 - » Technology, Media, and Digital Society
- **12 Nonpostable Terms** changed to postable status
- **266 Scope Notes** revised for better alignment with current terminology and research
- **Hierarchies, cross-references, and term relationships** enhanced to support more precise indexing, improved search accuracy, and richer information discovery across related concepts.

Examples of New Terms:

- **Crime, Violence, and Forensic Psychology:** Collective Violence, Grooming, Justice-Involved Youth, Moral Disengagement, Recidivism Risk, Sexual Exploitation, Victim-Offender Dynamics
- **Law Enforcement, Policing, and Public Safety:** Body-Worn Cameras, De-escalation, Crisis Intervention Teams, Police Legitimacy, Police Reform, Trust in Law Enforcement
- **Law, Legal Rights, and Courts:** Competency Evaluation, Constitutional Rights, Eyewitness Identification, Juror Bias, Immigration Law, Mental Health Law, Miranda Rights
- **Political Psychology and Social Identity:** Civic Engagement, National Identity, Political Bias, Political Polarization, Political Ideology, Partisanship, Radicalization
- **Technology, Media, and Digital Society:** Crisis Communication, Electronic Monitoring, Entertainment Industry, Identity Theft, Media Psychology, Surveillance Technology

NEW POSTABLE TERMS

Assault
At Risk Youth
Body-Worn Cameras
Civic Engagement
Civil Liberties
Climate Policy
Collective Violence
Community Engagement
Community Service
Competency Evaluation
Constitutional Rights
Criminal Investigation
Crisis Communication
Crisis Intervention Teams
Deception Detection
De-escalation
Disinhibition
Drug-Related Crime
Electronic Monitoring
Entertainment Industry
Environmentalism
Eyewitness Identification
Fitness for Duty
Forensic Mental Health Professionals
Forensic Psychiatrists
Forensic Science
Gang Violence
Grooming
Identity Theft
Immigration Law
Impulse Control
Investigative Interviewing
Juror Bias
Justice-Involved Youth
Legal Defenses
Legal Liability
Legal Rights
Manslaughter
Mass Incarceration
Media Psychology
Mental Health Crisis Services
Mental Health Law

Miranda Rights
Moral Disengagement
Moral Psychology
National Identity
Negligence
Partisanship
Peer-Delivered Services
Police Bias
Police Culture
Police Legitimacy
Police Misconduct
Police Psychologists
Police Psychology
Police Reform
Police-Community Relations
Political Bias
Political Ideology
Political Polarization
Political Polls
Political Science
Property Crime
Psychological Injury
Public Health Policy
Racial and Ethnic Profiling
Radicalization
Recidivism Risk
Sexual Exploitation
Solitary Confinement
Stockholm Syndrome
Surveillance
Surveillance Technology
Suspects
Trauma Recovery
Trust in Law Enforcement
Use of Force
Verdicts
Victim Support
Victim-Offender Dynamics
Victimology
Violent Behavior
White-Collar Crime

NEW NONPOSTABLE TERMS AND THEIR POSTABLE COUNTERPARTS

Term	Postable Counterpart
Aggravated Assault	Assault
Asylum Law	Immigration Law
Bribery	White-Collar Crime
Callousness	Callous-Unemotional Traits
Carjacking	Robbery
Child Grooming	Grooming
Civil Liability	Legal Liability
Corporate Crime	White-Collar Crime
Correctional Psychologists	Forensic Mental Health Professionals
Correctional Rehabilitation	Criminal Rehabilitation
Crime Scene Investigation	Criminal Investigation
Crime Victim Support	Victim Support
Criminal Defenses	Legal Defenses
Criminal Liability	Legal Liability
Criminal Suspects	Suspects
Digital Crime	Cybercrime
Digital Evidence	Forensic Evidence
Digital Forensics	Forensic Science
Driving While Intoxicated	Driving Under the Influence
Drug Possession	Drug-Related Crime
Ethnic Profiling	Racial and Ethnic Profiling
Fearless Dominance	Boldness
Financial Crime	White-Collar Crime
Homeland Security	National Security
Internet Fraud	Online Fraud
Jury Verdicts	Verdicts
Law Enforcement Psychologists	Police Psychologists
Mens Rea	Criminal Responsibility
Online Disinhibition	Disinhibition
Online Grooming	Grooming
Pathological Lying	Lying
Police and Public Safety Psychology	Police Psychology
Polls (Political)	Political Polls
Pre-Election Polls	Political Polls
Pre-trial Detention	Legal Detention
Psychology and Law	Legal Psychology
Refugee Law	Immigration Law
Reoffending	Recidivism
Repeat Offending	Recidivism
Sexual Grooming	Grooming
Trust in Police	Trust in Law Enforcement
Violent Radicalization	Radicalization
Youth At Risk	At Risk Youth
Youth Offending	Juvenile Delinquency

NONPOSTABLE TERMS CHANGING TO POSTABLE STATUS

Child Maltreatment
Criminality
Executive Dysfunction
Legal Interrogation
Legal Psychology
Lying
Mental Health Care Policy
Murder
Power
Remorse
Robbery
Sexual Assault

POSTABLE TERM CHANGING TO NONPOSTABLE STATUS

Predelinquent Youth

NONPOSTABLE TERMS CHANGING THEIR POSTABLE COUNTERPARTS

Nonpostable Term	Previous Counterpart	New Postable Counterpart
Criminal Interrogation	Interrogation	Legal Interrogation
Police Interrogation	Interrogation	Legal Interrogation
Civic Behavior	Community Involvement	Civic Engagement
Offenders (Juvenile)	Juvenile Delinquency	Justice-Involved Youth
Verdict Determination	Adjudication	Verdicts

REVISED SCOPE NOTES

Abortion Laws	Behavioral Health	Courts	Defendants
Abuse of Power	Services	Crime	Delayed Auditory
Acquaintance Rape	Behavioral Inhibition	Crime Prevention	Feedback
Acute Stress	Biosecurity	Crime Victims	Delayed Feedback
Adjudication	Bioterrorism	Criminal Behavior	Democracy
Aggressive Behavior	Bullying	Criminal Conviction	Diminished Capacity
Aggressive Driving	Capital Punishment	Criminal Justice	Disease Management
Behavior	Capitalism	Criminal Law	Dishonesty
Alexithymia	Cheating	Criminal Profiling	Diversion Programs
Androgyny	Child Health	Criminal Record	Domestic Violence
Animal Cruelty	Child Maltreatment	Criminal Responsibility	Drug Courts
Anorexia Nervosa	Citizenship	Criminality	Drug Laws
Antisocial Behavior	Civil Rights	Criminology	Drug Legalization
Antisocial Personality	Coercion	Crisis Intervention	Dysexecutive Syndrome
Disorder	Colonialism	Crisis Intervention	Eating Disorders
Attack Behavior	Communication Barriers	Services	Education Policy
Authoritarianism	Communism	Cross Examination	Emergency Management
Autism Spectrum	Conflict	Cruelty	Emergency Services
Disorders	Conservatism	Cyberbullying	Emotion Recognition
Awards (Jury)	Corruption	Dark Triad	Emotional Processing
Battered Child Syndrome	Counterterrorism	Debates	Enactments
Behavioral Disinhibition	Court Referrals	Deception	Entitlement (Legal)

REVISED SCOPE NOTES (Cont.)

Environmental Policy	Laws	Police Violence	Risk Assessment
Executive Dysfunction	Legal Arrest	Policing	Robbery
Exoneration	Legal Confession	Policy Making	Runaway Behavior
Expert Testimony	Legal Decisions	Political Assassination	Sadism
Exposure to Violence	Legal Detention	Political Asylum	Sadomasochism
Extremism	Legal Evidence	Political Attitudes	Sadomasochistic
Faking	Legal Interrogation	Political Campaigns	Personality
False Confession	Legal Processes	Political Candidates	Self-Defense
False Memory	Legal Psychology	Political Conservatism	Sentencing
Family Law	Legal Testimony	Political Economic	Serial Crime
Fascism	Legislative Processes	Systems	Serial Homicide
Feedback	LGBTQ Legislation	Political Elections	Sex Offenses
Female Delinquency	Litigation	Political Issues	Sex Trafficking
Femicide	Loyalty	Political Liberalism	Sexual Abuse
Foreign Policy Making	Lying	Political Parties	Sexual Assault
Forensic Assessment	Machiavellianism	Political Radicalism	Sexual Coercion
Forensic Evidence	Male Delinquency	Political Revolution	Sexual Violence
Forensic Psychologists	Malingering	Political Socialization	Shoplifting
Formerly Incarcerated	Malpractice	Political Violence	Social Control
Fraud	Marijuana Laws	Politicians	Socialism
Gender Violence	Marijuana Legalization	Politics	Stalking
Government Policy	Masochism	Polygraphs	Suggestibility
Making	Masochistic Personality	Positive Psychology	Survivors
Gun Control Laws	Memory Consolidation	Measures	Suspicion
Health Care Policy	Mental Health Care Policy	Power	Tarasoff Decision
Homicide	Mental Health	Predelinquent Youth	Tay Sachs Disease
Honesty	Commitment	Prisoner Abuse	Technology Transfer
Hostages	Mental Health Legislation	Prisoners of War	Theft
Hostility	Moral Injury	Probation	Threat
Human Trafficking	Multisystemic Therapy	Procedural Justice	Threat Postures
Illegal Drug Distribution	Murder	Professional Liability	Timidity
Incarceration	Narcissism	Psychological First Aid	Totalitarianism
Incest	National Security	Psychological Reactance	Treatment Planning
Ingroup Outgroup	Nationalism	Psychopathy	Truth
Insanity Defense	Obscenity	Public Health Services	Verbal Abuse
Integrated Services	Older Americans Act	Public Mental Health	Victimization
Interpersonal Control	Oppression	Public Relations	Violence
Interrogation	Parole	Racial Microaggression	Violence Prevention
Intimate Partner Violence	Patient Abuse	Rape	Violent Crime
Juries	Patient Violence	Recidivism	Virtual Violence
Jury Selection	Patriotism	Regret	Voting Behavior
Juvenile Delinquency	Peer Counseling	Reintegration	Wandering Behavior
Juvenile Gangs	Peer Support	Relational Aggression	Welfare Reform
Juvenile Justice	Penology	Remorse	Witnesses
Knowledge of Results	Perpetrators	Restorative Justice	Workplace Violence
Law Enforcement	Persecution	Retaliation	Wrongful Conviction
Law (Government)	Physical Abuse	Riots	