

“Another psychotic maniac kills – Why do they let them out?”

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Topics

- * Four main groups of risk factors of violence
- * Other factors?
- * Psychotic violence: Diagnosis or symptoms?
- * Cathalysts for violence?

Risk factors: Four main clusters

- * Dispositional factors
- * Background factors
- * **Contextual factors**
- * **Clinical factors**

Drug abuse, criminality and psychosis


- * Prince & Wald, 2018
- * N = 10.855
- * Risk of criminality?
- * Psychosis: OR = 1.84
- * Only substance abuse diagnosis: OR = 5.32
- * Comorbidity: OR = 7.47
- * Substances (compared with alcohol):
 - * Alcohol and marijuana
 - * Alcohol, marijuana and cocaine
 - * Other combinations of substances

Premorbid delinquency and violence

- * Winsper et al., 2013
- * 670 with first episode of psychosis (FEP) followed 1 year: Violent behaviour
- * **Premorbid delinquency:** moderate = OR: 1.97, and high = OR: 3.53 increased the risk of violence during FEP
- * **Moderate:** Premorbid delinquency + severity of psychosis (interaction effect)
- * **High:** Premorbid criminality had **direct** effect alone
- * Similar results: Adily et al., 2020; Skeem et al., 2013; Lund et al., 2013

Previous criminality and violent recidivism in schizophrenia

- * Witt et al., 2015
- * Epidemiological study of 8891 men and 4915 women
- * Follow-up time: 12 years in Sweden
- * Violent recidivism:
 - * 17.3% men and 5.7% women
 - * Threats (48%), physical harassment (32%), sexual (5%), serious violence (4%), homicide (3%), etc.
- * Previous criminality was the strongest risk factor
- * Low age and comorbid drug abuse were high risk factors



Psychosis and psychotic symptoms

Delusions

- * Persecutive delusions have high risk of violence in some patients
- * However, having persecutive delusions is not a genuine risk factor of violence

Emotional negative distress (END) and persecutive delusions

- * END is associated with higher risk of violence in persecutive delusions
- * A combination of persecutive delusions and END increase risk of violence
(e.g. Bjørkly et al., 2021; Coid et al., 2013; Ulrich et al., 2014; van Dongen et al., 2013)

Hallucination

- * Hearing voices is not a risk factor of violence
- * Imperative voices with a violent message or command to inflict violence on another individual may increase violent risk.
- * If the voices cause emotional negative distress (END) the risk of compliance of violent acts become higher. (Björkly, et al., 2021; Bucci et al., 2013)

A take home message

- * «Psychosis» explains only 5 – 40% of the association
- * Contexts explain more
- * Violent family context has a strong negative effect
- * Early debut of emotional negative distress (END)
- * Drug abuse has a strong impact
- * Early criminal career may be the most potent risk variable for violence



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