



ANALYZING THE CORRELATION BETWEEN CRIME AND MENTAL ILLNESS

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ABSTRACT

This investigation will focus on in the aftermath of many mass shootings, the relationship between mental illness and crime has received more study and controversy. When tragedies like this occur, a greater attention is placed on mental health, which is a good thing because the link between mental illness and criminality is frequently misinterpreted. People with mental problems, it is widely assumed, are more violent and aggressive. To evaluate the association between mental illness and violence, this study poses three questions: Are people suffering from mental diseases violent? Are mentally sick people more likely to perform violent acts? Is the general population at risk?

KEYWORDS: Crime, Mental Illness, Risk, Population, Mental Health.

INTRODUCTION:



The association between mental illness and violence is a source of concern for the general public, psychiatrists, correctional facilities, and the criminal justice system. Consequently, there has been an increase in study into the reasons why mentally ill individuals commit crimes. The belief that people with mental illnesses are more likely than the general population to engage in criminal or violent behavior toward themselves, their loved ones, and close friends is central to much of the debate surrounding mental health services, their nature, and how they should be provided. (Fazel, 2006)

It is hard to overstate the correlation between mental illness and aggression. Due to the fact that violence is a sign of psychosis, some experts argue that people with mental illness should be included in this category (Lidz, Banks, Simon, Schubert and Mulvey, 2007). According to several research, substance abuse increases the frequency and intensity of violent conduct in mentally ill individuals (Lurigio and Harris, 2009). According to studies, there is an association between mental illness and violence. What is the connection between aggressive conduct and mental illness?

In examine both research that support their assertions regarding the relationship between mental illness and violence as well as ones that do not. In my solution to this question, I'll then examine Canadian legislation. I will then decide if there is a link between mental illness and aggressiveness, or whether further research is required if there isn't one..

Because offenders are incorrectly labelled as having mental illnesses, psychiatric illness and crime are incorrectly combined. Criminality is commonly related with mental illness due to society's interpretation of behavioural and conduct abnormalities as indicators of mental disease. As a result of incorrect diagnosis of psychiatric disease on criminals, a significant number of mental health difficulties have been recorded in correctional facilities. These data are not guaranteed to be based on trustworthy medical or mental evaluations or diagnoses, but rather on cultural background. (Fioritti, 2001)

Antisocial personality disorder (ASPD) is a diagnosis that is commonly and arbitrarily assigned to prisoners. This has spurred discussion on the nature of Asperger's Syndrome (ASD) and if it is a true mental disorder. The term has gained popularity in depicting criminals as mental patients. To prevent criminals from using mental diseases as a cover to avoid criminal punishment, physicians must guarantee that diagnoses are only made when a person's diagnostic characteristics are present. (Khalifeh, 2015)

REVIEW OF LITERATURE:



A number of broad generalisations may be taken from this perspective. To begin with, mental illness is neither required nor sufficient for violence to occur. Being young, male, and from a poor socioeconomic background continue to be important markers of violent crime. (Gottfried, 2017)

The general public's perceptions of the link between significant mental diseases and violence, as well as their own risk of being victimised by the seriously mentally ill, are probably exaggerated. People with severe mental illnesses are significantly more likely to be victims of violence.

There appears to be a significant correlation between aggressive behaviour and drug misuse. This is true whether or not the abuser suffers from a mental disorder. Drug addicts exacerbate community violence by accounting for up to one-third of self-reported violent acts and seven out of ten violent offences committed by mentally ill criminals.

Finally, much too much previous study has concentrated on the person suffering from mental illness rather than the nature of the social interaction that led to the violence. As a result, we don't know as much as we could about the nature of these interactions and the environmental conditions that contribute to violence. We also don't know as much as we should about how to prevent violence from occurring in the first place. Nonetheless, recent research supports early detection and treatment of drug abuse problems, as well as increased focus on the diagnosis and management of concurrent substance abuse disorders among the seriously mentally ill as viable violence prevention techniques. (Lamberti, 2010)

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The connection between mental illness and aggressive behaviour has major public-health consequences. Because there is a paucity of data suggesting that mental illness predicts violent behaviour, public initiatives are required to eliminate the stigma associated with those suffering from mental diseases as potential criminals. A better understanding of how medications impact violent behaviour and the symptoms they treat is necessary. The roles of individuals and contexts in mediating violence must also be investigated further, and suitable intervention measures developed. (Monahan 1996)

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Since the 1960s, there has been mounting evidence that persons with serious mental problems are more likely to commit crimes, conduct acts of violence, and behave violently to others. Follow-up studies of psychiatric patients discharged into the community; investigations of serious mental diseases among convicted criminals; and analyses of unselected birth cohorts comparing the likelihood of criminality among people with and without substantial disorders Aggressive conduct investigations are the fourth research type. (Major Mental Disorder and Crime: An Etiological Hypothesis. Sheilagh Hodgins, Gilles Côté & Jean Toupin) Many studies have been conducted on the risks of offending among people with mental disorders; yet, little is known about their exposure to crime and violence. To ascertain the prevalence of all sorts of criminal offences and violent crimes in the general population following the onset of mental illness throughout the whole diagnostic spectrum. (JAMA *Psychiatry*. 2018). *Disordered Thoughts and Crime* summarises what we know about the relationship between mental illness and individual psychiatric illnesses, particularly antisocial behaviour. This book brings together a diverse range of academic disciplines to investigate and explain the roots of criminal and violent behaviour associated with mental illness. In addition, the book provides a diagnostic knowledge of mental diseases across several categorization systems, including the current DSM-5 and ICD-10 categories. They also critically assess the study's therapeutic and societal ramifications, as well as its practical applications in the criminal justice system, as part of their research endeavour. This ground-breaking research will help those suffering from mental diseases including schizophrenia and bipolar disorder acquire social acceptance. (Book "Mental Illness and Crime" by Robert A. Schug - California State University, Long Beach, USA and Henry F. Fradella - Arizona State University, USA)

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY:

We investigate the link between crime and mental illness, as well as the causes and consequences of this interaction. It's an excellent product. Following a string of high-profile shootings, there has been an uptick in debate and criticism. When events like these happen, mental health gets more attention, which is fantastic because the connection between mental illness and criminality is commonly misinterpreted. Even though available data indicates that mentally ill persons are less aggressive than non-mentally ill people, reaching clear findings is difficult. Many persons with mental problems believed that because they were no longer a threat, they could no longer hurt others.

DISCUSSION:



To begin, mental illness is not required nor sufficient for someone to engage in violent behaviour. Many acts of violence are still the result of characteristics like gender and age, which are linked to one's social and economic standing.

ISSUES OF CONCERN:

Numerous arrests and incarcerations have come from a lack of awareness and resources about how to deal with those suffering from mental illnesses. As a preventative precaution, the police often arrest these persons for minor offences such as jaywalking or wandering. One research found that 12% of adult mental patients in the San Diego County health system were imprisoned or jailed. People with schizophrenia and bipolar disorder were 28 percent more likely to have been arrested or imprisoned in Connecticut.

When state mental institutions were abolished as part of the deinstitutionalization movement in the 1960s, many psychiatric patients were left to fend for themselves. As a result, these patients encountered more law enforcement and the legal system. Because of a lack of training and manpower in the courts, the number of persons with mental disorders in jails and prisons is anticipated to rise in the future. People suffering from mental illnesses may engage in antisocial or illegal behaviour, such as roaming. As a result, many individuals believe that criminal behaviour is the result of a mental disease. (MacDonald, 2010)

CLINICAL SIGNIFICANCE:

Specific mental health problems raise a person's likelihood of committing a crime. A lack of therapy, active delusions, or long-term paranoia, according to research, may increase the chance of violence in people with mental illnesses. Patients with mental illnesses, such as command hallucinations, are frequently affected. When a person has co-occurring concerns like as drug abuse, unemployment, or homelessness, the likelihood of committing a violent crime increases even further. (Stuart, 2003)

Long-term drug abuse is the most significant and independent risk factor for criminality and violence in people with mental illnesses. People with mental health and drug use issues are four times more likely to commit crimes or engage in violence. Alcohol and/or drug abuse, according to research, may be the main cause of the increase in violent crime perpetrated by people with mental problems.

Patients suffering from mental diseases who fall through the gaps or refuse to cooperate with therapy are more likely to conduct violent crimes. Untreated deep mental illness is far



more important in mass killings of strangers than in homicide cases due to the severity of the affliction. A tiny number of criminals continue to conduct random acts of violence for unlawful gain. (Steinert, 2003)

Many people suffering from mental diseases have a difficult time receiving mental health therapy. Unfortunately, many patients do not obtain the necessary therapy on time. As a result of budget overruns and cuts to mental health services, more persons with mental illnesses are being forced to engage in criminal behaviour. The problem is exacerbated by a dearth of mental health care facilities. Because of increased public awareness and efforts to enhance access to treatment facilities, the number of mental hospital beds per person in the United States has dropped to its lowest level since the 1850s. (Stuart 2001)

OTHER ISSUES:

Even if it is costly in the short term, a long-term national mental health strategy that makes therapy more widely available and accessible may prove to be a sensible and cost-effective option. According to some estimation, ninety days in a mental institution may rescue a mentally ill person from a 10-year jail sentence. In the long run, mental health counselling may save money for both society and crime victims. More significantly, it would enhance the quality of life for persons suffering from mental diseases and allow them to contribute to society. (Watson, Hanrahan, Luchins, Lurigio 2001)

There are several links between mental illness and crime. Access to mental health care demands extensive study as well as innovative solutions. There is little evidence that a person's mental health may predict criminal behaviour on its own. According to overwhelming data, persons with mental problems are far more likely to be victims of violent crime than offenders. (Parrott, 2010)

CONCLUSION

According to the study, many of the same Criminol-genic characteristics identified in the general population were linked to mental illness. Any increase in crime or violence observed in the samples was attributed to mental disorder. When the rates were statistically analysed, they frequently equalised. Even when other risk variables for aggressive behaviour (such as being young, male, and single) are included, evidence shows that mental illness has a small impact on violent crime.

The general public's perceptions of the link between significant mental diseases and violence, as well as their own risk of being victimised by the seriously mentally ill, are



probably exaggerated. People with severe mental problems are significantly more likely to be victims of violence than the general population.

Finally, having a mental disease while concurrently taking narcotics appears to be a substantial predictor of aggression. Drug abuse issues account for one-third of self-reported hostile behaviours and seven out of ten violent offences committed by mentally ill criminals.

Finally, much too much previous study has concentrated on the person suffering from mental illness rather than the nature of the social interaction that leads to violence. We are passing up important possibilities for primary prevention because we do not understand the dynamics of these interpersonal encounters or what factors lead to violence. Early detection and treatment of drug addiction concerns, as well as increased attention to the diagnosis and management of concurrent substance abuse disorders among the profoundly mentally ill, are effective approaches for averting violence, according to current research.

Both violent crime and major mental illness are extremely rare occurrences that must be remembered at all times. Because we know so little about the general population, judging the practical significance of information indicating an elevated risk of violence among mentally ill people is challenging.

Members of the general public or individuals with whom the mentally ill have deep personal relationships are the most common targets of violence by the mentally ill. A growing body of studies shows that when the quality and character of one's closest social relationships are poor, persons with serious mental problems are more prone to commit violent acts.

Psychiatric issues and violent behaviours have become increasingly intertwined in therapeutic practise. Many mental health practitioners have showed an improved readiness to forecast and control violent behaviour since their first assertions that they were incapable to do so. Violence risk assessments are increasingly being pushed as core mental health skills: demanded of mental health practitioners, respected in courts of law and criminal situations, and critical parts of socially acceptable clinical care, thanks to actuarial risk assessment methodologies.



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