



Recidivism is related to psychopathy (PCL-R) in a group of men convicted of homicide

Jenny Laurell^a, Anna M. Dåderman^{a,b,*}

^aDepartment of Psychology, Stockholm University, SE-106 91 Stockholm, Sweden

^bDepartment of Clinical Neuroscience, Division of Forensic Psychiatry, Karolinska Institute,
P.O. Box 4044, SE-141 04 Huddinge, Sweden

Received 4 August 2003; received in revised form 3 May 2004; accepted 9 August 2004

Abstract

It is well known that psychopaths are a group with high risk for criminality. Despite that, researchers and clinicians have not yet agreed on a general cause of psychopathy. However Raine [Raine, A. (2002). Biosocial studies of antisocial and violent behavior in children and adults: A review. *Journal of Abnormal Child Psychology*, 30, 311-326.] advocated a biosocial model of violent behaviour where the greatest risk for criminal behaviour occurred when both heredity and environmental risk factors (e.g., social class, childhood history) were present. In this follow-up study, 35 men convicted of homicide were assessed retrospectively for psychopathy according to the Psychopathy Checklist-Revised (PCL-R). Information on personal history, as well as from legal documents and records of offences committed by the subjects was also obtained. Fourteen of the 35 men were classified as psychopaths. Two men, both rated as psychopaths, had criminal parents. Twenty-seven of the men had a social relationship with their victim, and eleven out of these were rated as psychopaths. There was no difference in PCL-R scores between those who had a social relationship with their victim and those who did not. The psychopaths relapsed more frequently than the nonpsychopaths into criminality after their prison term. This result confirms previous research indicating that psychopathy is a risk factor for recidivism. It is, therefore, very important that psychopaths get the best possible treatment, aftercare, and supervision.

© 2005 Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved.

* Corresponding author. Department of Psychology, Stockholm University, SE-106 91 Stockholm, Sweden. Tel.: +46 8 16 39 45; fax: +46 8 16 39 30.

E-mail address: amd@psychology.su.se (A.M. Dåderman).

1. Introduction

Definitions of the term psychopath have historically been diverse, but most clinicians and researchers are generally in quite good agreement with each other and with the description of psychopathy provided by [Harvey Cleckley \(1941/1988\)](#) in his book *The Mask of Sanity*. Robert Hare and his collaborators have been involved during almost the past 20 years in the development of, and in studies regarding the validity and reliability of a rating scale, the Psychopathy Checklist–Revised (PCL-R) ([Hare, 1991, 2003](#)), which assesses symptoms of psychopathy. Traditionally, PCL-R has been divided into two factors: classical interpersonal and affective characteristics (Factor 1, e.g., lack of empathy, manipulativeness, glibness or superficial charm, shallow affect), and behavioural features (Factor 2, e.g., early problem behaviours, impulsiveness, juvenile delinquency) ([Harpur, Hare, & Hakstian, 1989](#)).

1.1. Why do we need to identify criminal psychopaths?

It is important to be able to identify psychopaths so that we can protect ourselves from the harm they can cause. One of the main characteristics of a psychopath is his or her unusual charm and amazing success in lying, and it is easy for such a person to obtain extraordinary advantages during the period of custody, including, for example, early release. The next step, then, is for the psychopath to relapse into another serious crime. It is also very important that the judicial system is capable of identifying psychopaths, principally with respect to various decisions concerning verdicts, treatment, and release ([Hare, 1997](#)). The ability to identify psychopathy gives us, to a certain extent, the ability to predict serious crime. Identification of psychopaths also allows us to attempt to prevent them from committing crimes. Psychopaths commit considerably more crimes than nonpsychopaths. Hare also states that psychopaths commit more than 50% of the most serious crimes.

1.2. Psychopathy and relapse into criminality

Several studies have shown that psychopaths are more liable to relapse into criminality than nonpsychopaths. [Långström and Grann \(2002\)](#) investigated psychopathy and violent crime recidivism in a group of young people who underwent forensic psychiatric assessment. The young offenders had, in a first stage, been rated according to PCL-R. They were then followed during their prison term and for two years afterwards in society, until being convicted for a further violent crime. The study found a positive significant relationship between psychopathy and recidivism of violent crime. [Hare \(1999\)](#) has shown that psychopathy is an accurate predictor of recidivism, principally with respect to violent crime. [Woodworth and Porter \(2002\)](#) describe how [Serin and Amos \(1995\)](#) found that recidivism within five years after release was five times more likely in psychopaths than in nonpsychopaths. [Gretton \(1999\)](#) found that psychopaths ran a greater risk of committing violent crimes after release than nonpsychopaths. Furthermore, psychopaths relapsed into criminality earlier after release than nonpsychopaths.

1.3. Psychopathy and aggression

[Myers and Monaco \(2000\)](#) found a significant negative association between scores on a scale that measures control of aggression and psychopathy scores on PCL-R.

متن کامل مقاله

دریافت فوری ←

ISIArticles

مرجع مقالات تخصصی ایران

- ✓ امکان دانلود نسخه تمام متن مقالات انگلیسی
- ✓ امکان دانلود نسخه ترجمه شده مقالات
- ✓ پذیرش سفارش ترجمه تخصصی
- ✓ امکان جستجو در آرشیو جامعی از صدها موضوع و هزاران مقاله
- ✓ امکان دانلود رایگان ۲ صفحه اول هر مقاله
- ✓ امکان پرداخت اینترنتی با کلیه کارت های عضو شتاب
- ✓ دانلود فوری مقاله پس از پرداخت آنلاین
- ✓ پشتیبانی کامل خرید با بهره مندی از سیستم هوشمند رهگیری سفارشات