

Which are the risk factors of violence in mental illness? A scoping review.

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Evidence shows an association between mental illnesses and violence. It is important to identify the risk factors and possible treatments to tackle this problem related to people with mental illness. The **aim** of this study was to identify which risk factors can be related to the presence of violence behaviours in people with mental illness.

Methods: This scoping review considered other systematic reviews and meta-analysis that included studies of risk factors for violence in adults with mental illness, without language or publication period restrictions for the studies. The databases Pubmed, Cochrane Library, PsycINFO, Epistemonikos, EMBASE and WOS were searched until August 2018.

Results: 855 articles were examined and 8 reviews were identified. The **main** risk factors of the systematic reviews assessed are diagnosis of schizophrenia, involuntary patients, substance abuse, impulsivity, history of violence, male gender. (table 1).

Table 1. Risk factors for violence in adults with mental illness.

Citation	Studies	Design	Population	Risk factors
Cornaggia et al. (2011)	73	Case-control, Retrospective or Prospective cohort	Unselected psychiatric populations	Past episodes of violence/aggression, The presence of impulsiveness/hostility, Longer hospitalization, Non-voluntary admission, The same gender of aggressor and victim.
	14		Psychotic patients	Alcohol/Substance misuse, Hostility and paranoid thoughts, Acute psychosis
Nederlof, et al. (2013)	26	Birth cohort, community, register/record-based	Psychotic disorders	Diagnosis of schizophrenia and other related psychotic disorders, Impulsivity, Family history of violence, Emotions such as anger and anxiety, Childhood problems.
Witt et al. (2013)	110	Cohort, case-control, cross-sectional, RCT.	Bipolar disorder, schizophrenia and other psychoses	History of : assault, imprisonment for any offence, conviction for a violent offence, conviction for any offence, arrest for any offence, violent behavior, previous suicide attempts, violent victimization during adulthood, psychical or sexual abuse during childhood, Parental criminal involvement, Parental alcohol misuse. Higher scores on: aggression, psychopathy factor 2 and factor 1, verbal Aggression subscale, psychopathy total scores, poor impulse control, general symptoms, total PANSS, excitement, positive symptom. Recent arrest for any offence, Aggressive behavior, Meets criteria for psychopathy, Hostility, Lacks insight, Diagnosed with comorbid antisocial personality disorder, Polysubstance/ substance (alcohol and/or drug) misuse, Non-adherent with psychological therapies/ medication, Homelessness, Male, Non-white ethnicity, Lower socio-economic status currently.
Reagu et al. (2013)	11	Cross sectional, Cohort study, Retrospective investigation, Multisite sampling	Schizophrenia and related psychoses	Anger
Dack et al. (2013)	75	Non specified (small number of comparison studies)	Psychiatric in-patient	Being younger, Male gender, Involuntary admissions, Not being married, Schizophrenia, A greater number of previous admissions, History of violence, History of self-destructive behavior, History of substance abuse.
Harris et al. (2014)	11	Generally cross sectional	Schizophrenia / another psychotic disorder	Attributional and interpersonal styles. Attribute blame for negative events and/or hostile intent towards others. Dominant, coercive and hostile interpersonal styles.
Iozzino et al. (2015)	35	Non specified	Psychiatric Acute Inpatients	Male gender, Alcohol use, Diagnosis of schizophrenia, History of violence, Involuntary patients
Rund (2018)	27	Cross-sectional, Meta-analysis, Systematic review, Case series, Epidemiological/ Correlation, Review of court documents, Prospective, Retrospective, Population-based, epidemiological survey.	Schizophrenia spectrum	Substance abuse, Phase of illness (first-episode psychotic), Duration of untreated psychosis, Non-adherence with treatment, Childhood abuse, Hallucinations, Delusional beliefs, Poor insight, Impulsivity, Psychopathy, Motor speed and global cognition.

Conclusions: Some of the risk factors detected in the scoping review could be modifiable and suggest which strategies could be considered to prevent violence behaviour in people with mental illness.

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