



Assessing the Potential for Harm: The Practice of Violence Risk Evaluation

Alexandre Urani*

Department of Criminology, University of Zagreb, Zagreb, Croatia

DESCRIPTION

Violence risk assessment is a vital aspect of ensuring public safety and providing appropriate care for individuals who may pose a threat to themselves or others. This specialized field employs a range of assessment tools and techniques to evaluate the potential for violent behavior and develop strategies to manage and mitigate these risks. By utilizing evidence-based approaches, violence risk assessors contribute to the prevention of harm and the protection of both individuals and society [1-3].

The importance of violence risk assessment

Violence risk assessment serves several critical purposes:

Safety planning: It helps identify individuals at risk of committing acts of violence, allowing for proactive safety measures and intervention plans.

Treatment planning: Risk assessments guide the development of customized treatment and intervention strategies for individuals with a history of violent behavior or threats.

Legal considerations: In legal contexts, violence risk assessments can inform decisions related to sentencing, parole, and the potential need for involuntary commitment.

Psychiatric care: In clinical settings, these assessments are essential for determining the level of care and supervision required for patients with violent tendencies.

Community protection: By identifying individuals at risk of violence, risk assessments support community protection efforts and public safety [4-6].

Key components of violence risk assessment

Clinical Evaluation: Trained professionals conduct thorough clinical assessments, considering an individual's history of violence, mental health status, substance abuse, and other relevant factors.

Structured risk assessment tools: Various standardized risk assessment tools are utilized to quantify an individual's risk level, such as the HCR-20, PCL-R, and VRAG.

Psychological testing: Psychological tests and assessments may be employed to gain insights into an individual's cognitive functioning, personality traits, and emotional stability.

Historical factors: Assessors consider an individual's past violent behavior, criminal history, and prior threats or violent acts.

Dynamic factors: Current factors, such as recent stressors, mental health symptoms, and substance use, are evaluated to gauge an individual's immediate risk [7,8].

Violence risk assessment must adhere to ethical principles, ensuring the well-being and rights of individuals under assessment. These principles include informed consent, confidentiality, cultural sensitivity, and the least restrictive intervention necessary to manage risk.

Challenges in violence risk assessment

There are challenges associated with violence risk assessment:

Predictive accuracy: Predicting future violent behavior remains inherently difficult, as individual circumstances and contexts may change over time.

Stigma: The process of assessing violence risk can carry a stigma that may deter individuals from seeking help or treatment.

Resource constraints: Adequate resources, including trained professionals and access to mental health services, are necessary to conduct thorough assessments and implement intervention strategies.

The evolving landscape

Advances in research and technology continue to enhance the field of violence risk assessment. Emerging research on

Correspondence to: Alexandre Urani, Department of Criminology, University of Zagreb, Zagreb, Croatia, E-mail: Alexandre@urani.hr

Received: 01-Aug-2023, Manuscript No. JFPY-23-23037; **Editor Assigned:** 03-Aug-2023, PreQC No. JFPY-23-23037 (PQ); **Reviewed:** 17-Aug-2023, QC No. JFPY-23-23037; **Revised:** 24-Aug-2023, Manuscript No. JFPY-23-23037 (R); **Published:** 31-Aug-2023, DOI:10.35248/2475-319X.23.8.300

Citation: Urani A (2023) Assessing the Potential for Harm: The Practice of Violence Risk Evaluation. J Foren Psy. 8:300.

Copyright: © 2023 Urani A. This is an open-access article distributed under the terms of the Creative Commons Attribution License, which permits unrestricted use, distribution, and reproduction in any medium, provided the original author and source are credited.

neuroimaging and genetic factors may provide additional insights into the underlying causes of violent behavior.

Additionally, machine learning and data analysis techniques are being explored to improve the accuracy of risk assessment models [10].

Violence risk assessment plays a critical role in safeguarding public safety and providing appropriate care for individuals at risk of violent behavior. By employing structured assessments, clinical evaluation, and evidence-based approaches, assessors contribute to proactive safety planning, intervention strategies, and community protection. While challenges exist in predicting and managing violent behavior, the commitment to ethical principles and ongoing research efforts in the field ensure that violence risk assessment remains an indispensable tool in the prevention of harm and the promotion of a safer and more secure society.

REFERENCE

1. Albrecht ER. Examining the effect of race on wrongful conviction compensation. Doctoral dissertation, Florida Atlantic University.
2. Albright TD, Garrett BL. The law and science of eyewitness evidence. *BUL Rev.* 2022;102:511.
3. Bygrave N. Jurors' perspective on expert witnesses: Psychological expert v. law enforcement Credibility. Doctoral dissertation, The Chicago School of Professional Psychology.
4. Caputo D, Dunning D. Distinguishing accurate identifications from erroneous ones: Post-dictive indicators of eyewitness accuracy. *Psychology Press: Volume II* 2007 pp. 441-464.
5. Ewing CP, McCann JT. *Minds on trial: Great cases in law and psychology.* Oxford University Press; 2006.
6. Gabbert F, Memon A, Allan K, Wright DB. Say it to my face: Examining the effects of socially encountered misinformation. *Leg Criminol Psychol.* 2004;9(2):215-227.
7. Kenchel JM. Misinformation about eyewitness confidence can influence jurors' memories and decision making. Diss. UC Irvine, 2022.
8. Modestin J, Ammann R. Mental disorders and criminal behaviour. *Br J Psychiatry.* 1995;166(5):667-675.
9. Patterson HR. The effects of eyewitness characteristics on jurors' perceptions.; 2001.
10. Peterson T. How do jurors assess eyewitness testimony? Jurors' assessments of eyewitness testimony following exposure to inappropriate identification procedures. 2010.