Are there adolescent psychopaths or just kids who need help?

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• Yes
N=10, US and Russian Cases

- Psychotic
- Intellectually deficient
- Psychopathic
Case F

- 13 year old Hispanic male
- Assaultive enucleation and homicide of a 14 year old female, a family friend
- Conduct disorder, childhood onset
- OCD
- Dysthymic disorder
- Developing psychopathic and sadistic personality traits
- FSIQ >130
Childhood and Adolescent Psychopathy


Use of callous-unemotional traits to designate a severe subgroup of antisocial youth

- Correlated with more severe antisocial and aggressive traits (mean = .0.33)
- More instrumental and premeditated aggression
- Early-onset, stable patterns of conduct problems
- Risk for more antisocial outcomes as adults
CU Traits

- Measured by ICU (Frick et al., 2014), 24 item questionnaire: parent, teacher, self
- Insensitivity to punishment
- Endorse more deviant values and goals
- Reduced response to fear and distress in others
- Lower levels of fear, anxiety, neuroticism, even when controlling for impulsivity and conduct problems
ICU Examples—4 point scaling

1. Expresses his/her feelings openly.
2. Does not seem to know “right” from “wrong”.
3. Is concerned about schoolwork.
4. Does not care who he/she hurts to get what he/she wants.
5. Feels bad or guilty when he/she has done something wrong.
ICU examples

6. Does not show emotions.
7. Does not care about being on time.
8. Is concerned about the feelings of others.
9. Does not care if he/she is in trouble.
10. Does not let feelings control him/her.
Causal pathways

- Greater heritability
- Less association with harsh, inconsistent, and coercive discipline
- Higher association with low warmth in parenting
- Two pathways:
  - Problems in conscience development due to temperament differences (CU)
  - Problems in emotional and behavioral regulation (not CU)
Treatment

• Groups high on CU traits show poorer treatment outcomes
• 24 studies (Frick et al., 2014)
• Controlled for severity of conduct problems
• Better result when focusing on accurate perception and interpretation of emotions in others
• Reward oriented approaches that target self interest and empathy training
LPE-Limited Prosocial Emotion

- DSM 5 addition; need two or more
  - Lack of remorse or guilt
  - Callous/lack of empathy
  - Unconcerned about performance
  - Shallow or deficient affect
- Close correspondence with affective facet of PCL-R and PCL:YV
- Promising research
PCL:YV

- 20 items
- Interrater reliability 0.82-0.98
- Four facets
  - Interpersonal*
  - Affective*
  - Antisocial
  - Behavioral
PCL:YV

- Reliable scoring across sex and ethnicity
- More research needed for cross-cultural comparisons
- Mean score U.S. incarcerated males (Dillard et al., 2013) is 19.7 (7.9) (n=307)
- High school males score 4-5
Stability over time

- Moderately to highly stable across adolescence
- But does not equal determinism
- Affected by different methods of investigation: rank order v. mean level, etc.
Predatory (instrumental) violence

- PCL:YV
- Psychopathy correlates with increase in both affective (emotional) and predatory (instrumental) violence in adolescents
- Same as adults (Cornell et al., 1995)
James Blair, PhD, NIMH

- “No biologically based disorder other than psychopathy is associated with an increased risk of instrumental aggression.”

Predictive validity

- Moderate relation to both violent and general recidivism, but not sexual recidivism (0.25-0.32)
- Caution is warranted when going beyond 6-12 month predictive timeline
- Better for males than females
- Don’t use PCL:YV alone to determine transfer of juvenile to adult court
INTERNATIONAL HANDBOOK OF THREAT ASSESSMENT

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Thank you

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