

December 31, 2012

THERE IS NO RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN VIOLENCE, including gun violence, and MENTAL ILLNESS.

On this last day of 2012, perhaps mainstream psychology, psychiatry, and media pundits will end the hysteria that conflates "mental illness" with violence. This conflation belies the ignorance of main stream society and the "mental health" professionals who remain silent and acquiesce at the perpetuation to this delusion or false belief in the media.

The gun lobby wants us to believe there is a relationship to cover for the real factor. The presence of guns are what is associated with homicide rates...is the real factor. Here is a quoted summary from the Macarthur study on violent risk assessment on the factors they discovered. The Macarthur study is one of the most important studies on violence that has yet to emerge in the literature. <http://www.macarthur.virginia.edu/risk.html>

My comments are in **red**.

"Gender. Men were somewhat more likely than women to be violent, but the difference was not large. Violence by women was more likely than violence by men to be directed against family members and to occur at home, and less likely to result in medical treatment or arrest.

- **Prior violence.** All measures of prior violence – self-report, arrest records, and hospital records – were strongly related to future violence.

- **Childhood experiences.** The seriousness and frequency of having been physically abused as a child predicted subsequent violent behavior, as did having a parent – particularly a father – who was a substance abuser or a criminal.

Note: Child abuse is a primary indicator of future violence, especially with children whose parents were either a substance abuser or criminal

- **Neighborhood and race.** While there was an overall association between race and violence, African Americans and whites who lived in comparably disadvantaged neighborhoods had the same rates of violence.

Note that this is the effect of poverty, not race. In a major European study of thousands of subjects, the singular, statistically different factor that defined "mental illness" or "schizophrenia" was not any personality or biological factor, but POVERTY.

- **Diagnosis.** A diagnosis of a major mental disorder -- especially a diagnosis of schizophrenia -- was associated with a lower rate of violence than a diagnosis of a personality or adjustment disorder. A co-occurring diagnosis of substance abuse was strongly predictive of violence.

Note that "schizophrenia" or a major mental disorder is associated with a LOWER RISK

of violence, as is the presence of delusions and hallucinations.

- **Psychopathy.** Psychopathy, as measured by a screening version of the Hare Psychopathy Checklist, was more strongly associated with violence than any other risk factor we studied. The “antisocial behavior” component of psychopathy, rather than the “emotional detachment” component, accounted for most of this relationship.

- **Delusions.** The presence of delusions – or the type of delusions or the content of delusions – was not associated with violence. A generally “suspicious” attitude toward others was related to later violence.

- **Hallucinations.** Neither hallucinations in general, nor “command” hallucinations per se, elevated the risk of violence. If voices specifically commanded a violent act, however, the likelihood of violence was increased.

Violent thoughts. Thinking or daydreaming about harming others was associated with violence, particularly if the thoughts or daydreams were persistent.

- **Anger.** The higher a patient scored on the Novaco Anger Scale in the hospital, the more likely he or she was to be violent later in the community."

PSYCHOPATHS are violent. People who murder others have a significant degree of psychopathy in their makeup. Contrary to the psychopath apologists, psychopathy is not a "mental illness."

If you have been violent in the past there is a likelihood that you will be violent in the future, unless some psychotherapeutic intervention restructured your character.

Happy New Year

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<http://relatedness.org/>