

Background

- Violence on forensic psychiatric units is a serious problem for patients and staff. It occurs more frequently and is more severe than on other hospital units, impedes recovery, and creates a stressful environment for patients and staff.¹⁻⁴
- Most models of forensic violence focus on clinical factors (e.g., symptoms, substance use, medication adherence).⁵⁻⁷
- Less research on role of sociocognitive variables, like those in the General Personality Cognitive Social Learning Model.⁸⁻¹⁰

Objective: Examine the relevance of violent attitudes for violent behaviour in a forensic psychiatric setting
Do violent attitudes provide any unique information beyond a risk assessment tool and psychiatric diagnoses?

Methods



Setting: Medium-security forensic psychiatric hospital, houses approximately 120 inpatients.



Participants: 46 patients (mean age = 42.4, 89% men, 89% inpatient).



Measures: Evaluation of Violence Questionnaire (EVQ),¹¹ Hamilton Anatomy of Risk Management – Forensic Version (HARM-FV),¹² Aggressive Incidents Scale (AIS; past and future),¹² psychiatric diagnoses.



Analyses: Bivariate correlations, hierarchical regressions, exploratory moderation analysis

Note. Results presented are a select subset chosen for conciseness. Results were mostly consistent across all analyses. Contact for more information!

Results

Violent attitudes were significantly correlated with risk assessment scores and past inpatient aggression

	1	2	3
1. EVQ	—		
2. HARM-FV	.34	—	
3. Past AIS	.26	.56	—
4. Future AIS	.33	.75	.62

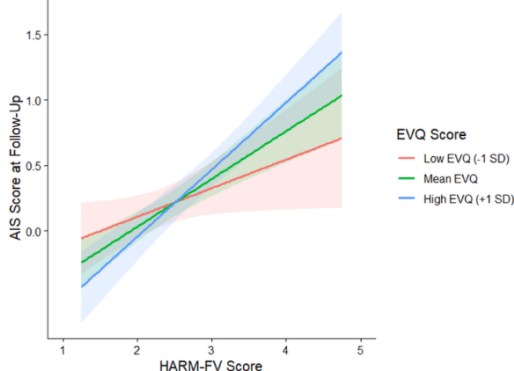
Note. Bold indicates $p < .05$

Violent attitudes were not independently associated with future aggression after controlling for diagnoses + risk assessment scores

Variable	B	SE	p	sr ²
HARM-FV	0.42	0.07	<.001	.43
Dx – Schizoaffective	0.07	0.14	.608	
Dx – Schizophrenia	0.08	0.14	.577	.01
EVQ	0.04	0.08	.664	.00

Note. R² = .63. HARM-FV (step 1), Dx (Step 2), EVQ (step 3).

The relationship between risk scores and future aggression was stronger for people with attitudes more supportive of violence



Note. $p = .022$

Discussion

- Violent attitudes were correlated with violence risk assessment and inpatient violence.
- However, there is little evidence that they provided unique information relevant to violence beyond existing predictors.
- There may be an interaction between violence risk and violent attitudes, such that when violent attitudes are high, other risk factors are more likely to manifest in violent behaviour.



Future research → larger samples, validate EVQ in forensic setting, include more variables



Potential downstream practice → manage violent attitudes as dynamic risk factor

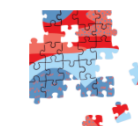
Limitations



Limited sample size and statistical power



EVQ reliability in forensic setting



Multifaceted nature of violence

References & Funding Acknowledgement



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Scan the QR code to view references.

For more information and full results → email BenjaminPresta@cmail.carleton.ca