

Topic

Childhood adversity, antisociality, and suicidal behaviour among men in a high-secure forensic hospital

Key question

How might adverse childhood experiences and antisociality impact suicidal behaviour in a forensic population?

Project aims

Suicide is a leading cause of death among people in custody. Although previous studies with prison inmates have suggested a strong relationship between childhood adversity and suicidal behaviour, as well as childhood adversity and antisociality, this had not been explored in the forensic system.

This study was the first to consider relationships among adverse childhood experiences (ACEs), antisociality, and suicidal behaviour in a forensic population. We used data from a cohort study of men admitted to Waypoint's Forensic Assessment Program to explore associations among ACEs (for example, abuse, neglect, and separation from parents), attempted suicide, and antisocial symptoms.

Activities

- Retrospectively comparing assessment and medical information for 486 men admitted to Waypoint between January 2009 to December 2012 (211 with a history of suicide attempts; 275 with no suicide history).
- Examining associations of ACEs and antisociality with suicide attempt history.

Helpful terms

- **Antisociality:** A pattern of disregard for others. Includes breaking laws, lying, and lack of remorse.
- **Forensic Assessment Program:** A Waypoint program assessing individuals' fitness to stand trial, criminal responsibility, potential for future risk, etc.

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