



National Alliance on Mental Illness

nami

New Hampshire

**NH Public Health Association
Annual Conference Oct 2014**

**Behavioral Health and
Violence Prevention**


Kenneth Norton LICSW

Copyright NAMI NH, 2014. Do not use printed or web version of this document for other than personal use without permission from NAMI NH

Overview

- Mental Illness and Violence: Research Findings
- Involuntary Admission
- Firearms and Mental Illness
- Media

vi·o·lent

/ˈvi(ə)lənt/ 

Adjective

1. Using or involving physical force intended to hurt, damage, or kill someone or something: "a violent confrontation with riot police".
2. (esp. of an emotion or unpleasant or destructive natural force) Very strong or powerful: "violent dislike".

Synonyms

vehement - fierce - intense - severe - furious - forcible

Violence and Mental Illness

- People with mental illness are no more violent than the general population
- People with *treated* mental illness are no more violent than the general population
- People with mental illness are more likely to be victims of violence than perpetrators.
- People with psychosis are more violent than general population

**96% of the violence committed in
the US is by individuals who do not
have a mental illness**

NY Times 12/18/2012

4% of the violence is caused by
people with mental illness

People with psychiatric disabilities
are far more likely to be victims than
perpetrators of violent crime

Appleby, et al., 2001

Mental Illness and Violence

- Those with SMI, irrespective of substance abuse status, were significantly more likely to be violent than those with no mental or substance use disorders.
- Those with comorbid mental and substance use disorders had the highest risk of violence.
- Historical and current conditions were also associated with violence, including childhood abuse and neglect, household antisocial behavior, binge drinking and stressful life events.

Van Dorn et al 2012

People (without mental illness) who abuse alcohol or drugs are 7x as likely as those without substance use disorders to commit violent acts

NY Times 12/18/2012

People with mental illness who abuse alcohol or drugs are at much higher risk for violence

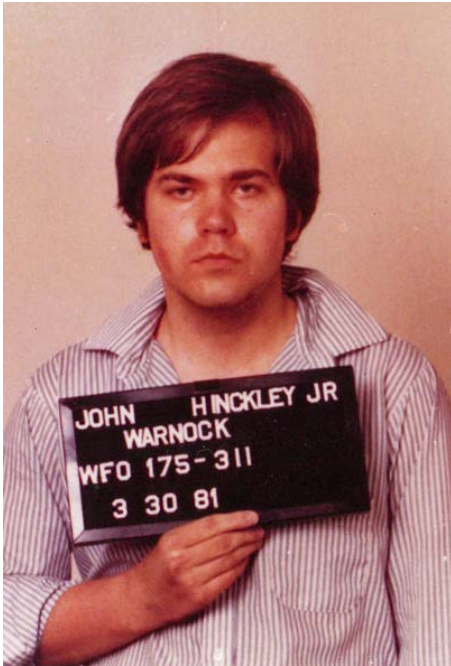
Psychosis and Violence

- Significant relation between psychosis and violence,
- Accounts for little of society's violence
- Individuals in the immediate social circle of an individual suffering from psychosis are most at risk.”
 - Taylor PJ, Psychosis and violence: stories, fears, and reality 2008

First Break Psychosis and Violence

- A substantial proportion of patients in first-episode psychosis commit an act of violence before presenting for treatment,
- This includes a number who commit an act of more serious violence causing injury to another person.
- However, severe violence resulting in serious or permanent injury to the victim is uncommon in this population.

Psychosis and Violence



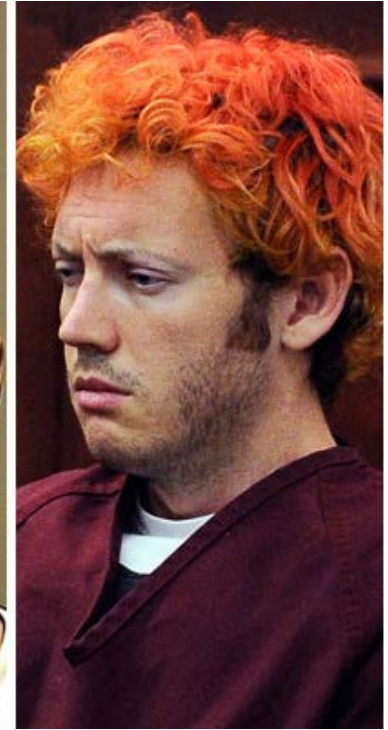
John Hinckley
3/30/1981
Washington, DC



Cho Seung-hui
4/16/2007
32 killed
West Virginia U.



Jared Loughner
1/8/2011
19 Killed
Tuscon, AZ



James Eagan Holmes
1/20/2012
12 Killed
Aurora, CO

It is extremely difficult to predict who will be violent

- “Most of these killers are young men who are not floridly psychotic. They tend to be paranoid loners who hold a grudge and are full of rage.”

Dr. Michael Stone,
Professor of Clinical Psychiatry at Columbia



Involuntary Admission

NH RSA 135:C

- Imminent Danger to self as a result of MI
- Imminent Danger to others as a result of MI
- Inability to care for self



Firearm Background Checks and Mental Illness (Form 4473)

- Question 11 F. "Have you ever been adjudicated mentally defective (which includes having been adjudicated incompetent to manage your own affairs) or have you ever been committed to a mental institution?"
- Question 11e "Are you an unlawful user of, or addicted to, marijuana or any depressant, stimulant, narcotic drug, or any other controlled substance?"

Firearm Laws As Prevention Strategies

	Mass.	NH
NCIS	Yes	No
Owner license	Yes	No
Permit to Purchase	Yes	No
Private Sale	Restrictions	No restrictions
Buy in other states	Restrictions	Allowed
Open Carry	Restrictions	Allowed
Assault Weapons	No	Yes
Large cap. magazines	No	Yes
Age	Restrictions	Few restrictions



Homicide/Suicide NH Deaths By Firearm 2008-2011

- Homicides 29 rate 0.55
- Suicides 344 rate 6.53

Debate on Gun Violence

Public Perception/Policy

- Focus on homicides
- Focus on mental illness
- Focus on purchase
- Focus on lifelong bans

Real Issues

- Suicides are 2x homicides
- Focus on Dangerousness
- Focus on Access
- People recover

Media, Mental Illness and Violence

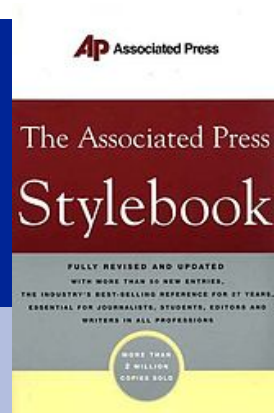


Media

- characters in prime time television portrayed as having a mental illness are depicted as the most dangerous of all demographic groups
- 60 percent were shown to be involved in crime or violence.
- Most news accounts portray people with mental illness as dangerous

Mental Health America 1999

AP Style Guide and Mental Illness March 2013



- Do not describe a person as mentally ill unless pertinent and properly sourced
- Do not assume mental illness is a factor in a violent crime
- Avoid unsubstantiated statements about someone's mental condition
- Do not attribute behavior to mental illness



nami

National Alliance on Mental Illness

New Hampshire

Ken Norton

knorton@naminh.org

603.225.5359