

CHARACTERISTICS OF THE AGGRESSIVE IN-PATIENT IN A FORENSIC PSYCHIATRIC HOSPITAL IN DENMARK: USING THE STAFF OBSERVATION AGGRESSION SCALE - REVISED (SOAS-R)

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Aim: To investigate the characteristics of the aggressive in-patient in a Danish forensic hospital.

Material and method: The study was conducted in a forensic psychiatric setting at Psychiatric Centre Sankt Hans. It utilizes data from the three year period between 2008 and 2010. Staff Observation Aggression Scale - Revised (SOAS-R) is used to examine all aggressive incidents during the period mentioned.

Results: 212 patients were admitted between 2008 and 2010, the majority of which being mainly men (98.6 %) with a diagnosis within ICD10 F20-F29 (79.7 %). In total there were 1507 recorded aggressive incidents, and 63.2 % of the patients were registered with at least one incident of aggression. Ethnic minorities were overrepresented in comparison to the background population (37.3 % vs. 9.5 %).

We found that Danish-born patients were more frequently aggressive compared to ethnic minorities (OR 1.8 $p = 0.029$), and that alcohol/substance abuse was a predictor of aggression (OR 3.47 $p = < 0.001$). According to age we found that the aggressive patient was significant younger compared to the non-aggressive patient ($p = 0.043$).

Conclusion: Aggression is a prevalent phenomenon in a forensic psychiatry setting. Patients with at least one aggressive incident as recorded in the SOAS-R are characterized by being male, Danish and abusing. In addition schizophrenia is the most frequent diagnosis in forensic psychiatry at Psychiatric Center Sankt Hans.