

## I17 The Female Psychopath: A Study of a Sample of National Italian Women Offenders

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After attending this presentation, attendees will be able to recognize the characteristics of the female psychopath.

This presentation will impact the forensic science community by helping to identify possible gender-specific factors related to psychopathy.

**Background:** In Italy, the treatment of mentally ill offenders not guilty by reason of insanity at risk for recidivism (a danger to society) was entrusted to the High Security Hospital (OPG). The Law no. 81 of 2014 ratified the closure of all Italian OPGs from March 31, 2015, and planned the transfer of the ill patients (about 1,500) from the OPGs to small community facilities located in their own regions, so-called Residences for the Execution of Security Measures (REMS).

Until its closure, the OPG of Castiglione delle Stiviere in northern Italy, located in Castiglione's Ghisiola Park in the province of Mantova, was the only one that admitted women; all women who have committed a crime on Italian territory and are at risk for recidivism are sent to the OPG of Castiglione. The search enrolled all the women present at the OPG (86) from February 1, 2013, to the end of 2013 to research female psychopathy's prevalence.

**Methods and Results:** The experimental group consists of 65 mentally ill offenders not guilty by reason of insanity and a danger to society; the control group consists of approximately 20 inmate women offenders without mental disorders. The survey was conducted according to the rules considered by the ethics committees of the respective structures. All women in the study consented and have been subjected to clinical and anamnestic evaluations. They were administered the Structured Clinical Interview for DSM Disorders (SCID) I, SCID II, and other mental tests (Minnesota Multiphasic Personality Inventory® 2 (MMPI-2), MCMI-III, and Repeatable Battery for the Assessment of Neuropsychological Status (R-Bans)) after a period of observation in 2013. A clinical-anamnestic assessment was made to investigate age, marital status, education, personal and family psychiatric history, legal status (infirmity or partial infirmity), type of crime (property or person or drug), pharmacological therapy. The Psychopathy Checklist-Revised (PCL-R) was used to evaluate the index of psychopathy.<sup>1</sup> A PCL-R score considered indicative of psychopathy was a score  $\geq 25$ , the cut-off recognized at the European level.

**Conclusions:** Among the significant data was the prevalence of Cluster B personality disorders, the most frequent diagnosis of Borderline, and comorbid substance abuse in 75% of the cases. The most significant results of this research will be discussed.

### Reference(s):

1. Hare R.D. (1991). *The Hare Psychopathy Checklist - Revised*. Multi-Health Systems, Toronto, Ontario.

### Psychopathy, Female, Gender-Specific Factors