



I8 An Overview of Forensic Patients Within the Ontario Review Board (ORB) Patient Database

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Learning Overview: The goal of this presentation is to provide attendees with an overview of the Ontario forensic psychiatry system and with a representative profile of individuals who are under the jurisdiction of the ORB.

Impact on the Forensic Science Community: This presentation will impact the forensic science community by expanding current knowledge and answering a number of key questions in regard to individuals in the forensic psychiatry system who have been found Unfit to Stand Trial (UST) and Not Criminally Responsible (NCR), as well as the implications for decision-making in forensic psychiatry.

The purpose of this study was to provide a representative profile and increase the understanding of forensic patients who are under the jurisdiction of the ORB. In Canada, those who are deemed UST or NCR on account of mental disorder are placed under the jurisdiction of a Review Board. There is a Review Board in each province, each of which assumes the role of determining the custodial status of the UST and NCR accused.

In Ontario, individuals found UST or NCR are placed under the jurisdiction of the ORB. Consequently, these individuals become the subject of annual review board hearings, in which hospital reports are prepared for board members to review; these include personal, family, psychiatric, and criminal history as well as treatment response, progress, and risk profiles. These reports are provided to assist the review board members in determining whether the accused should remain incarcerated or receive a conditional or absolute discharge. In making these decisions, the review board members are required to take into consideration the need to protect the public, the mental condition of the accused, and the reintegration of the accused into society.

The ORB, hospital staff, and the field of forensic psychiatry, in general, are responsible for the tremendously difficult task of identifying at-risk individuals, making decisions regarding one's ability to be tried for and held responsible for their criminal actions, and making decisions regarding an individual's ability to live safely in the community. It is imperative that institutions and tribunals are as informed as possible in making these decisions, which can only occur with sufficient empirical research and evidence.

At St. Joseph's Healthcare Hamilton, a total of 1,241 annual ORB hospital reports from the years of 2013–2015 were collected from ten forensic psychiatry facilities and coded to create the ORB Patient Database. The database includes male (86%) and female mentally ill offenders, all of whom are over the age of 18 years ($M=42.54$, $SD=13.33$). All individuals in the database were either found UST (3%), NCR (78%), permanently UST (5%), or previously UST and subsequently found NCR (13%) for a violent (70%), non-violent (20%), or sexual (10%) index offense. The primary objectives of this study were to use the ORB Patient Database to: (1) describe historical profiles of ORB patients, (2) identify trajectories, (3) examine index offense characteristics, (4) evaluate reported risk levels and assessments, and (5) psychiatric profiles.

In order to best inform and enhance the decision-making progress of the ORB, it is imperative to understand who the forensic psychiatry population is, what factors predict specific outcomes, and how to improve trajectories within the system. The current study will aid in expanding current knowledge and answering a number of key questions, including, but not limited to, those listed and informing forensic decision-making for years to come. Further results and implications from the current study will be discussed.

Review Board, Forensic Psychiatry, Mental Disorder