The Analysis of General and Intimate Partner Violence: Theoretical Foundations, Criminality, & Clinical Considerations in Social Work
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Introductions
- Presenter Introductions
  - Greg Bohall, Psy.D., C.R.C., MAC, ICADC, CADC-II
  - Mary-Jo Bautista-Bohall, Psy.D.
  - Brad Conn, Ph.D.
- Audience Introductions
  - Name and discipline
  - Area of expertise related to violence/IPV

Agenda
- The algebra of aggression
- Risk factors for violence
- Modes of violence
- Theories of violence
- Warning behaviors of targeted violence
- Intimate partner violence
- The complexity of crime
- Theories of crime
- Clinical considerations and recommendations
The Algebra of Aggression

Four domains that influence the likelihood that an individual will engage in criminal violence:

1. Instigation: Sum of internal influences that support violent behaviors
   - Feelings, thoughts, motivations

2. Inhibition: Sum of internal influences that make it less likely that the individual will exhibit violent behaviors

3. Habit Strength: Describes the history of violent and nonviolent behavior
   - Location, drugs, alcohol, social

4. Situation: External factors
   - Location, drugs, alcohol, social

Violent behavior is very complex and multifaceted

Risk Factors for Violence

- Analysis of HCR-20 and VRAG items

1. Historical violence
2. Young age at the violent incident
3. Relationship instability and lack of personal support
4. Lack of insight, negative attitudes, impulsivity
5. Stress
6. Prior supervision failure and noncompliance with remediation attempts
7. Unresponsive to treatment
8. Early maltreatment
9. Separation from parents under the age of 16
10. Alcohol abuse

Modes of Violence

- Affective Violence
  - Intense arousal that functions moments before the violence occurs
  - Immediate, direct, immediate, and defensive
  - Violent emotional sequence
  - Escalation or decrease sequence
  - Most physical IPV is affective

- Predatory Violence
  - Planned, purposeful, focused on a target
  - Not restricted to a personal relationship
  - Aroused afterward
  - No displacement of target
  - Usually is not hurry
Theories of Violence

Biological- Clinical Approach
- Focus on physical attributes and indicators
- Perhaps the most criticized approach
- Pathology (neurological/personality) may be present but not necessarily causal
- In the present, fewer direct claims of biological causality
- Limited in explanatory capacity as it fails to acknowledge the interactional nature of violence
- Situational

Biosocial Criminology/Evolutionary Approach
- Interplay between the biological being in a social environment
- Historical adaptation of violence
- Survival and “hard-wired” when environment necessitates action
- Structural Approach
- Explain patterns in the social characteristics of victims and offenders
- Segmentation, inequality, deprivation, social disorganization, gender inequality
- Offenders and victims often come from the same community

Cognitive and Behavioral Psychology Approach
- Interpretation of environmental cues triggering violent behavior
- Behavioral rewards or consequences for violence
- Cognitive processes related to violence
- General Aggression Model (2002)
  - Individual biographical characteristics in a situation that impact the causal and cognitive response
  - Attitudes, personality, past violence, anticipation, learning, etc.
- Influential in developing offender programs
Theories of Violence

- Situational and Interactionist Approaches
  - Location, time, and "actors" in the violent act
  - Focus on the micro-environment
  - Acknowledges that violence is dynamic and evolving
- Cultural-Community Approaches
  - Violence within a social setting
  - Acknowledges broader structural factors
  - Violent "culture"
- Integrated Approach
  - Scholars integrate elements from different disciplines and approaches

Warning Behaviors of Targeted Violence

- Typology conceptualizing behavioral patterns indicating an increasing threat of targeted violence
  - 1. Pathway warning behavior
    - Planning, researching, preparing or implementing an attack
  - 2. Fixation warning behavior
    - Pathological preoccupation with an individual or a cause
  - 3. Identification warning behavior
    - Psychological desire to be a "pseudo-commando"
      - Have a "warrior-mentality"
      - Closely associate with weapons or other military/law enforcement paraphernalia
      - Identify with previous attackers/assassins
  - 4. Novel aggression warning behavior
    - Act of violence unrelated to targeted violence
    - Committed for the first time
    - Seen as a way to test their ability to complete the actual violent act
  - 5. Energy burst warning behavior
    - Increase in frequency or variety of activities related to the target
    - Seen frequently/repeatedly
    - Usually days or weeks before targeted attack
Warning Behaviors of Targeted Violence

6. Leakage warning behavior
   - Communication to a third party of the intent to do harm/attack
   - Subject feels trapped
   - No alternative to violence
   - Subject believes this is the last resort
   - Experience distress and desperation

7. Last resort warning behavior
   - Communication of direct threat to the target or law enforcement beforehand
   - Intent to damage/kill unintended target

Intimate Partner Violence

1. Physical Violence
   - Use of physical force that causes death, disability, injury, or harm
     - Pushing, shoving, choking, hitting, burning, punching, etc.
     - Also includes coercing others

2. Psychological Aggression
   - Verbal and non-verbal communication with intent to harm partner mentally or emotionally, and/or to affect a control
     - Opansion aggression (bullying, name-calling)
     - Control over access to money, transportation
     - Restriction of reproductive/sexual health
     - Exploitation of victim’s vulnerability (disability, immigration status)

3. Sexual Violence
   - Attempted or completed
     - Without consent (includes intimidation)
       - A) Rape/Penetration
       - B) Victim made to penetrate someone else
       - C) Non-physically provoked unwanted penetration
       - D) Unwanted sexual contact
       - E) Non-contact unwanted sexual experiences

4. Stalking
   - Repeated, unwanted attention and contact that causes concern for personal safety or the safety of someone else
     - spicy, unwanted phone calls, following from a distance, leaving cards, threats
The Complexity of Crime

1. Individual dimensions
   - Lifespan, diversity/multicultural, victim, offender, mental health
2. Social constructions of crime
   - Law, media portrayal, public knowledge, public attitudes
3. Crime type
   - Violent, white-collar, substance-related, crimes for gain
4. Reactions to crime
   - Prevention efforts, offender/victim intervention, police oversight, sentencing and/or use of incarceration

Theories of Crime

Anomie Theory
- Crime is an outcome of defective social regulation
- Individuals deviate as authority figures offer few controls or moral direction
- Tends to emphasize punitive measures as opposed to moral direction
- Ex: Authority figure engages in illegal activity and expects citizens not to

Control Theory
- Individuals engage in criminal activity because it is profitable, enjoyable, and serves a purpose
- Key component is that there are means to act why individuals commit crimes

Rational Choice Theory
- Crime is influenced by criminal penalties associated with act
- Targets are carefully selected before deciding on a course of action
- Cost-benefit analysis
- Predatory, premeditated, calculated as opposed to reactive

Routine Activities Theory
- Crime is part of everyday life
- Time, space, target, and guardian are considered
- Since individuals have routines, this impacts how, when, where, and to whom crime may occur
- Focus on reviewing different routine activities that create opportunities for crime
Intimate Partner Violence and...

- The algebra of aggression
- Risk factors for violence
- Modes of violence
- Theories of violence
- Warning behaviors of targeted violence
- Crime and theories of crime

Clinical Considerations in Social Work and Recommendations

- "Violent offender"
  - Ex: Drug treatment courts
  - Advocacy
  - Micro: with your client
  - Macro: community, laws, etc.
  - Macro: larger society and policy
- The intervention impasse
  - Psychopathology vs. forensic rehabilitation
  - Mental breakdown is not a predictor for violence
  - RNR and GLM
  - Minimal communication between the two fields
- Call for an integrated approach

Clinical Considerations in Social Work and Recommendations

- Historical conception and treatment of IPV/DV
  - Prevention
- The Dutch Model
- Consider couple-focused interventions
- Among couples who report physical violence in the relationship, at least 45% report mutual violence
  - Appropriate when:
    - Violence slow
    - Victim can talk
  - Couple works day together
  - Intervention on "violence" versus the actual issue
  - Offender typology and victimology
Clinical Considerations in Social Work and Recommendations

- Study the definition of IPV
- General violence and IPV are incredibly complex
- IPV is more affective/reactive
- Violence is transactional
- Emphasis on context and environment
- Dynamic and evolving
- Individuals have their own unique characteristics
- Social work ethics
  - 1.04 & 4.01: Competence
  - 5.01: Integrity of the Profession
  - 6.01: Social welfare

Presenter Contact Information

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References

References


