Forensic psychiatric research - DENMARK

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Forensic psychiatric research - DENMARK

BASICS:
5.5 million inhabitants
Five regions

Specialised forensic
Psychiatric services
In all 5 regions

One maximum secure
Forensic institution
Forensic psychiatric research - DENMARK

- 3,500 forensic psychiatric patients
- 60% treated in general psychiatry
- 80% treated on out-patient basis
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- 3,500 forensic psychiatric patients
- Annually 600-800 new f.p. Patients
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Figur 2. Antal retspsykiatriske patienter i 2003 og 2010

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2003</th>
<th>2010</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Region Syddanmark</td>
<td>282</td>
<td>554</td>
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<td>Region Sjælland</td>
<td>182</td>
<td>379</td>
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<td>Region Hovedstaden</td>
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<td>Region Midtjylland</td>
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<td>Region Nordjylland</td>
<td>85</td>
<td>212</td>
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<tr>
<td>Samlet</td>
<td>1527</td>
<td>2638</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Research topics:

- Risk assessment and risk management
  - evaluating structured assessment instruments
  - assessing selected patient groups
  - assessing selected offender groups

- File-based, retrospective

- Epidemiological, register-based

. Treatment and care

10th Nordic Symposium Forensic Psychiatry, Kuopio 2013
Forensic psychiatric research – who and where

Psychiatrists
Psychologists
Psychiatric nurses
Sociologists
Criminologists
Jurists
Historians
And many others….
Forensic psychiatric research
– who and where

Forensic psychiatric research units – regional level

- Ministry of justice - own research unit
- Clinic of Forensic Psychiatry, Copenhagen
- Danish Prison and Probation Service

Joint venture of different professionals on epidemiological register-based studies

Individual researchers
Psychiatric research Denmark
- academic dissertations 2012

28 phd or doctoral thesis
- two concerning forensic psychiatric issues
Mickey Kongerslev: Personality disorder in incarcerated boys
Copenhagen University Hospital, region of Zealand, 2012

Objective:
- to translate and adjust screening and self-report assessment tools for personality disorders among young offenders
- To evaluate the psychometric properties of the chosen instruments
Mickey Kongerslev: Personality disorder in incarcerated boys - 2012

80 young boys, incarcerated in secure institutions following different types of offending

Results:

65% fulfilled criteria for personality disorder

34% scored 25 or higher on PCL:YV
Mickey Kongerslev: Personality disorder in incarcerated boys- 2012

Results:

The assessment instruments were valid in screening and assessing personality disorders among young male offenders incarcerated in youth detention centres.

Diagnosing personality disorders among this group supposedly will help choose correct interventions with respect to the needs of those vulnerable subjects.
Frederik Gildberg: Reconstructing normality
University of southern Denmark, 2012

Aim: to examine everyday care in a forensic mental health ward.

Objective: to describe and analyse the care provided by mental health staff while interacting with forensic inpatients.
Research questions:
What characterises forensic mental health staff’s way of conduct in interaction with the forensic mental health inpatients?

What meaning does forensic mental health staff give their use of the above-mentioned interactional characteristics in their interaction with the forensic mental health inpatients?
Frederik Gildberg: Reconstructing normality-2012

Conclusions:
Staff interaction with patients is characterised by two overall themes:

1- ”Trust and relationship enabling care” (giving rise to:)

2- ”Behaviour & perception corrective care”
Hanne Stevens: Crime and mental disorders
Department of economics and business
Århus University – Central region of Denmark, 2013

- Are levels of offending among mentally disordered increasing beyond expected based on population rates?
- Associations between crime and mental disorder before and after first psychiatric treatment contact
- Does improved community treatment reduce levels of offending among psychotic patients?
Conclusions

- Offending is more prevalent among those suffering from mental disorders in general,
- specifically across a range of more or less severe disorders
- however, the crime trends tend to follow that of the general population.
- The association seems to also go in the opposite direction, such that those who offend are more likely to develop mental disorders.
Hanne Stevens: Crime and mental disorders

- Conclusions

In both cases there seems to be a dose-response pattern such that the risk of offending increases with the number of psychiatric contacts, and, conversely, that the risk of psychiatric contact grows with the number of convictions.

Results regarding the possibility of reducing offending through treatment aimed at alleviating symptoms in psychotic disorders were inconclusive.
Forensic psychiatric research – present status

Five regions – mirroring most activities:

3 regional units for clinical and academic forensic psychiatry
Several databases covering forensic patients, purely on regional level
Most research - and development of clinical guidelines – takes place on local and regional level

Exception: epidemiological register-based, studies.
Forensic psychiatric research
– future perspectives

Establishing national collaborative research communities
Establishing national database of forensic psychiatric patients
Joining existing research communities within psychiatry and adjacent academic areas

University-affiliation, including professorships within forensic psychiatry
Secure funding
More Phd-students
Developing joint Nordic research projects
Forensic psychiatric research – future perspectives