Forensic Psychiatry in Norway

In hospital treatment
Health trusts in Norway
Health Trusts

- The public hospitals in Norway are organized in 4 regional and about 50 local health trusts.
- Haukeland University Hospital is one of the five trusts owned by Western Norway Regional Health Authority.
- Helse Vest RHF are in charge of all the public hospitals in Rogaland, Hordaland og Sogn og Fjordane.
Bergen
Forensic department
Models in Norway

- Regional Forensic Departments
- Local Forensic Departments
Regional Forensic Departments

- 3 Regional Forensic Departments:
  - A) Oslo-Dikemark
  - B) Trondheim-Brøset
  - C) Bergen-Sandviken
Local forensic departments

- one in each county generally (17?)
Organization of psychiatry in Bergen (and Norway)

- DPS = district psychiatric centers
- Psychiatric hospitals
- Local forensic department
- Regional forensic department
Øyane DPS
Who do we serve?

• We serve the general psychiatry in addition to patients who commit violent crimes.
• In a way we are a general psychiatric ward with a bit more resources than the others.
Criteria for admittance

• Patients with severe mental illness who are so demanding regarding violence / threats so that they can not be treated safely at lower level of care.

• Patients can be admitted under the Mental Health Act and / or the Criminal Act
Criteria for admittance

- Exceptionally, if there is capacity and special circumstances, admission criteria can differ.
- The forensic department can then take patients for a respite stay or special treatment.
- The forensic department shall first have considered whether this can be solved horizontally within the health region.
- The delivering ward is obliged to take the patient back when we consider that the patient is ready for discharge.
Definition of dangerousness

• The patient has inflicted / has been close to inflicting life-threatening injuries towards other persons
• The patient has committed homicide
• The dangerous episodes are associated with psychotic episodes in patients
• The last dangerous incident happened recently (within the last year for example) or that the risk of recurrence can be documented fairly well.
Exclusion criteria

1. Psychopathy alone
2. Criminality alone.
   a. Contact with prosecutors or courts alone
   b. Comes from the prison
   c. Sentenced to prison / sentenced to custody
3. Patients who are only self-destructive / deliberate self-harming (for example, BPD patients)
Exclusion criteria

• 4. Acute psychotic conditions of short duration even though this would mean that the patient is difficult
• 5. Socially awkward or disturbing people who are intimidating the general population.
• 6. Patients who from other reasons other than the combination of psychosis and violence need insulation, such as patients with contagious infectious diseases.
Objective

- In Norway our goal is that psychotic, dangerous patients shall go back to the general psychiatric institutiones when the dangerousness has been dealt with.
Status in Norway

• Reduction in the number of beds in the general psychiatric services has not been compensated with more resources to the forensic wards
## Reduction in number of beds in psychiatric hospitals

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2007</th>
<th>2008</th>
<th>2009</th>
<th>2010</th>
<th>2011</th>
<th>Change</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Beds</td>
<td>4746</td>
<td>4557</td>
<td>4433</td>
<td>4332</td>
<td>4194</td>
<td>-552</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Employees in the municipality</td>
<td>9069*</td>
<td>9627</td>
<td>9392</td>
<td>9492</td>
<td>9326</td>
<td>-301**</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
How many beds do we have in forensic psychiatry

- **May 2005**  |  **Spring 2008**  |  **Change**
- Total         | 229            | 208     | -21
- Regional      | 54             | 40      | -14
- Local         | 175            | 168     | -7
Reality of today

- The reduction of beds in the general psychiatry results in an increasing pressure to take patients who does not belong to our defined patient population.
- There is also an unwillingness to take them back
Do we need special housing for forensic patients?

• In Stavanger we have «rehabilitation flats» for this group.