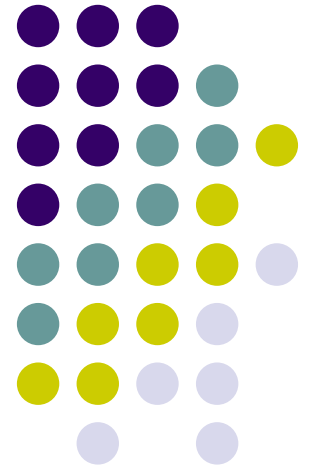
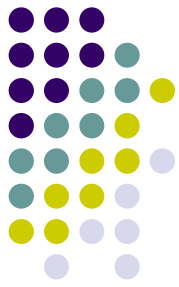


Hate Crime Profiling: Does Age and History Predict Violent Crimes?

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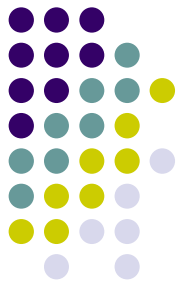
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Introduction

- Violence risk assessment and management are key components of clinical practice (Monahan, 1992). In the past couple of decades, research in the area of violent risk assessment has produced a number of actuarial measures.
- Forensic mental health professionals are now more able to reliably assess the likelihood that a given perpetrator will commit a future violent act.
- Previous findings have shown that prior violence and young age at first violent offence predict to greater violence in future violent recidivism.



Hate Crimes

- Hate crimes in particular have been shown to be on the increase, and, due to their nature are damaging to communities as a whole in addition to the individual victim.
- Review and analysis of the criminal histories of hate crime perpetrators is relevant then in determining the future risk assessment of this type of criminal and the potential risk to individuals as well as communities.

Significance of the Study of Hate Crimes



Hate crimes are more debilitating to a society in comparison to other types of crimes because hate crimes:

- target victims based on factors that cannot be easily changed or concealed (i.e. race, ethnicity, gender)
- terrorize beyond the initial victim to the victim's community
- inflict distinct psychological and emotional harm
- are more likely to be committed by multiple perpetrators
- tend to be more violent

As a result of the severe affects of hate crimes and their increasing risk to society, the U.S. identified crimes with hate bias as distinct from other types of crimes.

- In 1990, the Hate Crimes Statistics Act was passed in order for the federal government to record hate crimes incidence followed by the Hate Crimes Sentencing Enhancement Act which extended the sentencing term in convictions with hate biases in 1994.



Research questions

In the current study, we compared hate crime perpetrators with no prior criminal history to those who had at least one prior crime (violent or non-violent).

Do hate crime perpetrators with prior criminal histories differ from those without with regards to:

- ✓ Age at Hate Crime
- ✓ Victim Impact
- ✓ Victim Group

Methods



- The methodology incorporated record review and content analysis of the criminal history and the bias (index) crime.
- The reports were examined to determine the specific bias intent (e.g. religion) of the crime, offender and victim characteristics of age, race/ethnicity, and gender.
- The characteristics of the index crime were used to compute the estimated crime severity on the Victim Functional Impact scale.
- The criminal histories of the identified hate crime offenders were rated for all crime activity prior to commission of the hate crime.

Sample



- Review of 814 reported hate crime offenses during calendar year of 1999 in reported to the Los Angeles Police Department (LAPD) were included in the current study.
- Of these 814 cases, demographic information on the offender was available for 581 (71%) of the offenses.
- A subset of these cases (n=204) resulted in the apprehension and identification of a suspect of the hate offense. The criminal histories of these 204 hate crime offenders were then reviewed and analyzed.

Measures

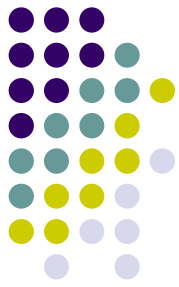


- *Offender Demographic Characteristics* Information from the crime report was coded for the offender's age, gender, ethnicity/race, and bias motivation.
- *Offender's Criminal History* The criminal histories of the identified bias offenders were tabulated through analysis of state and federal data management systems. Information analyzed included the specific charges that led to arrest or conviction for adult offenses in the state of California and in the U.S.



Additional Measures

- *HCR-20* (Webster, Douglas, Eaves, and Hart, 1997). The HCR-20 is a structured clinical guide, comprised of risk factors for future violent behavior. The 20 rating items are classified into a 10-item Historical (H), a 5-item Clinical (C), and a 5-item Risk Management (R) scale.
- *Victim Functional Impact*. The VFI is an estimate of the impact upon the victim. Professional staff (n=22) of the Victim Witness Assistance Program of the Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office was surveyed to provide a severity of impact rating for the 18 acts of aggression noted in the crime report. The rating range for severity of functional impact for each individual act of aggression ranged from 60 (catastrophic) to 10 (not at all).



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