

Criminology



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Psychopath Eddie N Munoz 24 July Criminal Justice 105 Psychopath Some of the most famous criminals have been labeled with the term “ psychopath”. However, there are many characteristics that can be used to define what a psychopath is. Even though there is no direct terminology or diagnostic criteria for a psychopath in the Diagnostic Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders (DSM-IV-TR), there are certain criteria that are known to go with those that are labeled as a psychopath. Philippe Pinel first discovered the nature of antisocial personality disorder in 1801. Psychopathy has been now incorporated into the DSM-IV-TR under the classification as antisocial personality disorder. It is in the Axis II, Cluster B of personality disorders and can only be diagnosed in adulthood. The disorder can be found in children as a conduct disorder, which can accelerate and grow into antisocial personality disorder. Psychopathy and sociopathy are associated terms with this disorder. Characteristics of this disorder are a persistent and repeating pattern of disregard for others and the public norms. In addition, there are expanded criteria to this statement such as: aggressiveness, lack of remorse in an act against another, deception, failure to comply to social norms, etc (American Psychological Association, 2000). There is some disagreement upon the classifications of this disorder. In particular, there is some discrepancy that exists between the APA, American Psychological Association, and the WHO, World Health Organization. The criteria for the APA classification for antisocial personality disorder are stated above. The WHO defines the characteristics of antisocial personality disorder has mostly the same criteria as the APA classification, however it eliminates the progression of a conduct disorder to antisocial disorder, which is one of the main criteria’s in the APA diagnosis. There are not any effective treatments

for antisocial personality disorder. This is because they are not one to go out and seek therapy because they are disconnected from society. This dis-attachment from society means that they show no care for themselves or others, which is necessary during therapy in order for transference and counter-transference to occur. There is no specific medication in psychopharmacology that can prevent and treat antisocial personality disorder, however there are medications that can be used and have been successfully used in decreasing the aggressive behavior in these clients (Black, 2006). There is a link between criminal behavior and this disorder. Most serial killers and criminals that are an extreme threat to society have this disorder because they feel that they exist beyond the moral constraints of society. Therefore, they feel nothing when they commit criminal acts. Since there is not a good method of treatment, the best course of action is that these criminals be imprisoned during their active criminal behavioral periods in order to protect society. Therapy and drug administration can then be given to them in a controlled environment and their behavior as a result can be monitored. References Black, D. (2006). Treatment for Antisocial Personality Disorder. Psych Central. Retrieved on July 24, 2011, from <http://psychcentral.com/lib/2006/treatment-for-antisocial-personality-disorder/> American Psychiatric Association. (2000). Diagnostic and statistical manual of mental disorders (Revised 4th ed.). Washington, DC: Author.