Re: S.154: Threats and Violent Conduct

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Healthcare Stakeholders

• Primary resource for evaluation and treatment of agitated individuals
• Accountable for outcomes
  • Impose clinical decisions
  • Threat mitigation and violence prevention
• Threats of violence and assault are healthcare occupational hazards
High Risk Factors

- Substance abuse
- Prior violent conduct
- Untreated mental health disorders
- Limited education
  - Low verbal ability
  - Cognitive deficits
- No prior criminal convictions
The Relevance of Threats

- Explicit threats forewarn future violence (1)
- Among certain populations, threats a robust predictor of future violence (2)
- False negatives: Violent conduct *without* threats 15-20 % (3)
  - i.e., 80-85% victims experienced threats of violence before assault
- Victims who were threatened ~ 300% more likely to be assaulted than those who were not threatened (4)
Perpetrators

- Do not necessarily have prior convictions
  - Warren 2008: Among group with highest risk of future offense
    - (conviction of threat of violence only prior offense)
  - 44% convicted of violent offense within 10 years (1)
  - 22.9% assault rate within 12 months (including 1 homicide) (5)
    - Not always to individual(s) threatened
Summary

- Criminal threatening a predictor of increased risk of violence
  - Not only to threatened individual, but to population
- There are known risk factors
  - Some modifiable
- Need to identify and prosecute high risk individuals
  - opportunities to treat and mitigate risk factors
  - prevent violent outcomes


