

POSTER

Rorschach Inkblot Test Descriptive Statistics for SVPs in Washington State

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Sexually violent predator (SVP) laws are implemented in 20 states and affect over 4500 individuals. However, the specific psychological characteristics of many of these individuals are unknown. In fact, there have been no studies that specifically examine the psychological characteristics of this growing population. Identifying such SVP characteristics is important to understand their motivations, emotions, and behavioral patterns. Recognizing specific characteristics would also benefit mental health providers in treatment planning, facility personnel in security considerations, and decisions about placement in lesser restrictive settings.

The purpose of this study is to identify some psychological characteristics of 40 SVPs participating in treatment in Washington State, by comparing their Rorschach Inkblot protocols with six other samples (non-violent pedophiles, psychopaths, sexual homicide perpetrators, males with antisocial personality disorder, non-patient adults, and international norms). Preliminary findings indicate that the SVPs are significantly different than non-patient adults and the international norms on variables such as those that indicate narcissistic traits, interpersonal relationships, and mental complexity and flexibility. Based on the study results, this presentation will also include suggestions for treatment interventions, and supervision/safety concerns. Finally, case examples will be used to illustrate the utility of Rorschach Inkblot Test information with a SVP population.