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LACK OF QUALITY ASSURANCE IN FORENSIC PSYCHIATRY: FALSE POSITIVE PREVALENCE OF ANTISOCIAL PERSONALITY DISORDER AMONG NORWEGIAN INMATES ON PREVENTIVE DETENTION

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**Introduction:** A Norwegian government publication (1) claims a prevalence of around 50 % of Antisocial Personality Disorder (APD) in a small group of male detainees on preventive detention. The present study population is recruited from more or less the same population as those among whom a 50% prevalence of APD has been claimed (1). Norwegian forensic investigators rarely (17%) apply psychometric tools to confirm their clinical diagnosis (2).

**Aims:** To confirm the diagnosis of APD applying SCID axis II.

**Methods:** Fifty six inmates were available at the prison. Twenty eight were willing to participate (50%). Two were excluded. Thus, 26 (46%) inmates participated. DSM IV, SCID axis II was applied.

**Results:** None of the 26/56 matched the APD criteria, mainly failing to fulfil the diagnosis of Conduct Disorder (CD) before the age of 15 years. All the inmates had a history of antisocial behaviour.

**Conclusions:** To explain the claim of around 50 % APD in view of the present results, close to 100% APD should be found among the remaining thirty non-participating inmates. We consider this unlikely.

A diagnosis of APD based on the history of antisocial behaviour alone represents a pitfall. Lack of quality assurance could lead to false positive diagnosis. The need for a standardized approach and quality assurance in Norwegian forensic psychiatric evaluations seems necessary to avoid false positive diagnosis.

**References:**

1. <http://www.regjeringen.no>. In Norwegian.
2. Grøndahl P., et al. *Int J Law Psychiat* 2009; 32:281-287.