International perspectives on violence risk assessment

Singh, Jay P., author
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Abstrak

As the worlds prison population continues to grow and with the number of inpatient beds in forensic mental health units on the rise, establishing valid and reliable methods of identifying individuals who will commit violent acts is an important public safety issue. One approach to identifying future offenders is through the use of risk assessment-unstructured and structured methods of predicting the likelihood of antisocial behavior. Although much has been written on the performance of risk assessment methods in research settings, little is known about current standards of practice and relevant public policy across the globe. With chapters contributed by leading scholars in more than 15 countries, this volume explores the topic of violence risk assessment from an international perspective. Using findings from the seminal International Risk Survey, the largest qualitative study in the history of the field, current assessment, management, and monitoring practices on six continents are discussed. The most commonly used risk assessment tools are identified and described, risk communication preferences are examined, and recommendations for mental health practitioners, criminal justice professionals, and policymakers are shared. Finally, seminal research studies, current practice guidelines, and relevant legal statutes of individual countries are reviewed.