TRAUMA STUDIES

DEFINITION OF "TRAUMA"	"An injury or wound violently produced" OR "An emotional experience or shock that has a lasting psychic effect"

Types of Trauma 1

1. Single blow trauma

➤ Natural disasters, technological disasters, acts of terrorism, violent crime.

2. Repeated trauma

➤ Combat trauma, political or other imprisonment, some forms of emotional, physical or sexual abuse

Types of Trauma 2

1. Natural trauma

➤ Unintentional injury, accident, 'act of god.' Sometimes described as trauma of facility

2. Man-made trauma

➤ More likely to be prolonged and is harder to bear. Trauma dealt by a person. Sometimes described as trauma of agency.

Types of Trauma 3

- ➤ "If someone falls and breaks a leg, that is 'facility', if someone intentionally breaks another person's leg, that is 'agency' ". (Gelinas 86)

- ➤ The most extreme trauma entails an attitude of malevolent intent on the part of the perpetrator.

The role of Trauma

Trauma is related to early abuse and/or neglect, it is in the histories of public mental health individuals who frequently are self-harming, high users of costly services and who carry multiple diagnosis - BPD, DID, or PTSD.

General Population

- ➤ 10% of women and 5% of men are likely to suffer PTSD

- ➤ 33.3% will have symptoms lasting several months

- ➤ Those most vulnerable – those with inadequate social support, survivors of childhood sexual abuse

Early research

Ellenson 1985. Study of 40 female incest survivors.

Very high level of auditory hallucinations

Livingston 1987. Child psychiatry. CSA group 77% diagnosed with psychosis: Non CSA group only 10% diagnosed psychotic

Meuser 1999. 275 homeless diagnosed as psychotic: Trauma history in 98%. PTSD in 43%

Goodman 1999. First review, 13 studies of trauma psychosis: Rates 45-92%

The four big studies 2003-2006

- ➤ Janssen et al

- ➤ Bebbington et al

- ➤ Spataro et al

- ➤ Whitefield et al

Janssen 2003

- ➤ Data derived from a non-psychotic Dutch population. High proportion were in high risk age group

- ➤ Subjects re-interviewed three times over three years, analysis of those who made the transition into psychosis

- ➤ Highly significant association between childhood trauma and transition into psychosis. Severe CSA in men increased presence of psychosis 49X

Bebbington 2005

- Large scale British survey

- Assessment of psychotic symptoms and nine different and defined 'victimisation experiences'

- VI's were CSA, bullying, running away from home, time in care, time in a childhood institution, expulsion from school, homelessness, violence at work, serious injury or assault

Bebbington results:

- Significant associations between victimisation experiences and psychosis in 8 of the nine categories

- CSA the most robust predictor of psychosis even after controlling for depression

- "Results are highly suggestive of a social contribution to the onset of psychosis"

Whitfield 2005

- ACE (adverse childhood experiences) study – Very similar to Bebbington study

- Survey in (San Diego)

- 8 ACE's – Emotional abuse, physical abuse, sexual abuse, battered mother, alcohol/ drug use in household, mental illness in household, parental separation/ divorce, Incarcerated household member

Whitfield results:

- Dose effect (all Ace increase likelihood of hallucinations)

- 7 or more ACE five times more likely than 0 ace's to experience hallucinations

- "hallucinations may be a marker for prior childhood trauma that may also underlie numerous other common health problems"

Spataro 2006

- Study designed to establish absolute veracity of abuse reports

- Forensic police and court reports examined in Victoria Australia to establish definite abuse cases.

- Individuals then followed up as adults to establish psychotic/ neurotic symptom profile

Summary

- Very strong cross-diagnostic relationship between severe trauma and auditory hallucinations

- Severity of Trauma a crucial factor

- Dissociation / PTSD crossover

- Identical relationship appears in the major mood disorders.