

Psychopathy

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Not to be confused with [Psychosis](#), [Psychopathology](#), [Psychic](#), or [Sycophant](#).

"Psychopaths" redirects here. For the film, see [Psychopaths \(film\)](#).

Psychopathy is traditionally a **personality disorder** characterized by persistent **antisocial behavior**, impaired **empathy** and **remorse**, and **bold**, **disinhibited**, and **egotistical traits**.^{[1][2][3]} It is sometimes considered synonymous with **sociopathy**. Different conceptions of psychopathy have been used throughout **history** that are only partly overlapping and may sometimes be contradictory.^[4]

Hervey M. Cleckley, an American **psychiatrist**, influenced the initial diagnostic criteria for antisocial personality reaction/disturbance in the *Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders* (DSM), as did American psychologist **George E. Partridge**.^[5] The DSM and *International Classification of Diseases* (ICD) subsequently introduced the diagnoses of **antisocial personality disorder** (ASPD) and **dissocial personality disorder** (DPD) respectively, stating that these diagnoses have been referred to (or include what is referred to) as psychopathy or sociopathy. The creation of ASPD and DPD was driven by the fact that many of the classic traits of psychopathy were impossible to measure objectively.^{[4][6][7][8][9]} Canadian psychologist **Robert D. Hare** later repopularized the construct of psychopathy in criminology with his **Psychopathy Checklist**.^{[4][7][10][11]}

Although no **psychiatric** or **psychological** organization has sanctioned a diagnosis titled "psychopathy", assessments of psychopathic characteristics are widely used in **criminal justice** settings in some nations and may have important consequences for individuals. The study of psychopathy is an active field of research, and the term is also used by the general public, popular press, and in **fictional portrayals**.^{[11][12]} While the term is often employed in common usage along with "crazy", "**insane**", and "mentally ill", there is a categorical difference between **psychosis** and psychopathy.^[13]

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Psychopathy

Pronunciation	/saɪˈkɒpəθi/
Specialty	Psychiatry, clinical psychology
Symptoms	Boldness, high self-esteem, lack of empathy , inclination to violence and manipulation, impulsivity
Causes	Genetic and environmental
Risk factors	Family history, poverty, being neglected by parents
Differential diagnosis	Sociopathy, Narcissism, Borderline personality disorder, Bipolar disorder (mania)
Prognosis	Poor
Frequency	1% of general population

Personality disorders

Cluster A (odd)

Paranoid · Schizoid · Schizotypal

Cluster B (dramatic)

Antisocial · Borderline · Histrionic · Narcissistic

Cluster C (anxious)

Avoidant · Dependent · Obsessive–compulsive