

## Definition [ edit ]

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A person suffering from a chronic mental disorder with abnormal or violent social behavior.

## Concepts [ edit ]

There are multiple conceptualizations of psychopathy,<sup>[4]</sup> including *Cleckleyan psychopathy* (Hervey Cleckley's conception entailing bold, disinhibited behavior, and "feckless disregard") and *criminal psychopathy* (a meaner, more aggressive and disinhibited conception explicitly entailing persistent and sometimes serious criminal behavior). The latter conceptualization is typically used as the modern clinical concept and assessed by the Psychopathy Checklist.<sup>[4]</sup> The label "psychopath" may have implications and stigma related to decisions about punishment severity for criminal acts, medical treatment, civil commitments, etc. Efforts have therefore been made to clarify the meaning of the term.<sup>[4]</sup>

The triarchic model<sup>[1]</sup> suggests that different conceptions of psychopathy emphasize three observable characteristics to various degrees. Analyses have been made with respect to the applicability of measurement tools such as the [Psychopathy Checklist](#) (PCL, PCL-R) and [Psychopathic Personality Inventory](#) (PPI) to this model.<sup>[1][4]</sup>

- **Boldness.** Low fear including stress-tolerance, toleration of unfamiliarity and danger, and high [self-confidence](#) and social [assertiveness](#). The PCL-R measures this relatively poorly and mainly through Facet 1 of Factor 1. Similar to PPI Fearless dominance. May correspond to differences in the [amygdala](#) and other neurological systems associated with fear.<sup>[1][4]</sup>
- **Disinhibition.** Poor impulse control including problems with planning and foresight, lacking affect and urge control, demand for immediate gratification, and poor behavioral restraints. Similar to PCL-R Factor 2 and PPI Impulsive antisociality. May correspond to impairments in [frontal lobe](#) systems that are involved in such control.<sup>[1][4]</sup>
- **Meanness.** Lacking empathy and close attachments with others, disdain of close attachments, use of cruelty to gain empowerment, exploitative tendencies, defiance of authority, and destructive excitement seeking. The PCL-R in general is related to this but in particular some elements in Factor 1. Similar to PPI, but also includes elements of subscales in Impulsive antisociality.<sup>[1][4]</sup>