

# Addressing the causes of abusive relationships

‘Prevention is better than cure’

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# Personality disorder

- 5% of the general population
- 25% of GP attendees
- 65% of psychiatric patients





# Domestic violence

- Personality disorder (PD) in women arrested for domestic abuse
- PD in men convicted of domestic violence offences
- Evidence for PD predicting being a victim of DV
- PD as mediator of childhood risks on odds of perpetrating partner violence
- Witnessing/being a victim of intimate partner violence as a child associated with perpetrator status as adult



# Personality disorder

- 45% of homeless people
- 65% of male sentenced prisoners
- 75% of male remand prisoners
- 50% of female prisoners



# Sexual and violent offending

- PD increases risk of violent and sexual recidivism
  - (alcoholism for both, drug use, psychosis for sexual recidivism)
- PD is a risk factor for perpetrating child sexual abuse (extrafamilial)
  - (alcoholism, depression, anxiety)

# Causes of personality disorder

- Poor parenting
  - Capricious discipline
  - Large families
  - Intrusive, controlling, coercive parenting
  - Neglectful parenting
- Parental psychopathology
- Parental criminality, antisocial behaviour
- Institutional care





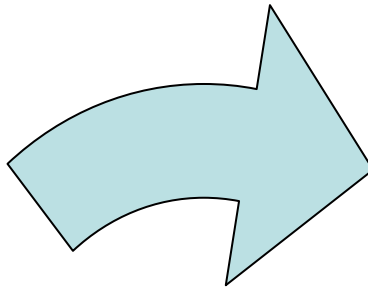
# Causes of personality disorder

- Abuse
  - Emotional, physical, sexual
- Traumatic events in childhood, possibly in adulthood
- Parental separation
- Parental loss
- Genetic influences



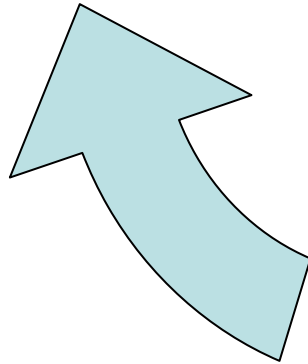
Parenting programmes  
PD treatment programmes

Parenting

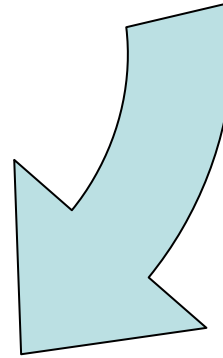


Childhood  
adversity

Institutional care  
Social services



Adult  
behaviour  
and  
beliefs



SOTP and DV programmes  
Alcohol treatment

PD treatment programmes  
Therapeutic prisons

end