

# Threat assessment of disordered threateners

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«waakzaam en dienstbaar»



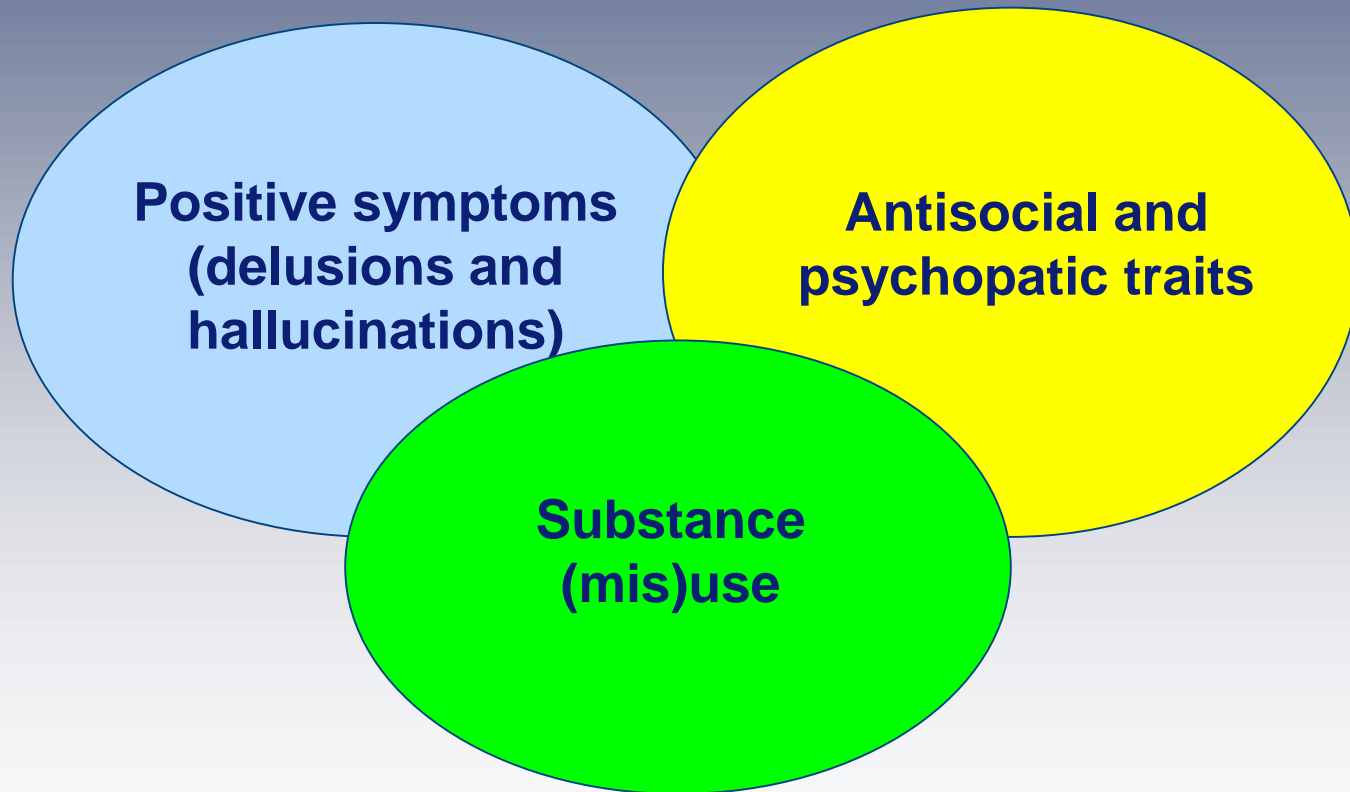
# Thanks to...

- ◆ **Frank van Riet**
  - ◆ Project leader 3A methodology Rotterdam Police
- ◆ **Tanya van Neerbos**
  - ◆ Investigative Psychologist, Rotterdam Police
- ◆ **National Police for funding our research**

# **Psychosis and Violence**

**Subtypes of psychotic offenders & the  
role of persecutory ideations and  
delusional distress**

# **Psychopathological risk factors for violence**



# Subtypes of offenders with a psychosis

Early starters begin their criminal behavior before the beginning of their psychotic illness, most likely because of premorbid antisocial personality and substance (mis)use

Gregor, a 45 years old man who came into contact with the justice system at age 14 and was known by psychiatric institutions. Since the age of 22 years he is diagnosed with schizophrenia. From early age on he was in a lot of trouble, used alcohol, cannabis, and sometimes amphetamines, and began stealing at age 13. He committed multiple (violent) robberies. As he said, this was just for partying and for his own gain. In TBS, he was diagnosed with both schizophrenia and antisocial personality disorder.

Late starters begin their criminal behavior after the onset of the psychotic disorder, probably because of psychotic symptoms such as delusions and hallucinations.

Roland, a 42 years old man had killed his mother, skinned her, and walked the streets. This was not his first crime, Roland had been known by the criminal justice system for years. He did not finish secondary school and started making trouble since then. In an expert report to the court by psychologists and psychiatrists it became clear that he suffered from religious delusions. He said that he had received commands from God via satellites. He had to sacrifice what he loved most, his mother.

In 1998, Willem, a 37 years old man without a criminal record murdered his colleague on an oil platform with an ax. Willem was in an acute psychotic episode and was convinced that his new colleague was the guy who had raped his sister. In addition, this new colleague seemed to keep a close eye on everything that Willem did. As a result, Willem felt threatened and distressed. The two frequently had an argument. Then, during night, Willem suddenly committed this very serious crime. After observation in a forensic clinic for an expert report to the court, Willem was detained with a TBS-order.

'First offenders'  
Are in their late thirties or older and suddenly commit a very severe first offense

# File study

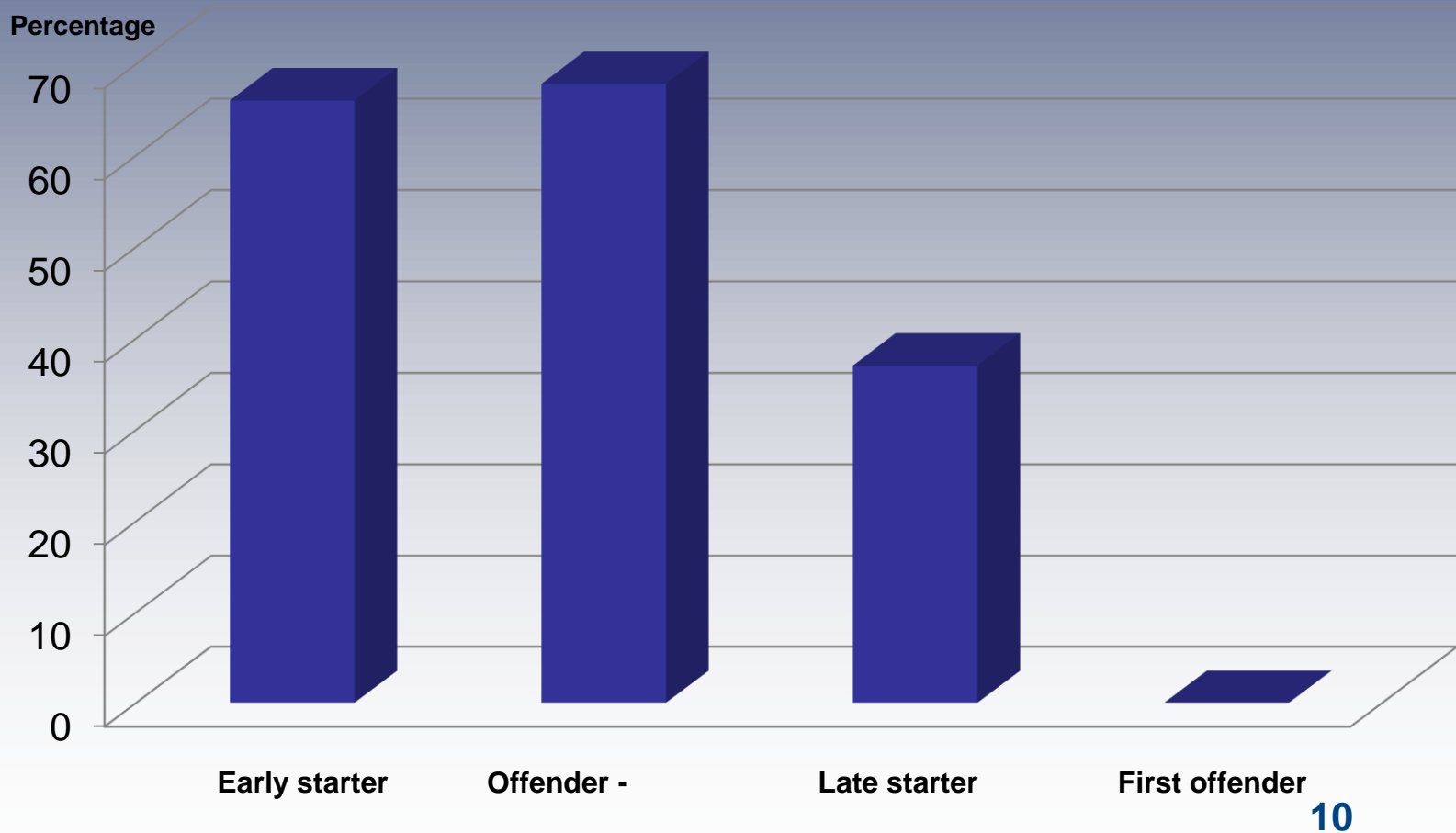




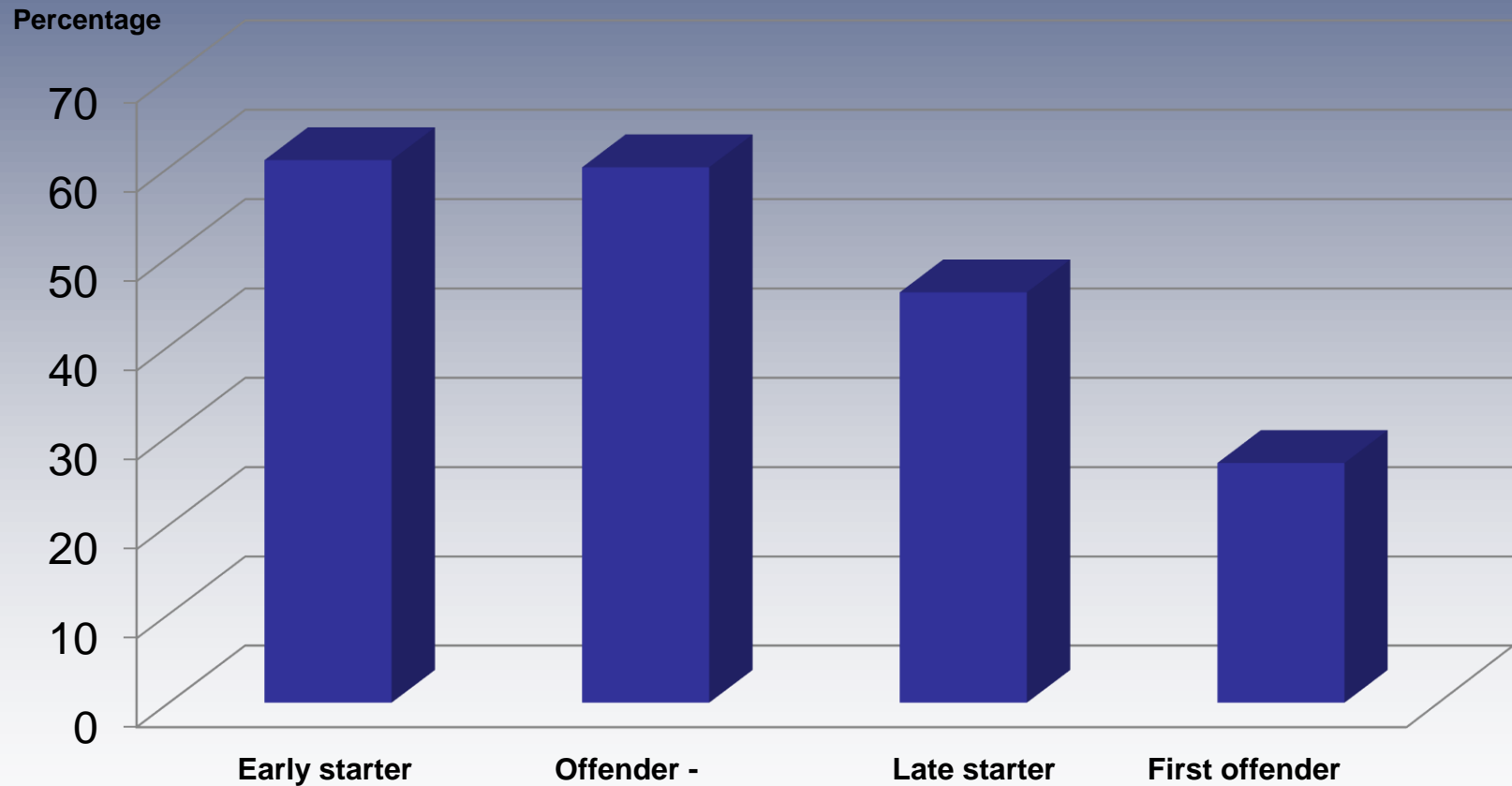
# Conduct problems in adolescence



# Antisocial personality characteristics



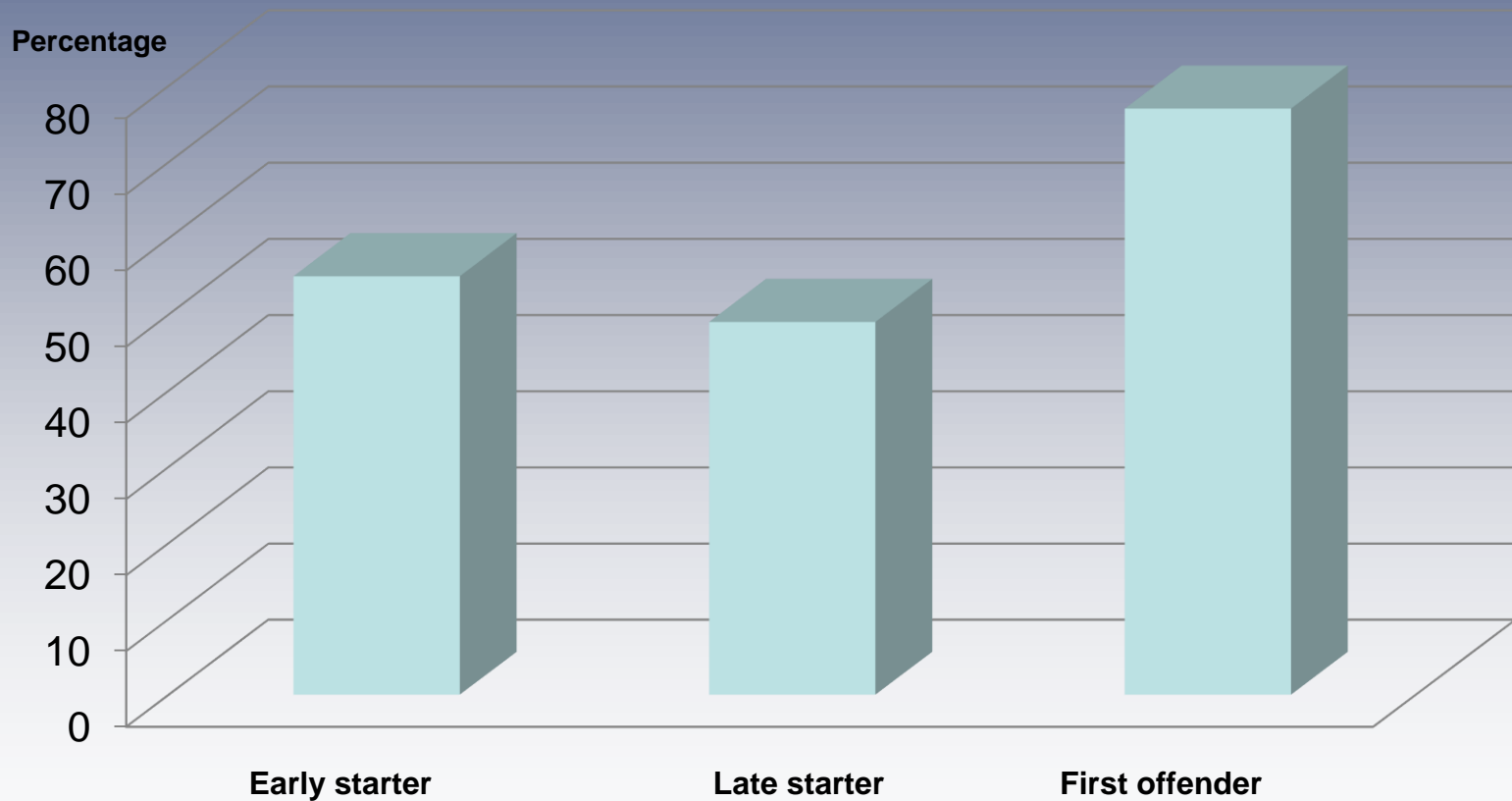
# Substance dependency



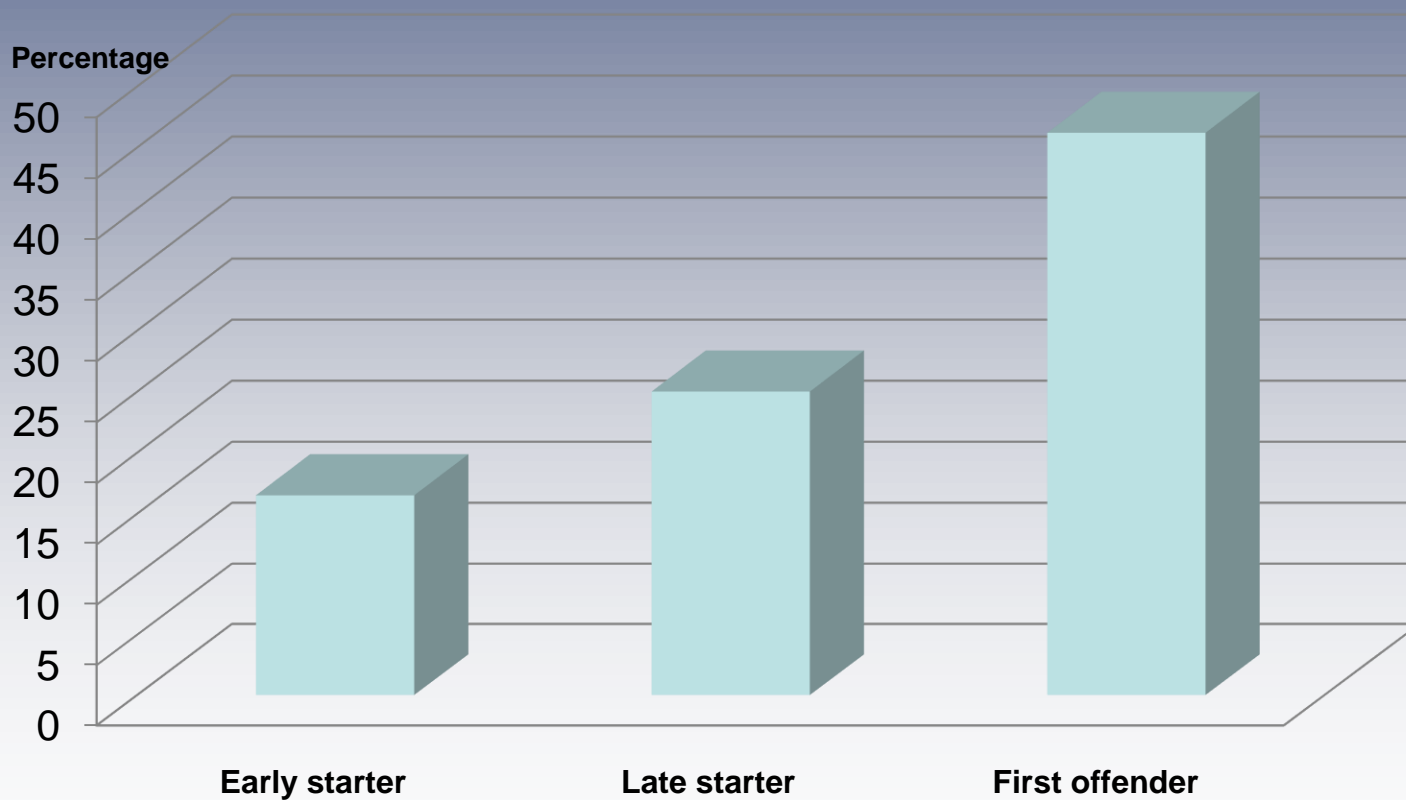
# Persecutory delusions



# Murder/manslaughter



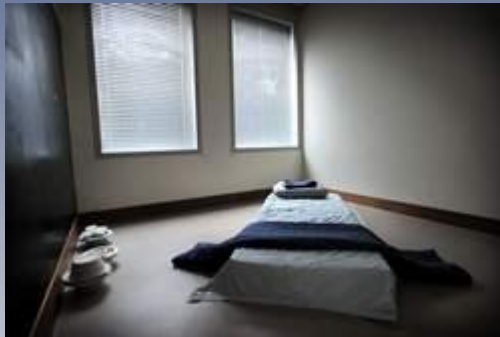
# Family victim



# **Practical implications...**

**Acknowledging different subtypes of offenders with a psychotic disorder is important for early intervention and to make treatment more effective, thereby reducing risk of (violent) criminal behavior.**

# Inpatient study: Persecutory delusions and delusional distress

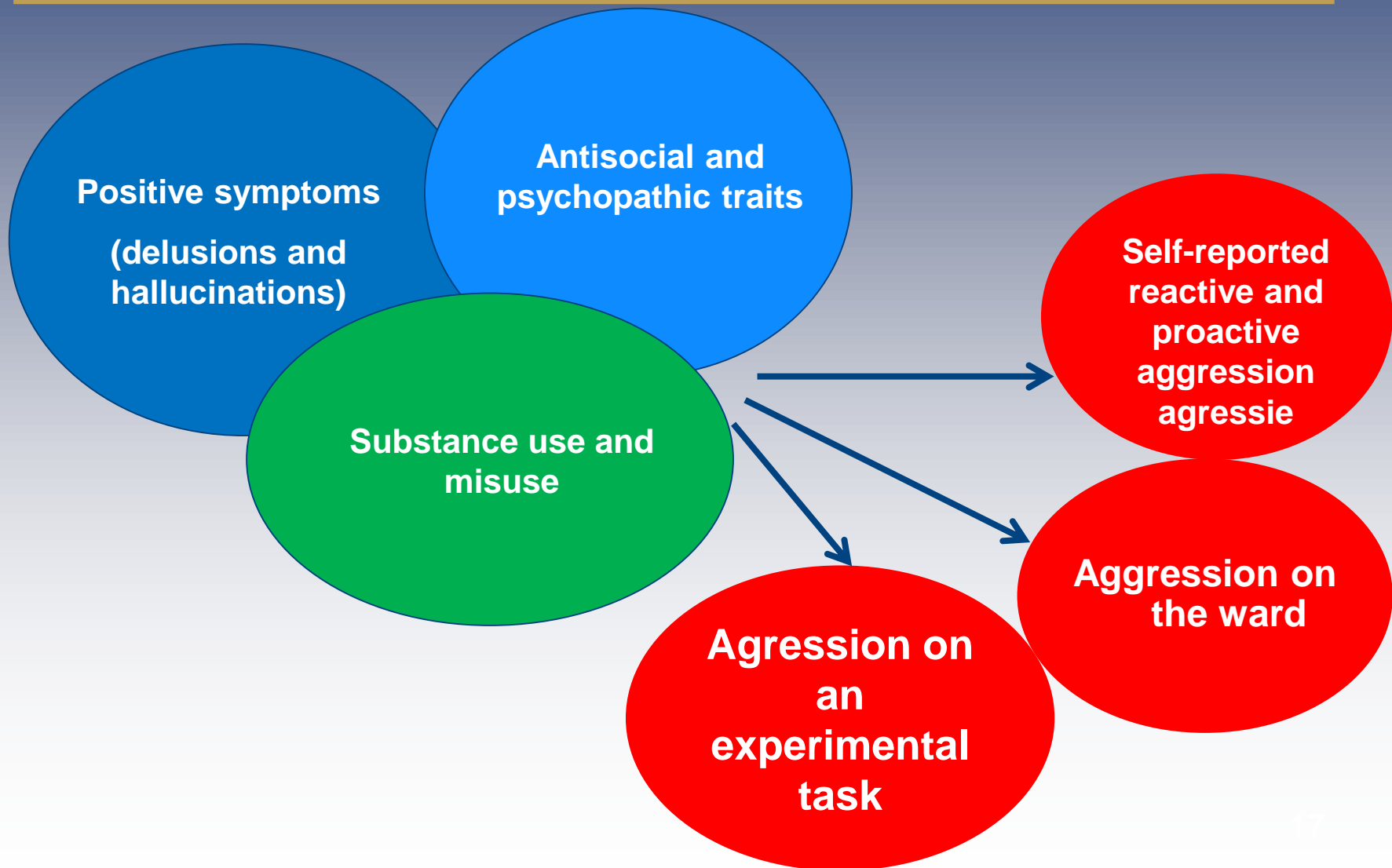


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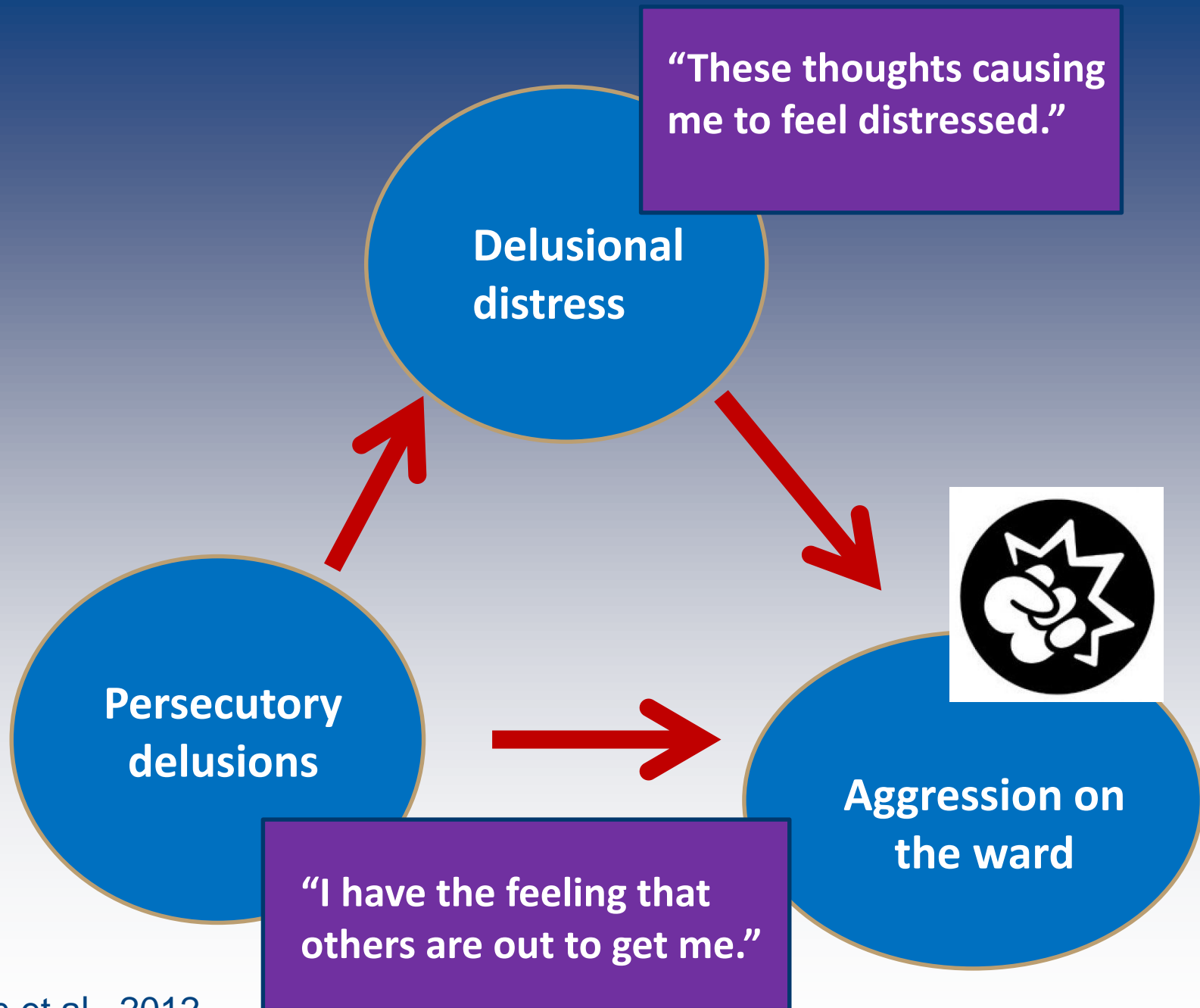


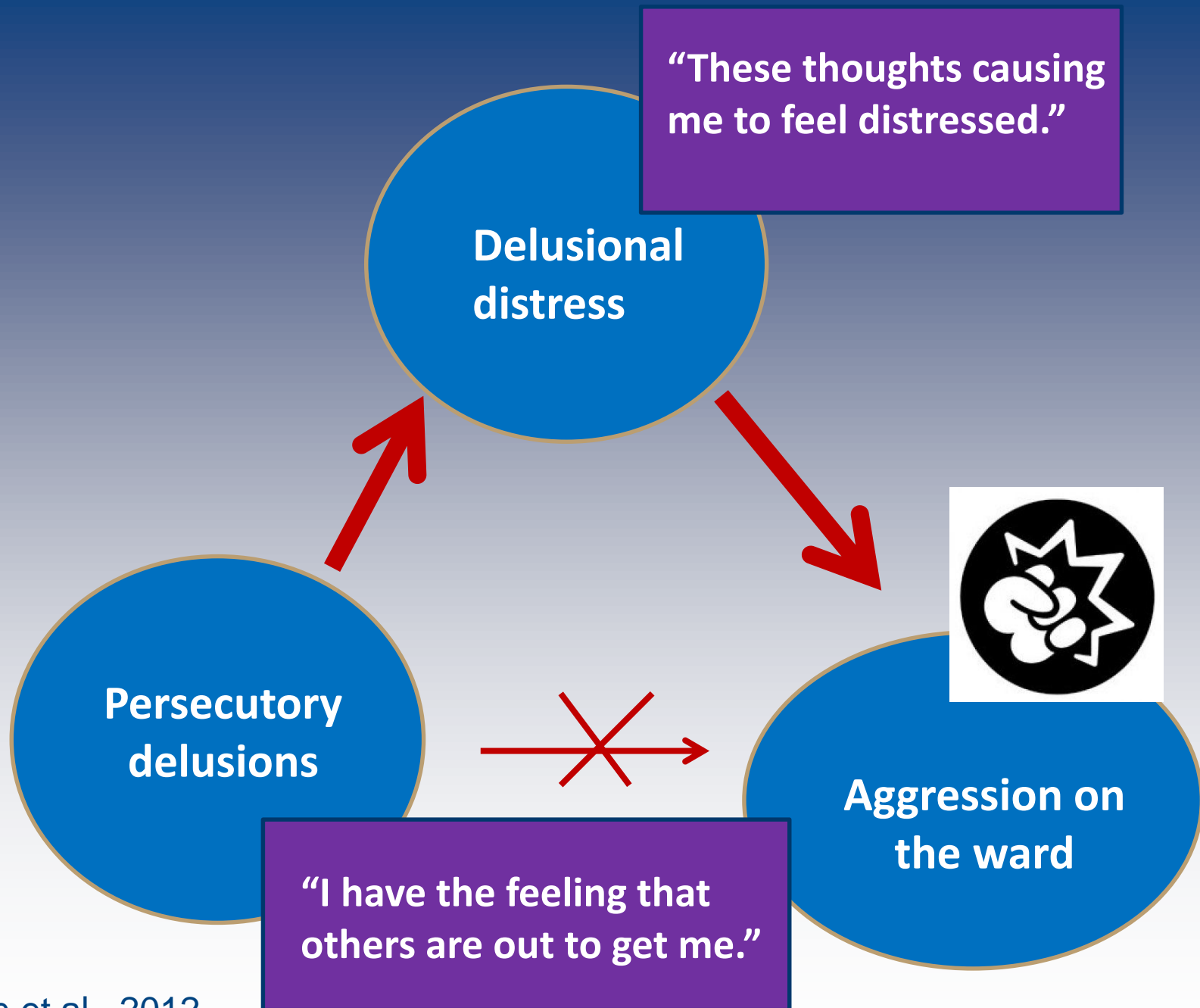


# Risk factors and aggression



	Proactive aggression	Reactive aggression	Aggression on the PSAP	Aggression on the ward
Psychopathic Traits	.39**	.38**	.16	.02
Persecutory ideations	.15	.28*	.00	.47***
Substance use	.20	.03	.05	-.17





# **Practical implications...**

**Early detection of persecutory ideations and distress may lead to development of more specific psychotherapeutic interventions to manage violence risk.**

# Disordered threateners

- ◆ Persons who show *psychological disturbances*, most often are disordered and pose themselves and others in a *threatening situation*
- ◆ Not all threateners will become violent...however some of the disordered offenders in my earlier studies were once disordered threateners...
- ◆ Important to develop a systematic approach to assess escalation/level of threat

# **3A Methodology and development of the threat assessment tool**

- ◆ **3A methodology**
  - ◆ Attention/application of threatener
  - ◆ Analysis of factors
  - ◆ Approach
- ◆ **Phase of Analysis in need of Structured Professional Judgement to lead to effective approach/interventions**
  - ◆ → threat assessment instrument
- ◆ **Focus on dynamic, short term risk for escalation and not long term risk of violent recidivism**
  - ◆ → Risk-Need-Responsivity model based approach

# Work in progress...

- ◆ **108 files of disordered threateners**
- ◆ **20 triple scorings**
  - ◆ Some items/factors have good InterRater Reliabilities, but others are found to be less reliable.
- ◆ **Start scoring 100 files of escalated cases**
- ◆ **Research version of screening tool and threat assessment instrument end of this year**



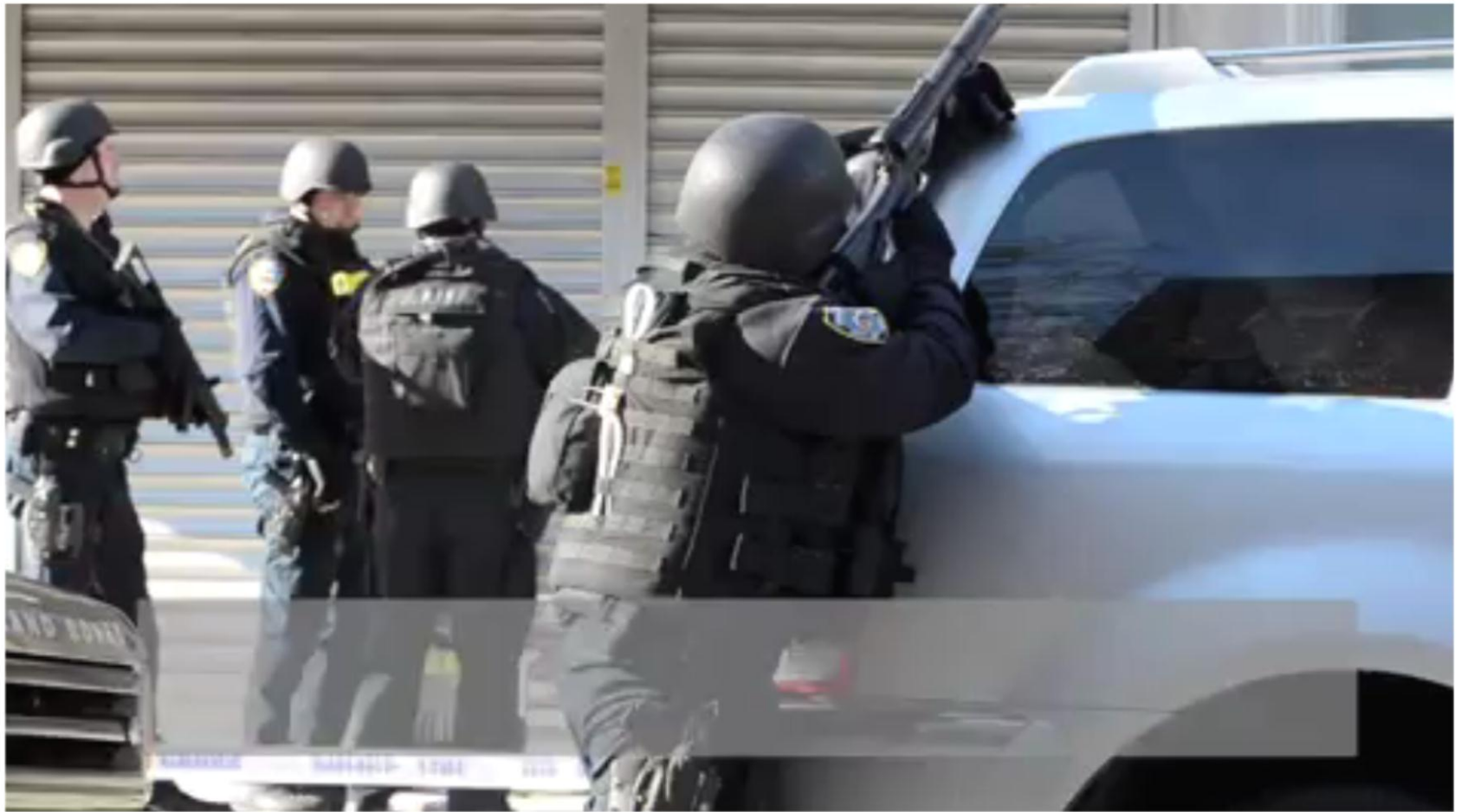
# First impression

**Note: preliminary!!!**

## **Police contact for physical aggression:**

- ◆ History of detention, (violations) of conditions
- ◆ History of forensic care
- ◆ First contact police at early age
- ◆ History of substance misuse
- ◆ Antisocial, narcissistic and dependent PD
- 
- ◆ Face-to-Face threats
- ◆ Instability of emotion, home situation and housing

# Behavioral Analysis



# Triple A Method

- **Attention (inducement)**
- **Analysis**
- **Approach**

# Behavioral Analysis

- ◆ Steve, 40 years of age
- ◆ threatens to harm the police unit
- ◆ psychiatric illnesses
- ◆ Had a history of police registrations including throwing rocks at the police
- ◆ no family or social contacts

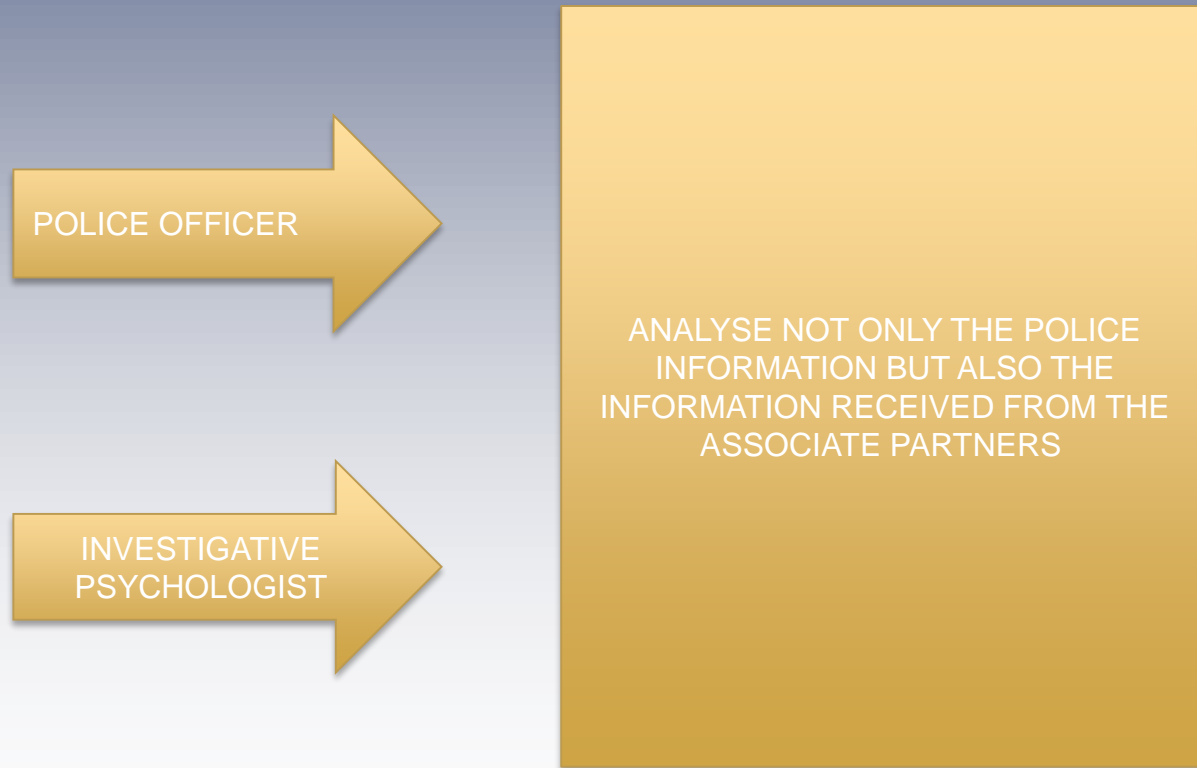
# Attention

## First A: ATTENTION (inducement)



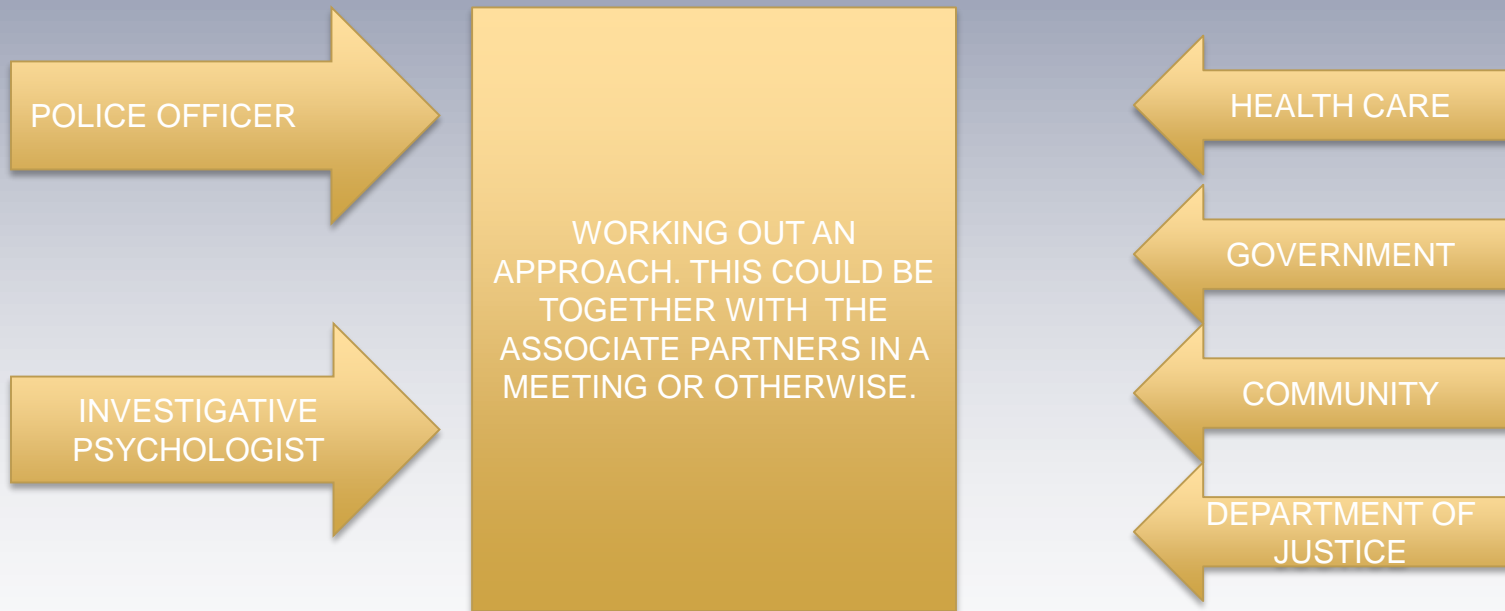
# Analysis

## Second A: Analysis



# Approach

## Third A: Approach



# Threat assessment tools

In the future:

Use of

- screening and
- threat assessment instrument



