

Cohort study explores association between SSRI use and violent crime

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Selective serotonin reuptake inhibitor (SSRI) use is modestly associated with violent crime, according to a study published this week in *PLOS Medicine*. The cohort study, by Seena Fazel from the University of Oxford, and colleagues, showed in subgroup analysis that this association was evident in participants aged 15-24, but not significant for individuals aged 25 and older.

SSRIs are widely prescribed, but inconclusive evidence links SSRI use with violent behavior. In this study, Fazel and colleagues compared the rate of [violent crime](#) while individuals were prescribed SSRIs with the rate of violent crime in the same individuals while not receiving medication, using matched data from the Swedish Prescribed Drug Register and the Swedish national crime register. During the 4-year study period, about 850,000 individuals (10.8% of the Swedish population) were prescribed SSRIs, and 1% of these individuals were convicted of a violent crime.

The result was an overall association between SSRI use and violent convictions (Hazard Ratio [HR] =1.19, 95% CI: 1.08-1.32, p

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