Exchanging the Underlying Psychopathology of Adolescent Males Who Have Committed Homicide
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This research examines the underlying psychopathology of adolescent males who have committed homicide. Homicidal adolescent men represent a serious problem as they accounted for 9% (908) of the total murders in the United States in 2008 (Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention, 2010). Reoccurring factors in the psychopathology of offenders include the presence of psychological disorders and violent abuse in the family environment experienced by the offender at an early age. This study examines risk factors to determine the strength of psychological disorders and family abuse by examining 55 pre-adjudicated adolescents currently detained at the William Marion Stevenson House Detention Center in Delaware. The data from each subject’s case files, investigation reports, and interview information is compiled into an individual review chart. The review charts are analyzed to reveal how prominent each risk factor is in the lives of adolescent homicide offenders. The goal of the study is to set the stage for future research that will reduce the maladaptive effect of psychological disorders and an abusive family environment on adolescents and the development of future homicide offenders.