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ORIGINAL SCIENTIFIC PAPER

DIFFERENCES BETWEEN THE DELINQUENT ADDICTS IN RELATION WITH DIRECT AND INDIRECT INVOLVEMENT IN THE DRUGS RELATED CRIMINALITY

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SUMMARY

There is a number of possible hypothesis that explain connection between criminality and drugs, but the authors elaborate the one stating that criminality precedes and causes the drugs abuse. Their study had for its purpose to examine what is the criminal career like and which type of drugs the young delinquent addicts abuse in regard to whether the crime offence, that brought them into the sample, had for its goal acquisition of resources for obtaining the drugs (indirect criminality).

The sample was made of 268 subjects of both sexes, younger than 35 who, during the six-year period, were registered in six Police Administration in the Republic of Croatia because of the committed offences, and who are, at the same time, the drugs addicts.

Connection between a variable dealing with a question whether the subjects committed a crime with a goal to acquire resources for obtaining the drugs, and the variable describing their previous delinquent and criminal behaviour, and the type of the abused drugs, was tested on the basis of the χ^2 (hi-quadrant) test. Although the obtained results confirm the above mentioned hypothesis, the authors draw attention to the fact that connection between criminality and addiction is not unambiguous.

Although there are significant differences between ethiology of the delinquent behaviour and the drugs abuse, the fact is that manifestation of one form of behaviour significantly increases probability of the other form of behaviour to develop with the same individual.

Key words: drugs, addicts, crime

1. INTRODUCTION

Numerous studies have been attempting to discover whether individuals involved into the drug related crimes show criminal behaviour before they started abusing drugs, and whether the drugs abuse results into commitment of the criminal acts. Relation between drugs and criminality

can be simply divided into three hypothesis:

- drugs abuse causes criminal behaviour,
- criminality causes abuse of drugs, and
- criminalisation of drugs causes criminality.

The first hypothesis, stating that drugs abuse causes criminality has two derivatives: 1 / pharma-