

Some aspects of the dynamics and structure of drug market in Croatia

Tihana Novak

Anita Jandrić Nišević

Department of Criminology, Faculty of Education and Rehabilitation Sciences, University of Zagreb

Joško Vukosav

Police Academy, Ministry of Interior

INTRODUCTION

The need to prevent drug-related crime is high on the European policy agenda, as illustrated by the fact that the current EU drug strategy identifies this objective as the key area of action for achieving its aim of ensuring a high level of security for the general public.

Compared with the general population, offenders report high rates of drug use and problem drug users are frequently found to be offenders.

However, the relationship between drugs and crime is neither simple nor linear.

The main goal of the project „Research of structure and dynamics of drug market in Republic of Croatia“ was to obtain data in order to understand and explain the structure and the dynamics of the illegal drug market in Croatia:

- Structure and organization of the drug market (market levels, crimes committed within the functioning of illicit drug markets, as part of the business of drug supply, distribution and use; „new“ drugs, the role of the Internet in the drug market - "dark web")
- The role of juveniles in the drug market
- Data on some aspects of secondary crime in the sample of perpetrators of the offence under the Law on Suppression of Drug Abuse

The project was conducted in cooperation between the Office for Combating Drug Abuse and Department of Criminology (Faculty of Education and Rehabilitation Sciences).

It was a complex and comprehensive research involving the cooperation of several large systems:

- prison system - convicted adult drug addicts,
- Turopolje correctional institution for juveniles – juvenile delinquents,
- Ministry of Interior - perpetrators of the offense under the Law on Suppression of Drug Abuse

This poster presentation will deliver some results from the prison system – a sample of convicted adult drug addicts about their view of structure and organization of the drug market in Croatia.

METHODOLOGY

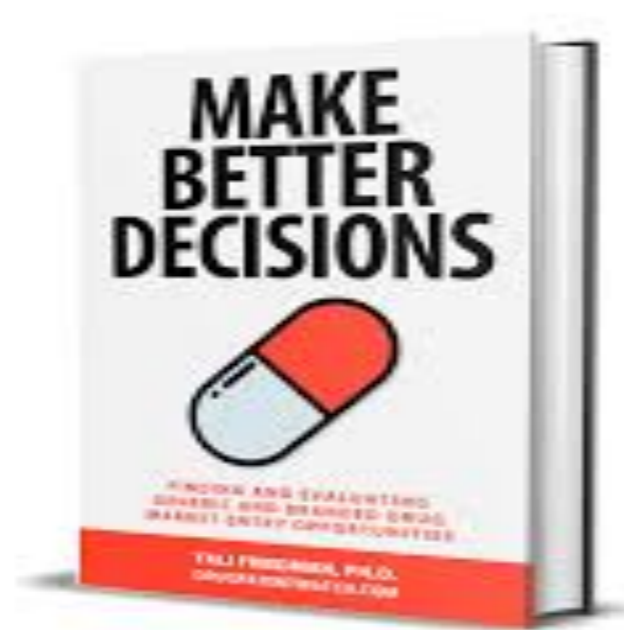
Sample

156 convicted adult drug addicts serving their sentence in Penitentiary in Lepoglava and Zagreb County Jail

Method of data collection

Self-report questionnaire created specifically for this research: The first part has 40 variables, 15 of which relate to the definition of general sociodemographic and criminological variables, while the rest are created to examine different forms of secondary crime and the way the drug market works in the Republic of Croatia.

The second part of the questionnaire is intended for qualitative analysis (text analysis) and consists of 5 questions that the respondents answer in a descriptive way and specifically relates to the organization of the drug market.



RESULTS

variables	values
Average age of respondents	35,8 years
The average sentence length	7 years
Previous convictions	46%
First time offenders	26%
Diagnosis of opioid dependency	56%

Drug market organization

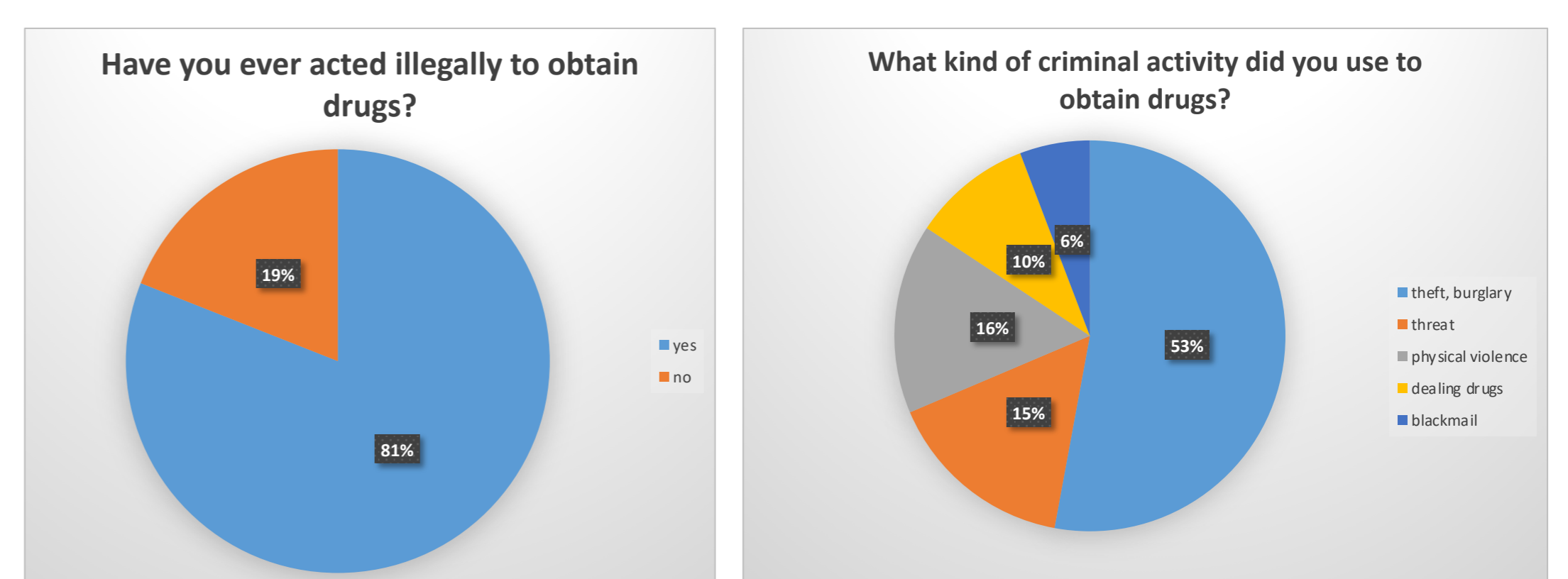
The simplest way to explain the drug market in Croatia is to quote the participants' statement: *“All combinations are possible”*. There are all kinds of drugs on market but not all the dealers have all drugs. Marijuana, amphetamines and cocaine are the most sold drugs today.

Cooperation

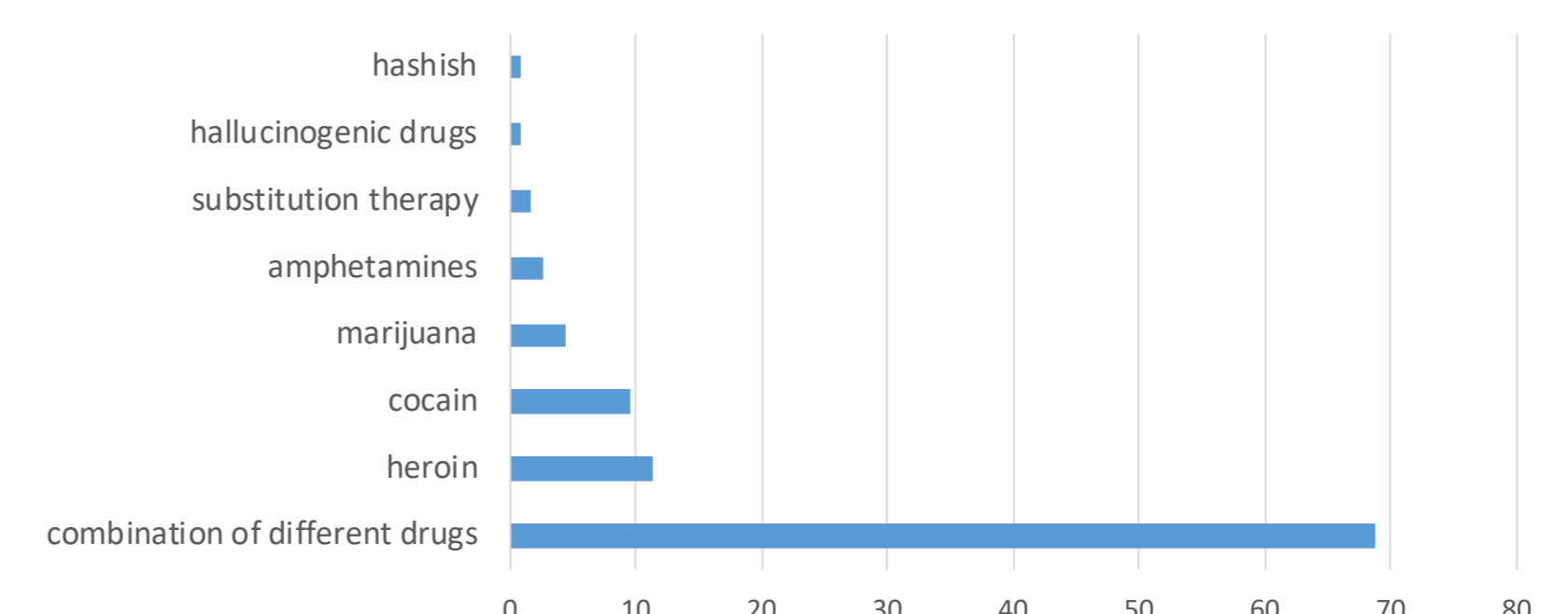
Drug market actors can be competitive in terms of the division of terrain and drugs. However, it is a very complex system - on one hand they are competitors for the markets, but they are often in a relationship of mutual cooperation and support.

Dealers recruitment

Juveniles and drug addicts are retailing, while a medium-sized and large-scale criminal organization is organized, or what they call a "family" business. People with no criminal history and with legal jobs also work in retail because they want to earn extra money.



Under the influence of which drugs did you commit a crime?



CONCLUSION

The illicit drug market in Croatia is extremely dynamic and it is necessary to establish a system that will be able to identify and respond more quickly to various trends in the illicit drug market through faster and better exchange of information. In this way, prevention activities can be better targeted and the efficiency of institutions in the field of drug crime prevention and suppression can be increased.



Authors of this poster declare that they do not have any conflict of interest.