**THE STRUCTURE AND THE DYNAMICS OF THE ILLEGAL DRUG MARKET IN THE REPUBLIC OF CROATIA**

**Dalibor Doležal¹, Marko Prpić², Anita Jandrić Nišević³**

---

**PURPOSE**
- The paper explores the structure and dynamics of the drug market in the Republic of Croatia.
- The aim of the research was to collect data on the functioning of the drug market at all levels in the territory of the Republic of Croatia, with special emphasis on the role of juveniles in the drug market.
- Given that this is a complex research problem that needs to be explored with several different aspects, we used two samples:
  1. Sample of convicted drug addicts (n = 156 perpetrators of criminal offenses under Articles 190 and 191 of the Criminal Code serving sentences in the Lepoglava and Glima Penitentiaries and in the Prison in Zagreb).
  2. Sample of juveniles (n = 24) from the Turopolje Educational Institution.

**RESEARCH LIMITATIONS**
- Research is limited by the voluntary consent of a very small number of respondents, but we believe that the results obtained are of great importance for understanding the structure and dynamics of the drug market in the Republic of Croatia.

---

**RESULTS**

**Committed criminal offense for which you are serving punishment**
- Burglary 41,6%
- Grand theft 31,5%
- Unauthorized production and reselling of drugs 16,8%
- Theft 8,1%
- Murder 6,7%
- Criminal offenses against sexual freedom 4,7%
- Mental disorders 4,7%
- Heavy murder 4%
- Criminal offenses against the ministry of interior 3,4%
- Criminal offenses against traffic safety 2,7%
- Emotion fraud 2%
- Embezzlement 2%
- Criminal offenses against marriage, family and children 2%
- Criminal offenses of sexual abuse and exploitation of the child 0,7%

**Frequency of use of certain drugs**
- Never 0,7%
- Periodically 2%
- Often 2%
- Very often 4%
- Most of the time 4,7%
- All of the time 6,1%
- The money is left and after the drug is picked up in a place known only to buyers. This location changes every month, and the new location is notified to us via messenger.
- Wholesale distributors decide who will deal what kind of drugs, according to the sample of juveniles. They also state that the market is organized pyramidally, from the main supplier in Croatia to small street dealers - where the street dealer has everything because everything is being bought. Sales are done in large, medium and small ("up to 5 grams, up to 10 grams, up to 50 grams, up to 100 grams, half a kilo, a kilo, a kilo and more"). Large and medium dealers have long been on the market, secured by mutual interconnection, but also with connections within the police and the army.
- "It is known who is the big scale dealer and who's the small scale, and there is no upward progress. Retail trade is highlighted by the reputation, on the medium scale through recommendations, for a guarantee because the goods are taken up (later payment), and wholesale is the riskiest and it is only done through a very specific kind of connections and guarantees."

**FINDINGS**
- The results indicate that the drug market in the Republic of Croatia is extremely dynamic and can confirm the approach of drug-related crime approaches supported by the EMCDDA (2007) - psychopharmacological (drug use leads to criminality due to psychopharmacological influence of the consumed drugs), economic model (drug abusers are most often involved in property crimes that provide resources for further consumption) and a "systemic model" that implies the perpetration of violent offenses associated with drug distribution. Furthermore, the findings show different aspects of getting involved in drug crime for juveniles and adults which need to be further understood.

---

**ORIGINALLITY / VALUE**
- Understanding the drug market is important for (1) legislative and strategic action planning: it is necessary to understand supply directions, price elasticity and natural competitive, (2) knowledge of higher levels of the market (production and distribution): of great help in designing prevention activities, sentencing policy and other efforts to enforce laws related to drug abuse; (3) understanding local retail trade operations: great help in designing prevention activities, sentencing policy and enforcement and improvements of drug abuse related laws. This research has also set the necessary pre-distributions for further research of the role of juvenile in the world of drugs.

---

¹Dalibor Doležal, University of Zagreb, Faculty of Education and Rehabilitation Sciences (dalibor.dolezal@erf.hr)
²Marko Prpić, University of Zagreb, University Department of Croatian Studies (prpic.marcus@gmail.com)
³Anita Jandrić Nišević, University of Zagreb, Faculty of Education and Rehabilitation Sciences (anita.jandric nisiевич@erf.hr)