

FORENSIC PSYCHIATRIC-PSYCHOLOGICAL CHARACTERISTICS OF SEXUAL OFFENDERS AGAINST CHILDREN AND ADOLESCENTS IN LITHUANIA

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Introduction: In the past two decades sexual offences against minors in Lithuania increased dramatically (from 45 cases in 1994 up to 344 in 2010, 3151 in total, of which only 25% had been directed to psychiatric examination. In our judicial practice neither pedophilia nor any sexual disorder is considered to substantiate perpetrator's insanity. The aim of research: to establish some mental peculiarities of sexual offenders against minors, their personality traits and reasons of sexual encroachment.

Sample and methods: We compiled a special questionnaire to analyze all 787 psychiatric and psychological examinations completed in 1994-2010 in cases of sexual offences against minors.

Findings and discussion: The offender in these cases is likely to be a single male of 20-30 years, below secondary education, unemployed, w/o criminal history, having contacted psychiatrist due to mental retardation, personality or behavior disorder. Mental disorder was previously diagnosed in 41% (+ 20% added during the examination, mostly with personality/behavior disorders and abating neurotic/affective/stress disorders and mental retardation). Among those recommended for insanity (N=61) 49% made disorders of schizophrenia spectrum. Only 11% of the total had owned the perpetration and gave their motives.

Conclusions:

1. Pedophilia was diagnosed in 1,3% of the sample, revealing no specific personality traits except of more notable independence.
2. Sexual offences against minors are perpetrated equally by pedophiles, people with other mental problems and the mentally sound, so prevention and education are indispensable while serving the punishment and afterwards.
3. Preventive measures and sexual education should be addressed to violence and child abuse in family.