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VIOLENT CRIME AND MOTIVES¹

The aim of the conducted research was to gain insights into the characteristics of the areas where incidents of violence occurred, the type of violence, the relationship between the victim and the perpetrator, and the gender of the perpetrator, with a particular emphasis on identifying differences in these characteristics based on the perpetrator's motives. The presented results are part of the scientific research project Croatian Violence Monitor – Study of incidence patterns, causes, and prosecution of delinquent violence with a focus on protecting particularly vulnerable victim groups. The research findings indicated that domestic violence is the most prevalent type of violence, with revenge and jealousy being the predominant motives. In light of these findings, it is crucial from a practical standpoint that all competent authorities responsibly, conscientiously, and consistently conduct individual victim assessments in accordance with the Regulation on the Methods of Individual Victim Assessment (Official Gazette, No. 106/17). Among other things, this means placing even greater emphasis on proposing and imposing protective measures in misdemeanor proceedings, and in criminal proceedings, applying purposeful security measures when conditions permit, aimed at eliminating circumstances that enable or encourage the commission of new criminal offenses (Article 66 of the Criminal Procedure Act, Official Gazette, No. 125/11, 144/12, 56/15, 61/15, 101/17, 118/18, 126/19, 84/21, 114/22, 114/23, 36/24).

Keywords: violence; criminal acts; motives; perpetrators

1 The research for this paper has partly been conducted within the “Croatian Violence Monitor: A Study of the Phenomenology, Etiology, and Prosecution of Delinquent Violence with Focus on Protecting Particularly Vulnerable Groups of Victims”, a project co-funded by the Croatian Science Foundation (uip-2017-05-8876) and the University of Zagreb’s Faculty of Law. For more details, visit Violence Research Lab’s homepage: www.violence-lab.eu.

1. INTRODUCTION

Violence is a particularly sensitive topic (Fraga 2016). Very often, violent acts (e.g. domestic violence) happen in private settings, behind “closed doors” (Cantos, Neidig, O’Leary 1994; Fraga 2016; Wright & Benson 2011). Not only that violence often happens behind „closed doors“, but it is also often part of a dark figure. Defining violence is challenging because there is a lack of a commonly accepted definition of the term. Usually, violence itself is considered socially undesirable. However, this view largely depends on the cultural and situational context. Thus, in some jurisprudences, it is still considered lawful that a husband uses violence against his spouse (e.g. marital rape, see Randall & Venkatesh 2015), whereas in other jurisprudences this might well be outlawed, but is however still widely socially accepted (Wößner, Getoš Kalac, Gačal 2019). Depending on what kind of definitional feature is emphasized, i.e. aspects of action, motivation, and impact, or social, psychological, and political meaning, a quite different definition results (Tolan 2007). Currently, there is a trend towards indefinitely broadening the violence terminology and typology (e.g. psychological, verbal, economic, structural, symbolic, medial, object-related, institutional), up to the point where almost everything can be labelled as violence and therefore intended, where almost nothing presents itself as violence (Meyer 2002). In line with the World Health Organization (WHO), violence could be defined as “the intentional use of physical force or power, threatened or actual, against oneself, another person, or against a group or community, which either results in or has a high likelihood of resulting in injury, death, psychological harm, maldevelopment, or deprivation” (Krug et al. 2002: 5). A definition comparable to the WHO’s provided by Englander (2003: 2) determines violence as “aggressive behaviour with the intent to cause harm (physical or psychological)”. Correspondingly, The National Research Council of the American Academy of Sciences defines violence as “behaviours by individuals that intentionally threaten, attempt, or inflict physical harm on others” (Reiss & Roth 1993: 2). For this research, violence is defined as any intentional physical harming or killing of another person (Getoš Kalac, Šprem 2018: 4). It is divided into several categories such as other violence in private settings, other violence in public settings, „Barroom“ violence, violence as part of theft, violence as part of the breakup of a love relationship, violence in the neighbourhood, violence at work, violence within the institution, violence related to discrimination, violence related to heredity, hooliganism, violence related to extortion, violent crimes, violence related to subletting, violence against police/security guards, violence related to prostitution, violence related to drug trafficking and domestic violence.

Furthermore, motivation is a mental process that encourages us to engage in mental or physical activities, and “inside” affects our behaviour. In psychology, motivation has replaced the former concept of “will”, which is included in the “psychology of power” (“power of speech”, “power of will”, etc.). Feelings (emotions) encourage us to act, so modern psychologists do not set a boundary between motivation and emotions. Motivational behaviour can be represented by a circular drawing: in the beginning, there is a motive or a need to achieve a goal, then there is a behaviour with which we try to reach that goal, and if we succeed in achieving it (before or after), the need for a new, higher goal develops, and the “motivational cycle” repeats itself. On the way to the goal, we encounter various obstacles: physical (impassable road, etc.), social (legal, religious, and other prohibitions), and personal (insufficient physical or mental ability, clash of motives). If the motivation is strong and the obstacles are insurmountable, there is a distinct discomfort, restlessness, or anger, known as frustration. In theories of motivation, A. H. Maslow’s “hierarchical theory” is one of the most prominent theories, according to which the appearance of our motives has its order. In the first place are the motives of survival, security, the need for love and friendship, social reputation, and “self-realisation”. Herzberg’s “two-factor theory” of motivation is also accepted and verified. If there are factors of satisfaction (e.g. “loving your job”), this motivates us and we are satisfied, but if there are none, there is no satisfaction either, but we are not “actively dissatisfied”. If there are dissatisfaction factors (e.g. a tyrannical boss), we are dissatisfied, but if there are none, we are not “actively satisfied”. “Content” theories (the goal of which is to find what motivates a person) in modern psychology are replaced by “process” theories of motivation. They do not deal with the question of what motivates or does not motivate us, but rather try to answer the question of how we decide what to do in a specific situation. These “process” theories answered why people often do things that do not appeal to them but still decide to do them².

The results presented in this article are part of the scientific research project “Croatian Violence Monitor: A Study of the Phenomenology, Etiology, and Prosecution of Delinquent Violence with Focus on Protecting Particularly Vulnerable Groups of Victims” (DOK-2018-01-6494) which started on November 1, 2018 and was co-funded by the Croatian Science Foundation and the University of Zagreb’s Faculty of Law. The main goal of the scientific research project is to empirically and normatively record and analyse the phenomenology, aetiology, and prosecution of delinquent violence in Croatia, with an emphasis on particularly vulnerable groups of victims with their very specific and different needs for protection from violence.

2 Available at: <https://www.enciklopedija.hr/clanak/motivacija>, accessed 25. 04. 2024

2. RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

2.1. Research goal

The goal of the research is to gain insight into individual characteristics related to the area where the analyzed case of violence is located, the type of violence, the relationship between the victim and the perpetrator, and the sex of the perpetrator. The specific goal of the research is to determine whether differences exist in the mentioned characteristics concerning the perpetrator's motive.

2.2. Research sample

For the research sample, secondary data sources were used, namely final court criminal cases with elements of violence in which final judgment occurred from 2017 to 2021. Criminal cases were collected at four counties and four municipal courts in Croatia (County Court and Municipal Court in Zagreb, County and Municipal Court in Split, County and Municipal Court in Osijek, and County and Municipal Court in Rijeka) depending on the actual jurisdiction for individual cases – a criminal offence. To cope with the huge amount and rather a different phenomenology of the long list of includable offences (created as a result of this definitional debate), three main offence categories were created. The 1st category refers to offences that are unambiguously violent in terms of harming/killing another person. The 2nd category includes borderline offences, which do fit the criminological definition, but not 100%. Finally, the 3rd category refers to offences that do not fit the definition, but there is a possibility that some violent acts are, in practice, misclassified as an offence from that category (Wößner, Getoš Kalac, Gačal 2019). During the research, 1117 criminal cases were analyzed, and the research sample included 909 perpetrators.

2.3. Instrument

The data required for the realization of this research were collected using a specially designed questionnaire for the purpose of this research. This questionnaire is based on the research tool, which was originally developed for a homicide study in Uruguay (Albrecht 2015) and then further tested for the purpose of the Balkan Homicide Study (Albrecht & Getoš Kalac 2016). The research tool has thus been further developed by the research tool used for file analysis in the project "Sex Offenders in the Social

Therapeutic Institutions in the Free State of Saxony” (Wößner, Hefendehl & Albrecht 2013). Subsequently, it was extensively broadened and adopted to Violence Lab’s research questions. In doing so, considerations on measuring violence in general (e.g. Douglas, Burgess, Burgess & Ressler 1992; Landau 2006; Walby & Towers 2017) and domestic violence (McClennen 2010; Myhill 2017), as well as forensic medicine expertise (Schwerd 1992; Brinkmann & Madea 2004; Madea 2007), were included. Further aspects, such as the time and location of an offence, were taken into consideration (Wößner, Getoš Kalac, Gačal 2019).

The survey questionnaire contained variables divided into three units: variables related to the event, the perpetrator, and the victim. For this research, variables related to the area where the analyzed case of violence is located, the type of violence, the relationship between the victim and the perpetrator, and the perpetrator’s sex were used. In addition to these four variables, the perpetrator’s motive variable was added to the questionnaire. The specific goal of the research is to determine the existence of differences in the mentioned characteristics concerning the perpetrator’s motive. These variables were chosen to achieve the research objectives, that is, to gain insight into individual characteristics related to the area where the analyzed case of violence is located, the type of violence, the relationship between the victim and the perpetrator, and the perpetrator’s sex, as well as to determine the existence of differences in the aforementioned characteristics concerning the perpetrator’s motive.

2.4. Method of conducting research

The consent of the Ethics Committee of the formal project holder of the Faculty of Law of the University of Zagreb was obtained for conducting the research, and in terms of general ethical principles in scientific research, the anonymity of perpetrators and victims was respected in the sense that identification data were not entered into the survey questionnaires. The research was conducted in Zagreb in 2021/2022 and in Split, Rijeka and Osijek in 2022/2023.

2.5. Method of data processing

After the data collection was completed, the data from the survey questionnaires were entered into the database in the statistical computer program SPSS. After the data entry was completed, a logical control was performed. Descriptive statistics were used for the defined research objectives, and the Chi-square test was used to determine

statistically significant differences in the analyzed characteristics (significance level – $p < 0.05$).

3. RESEARCH RESULTS

From the analysis of the jurisdiction of the cases, it is evident that the largest number of criminal cases is from the area of jurisdiction of the County and Municipal Court in Split (29.8%). Then, in terms of relative share, cases from the jurisdiction of the County and Municipal Courts in Zagreb follow (28.1%) and then cases from Osijek (22,6%) and from Rijeka (19,4%).

Jurisdiction or location of criminal cases concerning the specific motive for committing the crime showed that the motive of revenge is relatively most present in cases under the jurisdiction of county and municipal courts in Osijek (40.9%), and least in cases located in Rijeka (8.8%). The motive of greed appears relatively the most in cases from Zagreb (41.3%), and the least in cases from Osijek (15%). The motive of (self) defence is relatively most frequently represented in cases from the jurisdiction of Osijek (41.4%). The motive of jealousy and a lack of care appear relatively most often in cases from Zagreb (jealousy - 30.9%, lack of care - 27.3%) and Split jurisdictions (jealousy - 35.9%, lack of care - 25%). The motives of hatred, prejudice, and discrimination were relatively most often recorded in Zagreb cases (51.7%). In the analyzed cases, the most unclear motives are found in cases from Split (30.4%) and Rijeka (28.9%), while multiple motives appear relatively more often in cases from Zagreb (44.9 %) and Split (29.2%) jurisdictions.

The variable that defines the location of the case or jurisdiction concerning the perpetrator's motive shows statistical significance.

Table 1. Location of criminal cases – Jurisdiction concerning the perpetrator’s motive

Location of criminal cases - Jurisdiction		Perpetrator's motive										Total	X ²	Significance
		Unclear	Multiple motives	Revenge	Greed	(Self) defense	Vigilantism	Jealousy	Lack of care	Hatred/prejudice/discrimination	Someone's request			
Zagreb	Count	113	40	39	33	3	1	56	12	15	0	312	130.643	.000
	%	24.2	44.9	21.5	41.3	10.3	16.7	30.9	27.3	51.7	0.0	28.1		
Split	Count	142	26	52	21	5	2	65	11	6	1	331		
	%	30.4%	29.2	28.7	26.3	17.2	33.3	35.9	25.0	20.7	33.3	29.8		
Osijek	Count	77	16	74	12	12	2	42	9	6	1	251		
	%	16.5%	18.0	40.9	15.0	41.4	33.3	23.2	20.5	20.7	33.3	22.6		
Rijeka	Count	135	7	16	14	9	1	18	12	2	1	215		
	%	28.9	7.9	8.8	17.5	31.0	16.7	9.9	27.3	6.9	33.3	19.4		
Total	Count	467	89	181	80	29	6	181	44	29	3	1109		
	%	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100		

If the type of violence is analyzed, it can be seen that relatively the most prevalent is domestic violence (57.9%), followed by other violence in the public settings (9.2%), then other violence in the private settings (6.9%), violence related to the sale of narcotic drugs (5.4%) and violence directed towards police officers or security guards (5%).

Concerning a particular type of violence, the research shows jealousy (76.2%) as the most prevalent motive followed by lack of care (72.7%), revenge (60.7%), hatred/prejudice/discrimination (37.9%), and multiple motives (60.7%). The motive of greed appears relatively often and equally in property crimes, that is, in violence as part of theft and domestic violence (16.3%). The motive of (self) defence appears relatively more often and equally in domestic violence and violence directed against the police or security guards (24.7%). The motive of vigilantism is relatively the most common in violent crimes (66.7%). Also, it should be noted that the research showed that in the case of domestic violence, there are relatively the most unclear motives (63.4%).

The variable defining the violence type concerning the perpetrator’s motive shows statistical significance.

Table 2. Type of violence concerning the perpetrator's motive

Type of violence		Perpetrator's motive										Total	X ²	Significance
		Unclear	Multiple motives	Revenge	Greed	(Self) defense	Vigilantism	Jealousy	Lack of care	Hatred/prejudice /discrimination	Someone's request			
Other violence in private settings	Count	46	11	8	3	0	0	6	0	2	0	76	1301.536	.000
	%	9.9	12.4	4.4	3.8	0.0	0.0	3.3	0.0	6.9	0.0	6.9		
Other violence in public settings	Count	62	9	17	1	2	0	5	0	6	0	102		
	%	13.3	10.1	9.4	1.3	6.9	0.0	2.8	0.0	20.7	0.0	9.2		
„Barroom“ violence	Count	7	3	7	0	2	0	4	0	1	0	24		
	%	1.5	3.4	3.9	0.0	6.9	0.0	2.2	0.0	3.4	0.0	2.2		
Violence as part of theft	Count	2	3	1	13	0	0	0	0	0	0	19		
	%	0.4	3.4	0.6	16.3	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	1.7		
Violence as part of the breakup of a love relationship	Count	2	0	12	0	0	0	27	0	0	0	41		
	%	0.4	0.0	6.6	0.0	0.0	0.0	14.9	0.0	0.0	0.0	3.7		
Violence in the neighborhood	Count	12	2	6	2	4	0	0	1	0	0	27		
	%	2.6	2.2	3.3	2.5	13.8	0.0	0.0	2.3	0.0	0.0	2.4		
Violence at work	Count	4	0	7	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	12		
	%	0.9	0.0	3.9	0.0	3.4	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	1.1		
Violence within the institution	Count	0	0	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4		
	%	0.0	0.0	2.2	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.4		
Violence related to discrimination	Count	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	4	0	5		
	%	0.0	0.0	0.6	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	13.8	0.0	0.5		
Violence related to heredity	Count	0	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	3		
	%	0.0	0.0	0.0	3.8	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.3		
Hooliganism	Count	0	0	0	0	3	0	0	0	2	0	5		
	%	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	10.3	0.0	0.0	0.0	6.9	0.0	0.5		
Violence related to extortion	Count	1	0	0	6	3	0	1	0	0	0	11		
	%	0.2	0.0	0.0	7.5	10.3	0.0	0.6	0.0	0.0	0.0	1.0		
Violent crimes	Count	12	0	0	0	0	4	0	0	0	0	16		
	%	2.6	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	66.7	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	1.4		
Violence related to rental disputes	Count	1	1	3	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	6		
	%	0.2	1.1	1.7	1.3	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.5		
Violence against police/security guards	Count	16	0	26	3	7	0	0	0	3	0	55		
	%	3.4	0.0	14.4	3.8	24.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	10.3	0.0	5.0		
Violence related to prostitution	Count	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1		
	%	0.0	0.0	0.0	1.3	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.1		
Violence related to drug trafficking	Count	6	6	0	34	0	0	0	11	0	3	60		
	%	1.3	6.7	0.0	42.5	0.0	0.0	0.0	25.0	0.0	100	5.4		
Domestic violence	Count	296	54	89	13	7	2	138	32	11	0	642		
	%	63.4	60.7	49.2	16.3	24.1	33.3	76.2	72.7	37.9	0.0	57.9		
Total	Count	467	89	181	80	29	6	181	44	29	3	1109		
	%	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100		

From the conducted research, it is evident that in the relatively largest number of cases, the victim and the perpetrators were in some form of a romantic relationship (36.2%), which is expected because, in the analyzed sample, domestic violence dominates. This is followed by cases in which the victim and perpetrator did not know each other (15.9%), then cases in which the parents behaved violently (10.6%), and violence that occurred between acquaintances (9.4%).

If individual motives are analyzed, it is evident that with romantic partners, multiple motives (41.6%) and the motive of jealousy (75.7%) appear relatively often. The motive of revenge (22.7%), the motive of (self) defence (51.7%), and the motive of hatred/prejudice/discrimination (37.9 %) are relatively the most prevalent among perpetrators and victims who did not know each other. The motive of greed is the most pronounced among acquaintances (46.3%). Vigilantism is exclusively a motive that appears in children while friends exclusively commit criminal acts at someone’s request. Lack of care is the most common motive among parents as perpetrators of violence (52,3%). Furthermore, the relatively highest number of unclear motives was found among perpetrators who were in a romantic relationship with the victim (32.8%) and perpetrators who committed the crime of violence in the capacity of parents (15.8%).

Furthermore, the variable that defines the relationship between the victim and the perpetrator concerning the motive shows statistical significance.

Table 3. The relationship of the perpetrator to the victim concerning the perpetrator’s motive

The relationship of the perpetrator to the victim		Perpetrator's motive										Total	X ²	Significance
		Unclear	Multiple motives	Revenge	Greed	(Self) defense	Vigilantism	Jealousy	Lack of care	Hatred/prejudice /discrimination	Someone's request			
Stranger	Count	82	8	41	19	15	0	0	0	11	0	176		
	%	17.6	9.0	22.7	23.8	51.7	0.0	0.0	0.0	37.9	0.0	15.9		
Acquaintance	Count	23	16	14	37	2	0	6	2	4	0	104		
	%	4.9	1.0	7.7	46.3	6.9	0.0	3.3	4.5	13.8	0.0	9.4		
Friend	Count	10	4	3	5	0	0	0	3	0	3	28		
	%	2.1	4.5	1.7	6.3	0.0	0.0	0.0	6.8	0.0	100	2.5		
Neighbor	Count	12	2	2	2	4	0	0	1	2	0	25		
	%	2.6	2.2	1.1	2.5	13.8	0.0	0.0	2.3	6.9	0.0	2.3		
Boss	Count	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	6	0	0	8		
	%	0.2	1.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	13.6	0.0	0.0	0.7		
Employee	Count	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1		
	%	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	3.4	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.1		
Customer	Count	0	0	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4		
	%	0.0	0.0	2.2	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.4		

Service provider	Count	4	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	6	1011.828	.000
	%	0.9	0.0	1.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.5		
Further relatives (marriage ties, third generation of relatives)	Count	15	0	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	20		
	%	3.2	0.0	2.8	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	1.8		
Close relatives (grandparents, uncles)	Count	5	0	1	3	0	0	4	0	0	0	13		
	%	1.1	0.0	0.6	3.8	0.0	0.0	2.2	0.0	0.0	0.0	1.2		
Brother/sister	Count	27	1	0	2	2	0	0	0	0	0	32		
	%	5.8	1.1	0.0	2.5	6.9	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	2.9		
Parent	Count	74	8	8	4	0	0	0	23	0	0	117		
	%	15.8	9.0	4.4	5.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	52.3	0.0	0.0	10.6		
Child	Count	42	11	22	3	1	6	1	0	3	0	89		
	%	9.0	12.4	12.2	3.8	3.4	100	0.6	00	10.3	0.0	8.0		
Romantic partner	Count	153	37	55	3	4	0	137	9	4	0	402		
	%	32.8	41.6	30.4	3.8	13.8	0.0	75.7	20.5	13.8	0.0	36.2		
Former romantic partner	Count	15	1	20	2	0	0	24	0	4	0	66		
	%	3.2	1.1	11.0	2.5	0.0	0.0	13.3	0.0	13.8	0.0	6.0		
Romantic partner in the process of breaking up/separating	Count	1	0	4	0	0	0	9	0	0	0	14		
	%	0.2	0.0	2.2	0.0	0.0	0.0	5.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	1.3		
Owner	Count	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	4		
	%	0.6	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	3.4	0.0	0.4		
Total	Count	467	89	181	80	29	6	181	44	29	3	1109		
	%	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100		

The analyzed cases show that relatively the largest number of perpetrators were male (94.3%). If the perpetrator's sex is analyzed concerning the motive, it is evident that almost all motives for committing a violent criminal offence are represented by both sexes, except for the motive of vigilantism and violence that was committed at someone's request. The last two motives exclusively appear in male perpetrators. Furthermore, the variable that defines the sex of the perpetrator concerning the motive shows statistical significance.

Table 4. Sex of the perpetrator concerning the perpetrator's motive

Sex of the perpetrator		Perpetrator's motive										Total	X ²	Significance
		Unclear	Multiple motives	Revenge	Greed	(Self) defense	Vigilantism	Jealousy	Lack of care	Hatred/prejudice/discrimination	Someone's request			
Male	Count	453	87	176	65	23	6	179	29	25	3	1046	126.262	.000
	%	97.0	97.8	97.2	81.3	79.3	100	98.9	65.9	86.2	100	94.3		
Female	Count	14	2	5	15	6	0	2	15	4	0	63		
	%	3.0	2.2	2.8	18.8	20.7	0.0	1.1	34.1	13.8	0.0	5.7		
Total	Count	467	89	181	80	29	6	181	44	29	3	1109		
	%	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100		

4. CONCLUDING CONSIDERATIONS

The goal of the conducted research was to gain insight into individual characteristics of motives related to the area where the analyzed case of violence occurred, the type of violence, the relationship between the victim and the perpetrator, and the biological gender of the perpetrator. The specific aim of the research was to determine differences in these characteristics concerning the perpetrator's motive.

Among the limitations of this study, it should be noted that complete data were unavailable for all variables in the analyzed cases, and the motive was unclear in a certain number of cases. Additionally, a total of 1.117 criminal cases with final judgments from the period 2017 to 2021 were analyzed, not encompassing all cases due to unavailability in the courts where it was conducted (e.g., due to extraordinary legal proceedings).

Regarding the jurisdiction of the court, it is evident that the majority of criminal cases originate from the County and Municipal Courts in Split (29.8%). Following this are cases from the jurisdiction of the County and Municipal Courts in Zagreb (28.1%), and then from Osijek (22.6%) and Rijeka (19.4%).

Regarding perpetrators' motives in general, most cases are characterized by unclear motives, while motives of revenge and jealousy are also significantly represented. Revenge is most common in cases under the jurisdiction of the County and Municipal Courts in Osijek (40.9%), while jealousy predominates in cases from Zagreb (30.9%).

In analyzing the type of violence, domestic violence is the most common form (57.9%), explaining the high prevalence of revenge motives (60.7%) and jealousy (76.2%) in these cases. Moreover, in cases of domestic violence, there are relatively more unclear motives (63.4%). When examining the relationship between the perpetrator and the victim in the context of specific motives, it is observed that romantic partners often have multiple motives (41.6%) and motives of jealousy (75.7%). For instance, motives of revenge (22.7%), self-defense (51.7%), and hate/prejudice/discrimination (37.9%) are relatively more prevalent among perpetrators and victims who did not know each other.

Furthermore, concerning biological gender, it is evident from the analyzed cases that the majority of perpetrators are male (94.3%). The results of the analysis of the perpetrator's gender in relation to motive showed that almost all motives for committing the crime are present in both genders, except for vigilantism and violence committed at the request of another, which are characteristic exclusively of male perpetrators.

In conclusion, domestic violence is the most prevalent type of violence in the analyzed cases, with motives of revenge and jealousy dominating the motivation for

committing this form of violence.

From a practical standpoint, it is important that all competent authorities responsibly, conscientiously, and consistently conduct individual victim assessments in accordance with the Regulation on Methods for Individual Victim Assessment (Official Gazette, No.106/17). In misdemeanor proceedings, the emphasis should be on proposals and imposition of protective measures, while in criminal proceedings, purposeful security measures may be imposed if conditions permit. This is prescribed by Article 66 of the Criminal Procedure Act (Official Gazette, No. 125/11, 144/12, 56/15, 61/15, 101/17, 118/18, 126/19, 84/21, 114/22, 114/23, and 36/24).

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KAZNENA DJELA NASILJA I MOTIVI

Sažetak:

Cilj provedenog istraživanja bio je stjecanje uvida u pojedina obilježja područja na kojem su se dogodili slučajevi nasilja, tip nasilja, odnos žrtve i počinitelja te počiniteljev spol, s posebnim naglaskom na utvrđivanje postojanja razlika u navedenim obilježjima s obzirom na motiv počinitelja. Prikazani rezultati dio su znanstveno-istraživačkog projekta „Hrvatski monitor nasilja – Istraživanje pojavnih oblika, uzroka i procesuiranja delinkventnog nasilja s fokusom na zaštiti posebno ranjivih skupina žrtava“. Rezultati istraživanja pokazali su kako je obiteljsko nasilje najzastupljeniji tip nasilja, pri čemu su najzastupljeniji motivi osvete i ljubomore. S obzirom na navedenu činjenicu, s praktičnog aspekta vrlo je važno da sva nadležna tijela odgovorno, savjesno i dosljedno provode pojedinačne procjene žrtve sukladno Pravilniku o načinu provedbe pojedinačne procjene žrtve (NN 106/17). Između ostalog, to znači da se u prekršajnim postupcima stavi još veći naglasak na predlaganje i izricanje zaštitnih mjera, a da se u kaznenom postupku kada se steknu uvjeti za to izriču i svrsishodne sigurnosne mjere čija je svrha otklanjanje okolnosti koje omogućavaju ili poticajno djeluju na počinjenje novog kaznenog djela (čl. 66. Zakona o kaznenom postupku, NN 125/11, 144/12, 56/15, 61/15, 101/17, 118/18, 126/19, 84/21, 114/22, 114/23, 36/24).

Ključne riječi: nasilje; kaznena djela; motivi; počinitelji

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