THE RELATIONSHIP PSYCHIATRIC DIAGNOSIS AND CRIMES COMMITTED BY INTERNALS OF A FORENSIC PSYCHIATRIC PRISON

ABSTRACT

Objectives: to trace the socio demographic profile of the internss of a forensic psychiatric penitentiary; to identify the relationship between diagnosis and crimes committed by inmates. Method: a retrospective study with a quantitative approach performed in a forensic psychiatric penitentiary in Paraíba, with 50 records of inmates. The data were collected through a form and the information was tabulated and analyzed from the literature. The study had the research project approved by the Ethics Committee in Research, CAAE: 1508.0.000.462-11. Results: it was found that 34% of the individuals were aged 20-29 years old, with a prevalence of mental and behavioral disorders (37,1%) and crimes against life (35%). Conclusion: the population of inmates is similar to other institutions with the same profile: young adult patients, predominantly male, diagnoses of mental and behavioral disorders and personality disorders. Descriptors: Diagnosis; Crime; Forensic Psychiatry.

RESUMO

Objetivos: traçar o perfil sócio demográfico dos internos de uma penitenciária psiquiátrica forense; identificar a relação entre diagnóstico e crimes praticados pelos internos. Método: estudo retrospectivo, com abordagem quantitativa, realizado em uma penitenciária psiquiátrica forense da Paraíba, com 50 prontuários de internos. Os dados foram coletados por meio de um formulário e as informações foram tabuladas e analisadas a partir da literatura. O estudo teve o projeto de pesquisa aprovado pelo Comitê de Ética em Pesquisa, CAAE: 1508.0.000.462-11. Resultados: se encontrou que 34% dos indivíduos encontram-se na faixa etária de 20-29 anos, com predominio de transtornos mentais e comportamentais (37,1%) e crimes contra a vida (35%). Conclusão: a população de internos é semelhante à de outras instituições com o mesmo perfil: pacientes adultos jovens, predominio do gênero masculino, diagnósticos de transtorno mentais e comportamentais e transtornos de personalidade. Descriptors: Diagnóstico; Crime; Psiquiatria Forense.
INTRODUCTION

The prison population of Brazil has 548,003 inmates, with about 287.31 prisoners per 100 thousand inhabitants. With regard to prisons in the country, 1.399 existing prisons were male, only 28 are hospitals of custody and psychiatric treatment.1 Thus, the crime being a complex phenomenon, which has multiple biopsychosocial determinants, deserve special attention from people with mental perpetrators of crimes.2

Whereas the right to health is guaranteed to every individual, health policies should act, ensuring the promotion and protection of human rights in a focal and immediacy, whether vulnerable groups as well as the marginalized.3

In 2003 was created the National Health Plan in the Penitentiary System (PNSSP), established by Ministerial Decree n º 1.777/2003, in order to ensure access to health care for persons deprived of liberty (male, female and psychiatric), offering actions and primary care services in situ, ie, within the prisons.4

The relationship between severe mental disorder and violence is very complex and, despite advances in methodology in psychiatric research, the issue continues to generate various debates often seen that there is considerable time between the crime and the proper assessment of subjects who committed including their mental state, diagnosis and environmental circumstances.5 Mental health policies and current clinical practices have failed to recognize that aggressive behavior and victimization are problems of many patients with serious mental disorders.6 Consequently, care services are not provided sufficient resources to address these problems by increasing the number of patients transferred to forensic services.

In Brazil, studies have assessed the population of internal Psychiatric Institute, which revealed that in relation to criminal activity, 74% had committed violent crimes against persons (murder, attempted murder and assault) and 9% had committed a sex crime. Thus, although the literature has been scarce compared with studies assessing the profile of mentally ill offenders, it is believed that the search for knowledge of these professionals is essential for the planning of assistance inside and outside of the institutional environment.5,7

In England, some studies in psychiatric hospitals with 1.740 patients revealed that there is a predominance of males (83%) and aged 20-50 years old (82%) with a mean of 39.4 years old. Regarding the made diagnoses, it was found a prevalence of schizophrenia and delusional disorder (53%), followed by 16% of mental retardation. Personality disorders appeared in 41% of the cases.8

Upon the foregoing, it is consistent to emphasize that crime is also a public health issue, where social and economic marginalization determine, increasingly, the disregard of human rights and citizenship, in favor of a Manichean fight against evil and violence.

We also stress the importance of this study, due to the lack of studies on the subject, so that they can support the improvement of health conditions of the scenario study, in addition to considerable health professionals reflections that allow the awakening of a critical and reflective awareness observed in daily prison system, becoming therefore the following questions: What is the socio-demographic profile of the inmates of a Forensic Psychiatric Penitentiary? What is the relationship between diagnosis and crimes committed by an internal Prison Forensic Psychiatric?

Faced with the above, the study aims to:
- Trace the socio demographic inmates of a prison psychiatric forensic.
- Identify the relationship between diagnosis and crimes committed by inmates.

METHOD

A retrospective study with a quantitative approach, performed in a forensic psychiatric prison, located in the city of João Pessoa/Paraíba, Northeast Brazil. The sample consisted of 50 records of internal, then you meet the following criteria: availability of information accessible and easily understood the spelling in the records. We excluded the charts that they not had the possibility of understanding in spelling.

Data were collected from July to August 2011, through an instrument developed by the researchers, consists of two parts: the first part refers to socio demographic and the second addressing the relationship between diagnosis and crimes committed by inmates.

Data were tabulated and analyzed in Excel® spreadsheets, and data were presented in figures and subsequently analyzed from the literature.

The study followed the ethical principles of Resolution 196/969 of the National Health Council. It was approved by the Ethics and
RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Regarding the identification data, the results were presented in terms of age, education, profession and marital status. Regarding the diagnoses, these were identified using the criteria of ICD-10 and the crimes committed that were analyzed according to the Brazilian Penal Code.

Identification data

As shown in Figure 1 it was found that 34% of people are aged 20 and 29, revealing that the prison population in the study area corresponds to younger individuals.

![Figure 1](image1.png)

*Figure 1. Distribution of the percentage referent to the age group of inmates in a psychiatric prison. João Pessoa / PB.*

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The results are consistent with the literature in relation to age. Statistics recorded by INFOPEN Information System (Prisons) - Ministry of Justice addressed with regard to the aspects concerning the age of the population of prisoners in Brazil, that in 2011, 122,616 inmates are aged between 18-24 years and 105,396 prisoners aged between 25-29 years. In the year 2012, 136,525 inmates are aged between 18-24 years and 116,696 prisoners aged between 25-29 years. Thus, it is shown that the prison population of inmates aged 18-29 years has increased in recent years.¹

Study¹⁰ reveals that probably the worsening of the disorder and multiple episodes productive associated with worsening of clinical status, is one of the factors related to the commission of the offense at this age.

![Figure 2](image2.png)

*Figure 2. Percentage distribution regarding the education of inmates of a psychiatric prison.*
It can be seen in Figure 2 that the inpatients of a psychiatric prison only 48% finished elementary school. Thus, the low education level of inmates can be explained by its terms in relation to socioeconomic level, compounded by difficult access to specialized treatments and the limited possibility for learning due to mental disorder.11

The data presented corroborate the statistics recorded according to INFOPEN - Ministry of Justice (2012), in which the 482,073 prisoners, for the total male prison population in Brazil, 219,241, or 45.47% have primary education.1

Study12 reveals that this reality is quite disturbing when they state that only one in ten Brazilian inmates participating in educational activities offered in prisons.

Despite the small number of inmates with higher level (4%), an assumption that can be made is that the higher the education level, the higher the socioeconomic status of the internal and, consequently, higher conditions of access to specialized psychiatric treatment, which decreases the chances of involvement in conflicts and criminal activities.13

Regarding the occupations pursued by inpatients in a forensic psychiatric prison before they are serving the sentence, shows that 66% of them did not exercise any profession, this fact is disturbing because work occupies the mind and ennobles the man, as stated in our constitution.

Thus, one can identify the fact that the inmates of the prison do not have any job associated with the age group between 20-29 years, when they committed the crimes, shows that the absence of a defined profession could be related to mental illness they have, causing them to become unproductive and even incapable.14

Studies emphasize that the 15 families who live with a person with psychosis is constantly invade the thoughts and feelings of the patient with mental disorder. It is noticed that the family relationship the patient often forces the family to make things in your favor, and the family does not know how to behave in front of manifestations such as delusions of persecution, confusion, excessive spending and collections.
It is evident in Figure 4, that the participants in the sample 50% are single. INFOPEN data reveal that the total male prison population in Brazil corresponds to 482,073 inmates, 136,74 are single, showing that marital aforementioned prevails in convicts.

These data corroborate studies conducted in seven regions of England forensic psychiatric service in medium security, which evaluated 2,608 patients admitted to institutions. A predominance of male population and singles.

There are studies that mention the high percentage of individuals classified as unmarried, due to the fact of not having a real internal marital status, because even having a companion may have been classified as singles.

- Data referent to the relation between psychiatric diagnosis with crimes

Relating to psychiatric disorders and criminality it has long been the subject of various international studies, however, in Brazil these data are scarce. Recent estimates reveal that 8 % to 12 % of the U.S. prison population suffers from a serious mental disorder.

The distribution of psychiatric diagnosis was taken from the latest opinion held in the institution and in the attached chart studied, considering the diagnostic criteria adopted by the tenth revision of the International Classification of Diseases (ICD-10).

English/Portuguese
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intimacy, jumping to acts of sexual content and aggressive.11

CONCLUSION

The results of the study showed that the population of inmates at the forensic prison examination is similar to those of other institutions, including other countries with the same profile: young adult patients, predominantly male and diagnoses of mental and behavioral disorders and personality disorders and adult behavior.

The findings in relation to socio-demographic profile and the relationship between diagnosis and crimes committed by inmates indicate that aspects of the victim have an important role in the crime and should be the focus of future work deeper. Furthermore, knowing the characteristics of inmates is of paramount importance to improve the ability to detect and deal with the internal order to plan future assistance policies, risk assessment and violence prevention.

The scarcity of publications on the subject makes it difficult to raise awareness about the real problem of health of these inmates, besides restricting the dissemination of knowledge to society. Therefore, it is worth emphasizing the importance of further studies addressing psychiatric populations related to specific crimes, and that the studies may support information to the process of risk identification and prevention of violence committed by people with severe mental disorders.

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