

SUMMARY

The main aim of the study is to try to determine whether there are relationships between socio-demographic factors, non-psychotic mental disorders, conditions resulting from imprisonment and prisoners' decisions about self-injury such as foreign body ingestion.

The documentation of 12,000 people serving prison sentences in the Rzeszów Prison in the years 2009–2015 was analyzed. As a result of this analysis, two groups of 56 male prisoners were distinguished. The study group (group 1) included prisoners who committed single or multiple acts of self-harm, such as foreign body ingestion, in the time period specified above. The controls (group 2) were prisoners selected at random matched for age to group 1, who did not ingest foreign body. Based on the data collected in the Noe.NET Central Database of the Detained, the sociodemographic data of the prisoners in groups 1 and 2, as well as personal cognitive, medical and psychological documentation were analyzed. Then the determined parameters for both groups were compared and statistically significant differences were determined. X-rays imaging the objects swallowed by the prisoners were analysed.

As a result of the conducted study, it was confirmed that there are the following relationships between selected socio-demographic factors, non-psychotic mental disorders, conditions resulting from incarceration in a prison, and decisions made by prisoners about self-harm such as foreign body ingestion:

1. Socio-demographic conditions that statistically significantly increase the risk of a prisoner foreign body ingestion include:

- being single,
- the presence of more than three dysfunctions in the primary family.

2. Identification factors (taking into account the health condition of prisoners) that statistically significantly increase the risk of foreign body ingestion are:

- serving a sentence in the therapeutic system,
- prior stay in care and educational institutions or correctional facilities,
- undertaking suicide attempts or acts of self-harm before imprisonment.

3. The occurrence of non-psychotic mental disorders that statistically significantly increase the risk of foreign body ingestion:

- alcohol dependence or
- controlled substance addiction or
- reduced cognitive performance or

- dissocial personality or
- hyperactivity, impulsiveness, aggression,
- the greater the number of disorders, the statistically significantly higher the risk of foreign body ingestion.

4. Analyzing foreign body ingestion material, it was found:

- items ranging in size from 5–10 centimeters and over 10 centimeters were swallowed most often,
- sharp objects were ingested most often,
- ingested foreign bodies were most often located in the gastrointestinal tract within the abdominal cavity,
- single ingestion acts were performed most often.

5. In the analysis of the relationship between selected parameters of the socio-demographic profile, conditions resulting from serving a sentence of imprisonment and non-psychotic mental disorders and the number of foreign body ingestions as well as the size and shape of the swallowed foreign body, it was found that inmates from families with more than three dysfunctions ingested statistically significantly more frequently sharp objects.

6. The obtained results may be an important guideline for prison service officers in estimating the potential of individual prisoners to commit foreign body ingestion.