

tendency which promotes different expressions in terms of age, a tendency which also measures capacity in terms of age.

**Objective** To evaluate elder physical abuse – cases reviewed at the Forensic Institute, Tirgu Mures County, Romania.

**Methods** An experimental design was used, focusing on elder physical abuse cases involving victims aged 65 or older, who requested a forensic certificate. All cases were reviewed at the Forensic Institute Tg. Mures, Mures County, Romania between 1st of Jan–31st Dec 2014. Variables included: age, gender, environmental origin, physical abuse, sexual abuse, relationship with the perpetrator (relative, known person/neighbor, unknown person, husband/wife), the required number of days of hospitalization, victim previous psychiatric diagnosis, aggressor previous psychiatric diagnosis.

**Results** A total of 5252 forensic medical certificates were issued at request by the Forensic Institute of Tg Mures. One hundred and twenty (2.28%) were related to acknowledgement of the aggression of an elderly person ( $\geq 65$  years, with an average age of 69.89 years CI: 68.8903–70.8930). The majority of subjects were males (65%), of rural origin (64.17%). The same address as the aggressor's was identified in most of the cases (41.66%). 35.83% were hurt by neighbours/acquaintances, 22.5% were attacked by strangers.

**Conclusion** We are aware of that an elder abuse appears to occur most often in domestic home situations, men from rural, more often than women, are involved that victims and may be perpetrated by adult family members, or other persons.

The authors have not supplied their declaration of competing interest.

<http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.eurpsy.2017.01.880>

#### EV0551

### Towards an EU research framework on forensic psychiatric care: Introduction, structure, activities and results of cost action Is1302

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**Introduction** Forensic psychiatric care is aimed at improving mental health and reducing the risk of recidivism of mentally ill offenders. For some mentally disordered offenders long forensic psychiatric care is required. Due to different legal framework, policies and resources in member countries, treatment programs and care provided for these subjects may vary substantially across Europe.

**Objectives** COST Action IS1302, a EU project aimed at establishing a European network of researchers, clinicians and service providers about long-term forensic psychiatric care, has involved nineteen European countries for 2013 to set the basis for comparative evaluation and research on effective treatment and the development of best practice in long-term forensic psychiatry in Europe.

**Method** It is constituted by three main areas of interest and research. One group works on determination of patient characteristics, looking into prevalence, duration of stay and the most determinant characteristics of long term patients. The second area of research aims at obtaining better understanding of complex external factors that influence the poor progress of patients residing for an above average time in forensic services. Third group of research focuses on knowledge about specific needs brought about by psychiatric symptoms and how these specific needs might optimize the quality of life of patients in long term forensic psychiatric care.

**Results/conclusions** Launched four years ago, the action is at its last of activities. We display features, activities and data emerging from the research conducted so far.

**Disclosure of interest** The authors have not supplied their declaration of competing interest.

<http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.eurpsy.2017.01.881>

#### EV0552

### Use of new synthetic drugs in Slovenian prisons

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**Introduction** Prisons are a specific environment, in terms of population and various factors that affect health in the broader sense. According to the report of the board of prisons for Slovenia in 2013, 1 078 people who have had problems with illicit drug use were identified, representing 23.04% of all incarcerated persons. Moreover, an increase in the use of various types of new psychoactive substances, the so-called designer drugs, was recorded in recent years.

**Aims** The research aimed to point out the psychoactive drugs most used in Slovenian prisons and to explore whether these pose a public health issue.

**Methods** We conducted statistical research with semi-standardised epidemiological and psychoeducational questionnaires, which were distributed among prison population in Maribor region, Slovenia.

**Results** The analysis of the questionnaires received, which was completed by 54 prisoners, has shown that 54.55% of people aged between 18 and 35 years take synthetic drugs regularly, 30.30% of the population enjoys synthetic drugs occasionally. In the category of over 50 years, no one enjoyed these drugs. The most popular synthetic drugs were synthetic cannabinoids. Although a third of the users of these drugs has experienced at least one side effect, as many as 55.56% do not know how to act in such a case.

**Conclusions** This study confirmed that the majority of users of synthetic drugs are young adults who are convinced that their use is less harmful than the use of "ordinary" psychoactive substances. A surprisingly low awareness of side effects measure was stated.

**Disclosure of interest** The authors have not supplied their declaration of competing interest.

<http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.eurpsy.2017.01.882>

#### EV0553

### Head banging as a form of self-harm among inpatients within forensic mental health and intellectual disability services

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**Introduction** "Head banging" is a common form of self-harm, linked to numerous negative outcomes including significant brain damage. However, little research has investigated the prevalence and correlates of head banging behaviour in clinical populations.

**Method** Head banging episodes were identified from the incident records ( $n = 5417$ ) of two inpatient forensic services (one intellectual disability and one mental health), using relevant search terms. Rates were compared between individual patients, by gender, diagnosis and level of security. Incident accounts were analysed qualitatively using thematic analysis.

**Results** Two hundred and twenty nine incidents of head banging were recorded, occurring approximately every three days in each service. The prevalence of the behaviour between individual patients varied widely, ranging from one to 38 incidents within one year. Women and patients with intellectual disability appeared more likely to engage in head banging. Qualitative incident reports indicated that head banging was associated with mental distress, anger, and psychotic experiences.

**Discussion** Head banging occurs frequently in forensic services, and has documented associations with traumatic brain injury in affected individuals, thus negatively impacting progress through the care pathway and treatment outcomes. Further research should investigate short and long term management strategies and treatment approaches, in order to minimise harm.

**Disclosure of interest** The authors have not supplied their declaration of competing interest.

<http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.eurpsy.2017.01.883>

#### EV0554

### The prevalence of obesity among forensic intellectual disability inpatients

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**Background** Inpatient mental health settings have been described as “obesogenic” environments, due to factors including psychotropic medication, high calorie food, restricted physical activity and sedentary lifestyles. No research has investigated obesity among forensic intellectual disability inpatients, despite this populations’ increased risk. Therefore, this paper aims to evaluate the prevalence and correlates of overweight and obesity on, and during admission.

**Method** The weight and body mass index data of 46 inpatients (15 women and 31 men) within a specialist intellectual disability forensic service was examined for the study.

**Results** Only six patients (13%) were a normal weight at admission, whereas 40 (87%) were overweight or obese. During their admission, 28 (61%) gained weight (average 11.8 kg), and one (2%) maintained. However, 17 patients (37%) lost weight (average 6.2 kg), though 16 remained in overweight/obese categories. There was no correlation between length of stay and weight/BMI.

**Conclusions** The majority of patients were overweight or obese on admission, and approximately 60% gained weight during their admission. Women appeared at greater risk of obesity. There was no relationship between length of stay and weight. This is potentially due to the high prevalence of obesity on admission and the impact of previous admissions on weight. The results highlight the need for effective weight management interventions with this population.

**Disclosure of interest** The authors have not supplied their declaration of competing interest.

<http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.eurpsy.2017.01.884>

#### EV0555

### The phenomenon of serial killers from the perspective of the seven deadly sins

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**Objectives** The aim of this paper is to make a comparative study on serial killers from different countries and link them to one of the traditional seven deadly sins in the Judeo-Christian culture.

**Methods** Firstly, it was necessary to define each different deadly sin and establish its behavioural correlate. This was achieved thanks to a questionnaire designed to measure the interrate agreement within a sample population. Once the categories were defined (pride, lust, envy, sloth, wrath, gluttony and greed), 30 serial killers from America and Europe were analyzed in order to determine the sin behind their motivation to commit a crime. The evaluation was based on the Coding Guide – Serial Killers Research Project – created by the unit of analysis of criminal behavioural (University of Salamanca, Spain). Afterwards, an ex post facto descriptive non experimental study was carried out to find out the relation between the serial killer’s own characteristics and the deadly sin linked to their motivation.

**Results/conclusions** The results show a clear predominance of pride, lust and greed as the main motivations within the study sample. As well as some possible dependency relations between killers’ motivations and some other variables, which could be helpful when applied to the offender profiling field like sex or personality.

**Disclosure of interest** The authors have not supplied their declaration of competing interest.

<http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.eurpsy.2017.01.885>

#### EV0556

### Serial killers: Relation between childhood maltreatment and sexual relations with the victims

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**Introduction** Serial killer’s (SK) familiar relations often present a disorganized adherence characterized by the paternal absence and the excessive maternal coldness or over-protection. This familiar diagram, joined to mistreatment situations, could generate different antisocial conducts in the child because of the vacancy of a significant strong figure.

**Objectives** To study, in the SK, the relation between having suffered childhood mistreatment and the sexual aggression to the victims before killing them.

**Method** A study is realized between the variables of childhood mistreatment and sexual aggression to the victims. The data has been extracted from 100 protocols of SK with different nationalities elaborated by the unit of analysis of criminal behavioral (University of Salamanca, Spain).

**Results** The results show a significant relation between both variables.

**Conclusions** It can be confirmed that the SK who have suffered childhood mistreatment sexually attack their victims before killing them while those who did not experiment it during their childhood do not realize that conduct.