

THE STATISTICAL ANALYSIS OF CRIMINALITY IN PODKARPACKIE VOIVODESHIP IN THE YEARS 2010–2019

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ABSTRACT

There is no society free from a criminality. There is also no level of social and economic development, level of affluence or philosophical and ethical system which may ensure total elimination of criminality from the social life.¹ The aim of this article is presentation of the scale of criminality phenomenon in Podkarpackie Voivodeship in the years 2010–2019 with the consideration of criminality among minors on the basis of data included in the reports of The Regional Police Headquarters based in Rzeszów and The Metropolitan Police in Warsaw concerning security situation as well as public order in Podkarpackie Voivodeship, taking into account the juvenile delinquency in this area. In this article the sociological theories explaining the reasons and factors that influence criminality are discussed.

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¹ According to Eurostat, in terms of the crime rate (i.e. the level of crime related to the number of inhabitants), the relatively wealthiest EU countries are the leaders: Great Britain, Austria, Sweden (13,785 crimes per 100,000 inhabitants in 2005 compared to 3,578.9 in Poland), as well as Belgium, Finland, the Netherlands. In part, however, this may be due to the fact that in some countries, misdemeanors are also included in the crime rate. Por. www.tvn24.pl/12691,1607883,0,1,wielka-brytania-krolowa-przestepczosci,wiadomosc.html (accessed: 5.02.2021).

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INTRODUCTION

Criminality has existed among people for a long time, and contemporary is one of the crucial social problems of the world. The first mentions about it are already found in mythologies, and its narration most commonly aims to the justification of this phenomenon as the will of the gods. As a phenomenon, criminality is connected with a lack of acceptance of certain social norms. It occurred, occurs, and will occur in each society. Why do some people commit crimes? This question is difficult because there is no clear answer, and there is by a huge number of factors generating criminal behaviours. As in past ages, there are still dominant sources of criminality currently, such as: unemployment, poverty, pathologies, demoralization, a decline of values, and social inequalities.²

This article aims at presenting the scale of the criminality phenomenon in Podkarpackie Voivodeship in the years 2010–2019, taking into account juvenile delinquency. Criminality, like other social phenomena, requires statistical specification. In order to analyse and inference on the basis of obtained data, for descriptive and reporting objectives the author of the article used the monographic test method and documents test method. While trying to get statistical data concerning criminality in Podkarpackie Voivodeship, the author met some problems. That included: lack of reply to the letter addressed to the Regional Police Headquarters based in Rzeszów, and the negative response of the District Prosecution in Przemyśl to the request for the provision of data. Hence the basic source of statistical data were statements for a given calendar year posted on the site of the Regional Police Headquarters in Rzeszów about a security status and public order

² See more: *Narkotyki – organizacja przestępczości i systemy przeciwdziałania*, K. Raczkowski (ed.), Warszawa 2009.

in Podkarpackie Voivodeship, as well as, information relating to the risk of juvenile delinquency in Poland for a given calendar year.

1. CRIMINALITY AND ITS CIRCUMSTANCES

In the literature, in the field of law and sociology, the terms ‘criminality’ and ‘crime’ are variously defined. K. Olechnicki and P. Załęcki define crime as “a culpable act, infringing applicable law, considered as socially destructive and dangerous, and at the same time threatened by formally defined punishment”.³ On the other hand, according to the Penal Code crime is: “committing a criminal act under penalty of the law by legislation in force during its committing”.⁴ The well-known criminologist Brunon Hołyst defines criminality as “a set of acts forbidden by legislation under penalty of law, that was committed at the area of the territorial unit at the time”.⁵

The issues of the criminal phenomena causes explanation for a long time were clearly in the focus of attention for criminologists, sociologists,⁶ psychologists, or educators. However, despite repeatedly performed theoretical analysis supported by series of empirical examinations, representing one unified position that explains the criminality phenomenon seems to be not possible. A high number of theories and concepts try to explain the causes and circumstances of criminal behaviours in different ways, emphasizing its different aspects. One of the studies explaining and characterising that phenomena and processes occurring in human societies is sociology, and especially the sociology of social problems.⁷

A French sociologist and educator Emil Durkheim certainly may be considered a pioneer of sociology of social problems. First of all, because of his theory of anomy which refers to series of phenomena describing the processes of social order destruction.⁸ Durkheim thought of anomy as a reason for rapid social changes and the result of which people losing their

³ K. Olechnicki, P. Załęcki, *Słownik socjologiczny*, Toruń 2000.

⁴ Ustawa z dnia 6 czerwca 1997 r. – Kodeks karny (Dz. U. 1997, nr 88, poz. 553 z późn. zm.).

⁵ B. Hołyst, *Kryminologia*, Warszawa 2000.

⁶ In sociological terms, crime is considered a manifestation of deviation and social pathology. Sociological explanations of its causes refer to the micro-level and macro-level theories; Por. N. Goodman, *Wstęp do socjologii*, Poznań 2009.

⁷ *Socjologiczne i biologiczne teorie przyczyn przestępczości*, “Pracowity.pl”, http://prawowity.pl/aktualnosci/18/1,,918,Socjologiczne_i_biologiczne_teorie_przyczyn_przestepczosci/ (accessed: 18.01.2021).

⁸ W. Kwaśniewicz, *Encyklopedia socjologii*, t. 1: A – J, Warszawa 1998.

orientation about applicable standards of behaviour. As a consequence, it leads to the distortion and weakening of the social control sphere and revelation of anti-social trends among people. Revealing egoistical trends that exist in human beings leads to the increase in deviant behaviours, in this criminality.⁹ According to him, there would be no social changes as well as social development without the phenomenon of criminality, which integrates society, improves ties and social relations, strengthens the effectiveness of social control system interaction.¹⁰

Other sociologists follow a similar suit as Emil Durkheim. One of them is an American sociologist Robert Merton, who tried to prove that deviant behaviours are the means of adaptation to anomic social conditions. He defines such behaviour as a symptom of contradiction between culturally determined aims and designated by social structure possibilities of these aims realisation.¹¹ As a starting point of the mentioned theory, there is a statement that conformist as well as deviant behaviours are typical means of an individual's adaptation to the social-cultural structure. Social structure determines actual individual's opportunities to the realization of culturally designated aims, which are variously located. The most criminalizing type of adaptation, according to Merton, is innovation in which pressures to reach dominating goal, which is financial success, are so strong that individuals reject institutionalised means. Trying to reach the intended goal at any cost, they go as far as to use illegal means.¹²

The sociological concept trying to explain criminal behaviours grounds is the theory of differential connections of Edwin H. Sutherland.¹³ The theory assumes that criminal behaviours are learned behaviours in which the same mechanisms occur that are characteristic to any other patterns of behaviour learning. So-called surplus of favorable over unfavourable contacts in obstruction of justice determines if an individual turns to the life of crime or not. Learning criminal behaviour includes both committing crimes techniques as well as specific directions of motivation, desires,

⁹ Z. Ziomka, *Przyczyny zachowań przestępczych oraz zjawisk patologicznych w świetle teorii socjologicznych*, Katowice 2008.

¹⁰ K. Czekał, *Spoleczna konstrukcja przestępcstwa i przestępczości*, [in:] K. Czekał, K. Gorlach, M. Leśniak, *Labirynt współczesnego społeczeństwa*, Katowice 1998, pp. 129–162.

¹¹ L. Tyszkiewicz, *Kryminologia. Zarys problemu*, Katowice 1986.

¹² J. Wódcz, *Zjawiska patologii społecznej a sankcje społeczne i prawne: wyniki badań empirycznych w Nowej Hucie*, Wrocław 1973.

¹³ L. Tyszkiewicz, *Kryminologia...*, *op. cit.*

rationalisations, and attitudes. These differentiated connections may vary in frequency, duration, antecedence, and intensity.¹⁴

Another myth of sociological theories tries to explain the criminality phenomenon on the basis of individuals interactions, concentrating on the social control concept. One of the top criminology representatives, Travis Hirschi, claimed that social control inclusion is essential for sociological comprehension of deviation which refers to the conditions in which particular people or groups of people affect social principles and norms. Such approach simultaneously leads to qualifying these phenomena due to the shape of violated norms, then the distinction of their special feature that results in recognising them as criminal behaviours. Crime, therefore, will be the violation of norms that society gave the legal sanction.¹⁵ In accordance with classical theory recognising behaviour as an action motivated by striving for achieving the state of pleasure or avoiding botheration, T. Hirschi defines crime as an act of violence affected by individual motives. Such definition assumes that the majority of crimes is an attempt to achieve immediate pleasure by spontaneous, risky, and exciting action, so it is focused on meeting individual desires. This sociologist emphasizes that committing crime remains in the sphere of each individual's opportunity, and self-control has a significant influence on the decision about a criminal act.¹⁶

There is no agreement among specialists about the precise influence of different factors on criminal phenomena. The research on the essence and sources as well as causal factors of going outside the law reveals their huge causal complexity. Causal conditions consist of a combination of biological, social, cultural, psychological, economic, environmental, and legislative factors which impact scale *eis variable*. The whole group of those factors in a long time creates an offender and co-decides about his/ her tend to go beyond social norms of behaviour.¹⁷

Undoubtedly, the group of social factors has crucial importance for creating the value system and personalities of society members, in this future offenders. There are mentioned here child's educational process, other psychological as well as social processes, law and punishment system, edu-

¹⁴ *Ibidem*.

¹⁵ B. Urban, *Zaburzenia w zachowaniu i przestępczości młodzieży*, Kraków 2000.

¹⁶ A. Siemaszko, *Granice tolerancji. O teoriach zachowań dewiacyjnych*, Warszawa 1993.

¹⁷ M. Czyński, *Architektura w przestrzeni ludzkich zachowań. Wybrane zagadnienia bezpieczeństwa w środowisku zabudowanym*, Szczecin 2006 ("Prace Naukowe Politechniki Szczecińskiej", no. 45), p. 244.

cational system, propagated values system (country, media, church), social policy. These factors largely influence later motivation to commit the crime, motivation to undertake concrete criminal activities and chosen ways of behaviour rationalisation, in other words, self-justification.¹⁸

Among social-economic factors influencing criminality, there are: unemployment, income differentiation, population density, living conditions, and economic growth rate. The most crucial role in creating the criminality level is assigned to unemployment. Jacek Sztaudynger and Marcin Sztaudynger notice that being without labour, and consequently lack of income which allows meeting basic human needs, often leads to various pathological behaviours contrary to law. Unemployment, especially long-lasting, arises the feeling of exclusion, injustice, lack of hope for getting a legal job and an income.¹⁹ The theoretical model proposed by G. S. Becker accepts that crimes are a result of rational decisions based on the analysis of costs and profits as well as the probability of offender capturing.²⁰ In accordance with Becker's theory, the lack of a job reduces costs of criminal actions (for example, costs of lost possibilities, so profits which individual will gain while using the time of criminal activity for a legal job), and therefore, unemployed people have a greater chance to commit a crime.²¹

James Q. Wilson to the set of factors adds another one, which is a crucial cultural factor. According to him, it is to a great extent responsible for observed fluctuations: changing relations between personal freedom idea (individualistic model accentuating the right to develop personality, orientation to individual needs meeting), and universality of informal social control idea (collectivist model accentuating the character of development need, the primacy of collective business, and self-limitation necessity). He claims that exactly these factors mainly explain crime rate fluctuations.²²

Contemporary research about the etiology of antisocial behaviours does not underestimate biological factors. The acting of hereditary predispositions is visible at the age of early childhood in the form of not

¹⁸ B. Czarnecki, *Przestrzenne aspekty przestępczości. Metoda identyfikacji czynników zagrożeń w przestrzeni miejskiej*, Białystok 2011 ("Rozprawy Naukowe", no. 216).

¹⁹ J. J. Sztaudynger, M. Sztaudynger, *Ekonometryczne modele przestępczości*, „Ruch Prawniczy, Ekonomiczny i Socjologiczny”, 2003, z. 3, pp. 127–143.

²⁰ *Ibidem*.

²¹ I. Bąk, *Struktura i typologia przestrzenna przestępczości w Polsce*, „Ekonometria”, 2015, no. 4(50), pp. 44–61.

²² B. Czarnecki, *Przestrzenne aspekty przestępczości...*, *op. cit.*, p. 22.

endorsing behaviours, mainly aggression which co-exists with deficits of other family ties realms or additional unfavourable mental characteristics. Such conditions influence the development of disturbed personality of a child, adaptation difficulties, and may impact its further criminality. It is also searching for other sources of crime among other biological factors such as heredity. The object of study about the role of heredity in creating antisocial behaviours were also individual's aggressive behaviours which in respect of juvenile delinquency apply in combination with neuro-psychological deficit factors. Due to the fact that only biological conditions prejudge taking criminal actions (or rather genetic, social-cultural, and psychological factors integration), such a wide etiologic view of deviant behaviours and criminality determines the usefulness of biological theory in explaining these disorders. If biological conditions are understood only as hereditary burdens and clearly developed diseases, any kind of organic dysfunctions (especially those which were created in early developmental lifetimes), at that time they will be identified with internal organic factors (not only hereditary) which directly do not orient the behaviour on rules of law violation, but are a crucial substrate for disordered moral and social development of an individual.²³

Criminal behaviours are encouraged by a high level of psychoticism. An English psychologist, H. Eysenck, emphasizes that criminal action occurs most commonly when an individual does not learn to react out of fear in all the situations, including clearly antisocial elements of behaviour, so when the socialisation process does not run correctly.²⁴

The reasons for criminal behaviours in psychological mechanisms may be found in the internal control theory of W. C. Reckless. This American criminologist, famous for his refraining theory, distinguishes factors determining and refraining criminal behaviours. To the first group of factors connected with social conditions, the following are classified: functioning patterns of behaviour and social norms necessary for achieving success, as well as accepting assumption of the existence of illegal means of satisfying own aspirations and desires (norms and patterns of criminal behaviours). These factors encourage the illegal activities of the individual. The second

²³ Por. J. Kucharewicz, *Psychologiczna analiza procesów motywacyjnych przestępstw popełnianych przez nieletnich (na przykładzie przestępstw agresywnych i nieagresywnych)*, Katowice 2008.

²⁴ Por. M. Adamczyk, *Przyczyny i czynniki stymulujące przestępstwa rozbójnicze*, „Rocznik Bezpieczeństwa Międzynarodowego”, 2017, vol. 11, no. 2, pp. 156–173.

group includes such factors as: views, motives, frustrations, fears, perceived hostility to others, less self-esteem, aggressiveness, strong opposition to authorities, immediate gratification need, organic disorders. According to Reckless, they influence strongly because of moving the individual to those negative behaviours.²⁵

2. THE ANALYSIS OF CRIMINALITY PHENOMENON IN PODKARPACIE VOIVODESHIP IN THE YEARS 2010–2019

In the general sense, a crime is defined as breaking the law. Article 1 of the Act of June 6, 1997, Criminal Code (Journal of Laws 1997, No. 88, item 553, as amended) specifies crime as committing a criminal act under penalty of the law by the act existing during its committing.²⁶ A Polish lawyer specialized in the field of forensics and criminology, Brunon Hołyst, emphasizes that the above-given set of acts prohibited by law under penalty relates to acts committed in a particular area, at a particular time.²⁷

Essential sources of data about criminality are police and judicial prosecution statistics. However, these statistics do not reflect completely an actual criminality scale because part of offenses is never revealed. The first source of information seems to be as imperfect as being prone to influence of various external factors, among other matters intended manipulations. On the other hand, judicial prosecution statistics, providing information about the number of 'valid convictions', ensure a relatively accurate knowledge but significantly overdue, for example, concerning pending an investigation and prosecution proceeding.²⁸

Police, like other institutions dealing with the prosecution of offenses perpetrators, is authorised to disclose, qualify, record, and classify the actions recognised as offenses and their perpetrators. It is, therefore, authorised to collect, compile and publish the statistics related to crime. Such data provided by The Regional Police Headquarters in Rzeszów and The Metropolitan Police in Warsaw on the website are presented in this article.

The police statistics is a set of information about offenses known to law enforcement authorities which includes data about the number and cir-

²⁵ J. Kucharewicz, *Psychologiczna analiza...*, *op. cit.*, p. 37.

²⁶ Ustawa z dnia 6 czerwca 1997 r. – Kodeks karny (Dz. U. 1997, nr 88, poz. 553 z późn. zm.).

²⁷ B. Hołyst, *Kryminologia...*, *op. cit.*, p. 51.

²⁸ I. Bąk, *Struktura i typologia przestępczości w Polsce*, *op. cit.*, pp. 45.

cumstances of these crimes.²⁹ The first presented issue is a discussion of the number of crimes in Podkarpackie Voivodeship, distinguishing between criminal, economic, and road traffic offenses. The data are illustrated in Table 1.

TABLE 1. OFFENSES COMMITTED IN PODKARPACKIE VOIVODESHIP

Year	Offences committed in Podkarpackie Voivodeship			
	total	criminal	economic	traffic
2010	36,885	23,139	3,640	lack of data
2011	38,790	24,138	3,820	8,699
2012	38,152	24,456	3,750	8,413
2013	35,450	22,249	3,314	7,771
2014	28,396	18,648	3,727	4,505
2015	27,616	15,647	6,618	4,021
2016	23,507	14,810	3,767	3,708
2017	29,718	13,963	11,126	3,467
2018	24,921	15,407	5,274	3,190
2019	26,390	16,024	5,768	3,532

Source: Own elaboration, on the basis of data provided by The Regional Police Headquarters in Rzeszów.

According to the analysis of the data presented in Table 1, taking into account extreme years of the analysed period, a drop in crime should be noted. In the year 2019, there were 26,390 crimes identified in total. That was 10,495 crimes less than in the year 2010. On the other hand, analysing the data of the successive years, we can notice that figures of crimes laid into a sinusoidal pattern. In the year 2010, there were registered in general 36,885 crimes. Followed by an increase of offenses during two consecutive years, turn from the year 2013 to 2016, there was a decline and in the year 2017, an increase of criminality occurred again. Then, in the year 2018, the number of crimes went down. In the year 2019 renewed increase of crimes in relation to the year 2018 was noted.

It is clear from Table 1 that in the structure of committed crimes in Podkarpackie Voivodeship during the discussed period mainly criminal crimes prevailed there. Although, as data in Table 1 shows, we can notice

²⁹ M. Adamczyk, *Policyjne działania profilaktyczne w ograniczaniu przestępczości rozbójniczej w Polsce*, Szczytno 2017.

that there were both increases and declines in criminal offenses. From the year 2010 to 2019, this kind of crime exactly represent the highest percentage. From 2012 to 2017, The Regional Police Headquarters in Rzeszów was noting the systematic decrease of criminal offenses. In the year 2012, this kind of crimes was at the level of 22,249, while in the year 2017 there was a decline to 13,963, which is about 8,286 less. Then, in the following years, there was again the increase of criminal offenses. In the year 2018, there were registered 15,407 criminal offenses, while in the year 2019, there were about 617 crimes more, which is 16,024 crimes.

The second category, after criminal offenses, in terms of quantity of committed crimes in the structure of the crime in Podkarpackie Voivodeship are road traffic offenses. The scale of such kinds of crimes from the year 2011 to the year 2018 tends to decrease. The highest decrease of road traffic offenses was recorded in the year 2018 compared to 2011. In 2011, there were 8,699 road traffic crimes, while in 2018 – 3,190. Their number decreased by 5,509. As shown in Table 1, in the year 2019, there was a growth of about 342 offenses, comparing to the year 2018, when there were 3,532 of them.

The third category of crimes is economic offenses. The table shows that in Podkarpackie Voivodeship in the years from 2010 to 2014, this kind of offense was on a similar level. The number of economic offenses significantly increased in 2017, from 3,767 in 2016 to 11,126 in 2017. It increases by about 7,359 offenses. In the year 2018, there was a decrease of 5,274 in economic offenses. A year later (2019), there was an increase to the number of 5,274, this is about 494.

Now let's analyze what kinds of criminal offenses against property were committed in Podkarpackie Voivodeship. Table 2 presents the data.

TABLE 2. CRIMINAL OFFENSES AGAINST PROPERTY IN PODKARPACKIE VOIVODESHIP

Specification of offenses	Criminal offenses against property in Podkarpackie Voivodeship										
	total	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
stealing of property	39,704	5,805	6,347	6,797	6,403	4,572	3,726	3,352	2,702	2,464	2,434
burglary	24,450	3,880	4,198	4,022	3,522	2,938	2,240	1,930	1,720	1,695	1,701

criminal fraud	6,484	1,298	833	749	776	756	791	650	631	lack of data	lack of data
forgery	9,114	1,450	1,151	1,242	1,163	1,108	941	1068	991	lack of data	lack of data
car theft	945	113	156	137	156	136	87	89	71	73	58
robbery	3,106	497	620	484	434	403	224	226	218	169	112 ³⁰
total	83,803	13,043	13,305	13,431	12,454	9,913	8,009	7,315	6,333	4,401	4,193

Source: Own elaboration, on the basis of data provided by The Regional Police Headquarters in Rzeszów and The Metropolitan Police in Warsaw.

While analysing the data from Table 2, it should be stated that among criminal offenses against property, stealings and burglaries dominate. As a positive phenomenon, a decreasing trend of these crimes may be noticed. In the year 2010, in Podkarpackie Voivodeship, 5 805 stealings of property were committed there. In the following two years, there was a slight increase in this kind of criminality. In the year 2011 there were about 542 offenses more, and in the year 2012 – about 992 more. Since 2013, with 6,403 stealings of property, there was a successive decrease in committing such crimes, to 2,434 offenses in 2019.

The next dominant crime among crimes against property is burglaries. As Table 2 illustrates, as with stealings, the number of burglaries in the years 2010–2018 was systematically decreasing. An exception was the years 2011 and 2012. In the year 2011 compared to 2010, there were committed about 318 more crimes, while in the year 2012 there were about 142 burglaries more than in the year 2010. In the year 2018, there were registered 1,695 such kinds of crimes, which is about 25 crimes less than in the year 2017, and about 2,185 less than in 2010. The biggest decline may be noticed in the years 2018 and 2011. The difference was 2,503 burglaries. In the year 2019, the increase in the number of burglaries occurred again to the level of 1,701 crimes.

³⁰ *Rozboje, wymuszenia i kradzieże rozbójnicze*, “Statystyka – Policja.pl”, <https://statystyka.policja.pl/st/przestepstwa-ogolem/przestepstwa-kryminalne/7-wybranych-kategorii-p/rozboje-wymuszenia-i-kr/122274,Rozboj-kradziej-rozbojnicza-i-wymuszenie-rozbojnicze.html> (accessed: 18.01.2021).

The following crimes among crimes against property, as Table 2 shows, are successively forgeries, criminal frauds, and robberies. In the case of these crimes, we can notice their decline. In the year 2017, there were registered 631 criminal frauds, which is almost about a half less than in the year 2010 (–667). Forgeries from the year 2010 kept more or less on the same level, although their decline can be seen. In the year 2017, there were indicated 991 forgeries which are about 459 less than in the year 2010. While, as Table 2 illustrates, in the case of robberies there can be noticed its decline. In the year 2010, there were 497 robberies registered, and in the year 2018 up to 385 crimes less, which is 112. The exception is the year 2011 when the number of such crimes increased by about 123 crimes in relation to the year 2010.

Based on the data collected in Table 2, in the last position, there are car thefts. Comparing the statistical data, it may be claimed that in the year 2010 there was not a lot of such crimes. There were 113 car thefts committed, in turn in the year 2019 – there was a decline and only 58 of such kinds of crimes registered.

Other crimes that are included in The Regional Police Headquarters in Rzeszów and The Metropolitan Police in Warsaw statistics are criminal offenses against life and health. The data is presented in Table 3.

TABLE 3. CRIMINAL OFFENSES AGAINST LIFE AND HEALTH COMMITTED IN PODKARPACKIE VOIVODESHIP

Specification of offenses	Criminal offenses against life and health committed in Podkarpackie Voivodeship										
	total	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
murders	129	14	14	16	27	24	6	15	13	16	22
participation in fight or battery	3,023	549	528	516	403	321	250	242	214	174 ³¹	167
personal injury	4,444	551	589	614	559	601	447	541	542	516 ³²	558

³¹ *Bojka i pobicie*, “Statystyka – Policja.pl”, <https://statystyka.policja.pl/st/przestepstwa-ogolem/przestepstwa-kryminalne/7-wybranych-kategorii-p/bojka-i-pobicie/121609,Bojka-i-pobicie.html> (accessed: 18.01.2021).

³² *Uszczerbek na zdrowiu*, “Statystyka – Policja.pl”, <https://statystyka.policja.pl/st/przestepstwa-ogolem/przestepstwa-kryminalne/7-wybranych-kategorii-p/uszczerbek-na-zdrowiu/64004,Uszczerbek-na-zdrowiu.html> (accessed: 18.01.2021).

rape	525	48	56	44	63	47	58	55	51	50 ³³	53 ³⁴
crimes of the act of counteracting drug addiction	10,577	1,392	1,599	1,582	1,636	1,204	1,119	1,051	994	1,177 ³⁵	1,568
total	18,173	2,554	2,786	2,772	2,688	2,197	1,880	1,904	1,814	16	2,315

Source: Own elaboration based on data provided by The Regional Police Headquarters in Rzeszów and The Metropolitan Police in Warsaw.

Criminal offenses against life and health represent the second group in the category of criminal offenses. Among the most often committed crimes, there were crimes of the act of counteracting drug addiction, and the rarest in the discussed period were murders, which number kept more or less on the same level. The data collected in Table 3 illustrates that during the discussed period there were registered slight increases and declines of the crimes of the act of counteracting drug addiction. In the year 2017, there were committed 994 of such kinds of crimes, which is the least in this period, and the biggest number was registered in the year 2013, which was 1,636 of such crimes.

The next most common offenses against life and health were: personal injury and participation in fight or battery. Analysing particular years of the discussed period, in the case of personal injury increases and declines may be seen. Comparing two marginal years, it means 2010 and 2019, the increase of such kinds of offenses can be noticed. In the year 2010, 551 crimes were found, while in the year 2019 – 558 of them. The highest amount can be seen in the year 2012 – it was 614 of such offenses. In turn, the level of participation in fight or battery was progressively reduced. In the year 2019, in reference to the year 2018, there was reported about 8 of such crimes less, and from the year 2010, there were up 382 of them.

³³ *Zgwałcenie*, “Statystyka–Policja.pl”, <https://statystyka.policja.pl/st/przestepstwa-ogolem/przestepstwa-kryminalne/zgwalcenie/122293,Zgwalcenie.html> (accessed: 18.01.2021).

³⁴ *Ibidem*.

³⁵ *Podkarpaccy policjanci podsumowali rok 2018. Było bezpiecznie*, “Policja.pl”, <https://policja.pl/pol/aktualnosci/168825,Podkarpaccy-policjanci-podsumowali-rok-2018-Bylo-bezpiecznie.html> (accessed: 18.01.2021).

One kind of crime against life and health, according to the scale of committed crimes, are rape. In the year 2010, there were 48 of them, whereas, in the year 2019 there were about 5 rapes more than in 2010. Taking into account the whole discussed period of time, similar to other kinds of crimes, the sine wave may be noticed.

Another group of crimes reported in police reports is economic crimes, committed in Podkarpackie Voivodeship.

TABLE 4. ECONOMIC CRIMES COMMITTED IN PODKARPACIE VOIVODESHIP

Year	Economic crimes committed in Podkarpackie Voivodeship				
	Total	Economic frauds	Economic forgery	Corruption crimes	Crimes against economic competition
2010	288	lack of data	lack of data	288	lack of data
2011	2,934	2,015	482	140	297
2012	2,898	1,978	346	310	264
2013	1,897	1,212	258	139	288
2014	2,964	2,018	397	190	359
2015	5,861	4,870	448	204	339
2016	3,161	2,508	190	263	200
2017	11,126	8,712	901	357	202
2018	5,274 ³⁶	lack of data	lack of data	lack of data	lack of data
2019	5,768 ³⁷	lack of data	lack of data	lack of data	lack of data
total	30,175	23,313	3,022	1,891	1,949

Source: Own elaboration, on the basis of data provided by The Regional Police Headquarters in Rzeszów.

The next category of criminality is represented by economic crimes. Table 4 shows that economic frauds and forgeries have got the highest contribution to economic criminality. During the discussed years, the number of committed frauds and forgeries revealed a rising tendency. In the year 2017, there was a strong increase in committing economic crimes in relation to the year 2011, when it was about 6,697 more of them. The

³⁶ *Ibidem*.

³⁷ *Policjanci podsumowali rok 2019 – więcej pijanych kierowców*, "Gazeta Bieszczadzka", 31.01.2020, <http://www.bieszczadzka24.pl/aktualnosci/policjanci-podsumowali-rok-2019-%E2%80%93-wiecej-pijanych-kierowcow/5776> (accessed: 18.01.2021).

highest progression can be noticed in relation to the year 2013, which was about 7,500 more economic crimes. According to the data presented in Table 4, similarly to frauds, the increase of economic crimes was registered. Analyzing the data from Table 4, we can notice that in the year 2011 there were committed 482 forgeries, and in the year 2017, there were up to about 419 more of them.

Among the most often committing economic crimes are also crimes against the economic competition, which range decreased considering two marginal years of the discussed period. In the year 2011, there were committed 297 such crimes, while in the year 2017, there were 202 of them, which is about 95 less. In the year 2017, the highest decrease of these crimes, in relation to the year 2014, should be stated.

The last kind of economic crimes shown in the tabulation of data is corruption crimes. During the analyzed period, there was an increase in the number of committed crimes in this category: from 288 in the year 2010 to 357 in the year 2017. It is an increase of about 69 corruption crimes. As Table 4 illustrates, the least committed corruption crimes were in the year 2014, there were 139 of them.

Road offenses should be classified as ones of the crucial concepts connected with road safety. They rely on non-compliance with valid traffic rules that consequently can lead to accidents or road collisions. An accident can result in death, bodily harm, personal injury of a driver, another injured person, or damage of a property that belongs to the accident perpetrator, or another participant of that traffic accident. On the other hand, a collision is an incident which effects are less serious than those connected with an accident.³⁸ In Table 5, road offenses committed on Article 178a of the Criminal Code are taken into account. They are connected with driving under the influence of alcohol or drugs.

Road safety assessment in Podkarpackie Voivodeship is illustrated in Table 5.

³⁸ E. Zielińska, *Analiza wypadkowości na lubelszczyźnie i podkarpaciu*, "Autobusy – Technika, Eksploatacja, Systemy Transportowe", 2018, no. 6/2018, pp. 322–326.

TABLE 5. ROAD SAFETY OFFENSES IN PODKARPACCKIE VOIVODESHIP

Year	Road safety in Podkarpackie Voivodeship				
	Road offenses article 178a of the Criminal Code ³⁹	Accidents	Killed	Wounded	Collisions
2010	7,905	1,968	202	2,578	19,198
2011	8,699	2,110	224	2,631	17,111
2012	8,413	1,006	184	2,254	15,335
2013	7,765	1,814	151	2,265	15,336
2014	4,480	1,751	144	2,185	14,761
2015	4,003	1,705	137	2,125	15,742
2016	3,699	1,682	141	2,019	17,478
2017	3,457	1,715	124	2,037	18,417
2018	3,173	1,373	125	1,765	18,493
2019	3,514	1,482	157	1,709	19,040
total	55,108	16,606	1,589	21,568	170,911

Source: Own elaboration on the basis of data provided by The Regional Police Headquarters in Rzeszów.

The data gathered in Table 5 shows that the accident rate in Podkarpackie Voivodeship was in a sinusoidal pattern. Taking into account two marginal years of the analysed period, the decrease of road accidents number should be noticed. The highest number of road accidents was reported in the year 2011, which was 2 110 – about 142 accidents more than in the previous year, and the least number of accidents happened in the year 2012: 1 006. As the data from Table 5 illustrates, in Podkarpackie Voivodeship there were much more road collisions than accidents. However, it should be noted that the number of road collisions remained relatively stable over the period considered. In the year 2010, there were 19,198 collisions, and after that year to the year 2014 – the decrease to 14,761 of them could be noticed. Afterward, from the year 2015, there was an increase in the number of road collisions, and in the year 2019, there were 19,040 of them.

The important criterion allowing the road safety assessment is the number of people injured in road accidents. Analyzing the data from Table 5,

³⁹ *Przestępstwa drogowe*, “Statystyka – Policja.pl”, <https://statystyka.policja.pl/st/przestepstwa-ogolem/przestepstwa-drogowe/122282,Przestepstwa-drogowe.html> (accessed: 18.01.2021).

it should be concluded that the number of injured people was significantly higher than fatalities. In the years 2010–2019, there were 21,568 injured people registered and 1,589 fatalities. Comparing two marginal years of the period considered, it should be noted that the number of injured people was reduced. In the year 2010, there were 2,578 injured people but in the year 2019, there were about 869 such people less, which was 1,709. The highest number of accident victims was reported in the year 2011 – 2,631. However, the lowest number – 1,709, was registered in the year 2019.

The data presented in Table 5 allows us to determine the increase and decline of road fatalities. In the year 2010, there were 202 of them registered; in the year 2011 – about 22 people more. In the years 2012–2015, there was a decline in the number of fatalities, to 137 in the year 2015. After that (the year 2016), the number of fatalities increased to 141, and then there was an increase in two following years. In the year 2019, the number of them estimated at the level of 157 fatalities.

Among road offenses, there should be mentioned those from Article 178a of the Criminal Code, which is driving a car in a state of drunkenness or under the influence of drugs. In the years 2010–2019 in Podkarpackie Voivodeship, a revealed total number of offenses connected with driving a car in a state of drunkenness or under the influence of drugs, was 55,108. According to the data illustrated in Table 5, it may be noticed that there was a decline in the number of offenses committed against Article 178a of the Criminal Code, considering the discussed period of time. In the year 2010, there were 7 905 such offenses, while in the year 2019, there were up to 4,391 fewer. As Table 5 presents, the highest number of drunk drivers was registered in the year 2011 (8,699), in turn, the lowest in the year 2018, which was 3,173.

3. JUVENILE DELINQUENCY IN PODKARPACKIE VOIVODESHIP IN THE VIEW OF THE STATISTICAL DATA

Juvenile delinquency is a complex phenomenon which poses social, psychological, as well as a pedagogical problem.⁴⁰ Due to social significance, this phenomenon is a part of interest to the researchers and people associated with the education of teenagers. It is continuously searching for new solu-

⁴⁰ L. Wieczorek, *Przestępczość i demoralizacja nieletnich w Polsce w okresie transformacji ustrojowej*, Katowice 2005.

tions in the field of preventing juvenile delinquency, and different forms of social awkwardness among young people, including the offense.⁴¹

The legal sources regulating the term *juvenile* are The Criminal Code, and Act on Juvenile Delinquency Proceedings. In The Criminal Code we can indicate juveniles in the aspect of criminal law who are people under the age of 17 (article 10§1 of The Criminal Code), and among them: juvenile unable to blame, so unable to commit a crime (article 1§3 of The Criminal Code) but only criminal offense (article 1§1 of The Criminal Code), and a juvenile who may be responsible for the commission of certain offenses, defined in The Criminal Code (article 10§2 of The Criminal Code).⁴² On the other hand, according to Act on Juvenile Delinquency Proceedings, juveniles are: people under the age of 18 in the sphere of preventing and combating demoralisation; people who are above the age of 13 and under 17, committing a criminal offense; people at the age to 21 to whom there are educational and correctional means undertaken.⁴³

In the year 2000, The Act on Juvenile Delinquency Proceedings, effective from 26 October 1982, was amended. It regulates dealing with minors being in danger of demoralization, and committing some criminal acts. According to this Act, pathological behaviours of minors can be separated into three main categories: crimes in the meaning of The Civil Code, punishable acts, and behaviours demonstrating the demoralization of the juveniles.⁴⁴

Indicating the determinants of criminality and demoralization of adolescents and children is sometimes very hard. Children and minors criminality is a result of many causes and factors. Factors fostering demoralization and social deficits are constant for many years and can be responded to three habitats in which minors spend time, those are: family, school, and peers group. The most often mentioned factors are: parents educational failure, bad patterns in the family which encourage the development of pathological behaviours, family crisis, and loosening of family relationship, low-control or its lack in the way of spending free time by minors, family impoverishment

⁴¹ B. M. Kaldon, *Przestępczość wśród nieletnich a podejmowane działania profilaktyczne*, „Seminare. Poszukiwania Naukowe”, 2015, t. 36, no. 3, pp. 117–128.

⁴² J. Błachut., A. Gaberle, K. Krajewski, *Kryminologia*, Gdańsk 2004.

⁴³ Por. Ustawa z dnia 26 października 1982 r. o postępowaniu w sprawach nieletnich, (Dz.U. 1982 r., nr 35, poz. 228).

⁴⁴ Ustawa z dnia 6 czerwca 1997 r. – Kodeks karny (Dz. U. 1997, nr 88, poz. 553 z późn. zm.).

leading to a concentration on the obtaining of financial resources, failures at school and conflicts between peers or parents.⁴⁵

Brunon Hołyst indicates that basic stimuli which determine juvenile's criminality are:

- desire to get money or other material benefits;
- impressing other people;
- suggestion of colleagues or adults;
- desire to being and realizing in informal groups;
- reproduction of patterns and behaviours originating in the family house;
- a sense of impunity for previous criminal activity;
- looking for acceptance if there is no support and sense of security from parents and guardians.⁴⁶

Considerations outlined above, concerning the literature on the topic and law acts, should be considered as an introduction to the presentation of research results concerning juvenile's criminality. Based on the statistical data of The Regional Police Headquarters in Rzeszów regarding juvenile criminality in Podkarpackie Voivodeship, in the years 2010–2019, there was a significant decrease in the number of crimes committed by minors. In the year 2010, there were 1,560 punishable acts committed by minors, while in the year 2019, there were about 952 crimes fewer, which was 608. The highest number of crimes committed by juveniles fall in the year 2011, when there were 2,153 of such crimes registered, and the fewest in the year 2019 (608 crimes).

After the presentation of the number of crimes committed by juveniles in Podkarpackie Voivodeship, we should consider what kind of crimes are usually being committed by juveniles. Table 6 presents the data.

TABLE 6. CATEGORIES OF CRIMINAL ACTS OF JUVENILE EXHAUSTING SIGNS OF CRIME IN PODKARPACKIE VOIVODESHIP

Specification of offenses	Categories of criminal acts of minors exhausting signs of crime in Podkarpackie Voivodeship										
	Total	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
stealing of property	1,542	265	323	249	277	118	77	50	57	58	68

⁴⁵ *Przemoc dzieci i młodzieży w perspektywie polskiej transformacji ustrojowej*, J. Papież (ed.), Toruń 2000.

⁴⁶ B. Hołyst, *Kryminologia, op. cit.*, p. 450.

burglary	1,130	172	262	155	191	64	38	72	78	62	36
robberies	1,204	177	252	191	153	176	38	74	48	18	77
damaging of property	652	118	163	107	82	73	18	lack of data	23	31	37
fight and batteries	396	80	88	74	64	34	18	lack of data	16	14	8
act of counteracting drug addiction	1,646	109	213	347	186	175	124	103	129	156	104
personal injury	500	85	86	86	61	62	42	33	45	lack of data	lack of data
road traffic offenses	299	72	49	59	43	20	15	lack of data	9	17	15
total	7,369	1,078	1,522	1,268	1,057	722	370	332	405	356	345

Source: Own elaboration, on the basis of data provided by The Regional Police Headquarters in Rzeszów and The Metropolitan Police in Warsaw.

Taking into account the nature of juvenile criminality in Podkarpackie Voivodeship during the analysed period, the categories of crimes committed the most often by juveniles should be emphasized. As Table 6 illustrates, two categories of crimes the most often committed by minors, in the years 2010–2019, can be distinguished. Those were: crimes from the act of counteracting drug addiction and stealing of property which was at a similar level. Analyzing the statistical data presented in Table 6 concerning crimes from the act of counteracting drug addiction, there were 1,646 of them. It is worth emphasizing that the data are in a sinusoidal pattern. In the year 2010, there were 109 such crimes committed by a juvenile. After that, there was an increase in the two following years, to 347 crimes in the year 2012. In turn, in the years 2013–2016, this number declined again to the level of 103 crimes, then in the years 2017–2018, the increase of juvenile criminality appeared. In the year 2019, the number of crimes declined and stayed at a level of 104. On the other hand, as Table 6 presents there were 1,542 stealings of property during the discussed period. Similar to crimes from the act of counteracting drug addiction, the increase and decrease of committed stealings occurred in the years 2010–2019. Comparing two marginal years, the decline of such kinds of crimes committed by juveniles

should be noticed. In the year 2019, there were 265 stealings committed by minors, and in the year 2010 – only 68. The highest number of stealings of the property was in the year 2011. There were registered 323 of such crimes.

Based on data from Table 6, the further most commonly committed categories of juvenile offenses are robberies, overall there were 1,204 of them, and burglaries – 1 130 cases. As Table 6 illustrates, also in those two categories there were both increases, as well as a decrease in the number of committed crimes. In Podkarpackie Voivodeship, the highest number of robberies committed by minors was in the year 2011, which was 252. The smallest number was registered in the year 2018: 18 robberies. As Table 6 indicates, the same as in the case of robberies, the highest number of burglaries was in the year 2011, because as much as 262, which was about 90 more than in the year 2010. While comparing to the year 2019, the significant decrease of registered burglaries committed by minors should be noticed. In the year 2019, there were only 36 such acts.

The next categories of punishable acts committed by juveniles, as Table 6 shows, successively are damages of the property, personal injuries, fights, and batteries which number was much smaller than the categories discussed above, considering the discussed period. Also in the case of these acts, the values are in a sinusoidal pattern. The highest number of damages of property was in the year 2011, which was 163. After that, by the year 2015, there was a decrease of such kinds of crimes committed by juveniles to the number of 18 crimes. In the year 2016, there was an increase and in the year 2019, there were registered 37 of such crimes. Personal injuries were at, more or less, the same level since 2010, but their decrease may be noticed. The least number of such kinds of crimes was registered in the year 2016, which was 33 acts. In the case of fights and batteries, while analyzing two marginal years of the discussed period, a significant decrease of them may be noticed. In the year 2010, there were registered 80 fights, as shown in Table 6, and in the year 2019, there were only 8 fights or batteries.

Based on the data included in Table 6, road traffic infringements committed by minors are in the last position. There were 299 of them committed in the discussed period. The highest number of them was registered in the year 2010, and the least in the year 2017 – only 9 of such crimes.

CONCLUSIONS

The level of criminality is determined by various factors and characteristics, among which relatively often is the economic situation of the offender.

Among particular economic factors which may influence the level of criminality, beyond unemployment and poverty, the income level, dynamics, and diversity are also mentioned. That often causes a 'gap' between the unemployed and the rest of society. The huge influence on the criminality rate has also the level of education and socio-professional status.

Podkarpackie Voivodeship is distinguished by very unfavourable rates, concerning the educational and financial situation of its society. Average salaries are significantly fewer than the national average. A high level of unemployment and low salaries translate into several disadvantages, for example, increased risk of poverty.

The results of statistical data analysis, concerning the scale of criminality in Podkarpackie Voivodeship, in the years 2010–2019 show the tendency to the persistence of multi-annual, positive, downward trend of criminality which may be influenced by the negative balance of migration persistent for years. The year 2019 was indicated as another period when there were decreases in crimes in all of the categories. In relation to the previous year, there was about an 0,84% decrease in the total number of crimes, so about 4,797 crimes less.

To summarise, the statistical scale of criminality in Podkarpackie Voivodeship, based on data received from the reports of The Regional Police Headquarters in Rzeszów, the positive tendencies that persist from the year 2010 should be emphasized, which is:

1. the total number of crimes is reduced;
2. criminal and economic delinquencies are in a sinusoidal pattern;
3. it is safer on roads.

Taking into account the presented data, it is worth asking some questions: Do the discussed statistical data reflects the accurate reality of common criminality? Or is this reflection rather far from the results of published data?

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