

Crime and criminology in Hungary.
The background of homicides among
juveniles and young adults

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Criminology in the 20es, 30es

- Long and unique history
- From the beginning of the 20th century – upon legal basis
- Csemegi Act
- 1908 Criminal Novel
- Interrupted by the second World War and the dark 50ies

Criminology in the 60es

- From the mid-60es intensive and continuous development took place in science: in research and at universities
- The National Institute of Criminology was established in 1960, under the name of National Institute of Criminalistics
- From 1965. criminology has become a mandatory subject at the Faculty of Law

Criminology in the 80es

- Rapid development
- Opening for international relationships and research
- Reactions to the rapid increase in criminality
- Searching and researching the background of the increase

Crime tendencies from the 80es

- Changes caused by the Fall of Berlin Wall has lead to critical increase in crimes and criminality
- Changes could be detected in
 - economy
 - in the way of life
 - in society.

In the socialist regime unemployment and social insecurity were an unknown phenomenon.

The structure of criminality from 1980 to 1990

- Crimes Against the State and Humanity radically decreased
- Crimes Against the Person slightly increased
- Violent Crimes slightly increased
- Crimes Against the Public Order slightly decreased
- Crimes Against Property **radically increased**
(1985: 129,4% compared to 1980, and 338,2% in 1990)

Criminal tendencies in the last decades

Period	Total crimes
1998-2002.	600.621 to 420.782
2003-2005.	400.147 to 423.568
2005-2009.	423.568 to 375.382
2009-2012.	375.382 to 451.512

The proportion of crimes related to totality

- The proportion of **crimes against property** in the 2000es was about 66,6% among the totality of the crime.

In 2011-2012. it was 58% and 55%.

- **Crimes against public order:**
 - 2003-2009: 17-19%
 - 2010-2011: 21-25%
 - 2012: 29%.

The number of crimes related to totality

■ Crimes against the person:

- 2003-2007: 17.239
- 2010: 27.213
- 2011-2012: appr. 27.000.

The data upon homicide cases in Hungary from 2005 to 2010

Year	The number of cases			The number of committers		
	Intentional	Negligent	Sum	Intentional	Negligent	Sum
2005	313	21	334	310	16	326
2006	306	22	328	319	18	338
2007	296	25	321	302	26	328
2008	292	20	312	297	21	318
2009	275	17	292	307	16	322
2010	276	13	289	266	13	279

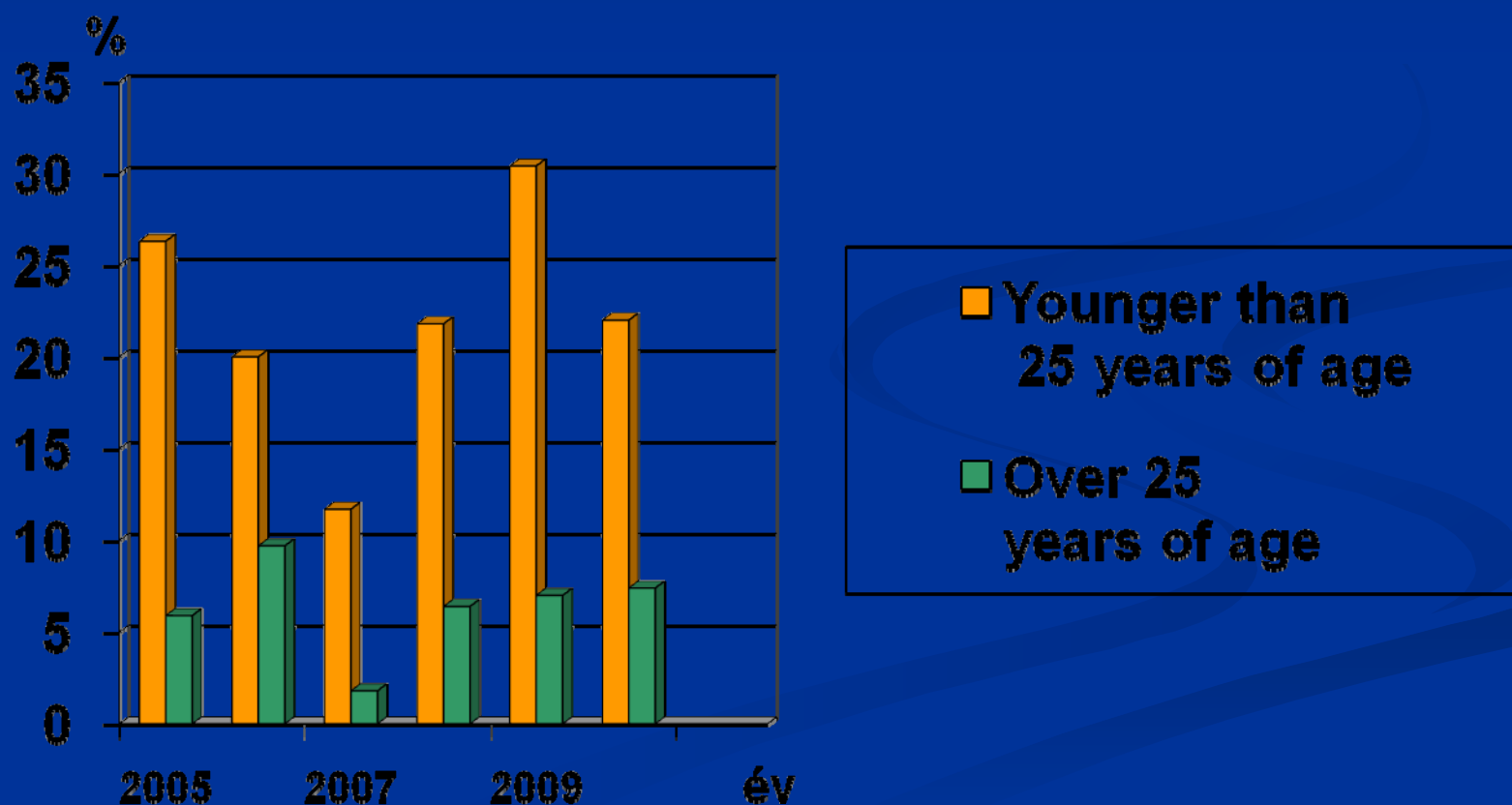
The number of juveniles and young adult committees in Hungary

Year	Juveniles (14-17)			Young adults (18-24)		
	intentional	Neg.	sum	intentional	Neg.	sum
2005	13	0	13	44	1	45
2006	18	1	19	62	2	64
2007	28	1	29	49	5	54
2008	21	0	21	57	3	60
2009	23	0	23	56	2	58
2010	15	1	1	44	2	46

Homiced committed upon financial gains

Year	Minors, under the age of 14	Juveniles and Young adults	Between 25 and 59 Years	Older than 60
2005	0	15	15	0
2006	0	16	22	0
2007	0	9	4	0
2008	0	16	15	0
2009	0	24	16	0

Offenders of homicides committed upon financial gain or for another malicious motive or purpose between 2005 and 2010



The change in the value structure

- „The overrepresentation of the crimes against property clearly testifies the radical change in the value structure of the Hungarian society, as the material values, consumption and money became more important than anything else after the social and political change in 1989. It is also remarkable that even among **homicides those acts which were committed upon material grounds** became more popular.” (Gönczöl, K.)

The homicide research: the method

- The original aim of the research:
 - Examining the relationship between CU trait and delinquency;
- 4 questionnaires: 1. Upon legal issues; 2. upon the features of the victim 3. Upon socio-economical background; 4. Upon psychological and psychiatric questions;

The basic data: offenders

- 115 cases
- 165 offenders
- 56 juveniles
- 109 young adults
- 13 women and 152 men were in the sample

Victims

- 118 victims: 72 men and 46 women (39% !)
- The proportion of the elderly is high (28,8%)
- In 68,5% of the cases – the perpetrator did not have close relationship with the plaintiff
- 33% - strong emotional bond with the plaintiff:
 - 19,5% - of them was a domestic violence case
- 13% - the victim was mentally or physically disabled

Family background

- **The structure of the family** –changes very often
 - compact family (two parents' family) (22%)
 - most of the offenders were raised by a one-parent family
 - foster homes (5%)
- **The functional side of family** (in 60% of the cases was no information about delinquency)
 - information in 68 cases: 60,3% - no criminality in family; 39,7% - criminality in family

The socio-economical background

- The mothers' educational and labour market position was worse than the fathers';
- Fathers had regular work in 33 cases and 13 fathers had own enterprise.
- Mothers were mostly housewives (21), staying at home as a full-time mother living on aid (7) or living on disability pension (7 persons).

Mental problems in family

- 32,1% - alcohol problems (mostly father, but sometimes both of them)
- 9,9% - alcohol problems with suicide attempts or depression
- Tranquilizer-addiction and gambling addiction
- Mothers often suffered from mental problems like neurasthenia
- Mother's new partner (stepfather) -usually without any deviancy

Relationship with family members

Bonding within the family

- 41,5% no data; Others:
- **69,2% - to mother**; sometime simbiotic relation in between mother and son;

Relationship with mother: mostly neutral;

20% bonding to father, but:

51% of those who have answered the question and 33% of all committers fathers were not present at all in perpatrators' lives !

School and education

- Conflicts with other schoolmates, teachers
- Conduct problems
- Educational problems – **37,7% repeated class**
- Truancy – only **19,5% attended school regularly**
- Lack of parental control and relationship with school

The negative educational career

- Bad behaviour, bad school attainment, truancy
- Grade retention, school failure
- Special education
- Conduct and educational problems, aggressive behaviour, regular truancy
- Regular school failure
- Educational status: private student
- No valuable/measurable school record
- Staying out of school permanently

Conduct and learning problems

- 29,7% - no data

144 = 100% from that:

- 21,5% - conduct problems in elementary school
- 41,7% - learning problems
- 11,8% - combined problems (at least 3 types of educational risk factors have occurred)

20% - without any problem – no aggression, no conduct problem etc.

Distribution of offenders of homicide committed upon financial gain and on impulse according to age in our sample

Motives	Age of 14-17 (%)	Age of 18-21 (%)	Age of 22-24 (%)
Financial gain	36,2	49,4	62,5
Impulse (revenge, jealousy, anger, quarrel)	38	35,2	25

- almost 80% of the offenders committed their homicides with **any aggravating circumstances**
- almost 50 % of the offenders committed their crime with extreme brutality and for financial advantage –

Conclusions

- Missing data in many fields (such as socio-economical background, personality etc.)
- Family structure **changes often** and the **father-figure is missing!**
- Negative **educational career**
- Motives are sometimes hard to explain

Intervention opportunity: mainly at school and mental help!

Thank you for your
attention!