

Double Deviance: Young Drug Users in Criminal Justice Systems

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EUROPEAN CENTRE FOR SOCIAL WELFARE POLICY AND RESEARCH





Background information

Funding: Third EU Health Programme (2014-2020): Consumers, Health, Agriculture and Food Executive Agency (Chafea)

Coordinator: Drug and Alcohol Research Centre, Middlesex University (UK)

Project partners:

- Drug and Alcohol Research Centre, Middlesex University (UK)
- 2. Change Grow Live (UK)
- 3. Centre for Alcohol and Drug Research, Aarhus University (Denmark)
- 4. Eclectica (Italy)
- 5. ISFF Institut für Suchtforschung, Frankfurt University of Applied Sciences (Germany)
- 6. Warsaw Institute of Psychiatry and Neurology (Poland)
- 7. European Centre for Social Welfare Policy and Research (Austria)

Duration: Jan. 2017 – Feb. 2020

Young drug users in the criminal justice system

Empirical input:

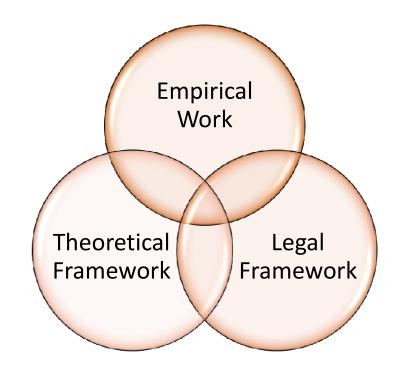
- Interviews with service providers
- Interviews with clients young drug users in the CJS

Theoretical framework:

- Systems theory role theory
- Structural functionalism

Legal framework:

Diversion to treatment instead of punishment –
 Alternatives to conviction or punishment



Young drug users in the criminal justice system

Criminal Justice System

Health System

Caution the offender

Conditional suspension of prosecution

Deferring the execution of sentence

Drug treatment courts

Conditional early release on probation

In-patient homes and hospitals

"Attenuated custody" – drug treatment in prisons

Out-patient psycho-therapy

Early intervention - counselling services

Case management – "peer navigators"

Treatment and target group

"Young drug users who have come in contact with the CJS"

- The situation of dependent drug users in the CJS
- The situation of "recreational" drug users in the CJS

Risk factors

- Biological
- Psychological
- Family risk factors
- Peers factors
- School factors
- Neighbourhood and community factors
- Gender and risk factors

Clustering and accumulation

Recreational drug users in "constrained choice therapies"

Dependent drug users in in-patient homes

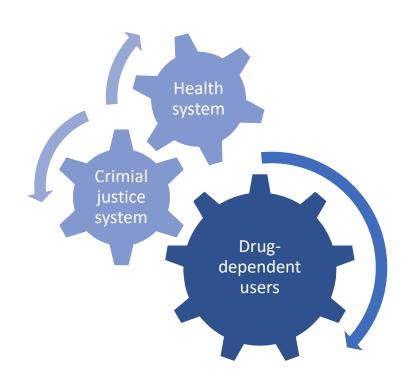
Aetiological explanations in youth delinquency

- Biological predisposition
- Developmental psychology
- Learning theories
 - Classical conditioning (Pavlov)
 - Instrumental (operant) conditioning +/- reinforcement (Thorndike and Skinner)
 - Model-learning (Bandura)
 - Social learning (E. Sutherland: "differential association")
- Strain Theories Robert Agnew: "Pressured Into Crime: An Overview of General Strain Theory".
- Social disorder and opportunity structures (Chicago School of Sociology, human ecology)
- Labeling Theory and stigmatising

Risk factors

- Propensity Impulsivity, lack of selfcontrol
- Early childhood experiences, traumata, fears, phobia
- Peer-Group (power, status, courage)
- Lack of social control (family, school, job)
- Status frustration, "broken homes"
- Poverty: Neighbourhood, housing conditions, unemployment
- Criminalisation, secondary deviance, selffulfilling Prophecy

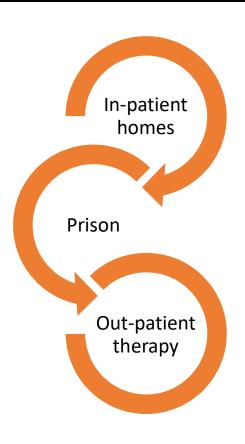
Two social systems of double deviance





Institutional Context

Elements of Intervention



Medical treatment, substitution therapy **Psychiatry Psychology** Pedagogics: Vocational training Social Work: Probation services Counselling and case management

Balancing double deviance

Vulnerability pathology in need of help health promotion Alleged danger criminality punishment repression

Medical deviance

Legal deviance



Thank you for your attention



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