

Poster presentation

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On the outcome of the treatment of mentally disordered criminal offenders (according to §64 German penal code) suffering from addictive disorders

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from WPA Thematic Conference. Coercive Treatment in Psychiatry: A Comprehensive Review Dresden, Germany. 6–8 June 2007

Published: 19 December 2007

BMC Psychiatry 2007, 7(Suppl 1):P12 doi:10.1186/1471-244X-7-S1-P12

This abstract is available from: <http://www.biomedcentral.com/1471-244X/7/S1/P12>

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Background

To present findings on criminal conviction and recidivism rates of 277 criminal offenders ordered to a forensic psychiatric facility caring for addictive disorders between 1996 and 2001.

Methods

Cluster- and regression-analytic procedures identified predictive variables for declaring the forensic psychiatric hospitalization as useless, and for relevant criminal offences after discharge.

Results

About 85% of the study sample showed more than four offences and more than 1.5 years of imprisonment before admission to the index-treatment episode. About half of the patients was successfully treated as indicated by being released on licence. Socialization in institutions, social desintegration before admission, and absconding during the index-treatment episode are important factors increasing the probability of declaring the hospitalization as useless. In the 2-year observation period, the criminal recidivism rate was 40.0%.

Conclusion

Social reintegration of this group of mentally disordered criminal offenders is as difficult as important. Findings on recidivism rates indicate a need for extending the number of specialized forensic outpatient departments and a need to focus on primary prevention.