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Intensity of Psychopathic Traits among Imprisoned Women Psycho-sociological characteristic

Abstract: The presented study was to assess the level of psychopathic traits in women in Polish prisons and the relationship between that and the conditions of family socialization, interpersonal behavior styles, intensity and forms of aggression, and the hierarchy of values. The participants of the study were female inmates ($n = 99$) among which three psychopathy intensification groups were distinguished (based on the score in the Psychopathy Checklist – Revised, PCL-R). The following diagnostic tools were used: the Buss-Durkee Aggression Scale (SABD), the Scale of Interpersonal Relations (SUI), the Rokeach Value Survey (SW), and analysis of penitentiary records, a questionnaire, and interview data. The results of the study indicate that with the increasing severity of psychopathic traits in the studied groups, the number of women grew who had experience in their past of staying in institutions or care centers as well as contact with a parent addicted to alcohol. As expected, it turned out that the studied groups differ in terms of manifested forms of aggression (especially physical and verbal aggression), irritation, and interpersonal behavior styles. The hypothesis that there is a relationship between the hierarchy of values and the intensity of psychopathic traits was partially confirmed. Women with a higher severity of psychopathic traits valued family security less in their hierarchy of terminal values.

Key words: psychopathy, aggression, hostility, values.

Introduction

From the late eighteenth and early nineteenth century, the issue of psychopathy is of interest to both theorists and researchers, being a source of much controversy and inspiration for constant debate. The problem, in recent years, was taken up mainly by Robert D. Hare (2003, 2010), Ronald Blackburn (1998a, 1998b, 2005), Theodore Millon (1998) and David J. Cooke (2012), and in Poland: Kazimierz Pospiszyl (2000), Beata Pastwa-Wojciechowska (2004) and Józef K. Gierowski (2007, 2012). Both in the general population and among people coming into conflict with the law, psychopathy is diagnosed more often in men (Grann 2000; Pastwa-Wojciechowska 2011). International research conducted, among others, by Martin Grann (2000), Mette K.F. Kreis and David J. Cooke (2011) indicate that gender can affect the phenotypic expression of psychopathic traits. In gender comparison, in terms of the characteristics of psychopathy, women seem to be more manipulative, emotionally unstable and have a more shaky self-image than men (Logan, Weizmann-Henelius 2012). Kreis, when comparing the results of both sexes in the severity scale of psychopathic traits, suggests that men obtain substantially higher scores than women in aspects such as: egocentrism, aggressiveness, exaggerated self-esteem, and destructiveness; while women obtain higher scores in terms of the lack of emotional stability and shaky self-esteem (2009; after: Logan and Weizmann-Henelius 2012). Currently, however, there is no coherent conceptualization of psychopathy, taking into account gender differences. Analyses carried out so far on the phenomenon of psychopathy in Poland focused mainly on the male population; the epidemiology and specificity of its occurrence among women is still a subject that requires further exploration.

As a theoretical basis operational approach to psychopathy by Hare (2010) was adopted here, who defines it as a syndrome of emotional, interpersonal and social disorders. In the image of that disorder, a two-factor structure is initially revealed, created by correlated factors: (I) emotional isolation, and (II) anti-social behavior. Along with a deeper analysis of the phenomenon of psychopathy the author of the concept proposed a subdivision of its structure into four aspects. Factor I included in itself aspect I (interpersonal) and aspect II (affect). As part of factor II, aspect III (lifestyle) and aspect IV (anti-social) were distinguished. According to Hare's concept, outside the factor structure there are two more characteristics typical for the clinical picture of psychopathy: promiscuity and establishing numerous, short-term partnerships, initiated for the purpose of instrumentally using another person.

Defining psychopathy as a disorder characterizing a person, among others, with special tendencies to sudden outbursts of uncontrolled aggression, unable to establish close emotional relationships, inconsiderate with the consequences

of their behavior, showing deficits of fear and an increased need for stimulation causes that this picture is often linked to criminal behavior (Hare 2010). On the basis of numerous reports, it can be argued that psychopathy is one of the most important predictors of violence (Hare 2003; Salekin, Rogers, Ustad and Sewell 1998), which was also confirmed by Polish studies conducted in prisons (but these analyses were limited only to male population) (Doliński 2009; Grzyb 2011; Pastwa-Wojciechowska 2004). In recent years, the criminality of women in Poland has been changing its specific nature and taking on the characteristics thus far mainly attributed to male criminality (Kowalczyk 2012; Toeplitz-Winiewska, Winiewski 2012; Wenzel 2005, 2009). The number of crimes committed by women is also growing (Bałandynowicz 2002, p. 9; Hołyst 2007, p. 637–643), which is probably due to their increasing aggressiveness and ongoing social changes.

This study discusses the problem of the severity of psychopathic characteristics in women imprisoned in Polish penitentiary institutions and its relation to the general psychosocial characteristics of the prisoners. An interpretation of the results obtained was also proposed in the context of differences from those characteristics typical of male groups described in the literature.

The issue of the research

The aim of this study was to diagnose the severity of the characteristics of psychopathy in women prisoners and to determine whether there exist and what is the nature of dependencies between the severity of the characteristics of psychopathy and conditions of family socialization, interpersonal functioning style, intensity and forms of manifested aggression as well as the hierarchy of recognized values. In view of the above, the following research questions were formulated:

PB1 – Are there differences in the conditions of family socialization of women with varying degrees of psychopathic traits?

PB2 – Is the severity of psychopathic traits associated with the severity of the different types of aggression and hostility?

PB3 – Is there a relationship between the severity of psychopathic traits and styles of interpersonal functioning?

PB4 – Is the severity of psychopathic traits associated with the hierarchy of values of the prisoners?

The subjects and course of research

The study involved 101 women, but two cases were excluded from the analysis as they failed to meet the criterion of the age of majority. Therefore, the study group consisted of 99 women convicted by a final judgment of the court (N = 99) for

committing crimes: against property (61% of the group – mainly art. 278, 286, 280 of the Penal Code), against life and health (19% of the group – mainly art. 148, 156 and 158 of the Penal Code), against traffic safety (6% of the group – art. 178 of the Penal Code), and other (9%). It included both first-time offenders (57%) and penitentiary recidivists (42%). Their ages ranged from 21 to 61 years old, the average was 36.22 years of age ($\sigma = 8.98$).

The group was divided into three groups varying in terms of intensity of psychopathic traits. The criterion of the division adopted the score obtained in the PCL-R (Psychopathy Checklist-Revised), assuming the original cut-off points for this tool. Table 1 presents the division into subgroups.

Table 1. Distribution of the study group on the basis of the score obtained in the PCL-R (Psychopathy Checklist-Revised)

Score obtained in PCL-R	Severity of psychopathic traits	Size of subgroup	Average score of PCL-R in the group	Subgroup name	Characteristics of the subgroup
0-9	no psychopathic traits	50	5.36	A no psychopathic traits	no or minimal severity of psychopathic, random and non-diagnostic traits for psychopathy
10-19	minor symptoms of psychopathy	31	14.61	B minor symptoms of psychopathy	symptoms of psychopathy, the coexistence of several characteristic permanent traits of behavior
20-29	moderate psychopathy	15	23.60	C moderate psychopathy and people with psychopathic personality traits	regular occurrence of several properties of behavior and personality traits typical of psychopathy
30-40	psychopathic personality	3	31.33		

Source: own study.

Due to the small number of subjects who obtained a PCL-R score corresponding to the psychopathic personality (exceeding 30 points), it was decided to incorporate them into subgroups obtaining scores at the level of moderate psychopathy (subgroup C).

The study was conducted in a prison for women (in all branches of the facility) and the custody ward (in the female branches). Within these units selection to the group was random. Participation in the study was voluntary and anonymous. A diagnostic interview was conducted with every person and they were asked to complete a set of questionnaires: SABD, SUI and SW, and an original survey. The

person conducting the study got familiarized with the penitentiary documentation of the prisoners and the opinion of the guardian or penitentiary psychologist.

Applied research tools

The following diagnostic tools were used in this study:

Psychopathy Checklist-Revised (PCL-R) R.D. Hare. This method creates a 20-item scale making it possible to estimate the severity of psychopathic traits. The study procedure is based on performing a clinical history and analysis of the prison files, on the basis of which an assessment is made of the severity of each of the properties on a scale from 0 to 2 (where 0 means no trait and 2 is a permanent trait of a given feature/activity). The sum of the assessments obtained indicates the level of severity of psychopathic traits, and it falls within the range of 0–40 points. The PCL-R tool allows to distinguish two basic factors of psychopathy: interpersonal-emotional disorders (factor I) and deviant lifestyle (factor II). Factor I consists of 8 items: glibness/superficial personal charm; exaggerated self-esteem; pathological dishonesty; striving to lead through manipulation; lack of remorse and guilt; superficial sentimentality; insensitivity and lack of empathy and sense of responsibility for actions taken. Factor II consists of 10 items: a strong need for stimulation and increased susceptibility to boredom; parasitic lifestyle; poor control of behavior; lack of realistic, long-term goals; impulsiveness; early educational problems; irresponsibility; recklessness; crime in the adolescent period; waiving parole and criminal versatility. In addition, the following are added to the total score: promiscuity, and numerous short-term partnerships (Hare 2003, 2010). In the study, some of the questions typical of a semi-structured PCL-R interview were included in an original survey. In order to more accurately estimate the position of *superficial personal charm*, educators and penitentiary psychologists present every day in the immediate environment of prisoners were asked for an opinion.

The Scale of Aggression (SABDA) by A.H. Buss–A. Durkee. This tool is used to study the severity of hostility and aggressiveness, as well as forms of its manifestation. The inventory prepared by Jan M. Stanik, Agnieszka Roszkowska, and Joanna Kucharewicz (2006) on the basis of the Buss and Durkee “Hostility-Guild Inventory”, consists of 75 statements, from which eight scales emerge: physical aggression (I), indirect aggression (II), irritability (III), verbal aggression (VII), negativism (IV), resentment (V), suspiciousness (VI), and a sense of guilt (VIII).

Stanik’s Scale of Interpersonal Relations (SUI). The method, which allows us to characterize the behavior of individuals in dealing with other people, was created based on the concept of interpersonal personality functioning by Sullivan and Leary. SUI is made up of 70 test items, on the basis of which 12 subscales are distinguished, of which eight constitute the styles of interpersonal functioning: managerial-authoritarian, supporting and overly protective, cooper-

atively-friendly, submissively-dependent, retreating-masochistic, rebelliously-suspicious, aggressively-sadistic, competitively-narcissistic, and the other four subscales are: self-acceptance; the scale of dishonesty; resourcefulness, realism, relative autonomy; pessimism, helplessness, a cry for help (Stanik, Róžańska-Smith 2006).

Rokeach's Scale of Values (SW). The tool, designed to study the system of values of adolescents and adults, was created based on Rokeach's values theory. The Polish translation was used, prepared by the Laboratory of Psychological Tests, version E of the American Value Survey tool (VS). This method examines two belief systems: **Definite values** (WO), reflecting the main and supra-situational life goals of the individual and **Instrumental values** (WI), reflecting the procedures for implementing higher values. The procedure of the study imposes ranking the 18 mentioned values according to their subjective "validity". Each item is assigned a different rank by the subject, where rank "1" means the most important value, while rank "18" is awarded to the least significant from the point of view of the subject (Brzozowski 1996).

In order to determine the significance of differences between the two groups in the case of measurable variables, the nonparametric Kruskal-Wallis ANOVA test was used. As a measure of the interdependence of measurable variables, Spearman's rank correlation coefficient was applied. In order to present the qualitative characteristics cross tabulation tables were applied, including the percentage share; χ^2 tests of independence, measure of strength of the association: ϕ coefficient, Cramér's V coefficient and Pearson's contingency coefficient – applied depending on the fulfillment of the tests' assumptions. In order to determine the strength and direction of ordinal variable dependencies, the *Tau*-Kendall coefficient was used; when the variables did not take normal distribution – Spearman's rank correlation coefficient. In order to assess the relationship between the block of independent variables and a variable, the Bonferroni correction was applied.

Presentation and interpretation of the results

In the study group, only about 3% of inmates showed the presence of psychopathic traits in an intensity that made it possible to diagnose a psychopathic personality. This result exceeds the typical epidemiology of this condition for the general population of women (according to Weizmann-Henelius et al. (2004) from 0.6 to 1%) but is far less than indicated by Hare (2010), which is approximately 20% of inmates. There are probably certain gender and cultural differences present here, demonstrated already in other reports. For example, among Scottish inmates, only 3% of the population was diagnosed with psychopathy, in studies conducted in the German-speaking area, 7% of prisoners were thus diagnosed (Ullrich et al. 2003). In contrast, studies conducted in a group of female perpetrators of violence in Finland indicated the occurrence of a psychopathic personality disorder among

approximately 11% of the respondents (Weizmann-Henelius et al. 2004). The lower incidence of psychopathy in the surveyed group is probably influenced by the random selection of the prison population and thus the characteristics of the sample. Only 19% of respondents were convicted of committing crimes against life and health, and 14% for theft and extortion. Meanwhile, foreign studies often used purposeful selection according to the criterion of the nature of the committed offense (violent crimes) or residing in court-psychiatric wards of prisons. Another factor that may affect the results obtained is the specificity of the used diagnostic tool, which was created based on research conducted among men. As indicated by Caroline Logan and Gitta Weizman-Henelius (2012), using the PCL-R to diagnose women is effective in cases of extreme severity of the disorder and the significant expression of antisocial behavior; however, it can cause a lowered score in cases of weaker intensity of traits or a less dominant antisocial component in the clinical image.

The conditions of family socialization of women prisoners and the severity of psychopathic traits

The survey hypothesized the existence of the relationship between family socialization conditions and the intensity of psychopathic traits. Here the aspects of socialization taken into account are: being in welfare or welfare-educational institutions, the occurrence of the so-called criminal career in the family, and alcohol abuse by the parents.

Being in welfare or welfare-educational institutions. In the group *lack of psychopathic traits* 10% of women had been in welfare or welfare-educational institutions. With the increase in the severity of psychopathic traits in the surveyed groups, the number of women having such experience in their past grew. In the group with *minor symptoms of psychopathy* it concerned already 16%, while in the group with *moderate psychopathy and persons with psychopathic personality traits* as many as 44% of respondents had been wards of welfare or welfare-educational institutions. This statistically significant relationship ($p = 0.004$) is characterized by an average power of association ($\phi = 0.33$). The results are consistent with reports of Greer (1964; source: Prey-Wojciechowska 2004), according to which about 60% of psychopaths experienced childhood separation, remained without care and emotional contact with their parents. This trend is evident in the surveyed group, despite the generally lower score in the PCL-R in the group exhibiting psychopathic traits (group C) than that indicating a diagnosis of psychopathy.

The occurrence of the so-called criminal career in the generational family. The report of David P. Farrington et al. (2006) showed that the main risk factor for future violations of the law by men is the degree of crime occurring among members of a generational family, and later: boldness, courage, riskiness,

low school achievements, poverty, absenteeism from school and inappropriate parental attitudes. Farrington notes that the tendencies to commit crimes are concentrated in families. He reports that in 64% of generational families, there was at least one imprisoned offender (43% of brothers, 28% of fathers and 13% of mothers). Agata Matysiak-Błaszczyk (2010) notes that in 34% of generational families, women prisoners in Polish prisons were people who also stayed in such institutions. According to the author in these families there is the phenomenon of social modeling of criminogenic behavior. These trends are consistent with the conclusions of Farrington's report, so probably the gender of prisoners does not affect the way criminal behavior in families are transmitted.

In the present study, in group A, there were people who had been in prison only in 20% of the respondents' families. In other groups there were more of such people: in group B – 33%, while in group C – 28%. However, there is no statistically significant correlation here between the intensity of psychopathic traits and the occurrence of a career criminal in the family ($\chi^2 = 2.67$; $p = 0.26$). Crime among members of the generational family is therefore probably a good predictor of future criminal behavior but not necessarily associated with the manifestation of psychopathic personality traits.

Alcohol abuse by the parents. Psychodynamic concepts of the origins of psychopathy indicate the role of alcoholism present in the generational family as one of the main sources of insecurity and chaos characteristic of childhood of people with antisocial traits (McWilliams 2009, p. 167–182). According to Pastwa-Wojciechowska (2004) the problem of alcoholism applies to 23% of fathers-men with psychopathic personality disorder and 45% of convicted fathers-dissocial persons. In contrast, Matysiak-Błaszczyk (2010) says that there is a drinking problem in 37% of generational families of women prisoners (26% of fathers and 13% of mothers). On this basis, this study hypothesized the existence of a relationship between the severity of psychopathic traits and alcohol abuse by the parents of the subjects. This hypothesis was confirmed by the results obtained. In the case of the addiction of the mothers there was a statistically significant dependency ($\chi^2 = 6.03$; $p = 0.05$) with a weak severity ($\phi = 0.25$). In the case of the fathers, this dependency is more evident ($\chi^2 = 9.17$; $p = 0.01$), the measures of strength of the association indicate a moderate severity ($\phi = 0.31$). In group A, 10% of mothers and 22% of fathers of the surveyed women were alcoholics. These data are similar to the results obtained by Matysiak-Błaszczyk among all women prisoners. The percentage of parent addicts increased in groups with a higher severity of psychopathic traits – in Group B it reached 28% of mothers and 47% of fathers, while in Group C it embraced 33% of mothers and 59% of fathers.

The severity of psychopathic traits and manifested forms of aggression and hostility

The literature widely discusses the instrumentality of violence used by people diagnosed with psychopathy. Blair (2007) indicates an increased risk of proactive, purposeful, and instrumental aggression as well as a tendency to respond reactively with aggression to suffered frustration. Research conducted by Nouvion et al. (2007) shows also that in the population of unpunished people, higher severity of proactive aggression is associated with a higher score obtained in the PCL-R scale; however, the authors did not find such a dependency in the case of reactive aggression. In the study presented here, the dominating forms of aggression and hostility were analyzed, through which the aggressiveness of women is revealed with varying degrees of psychopathic traits. The data on the differences between the two groups and the degree of co-variableness of the severity of psychopathic traits with the level of individual forms of aggression and hostility are shown in Table 2.

Table 2. The significance of differences between groups of the severity of psychopathic traits for the SABDA scales and their correlations with the overall score and PCL-R factors

SABD scales	Values in the Kruskal-Wallis test $df = 2$					Spearman's correlation coefficient		
	average rank in the group:			H	p	the severity of psychopathic traits	factor I of the PCL-R	factor II of the PCL-R
	A	B	C					
Physical aggression	37.47	55.61	75.14	24.70	<0.001	0.55	0.36	0.58
Indirect aggression	42.68	52.13	66.67	9.62	<0.05	0.36	0.17	0.42
Irritation	44.30	50.69	64.64	6.73	<0.05	0.29	0.16	0.35
Negativism	43.41	47.32	72.92	15.03	<0.001	0.36	0.26	0.38
Resentment	46.04	55.60	51.36	2.20	0.33	0.05	-0.05	0.11
Suspiciousness	49.73	49.44	51.72	0.08	0.96	-0.06	-0.05	-0.05
Verbal aggression	38.60	53.89	74.97	22.22	<0.001	0.51	0.40	0.45
Sense of guilt	48.97	48.31	56.89	1.29	0.53	-0.01	-0.15	0.12
Factor aggression	38.00	54.71	75.22	23.48	<0.001	0.55	0.35	0.57
Factor hostility	46.00	51.63	58.31	2.58	0.28	0.10	0.03	0.14

Source: own study.

Forms of manifested aggression differentiate groups of the severity of psychopathy. In terms of physical aggression, statistically significant differences were

found between group A and the two other groups by the severity of psychopathic traits (group A exhibits significantly lower severity of this form of aggression (1) from group B $r_g^1 = 0.33$, (2) from group C $r_g = -0.54$), while there were no significant differences found between groups B and C. Significant differences between groups A and C were also found in the case of indirect aggression ($r_g = -0.37$) and irritation ($r_g = -0.31$). In terms of negativity ($Ar_g = -0.47$; $Br_g = -0.43$) and verbal aggression ($Ar_g = -0.56$; $Br_g = -0.35$), group C has significantly higher scores from other groups, while groups A and B do not differ between each other by these forms of aggression.

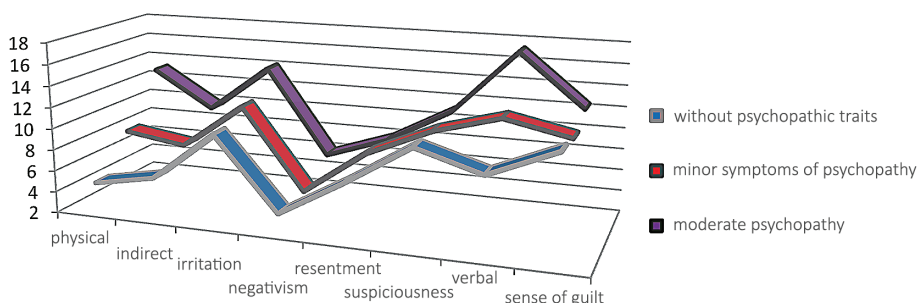


Fig. 1. The average scores of forms manifesting aggression and hostility in groups of severity of psychopathic traits

Source: own study.

Analyzing the profiles of forms of manifested aggression and hostility of groups with a severity of psychopathic traits, shown in Figure 1, we can find a clear trend of increasing average scores of manifested forms of aggression in groups with a higher severity of psychopathic traits. The conclusion arises that there are slight qualitative differences in the profiles of forms of manifested aggression depending on the severity of psychopathic traits in women; the surveyed subgroups are different, however, in their quantitative severity. However, forms of manifesting hostility are contrary to the trend shown: resentment (the highest average scores in the group with minor symptoms of psychopathy) and suspicion (the highest scores in the group with the lowest intensity of psychopathic traits).

The obtained research results show a clear differentiation of the surveyed subgroups in terms of the overall AGGRESSION factor, which consists of: physical aggression, indirect aggression, verbal aggression, and irritation. Significant statistical differences in terms of this factor were found between all groups of the

¹ r_g – rank-biserial correlation coefficient is a measure of the size of effect dedicated to the test of Mann-Whitney test of the significance of differences; it adopts a value in the range of $<-1.1>$

severity of psychopathic traits (Fig. 2); it also shows a high positive correlation with the overall score of the PCL-R.

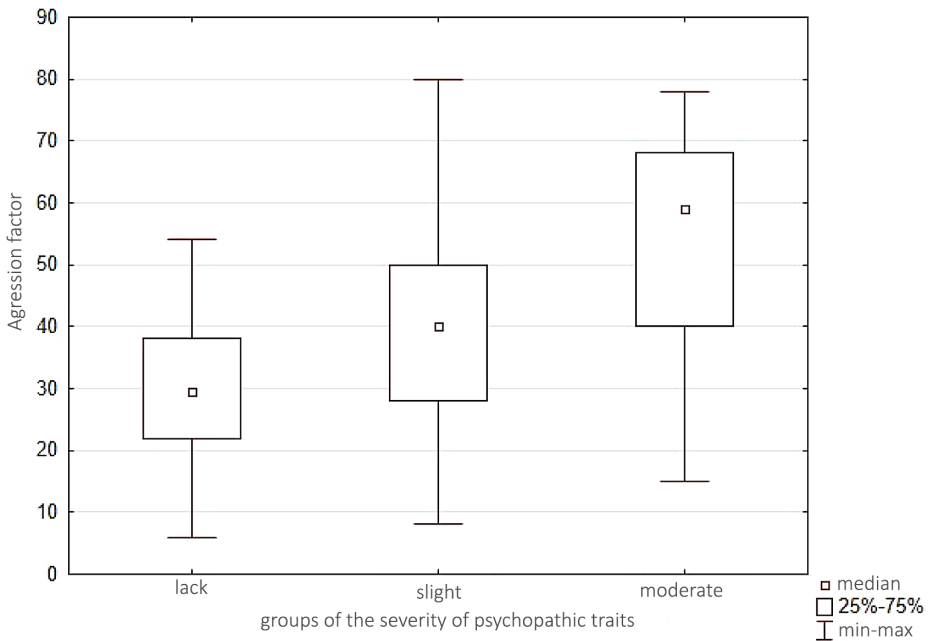


Fig. 2. AGGRESSION factor in three groups of the severity of psychopathic traits
Source: own study.

Looking more closely at the score of the PCL-R, we see that the AGGRESSION factor is far more strongly ($r = 0.57$) associated with factor II of the PCL-R, which refers to the behavioral aspects of functioning. Thus, the high aggressiveness of respondents goes hand in hand with their impulsiveness, recklessness and irresponsibility, and social deviance. In view of the fact that the severity of psychopathic traits in the scores obtained is predominantly associated with the quantitative differentiation of the severity of forms of manifested aggression, this correlation can be explained by the poor control of behavior characteristic of the behavioral aspects of psychopathy.

However, the limitations of the drawn conclusions should be noted, because the tendency for aggressive behavior, especially manifestations of verbal and physical aggression, are one of the elements influencing the diagnosis of the severity of the psychopathic traits using the tool PCL-R (indicators often affecting the assessment of the item: impulsiveness and poor behavior control). This problem is associated with accusations, which are present in the literature, in relation to Hare's operational term of psychopathy, indicating some confusion of the symp-

toms and effects of psychopathy, based on the integration of antisocial behaviors and their effects to the diagnostic criteria of this personality disorder (Kreis and Cooke 2011).

The severity of psychopathic traits and styles of interpersonal functioning

In Blackburn’s (2005) cognitive-interpersonal terms of psychopathy, this disorder is associated primarily with the interpersonal area of hostility and domination. The research conducted by Blackburn and Maybury (1985) shows that such a location in the circular model of interpersonal relations relates mainly to primary psychopathy; whereas secondary psychopathy is associated mainly with larger withdrawal and submissiveness. This issue is also discussed by Pastwa-Wojciechowska (2004), whose studies have shown significant differences between the groups of severity of psychopathic traits in terms of interpersonal relations. The most important of these include: the differences between the *group of prisoners* (not exhibiting traits of psychopathy) and the *group of psychopaths* in the severity of the submissively-dependent style. These results indicate that psychopaths tend to incite the environment to provide them with assistance and support, which is interpreted as an attempt to manipulate others in order to attain their own benefit. The same groups were also significantly differentiated by the rebelliously-suspicious style of interpersonal functioning. It paints a picture of the distrustful, hostile, anti-social psychopath with increased emotional coldness and neurotic suspicion. This trend also incorporates significantly higher scores of the *group of psychopaths* (compared with the *group of prisoners*) in the aggressively-sadistic style with a strong touch of domination.

Data showing the differences between subgroups of the surveyed women in terms of the different styles of interpersonal functioning and the strength of their association with the severity of psychopathic traits are presented in Table 3.

Table 3. The significance of differences between groups of the severity of psychopathic traits for the styles of interpersonal functioning and the association of these scales with the overall score and individual PCL-R factors

SUI scales	Values in the Kruskal-Wallis test df = 2					Spearman’s correlation coefficient		
	average rank in the group:			H	p	the severity of psychopathic traits	factor I of the PCL-R	factor II of the PCL-R
	A	B	C					
Managerial-authoritarian	44.68	51.71	61.83	4.97	0.08	0.27	0.41	0.13

SUI scales	Values in the Kruskal-Wallis test df = 2					Spearman's correlation coefficient		
	average rank in the group:			H	p	the severity of psychopathic traits	factor I of the PCL-R	factor II of the PCL-R
	A	B	C					
Supporting and overly protective	49.37	51.65	48.92	0.16	0.92	-0.06	0.01	-0.07
Cooperatively-friendly	52.79	45.81	49.47	1.18	0.56	-0.18	-0.15	-0.13
Submissively-dependent	46.39	56.81	48.31	2.65	0.27	0.02	-0.03	0.08
Retreating-masochistic	50.59	51.18	46.33	0.38	0.83	-0.19	-0.29	-0.06
Rebelliously-suspicious	44.99	56.81	52.19	3.44	0.18	0.12	0.20	0.04
Aggressively-sadistic	40.16	55.74	67.44	14.83	<0.001	0.40	0.36	0.35
Competitively-narcissistic	40.65	54.55	68.14	13.46	≤0.001	0.40	0.58	0.22
Self-acceptance	48.73	52.69	48.89	0.40	0.82	-0.06	-0.25	0.08
Lie scale	58.24	48.32	30.00	13.30	≤0.001	-0.26	-0.13	-0.30

Source: own study.

The styles of interpersonal functioning clearly differentiate groups of the severity of psychopathic traits. Statistically significant differences between groups A and C were found in terms of: the aggressively-sadistic style ($r_g = -0.40$), the competitively-narcissistic style ($r_g = -0.43$), and the scale of dishonesty ($r_g = 0.43$). Between the aggressively-sadistic style and the severity of psychopathic traits there is an average, positive correlation; this association applies to both factor I and factor II of the PCL-R. Such a system of dependencies reflects a deep incorporation of tendencies for aggressive behavior in the structure of the personality of the surveyed women, which have become permanent in the deviant lifestyle as a form of their manifestation. Significantly higher scores in Group C in the competitively-narcissistic style suggest a tendency for over-emphasizing their independence while devaluing the value of another human being, and the constant competition for dominance in interpersonal relationships. This style shows a positive, average correlation with the overall score of the PCL-R. It turns out that this dependency is significantly more affected by the high correlation with the emotional-interpersonal factor than from a deviant lifestyle, showing only a low dependency here. The increase of the scores in both of the discussed styles (VII and VIII) gives a consistent image of the hostile domination characteristic of the surveyed women from the *group with a moderate severity of psychopathic traits and psychopathic personality*. Both of these styles, in Leary's circular model of interpersonal behavior (2004) together create a quarter of the saturation of hostility and domination (Stanik 1998). These results confirm the postulate of Blackburn (1998b) for such

a location of psychopathy, and in the context of his theory, they make it possible to place these women at the edge of ruthlessness in the ruthlessness dimension – the submission of the model of analyzing psychopathic behavior.

The severity of psychopathic traits and the hierarchy of values of prisoners

Values are the basis that direct the activities of the individual, lead to take certain social roles, inform how to rationalize beliefs, attitudes and actions as well as determine the identity and life orientation of a person (Wawro 2007). In the structure of the personality, the system of values is hierarchical, which Rokeach defines as: “lasting organization of beliefs about the preferred ways of proceeding or final states of existence, in order according to relative importance” (1973; after: Brzozowski 1996, p. 4); it consists of final and instrumental values. The subgroups of the severity of psychopathic traits examined here differed only in terms of the hierarchy of ultimate values, defined as “the most important supra-situational goals of human life” (Brzozowski 1996, p. 5). The results of the group comparisons for the final values are presented in Table 4.

Table 4. Characteristics of assigned ranks to final values in the surveyed groups of the severity of psychopathic traits

Final values	Values in the Kruskal-Wallis test $df = 2$					$E_R^2 E_R^2 *$
	rank submitted in the group:			H	P	
	A	B	C			
National security	11	11.5	2.5	1.14	0.57	0.02
Family safety	1	1	1	14.22	<0.001	0.20
Mature love	2.5	4.5	5	0.75	0.96	0.01
Prosperous life	5.5	6	8	2.17	0.34	0.03
Wisdom	2.5	3	2.5	0.79	0.67	0.01
Sense of achievement	13	8	5	3.66	0.16	0.06
Sense of own dignity	4	4.5	7	1.85	0.40	0.03
World peace	7.5	13.5	15.5	2.63	0.27	0.04
True friendship	7.5	7	9	2.64	0.27	0.04
Pleasure	12	10	11.5	0.87	0.65	0.01
Internal balance	9.5	11.5	18	2.85	0.24	0.04

Final values	Values in the Kruskal-Wallis test df = 2					$E_R^2 E_R^2 *$
	rank submitted in the group:			H	P	
	A	B	C			
Equality	14	13.5	15.5	0.53	0.77	0.01
Happiness	9.5	9	15.5	0.14	0.93	0.00
World of beauty	16.5	16.5	11.5	4.39	0.11	0.07
Social recognition	15	15	11.5	1.81	0.40	0.03
Freedom	5.5	2	5	2.58	0.27	0.04
Salvation	18	18	15.5	2.73	0.26	0.04
Eventful life	16.5	16.5	11.5	0.18	0.91	0.00

* $E_R^2 E_R^2$ – Epsilon-squared coefficient – is a measure of the size of effect dedicated to the Kruskal-Wallis test of significant differences.

Source: own study.

The most valued in all subgroups final value is *family safety*. This value occupies a prominent place in the system of Polish society, regardless of the gender of the respondents (Brzozowski 1996) and the severity of psychopathic traits. Significant differences between the surveyed subgroups were found, however, in the location of *family safety* in this hierarchy (in the Kruskal-Wallis test after applying the Bonferroni correction $p = 0.01$). Although this value gained relatively the highest rank in each group, significant differences were found in the assessment of the gravity of this value between groups A and C. The position of *family safety* in the hierarchy of final values also showed a positive correlation with the average value: $r = 0.44$; $p < 0.05$ with the severity of psychopathic traits (the structure of the SW scale should be noted here, which follows that rank “1” is attributed to the highest value).

For the formation of the recognized values, experiences and models coming from the family environment in the educational process are important, whether it is through the modeling mechanism or deprivation of certain needs, transformed over time into highly prized values (Kasser et al. 2002). As indicated, people with a higher severity of psychopathic traits often grow up in environments that do not provide them with safe models and family experiences (living in welfare-educational institutions, parents who abuse alcohol), which could translate into a lower valuation of family safety as a result of the generational transmission of recognized values in the process of socialization. On the other hand, the score obtained in group C may indicate a weaker identification of the deprivation of security needs in the early stages of development and its impact on the revealed

disorders, which in the case of women with a higher severity of psychopathic traits to a lesser extent resulted in the valuation of family safety. The trend is consistent with the theoretical recognition of psychopathy, in which recklessness, lack of commitment, and care for the family, as the characteristics of people affected by this disorder, are emphasized. However, they may be the result of less self-consciousness of those subjects.

The comparison of the hierarchy of women's values of varying severities of psychopathic traits with the model hierarchy of generally accepted values in Polish society, cited by Piotr Brzozowski (1996), seems interesting. It is found that indeed the hierarchy of the group with the strongest severity of psychopathic traits is closest to the model. It is possible that this result stems from the desire of positive self-presentation, manipulation of impression, and a certain falsification of the results by the prisoners from this group.

In terms of the hierarchy of instrumental values, there were no statistically significant differences found between the two groups; we can only talk about some insignificant trends in different preferences to individual positions.

Summary and discussion

In response to the research questions posed earlier, it should be emphasized that (PB1) in terms of family socialization between the two subgroups there were differences found in terms of living in welfare or welfare-educational institutions during childhood and alcohol abuse by the parents. Compared to male groups from the research of Pastwa-Wojciechowska (2004), the problem of alcohol addiction of the parents is strongly marked in the families of women prisoners. This situation may actually stem from a lower severity of psychopathic traits in the study population, thus the group with *moderate psychopathy and persons with psychopathic personality traits is closer to the dissociation group* at the level of PCL-R scores than *groups of psychopaths* in the cited study. As cited above, the highest percentage of parents' addiction to alcohol among male groups was found by Pastwa-Wojciechowska in the *dissociation group* and it was similar to the results obtained here.

The hypothesis about the existence of differences in the manifestation of forms of aggression (PB2) was also confirmed by the research results. Differentiation refers mainly to physical aggression, verbal aggression, and irritation, whose indicators demonstrate a positive correlation with the severity of psychopathic traits. As one of the most significant findings can be no qualitative differences found while maintaining the quantitative differences in the profiles of forms of manifested aggression in groups of the severity of psychopathic traits.

In response to the third research question, in terms of styles of interpersonal functioning, there are statistically significant differences between the two sub-

groups. Women with a higher severity of psychopathic traits are characterized by higher scores in the aggressively-sadistic and competitively-narcissistic styles, characterized by a tendency to over-express criticism, sarcasm, desire to harm others. Hostility directed to the outside and to ourselves is found here also quite clearly. These are dominating people with destructive tendencies and an instrumental approach to another person. There was also a high, positive correlation of these styles resulting from the emotional and interpersonal factor of the PCL-R. The characteristics of dependencies between psychopathic traits and interpersonal relations shown in this study, proved to be to some extent similar to the differences observed by Pastwa-Wojciechowska (2004) in the male group. The surveyed women with a higher severity of psychopathic traits also exhibit a higher aggressively-sadistic style, but do not show a higher tendency to present the submissively-dependent and rebelliously-suspicious style, which characterized the group of men in the study by Pastwa-Wojciechowska.

In answering to fourth research question, the hypothesis of the existence of the relationship between the hierarchy of values and the intensity of psychopathic traits. A significant relationship occurred here in the case of evaluating the position *family safety* in the hierarchy of final values. It turns out that women in the group of *moderate psychopathy and persons with psychopathic personality traits* had a relatively lower assessment of this value.

To sum up, only three out of 99 surveyed women achieved in the scale PCL-R a score allowing to determine the presence of a psychopathic personality, which raised the need to include them in a common subgroup with respondents showing moderate psychopathic tendencies. The group from the highest severity of psychopathic traits in this study is called *moderate psychopathy and persons with psychopathic personality traits* (group C); due to the lower severity of psychopathic traits in light of the PCL-R scale, it is not right to simply refer its characteristics of psychopathic personality disorder.

The fundamental platform for further research is the issue of psychopathy occurring in women itself. Few analyzes carried out to date do not allow to unambiguously characterize the clinical image of the disorder, while certain gender differences in the phenotypic expression are postulated. Previous studies require replication and broadening of the scope of research on the difference of psychopathy in women and men, which is emphasized by the authors of these analyses, including Logan and Weizmann-Henelius (2012), Kreis and Cooke (2011). The presence of psychopathy in women is puzzling and, due to the social dimension of the problem, still requires further exploration. Increasing crime of women may be associated with the occurrence of psychopathic traits. Few research reports on women's psychopathy come mainly from countries in North America, the Nordic countries, and Germany, which makes translating their conclusions into the Polish population is burdened with the risk of cultural differences. In further studies it should be taken into account that the PCL-R scale is not sensitive to gender dif-

ferences in the expression of this disorder; furthermore, its validation for women was not carried out, which is a significant limitation of conclusions drawn on its basis towards the psychopathy of women (Kreis, Cooke 2011). Some researchers consider also the lowering of the diagnostic thresholds of PCL-R in the case of diagnosing women (Logan, Weizmann-Henelius 2012).

In addition, the widely discussed in the literature criticism of the operational definition of psychopathy should be remembered due to symptoms of this disorder and its consequences penetrating it. The Model of Comprehensive Assessment of Psychopathic Personality (CAPP) developed by Cooke can be an interesting alternative for the operational definition of psychopathy adopted in this study (Hoff et al. 2014; Kreis and Cook 2011).

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