

## First Offenders with Psychosis

Justification of a Third Type within the Early/Late Start Offender Typology

Josanne D. M. van Dongen, Nicole M. L. Buck, Hjalmar J. C. van Marle

Published online before print October 28, 2013, doi: 10.1177/0011128713505490

*Crime & Delinquency* February 2014 vol. 60 no. 1 126-142

<http://cad.sagepub.com/content/60/1/126.abstract>

Within the early/late start typology of offenders with schizophrenia, a third type, first offenders (FO), has been proposed. The aim of this study was to examine the justification of this first offender type. Retrospective file study consisted of 97 early starters (ES), 100 late starters, and 26 FO. Variables in different domains were scored. There were significant differences between the groups within the domains life functioning, abuse and family-related problems, psychiatric functioning, substance misuse, antisocial personality, and offense characteristics. Most differences were between the ES and FO. The existence of the first offender type is justified by the present findings. These findings underscore the importance of offender subtyping for better offender treatment interventions.