

In order to determine differences in levels of domestic violence and depressive symptomatology in prison population by type of crime, male inmates of three Centers for Social Rehabilitation in Mexico (N=844 men) participated by answering a questionnaire with 3 scales used to measure family violence, depressive symptomatology (CESD) and addictions. The differences in levels of domestic violence, depressive symptomatology and alcohol consumption by type of crime showed a significant relationship between high levels of these variables. For example, inmates who reported severe domestic violence and severe depressive symptoms had committed theft. Therefore, these variables have been identified as risk factors related to criminal behavior.

# DOMESTIC VIOLENCE, ADDICTIONS AND DEPRESSION IN MALE CRIMINAL POPULATION

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## INTRODUCTION

Few studies have focused on studying risk factors related to criminal behavior in specific populations. While the causes of criminal behavior are multifactorial, some important risk factors have been considered in addressing crime prevention.

## OBJECTIVES

The purpose of this study was to identify potential social, cultural, clinical and demographic factors predisposing towards crime and to establish possible causal relationships for this behavior.

## METHOD

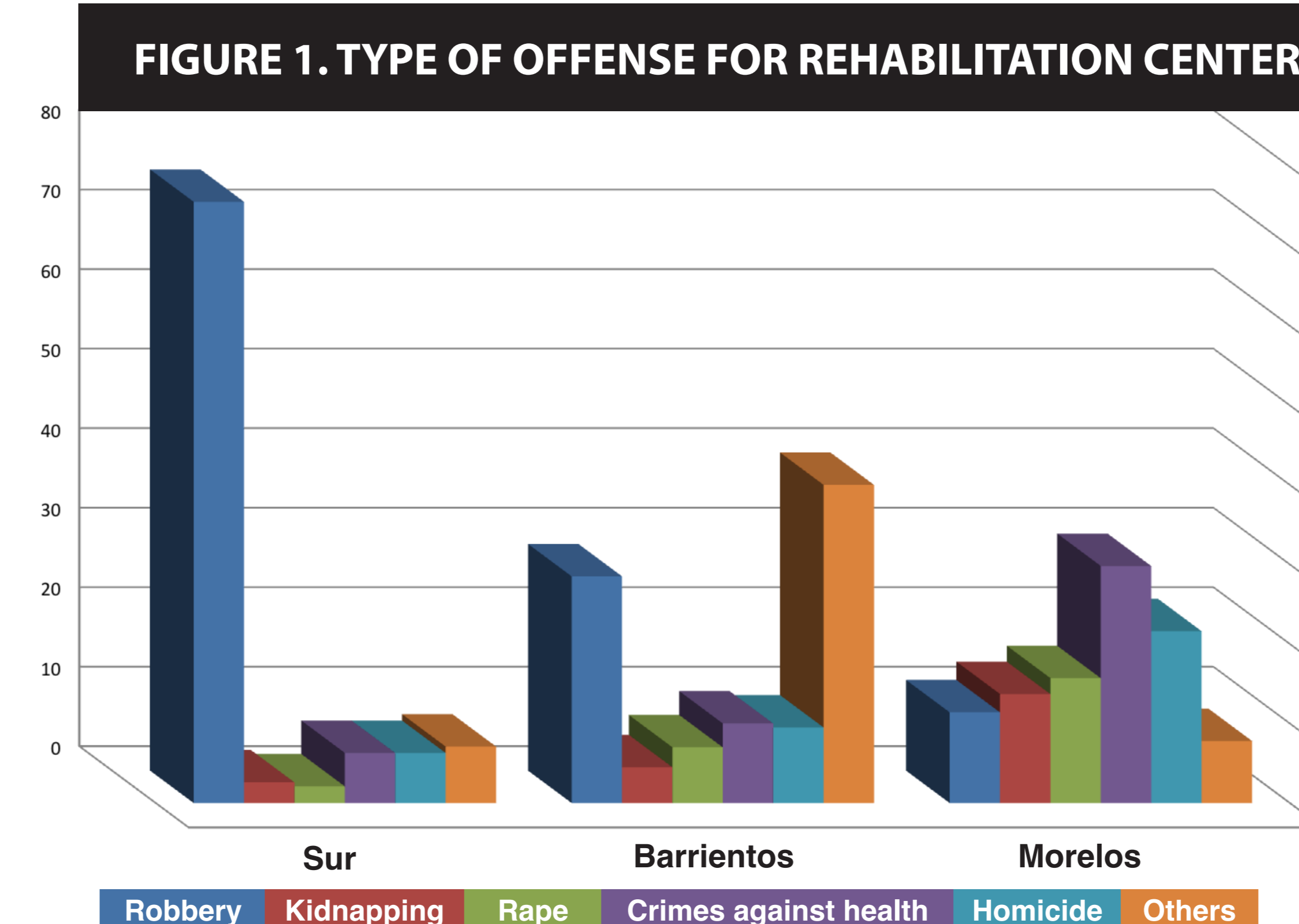
A non-experimental, transverse, descriptive and correlational study was carried out on a probabilistic sample 844 inmates of three Centers of Social Rehabilitation at Mexico.

A questionnaire with 3 scales was used to measure domestic violence, depressive symptomatology (CESD) and addictions. A pilot test of  $\alpha=0.84$  and Varimax rotation factor analysis of the scales of domestic violence and depression reported adequate identification of the factors that compose them. The exploration of predisposing factors towards crime were ex post facto (violence, alcohol and addictions), since the information gathered refers to the subjects' conditions previous to their imprisonment. Depression was measured at the time of the study. The average age was 32.6 years (SD=9.9).

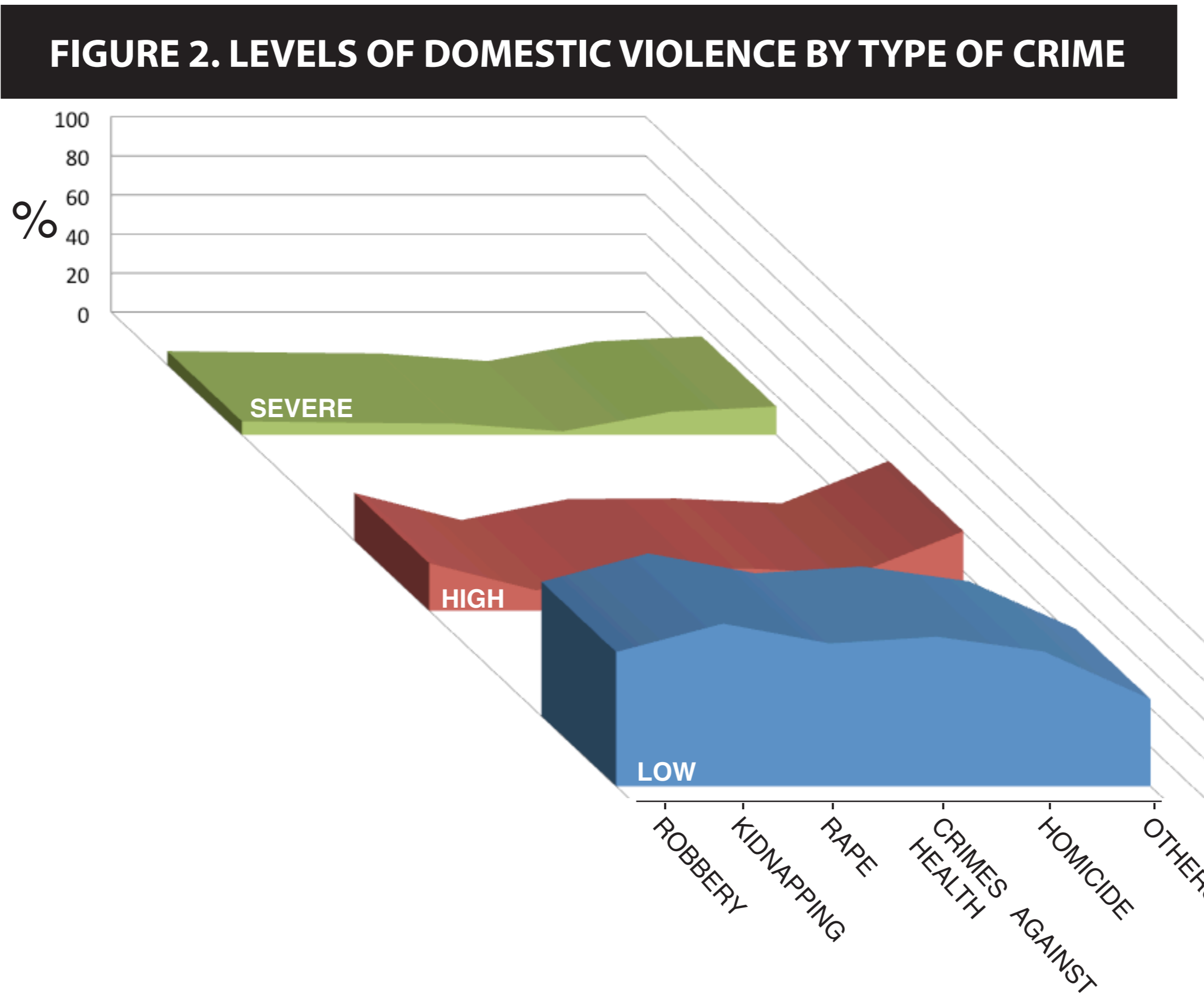


## RESULTS

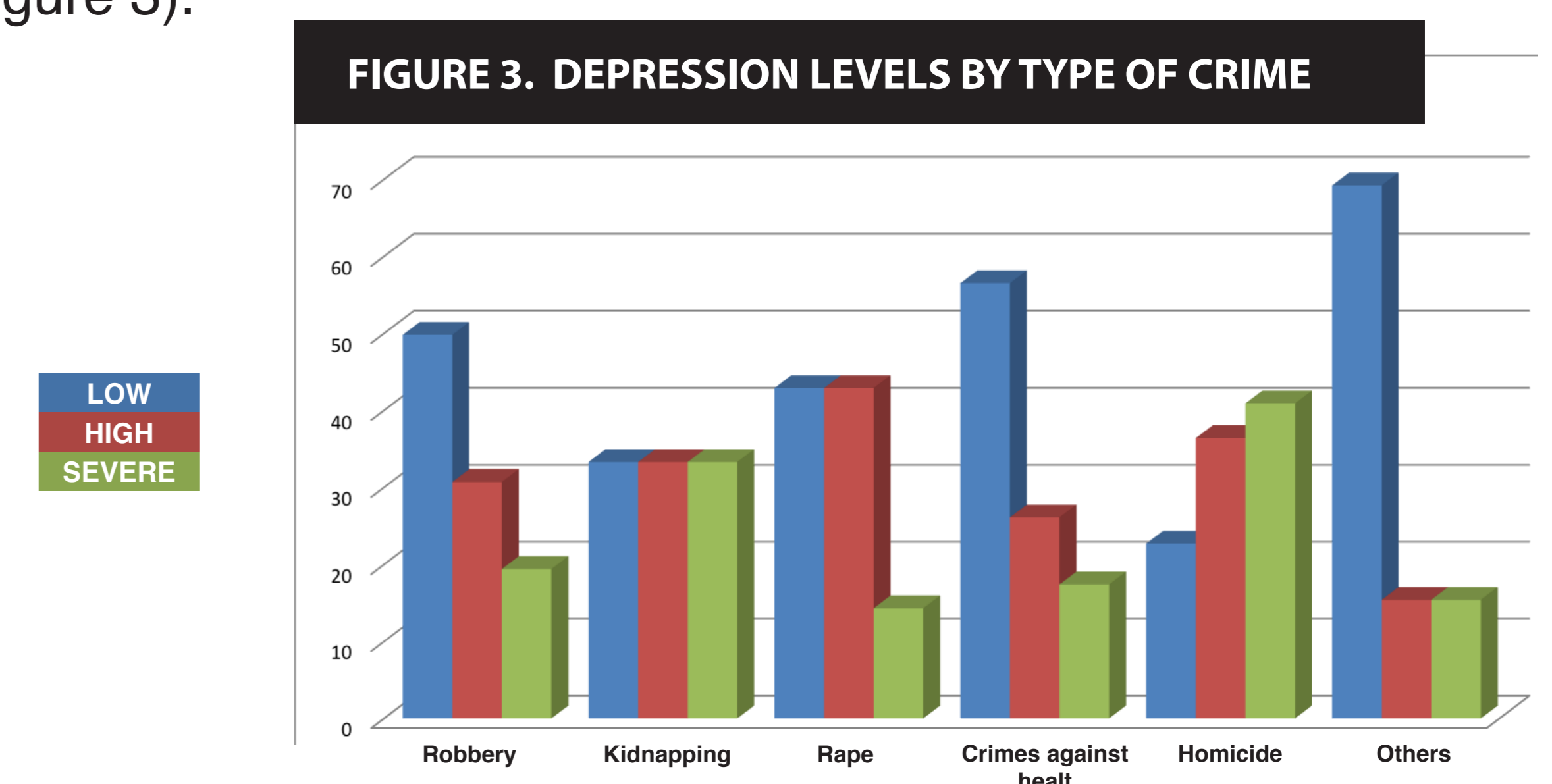
Regarding the type of crime committed (Figure 1) in two rehabilitation centers (South and Barrientos), the most reported crime was robbery, while in the Center of Morelos the most inmates had committed crimes against health.



When analyzing domestic violence by type of crime, a significant relationship was found ( $X^2 = 57.07, p < .001$ ). Inmates imprisoned for committing robbery, kidnapping, rape, crimes against health or homicide reported low levels of domestic violence regardless of the type of crime. However, high and severe levels were found among those imprisoned for other crimes (Figure 2).

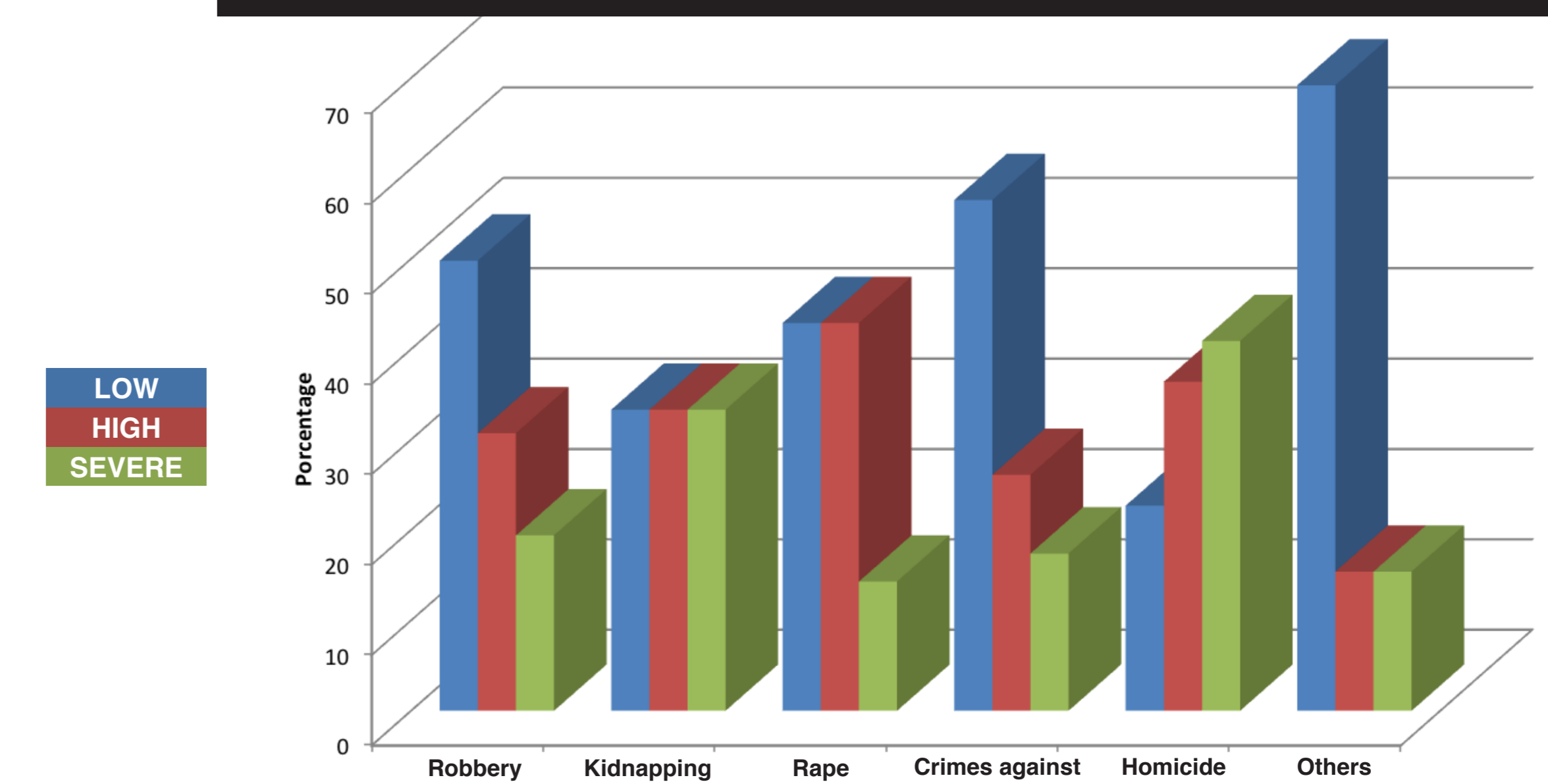


As for depressive symptoms, results showed statistically significant relationships ( $X^2 = 36.67, p < .001$ ). A higher percentage of inmates with high depressive symptoms committed rape, and those who committed homicide suffered from severe levels of depression (Figure 3).



A significant number of inmates imprisoned for rape reported high levels of drinking (before entering the rehabilitation center), while a significant relation ( $X^2 = 33.96, p < .001$ ) was found between severe levels of alcohol consumption and committing murder (Figure 4)

FIGURE 4. ALCOHOL CONSUMPTION LEVELS BY TYPE OF CRIME



## CONCLUSIONS

Statistic analysis showed significant differences in domestic violence, depression, alcohol consumption and drug abuse. It can also be concluded that domestic violence is a psychoeducational factor associated with criminal behavior. Adverse factors such as marginalization, lack of education, poverty, an inadequate or disturbed family environment, violence and addictions, tend to come together and generate an environment predisposing towards criminal behavior.