5. AGE AND SEX PATTERNS OF PERSONS SUSPECTED OF COMMITTING OFFENCES IN ŁÓDZ

5.1. INITIAL REMARKS

Researching demographic patterns of persons committing offences has had a long tradition among various science domains analysing different issues related to crime. That is so because it is interesting to seek answers to why in populations with specific patterns some individuals commit offences while others completely refrain from such actions. The existence of criminal and deviant behaviours is influenced by the following demographic features: age, sex (biological and social – gender), race, nuptiality, procreation ratio, migrations, and spatial redistribution of the population (South, Messner 2000; Rotolo, Tittle 2006).

The claim that there is a relationship between sex and age and crime rate is one of the oldest and the most widely accepted notions in contemporary criminology. Throughout the world, it is justifiable to indicate men as the main culprits; also in the case of age patterns of offenders, it is a widely known regularity that the tendency to commit offences decreases with the increase of the age of the potential culprit. Among various sociological theories, there is a traditional view derived from the theories of Thomas Hobbes where people's behaviour, particularly in their early years, is not compliant in its nature with social norms and contracts. Said theories propose that the highest crime rate is

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