

Abstract

Background: The prevalence of substance use in the general population is commonly mapped, as is the issue of substance prevalence among drug users themselves. There is no official research in the Czech Republic that deals with the prevalence of substance use among workers in addictology services.

Objectives: The aim of the research is to map the prevalence of the use of legal and illegal addictive substances in a selected research population. The results of the mapping will show which addictive substances are most frequently used by members of the research population, which substances have the highest lifetime prevalence and which substances are not very popular in this population.

Methods: The basic orientation of the empirical survey was quantitative. Data were obtained through an online questionnaire survey. Out of the total number of 589 employees, 41.9% of employees of outpatient or low-threshold addictology services participated in the research, ie 247 respondents. The research was carried out in the period from March 28, 2021 to April 17, 2021.

Results: The prevalence of experience with legal and illegal addictive substances, both living, in the last 12 months or in the last 30 days is significantly higher for workers in drop-in centres and outpatient addictology services in the Czech Republic than for the general population, while the prevalence of daily alcohol consumption is lower. For workers in drop-in centres and outpatient addictology services, illicit drugs with the highest lifetime prevalence are marijuana or hashish and hallucinogenic mushrooms, while drugs with the lowest lifetime prevalence include heroin and new synthetic drugs.

Keywords:

Prevalence, addictive substances, workers, drop-in services, outpatient addictology services