

Abstract

BACKGROUND. Substance use is a widespread phenomenon in prisons, with a number of associated problems, for instance high incidence of infectious diseases, recidivism, poor physical and mental health and high costs of repressive measures, which still do not eradicate drug use in prison facilities. In 2016, the first addictologist was admitted to the prison system in Czechia. Two years later, 14 more table places were established. The thesis brings an overview at this period (2018 – 2021).

AIMS. The aim of the thesis is to provide an information about starting and forming of specialized addiction services in prison setting from the perspective of addictologists. The theoretical part of the thesis also presents the results of foreign research on the effectiveness of selected interventions and strategies and recommendations for good practice.

RESEARCH QUESTIONS. The research questions address the experience of addictologists and are focused on four main areas: workplace formation, clientele, quality assurance and the impact of Covid-19 on the workplace.

METHODS. To meet the aims, the method of semi-structured interviews with selected informants who entered prisons in 2018 was used along with document analysis. **RESULTS.** The experience of addictologists point out some problematic areas, for instance lack of service concept, absence of unifying documents, manuals and procedures, unrepresentative quality assurance system, limited possibilities of cooperation with other services, limited availability of professional support and development opportunities, discrepancies in purpose, possibilities and service limits. The interviews also give an insight into the sources of support, ways of work with clients and development of services from the beginning to the nowadays form.

IMPLICATIONS. The entry of addiction services into prison setting is a desirable step in a rational drug policy. Therefore, further research and evaluation of the past period is needed to plan future evidence-based interventions and strategies.

KEYWORDS. addictology - prison – jail - addiction treatment services - addiction - Covid-19 and prison – drugs and inmates