

Abstract

Background: In the United States, methamphetamine use has increased significantly in recent years, resulting in an increase in overdose deaths. In 2020 alone, 2.6 million people in the country used this substance. Reasons leading to this trend are not described in the literature, nor is this issue documented from the perspective of individual US states.

Aims: The aim of this bachelor thesis is to describe the use of methamphetamine in Montgomery County, Maryland. Based on the study of methamphetamine problems in this county, the subsequent aim of this work is to evaluate the current care of methamphetamine users.

Methods: A qualitative approach was used for data processing. Methods of pattern search and text coloring were used in the data analysis. The method of intentional (purposeful) selection through institutions was used to obtain data. Data collection was carried out using a semi-structured interview. Data interpretation was performed based on the selection of relevant information.

Sample: The research sample included 5 semi-structured interviews with addiction specialists in this county, Maryland, including a visit to the Outpatient Addiction Treatment Center and the state therapeutic center Avery Road. The research sample also included fixation and analysis of written materials.

Results: Montgomery County has the lowest number of methamphetamine users in Maryland. This is certainly supported by the fact that Montgomery County is one of the richest in both Maryland and the United States. The presence of a number of protective factors and the strong financial support of the management of this county in the care of methamphetamine users, fundamentally contribute to this positive trend. This is further supported by the fact that this county has a high level of education of its residents who have also very good health and economic prosperity. Particularly in this county, there is functioning qualitative and well-available professional care for methamphetamine users.

Conclusions: This work reveals some very interesting causes and factors that lead to a low number of methamphetamine users in Montgomery County, Maryland, USA.

Key words: methamphetamine, Montgomery County, Maryland, USA, care