

# Abstract

**Background:** Findings from research about victimization of drug user are repeated throughout the years and the authors themselves mention insufficient clarity of the phenomenon. Moreover, most of the available research is external so insight into the issue from the standpoint of czech environment is lacking. Drug users are excluded from victimization studies as well so we do not have detailed information about the process of victimization. Results from victimization studies reflect the fact, that victimization of drug users is frequent, but that it is also a part of a complicated net of additional problems.

**Aims:** The aim of this thesis was obtaining general findings about drug users as victims of criminal offence as well as information about the process and means being used in working with these individuals. The goal was to gain insight into cooperation with other services and organizations dealing with this subject. An essential objective of this thesis was to find how the workers in question navigate in the subject matter, gather information about the issue of not reporting crime and possible limitations and complications in working with drug users in the role of a victim of crime.

**Methods:** The research of this thesis is mostly qualitative with elements of quantitative method. The qualitative research was carried out using Grounded theory. The main research tool chosen for this work was a structured interview with open-ended questions. The sample file consists of eight workers from different low-threshold addictology services in Prague that responded to an e-mail request for research involvement.

**Results:** Victimization of drug users frequently happens inside of their community. Most of the victims do not report the crimes to the police. The reasons for this are usually distrust and fear of police as well as the fact that the victims were under the influence of a drug at the time, also, many of the victimized drug users commit crimes themselves. Stigmatizing and disgraceful attitude of the police also resonates in the context of the issue. The questioned workers of low-threshold addictology services navigate the subject matter well but reflect certain drawbacks.

**Conclusion:** Conclusions of the research confirm the findings of previous studies about the incidence of victimization of drug users, their causes, frequent not reporting of crimes to the police and the relevant reasons for this behaviour. Certain problems or limits were found in relation to the police and services providing help to the victims of crime. Further findings from the research indicate a need for education of policemen and other law enforcement authorities.

## Key words:

Victimization - victims of crimes - drug users - law enforcement authorities - low-threshold addictology services - qualitative research