

Background: Adolescent substance abuse is a global problem. In the Czech Republic, youth and adolescents make up almost 50% of all users of addictive substances. Therefore, it is important to map the motivation to start treatment and the factors that help young people to stay in treatment or, on the contrary, demotivate them.

Aim: The main goals of this study were to find out the motivation of adolescents to join a therapeutic community and which factors help them in treatment and which do not. Another goal was to determine the degree of client motivation through the CMRS questionnaire. And last but not least, with the help of a screening questionnaire for young people, find out the riskiest areas of young people's lives.

Methods: Data collection took place during April 2024 in the therapeutic community of Karlov. A semi-structured interview was conducted with the clients, they filled out a short CMRS questionnaire and a longer screening questionnaire for adolescents.

Research file: The sample consisted of 5 clients of the Karlov therapeutic community aged 17-23.

Results: From the statements of the respondents, it emerged that the most common motive for entering the therapeutic community is external motivation through parents. However, this motivation changes during treatment to internal motivation, when clients stay in treatment mainly for themselves.

Conclusion and recommendation: It was found that the motivation to start is primarily of an external type. It would therefore be appropriate to focus attention on changing this attitude of juvenile clients as part of pre-treatment intervention. Furthermore, it is advisable to strengthen internal motivation as much as possible and to look for individual reasons for staying in treatment and subsequent abstinence.