

Abstract

This bachelor's thesis explores the stigmatizing attitudes of healthcare professionals, particularly medical students, towards people with substance abuse disorder (SUD). The theoretical section defines key concepts such as stigma, labelling, attitudes, discrimination, and substance abuse. It focuses on the general aspects of stigmatization of mental illness and attitudes towards persons with SUD among the public and health professionals. The empirical section uses the Reported and Intended Behaviour Scale (RIBS) to map the reported and intended behaviour of first-year medical students in Czechia towards alcohol, marijuana, methamphetamine, and cocaine addicts. The research revealed that 53 % of the participants have personal experience of a close one's addiction. Statistically significant differences ($p < .001$; $\eta^2 = .19$) in attitudes toward persons with various addictions indicate that students are most favourable toward marijuana addicts, followed by alcohol, cocaine, and the most stigmatizing attitudes are toward meth users. Females show less tolerant attitudes towards alcohol, marijuana, and cocaine compared to males. Factors such as experience with an addicted close one, work experience, and friendship with people with SUD have a significant influence on attitudes. The results may provide a basis for interventions to reduce stigmatizing attitudes among medical students, which is key to providing quality health care for people with addiction.