

Summary

GOALS: The thesis is theoretically – experimentally oriented. In the theoretical part it studies opioids as substances, representatives of particular opioids including their pharmacological impact, risks of their use, a mechanism of deaths of their users, dividing of drug-related deaths and their reasons, associated risk factors. It deals also with a procedure of an investigation of these drug-related deaths and with a data collection.

The main goal of the practical part of this thesis is an analysis of the data and describing of the structure and circumstances of opiate-related deaths which had been occurring in the Prague city between the years 2005-2011.

FILE: The researched file consists of data from 55 autopsy reports of drug users who died in relation with using of opiates which collected at three Prague institutes of forensic medicine. The main criterion for nomination to the researched file was a presence of opioids in bodies of deceased.

METHODS: Obtained data were analyzed by using of a descriptive statistics. A frequency and characteristics of variables were stipulated and results were described and evaluated graphically in charts and graphs. Toxicological results were put through qualitative and quantitative analysis.

RESULTS AND CONCLUSION: A description of the socio-demographic characteristics of the deceased and phenomenology of opiate deaths, analysis of values of toxicological tests, determination of the most common causes of death and a related comorbidity of users resulted from the research. A typical victim is a male approx. 30 years old who died in a private apartment due to a brain and lungs swelling caused by an accidental overdose of heroin in a combination with other narcotics and psychotropic substances.

KEY WORDS: OPIOIDS – DEATH – OVERDOSE – DRUGS - COMORBIDITY