

Abstract

Basis: Statistical data of the Police of the Czech Republic show that secondary drug crime is widespread among abusers of addictive substances in the entire Czech Republic. The crime is mainly due to the need for financial resources for buying the addictive substance. As a result, every addictive substance abuser is perceived as a potential perpetrator of a crime.

Aim: The aim of this diploma thesis was to find out the incidence of secondary drug criminality in the clients of the contact center DRUG - OUT Klub, z. s. in Ústí nad Labem, and to study the effect of selected influential demographic factors (gender, age, type of addictive substance, duration of addictive substance abuse).

Methods and Research Sample: The research was conducted in the drug addiction treatment center DRUG - OUT Klub, s. z. in Ústí nad Labem using a questionnaire. The research respondents were problem abusers of opioids and stimulants. The research sample was selected with help of the institution. Every client of the contact center, who was a problem opioid or stimulant abuser, was over 18 years old, and agreed to be part of the research could participate. The research sample consisted of 362 problem abusers of opioids and stimulants. Among those were 201 men (60 opioid abusers, 141 stimulant abusers) and 161 women (55 opioid abusers, 106 stimulant abusers).

Results: A total of 334 respondents (92,75%) have committed secondary drug crime in the past, almost always under the influence of an addictive substance. No direct relation between the type of crime committed and the type of addictive substance used was observed, as the groups of abusers of opioids and abusers of stimulants were not represented by the same number of respondents. The most common crime committed by problem abusers of opioids was shoplifting. The crime was usually premeditated, done under the suppressive influence of the substance being abused. The most common crime committed by problem abusers of stimulants was also shoplifting. Most of these crimes have not been thought out beforehand. Women in the research sample committed 1907 crimes in total. They most often committed shoplifting (1438 cases). By contrast, men most often committed burglary (994 cases). In total, 2503 crimes were committed by the men. All 334 respondents stated the main reason for committing crime was to provide money for buying the addictive substance. Other motives included the provision of money for food, housing, debt payment and the need for stolen things. Most crimes were committed without the presence of any other person/people. The research also shows that it is not possible to confirm the assumption that the longer the respondent abused the addictive substance, the more crimes he/she has committed.

Conclusion: The research of my diploma thesis confirms that secondary drug crime is very widespread among clients of the contact center DRUG - OUT Klub z.s.; however, 7,25% of the respondents have never committed any crime, which means that not all problem abusers of addictive substances are criminal offenders.

Keywords: drug abusers, addictive substances, drug-related criminality, crime, motive, secondary drug-related crime