

Abstract:

Despite the fact that the prevalence of drug use in nightlife settings is significantly higher than in the general population (EMCDDA, 2015), addictology services in these fields are not a priority in the Czech Republic - nor are they a conceptual and stable aspect of addiction care. The status of these programs is therefore usually fluctuating and currently not well mapped.

The aims of this research were: to describe the current situation of addictology services within nightlife settings in the Czech Republic; obtain basic data on the programs that currently operate in this context; describe provided interventions and their scope of reach; and provide an elementary overview of the nature of services and their limits or barriers of the further development.

As a method of data collection, a questionnaire was used among programs operating in and around entertainment, as well as low-threshold programs in the Czech Republic. The study was conducted using the Computer-Assisted-Web-Interview (CAWI) method.

The results show that there are 16 programs currently operating within nightlife settings. Most of them are primarily low-threshold harm reduction services for active drug users. Activities in this area are offered only sporadically and not prioritized, which results in limited effectiveness and obstacles to further development. At the moment, services in nightlife settings mainly provide counseling and environmental interventions. Only to a small extent is cooperation with local administration or education programs provided. Most programs would welcome the possibility of drug testing. This intervention is perceived as an opportunity to minimize risks and prevent overdoses and health complications, as well as an effective tool for contacting recreational drug users and mapping drug trends.

It would be desirable to create better systemic conditions to professionalize programs, increase cooperation of individual subjects and subsequently improve services in nightlife settings. It would also be appropriate to introduce drug testing programs.