

Abstract

Background: Being non-heterosexual is still not fully accepted in the Czech Republic and research shows that the stressors that affect community members, negatively impact their mental health and therefore can among others cause substance abuse. Studies to date point to the distinct role of alcohol in this community and its increased use.

Aim: The aim of this study was to map and describe alcohol use among university students aged 18-26 years who identify as members of the LGBTQ community. Three hypotheses were established for the realisation of the objective. The hypotheses chosen are as follows: Homosexual men have higher scores on the AUDIT questionnaire than homosexual women. Bisexual people have higher scores on the AUDIT questionnaire than people who identify as homosexual. Respondents who score higher on the AUDIT questionnaire suffer more from internalized homophobia.

Methods: The work was carried out as a quantitative research, an online questionnaire which contained 39 items was created. The questionnaire was distributed through social networks and groups that bring together university students and the LGBTQ community. 122 respondents participated in the research. The data collected was processed using Microsoft Excel and further processed in the statistical program Jamovi. Descriptive statistics, Mann-Whitney U test and correlation analysis were mainly used for analysis.

Results: The mean AUDIT questionnaire score for homosexual men was shown to be 7.92, and for homosexual women 6.42, however, the difference between them did not prove statistically significant. Similarly, the mean score for bisexually oriented respondents appeared higher at 8.03, and the mean score for homosexually oriented people was 7.26, but the result also did not prove statistically significant. A positive correlation emerged between the AUDIT questionnaire and the degree of internalized homophobia. Overall, 58.2 % of respondents did not show signs of harmful alcohol use. Among the respondents who use harmfully, moderate levels of alcohol problems appeared in 34.4 %. A high level of problems was found in 4.9 % of respondents and 2.5 % showed signs of addiction.

Conclusion and recommendation: 41.8 % of respondents showed some degree of problems with alcohol. Given the specific situations that members of the LGBTQ community encounter, it would be beneficial to conduct further research on this topic and subsequently target prevention programs to this community.

Key words: LGBTQ, alcohol, alcohol use, college students, AUDIT