

Summary

My thesis concerns the problems with the natural opium abuse in the population of problematic users within the area of Ostrava.

The results were gained with questionnaires filled out by clients of Contact Center (CC) Renarkon in Ostrava and by clients who exploit the fieldwork programmes of CC Renarkon in area of Ostrava and Nový Jičín. It was collected forty-eight results of clients.

On the basis of these results, I found out that the opium was used by people at the age of 19-38 years, more than half of them were men (85,4 per cent), the rest was women (14,6 per cent). Almost a half of respondents (45,8 per cent) lived with parents. One third of clients have reached basic education, 35,4 per cent clients have technical education without the school-leaving exam. Almost 35,0 per cent of clients were unemployed. More than half of all the clients (54,2 per cent) were examined for hepatitis with negative results. The half of all clients (54,2 per cent) were tested for HIV with negative results in all the cases. The number of the clients who had been treated for addiction before was 12,5 per cent, now it was only one client.

The first illegal drug taken by 91,7 per cent of all the clients was THC and they took it when their average age was approximately 13,8 years. That drug was regarded by 43,8 per cent of the clients as their first one.

Almost 60,0 per cent of clients had experience with opium for more than 3 years. More than 70,0% users obtained the drug by their own picking and without any difficulties. The majority of all the clients were willing to go for opium in local areas. More than half of the clients (64,6 per cent) picked 100-200 poppy-heads every day, almost 40,0 per cent of clients said that they were able to pick approximately 5 000 - 10 000 poppy-heads every season. Almost all the respondents used the opium instantly. The most preferred way of application of opium was intravenous application (64,6 per cent) and smoking of drug (12,5 per cent). After the application of opium, these experiences were described: depression, physical and psychical relief, satisfaction and hallucination. Some adverse reactions also appeared – nausea, vomiting, trembling, headaches, bad seeing and poor healing of veins. Almost 12,5 per cent of all the clients combined taking opium with alcohol or pervitin, 10,4 per cent of the clients combined opium only with pervitin, or with heroin and pervitin (10,4 per cent).

Almost 94,0 per cent of the users said that they had never shared syringes with

anybody. Except for one client, everybody answered that during taking drugs they did not change their hygienic habits. The majority of all the clients (85,0 per cent) gained and threw away the syringes within exchange programmes of CC. More than 64,0 per cent of the users did the treatment of puncture.

The average content of morphine in the analysed sample of dry poppy heads was 0,8 per cent. The content of morphine in the opium samples was from 21,5 to 33,8 per cent. On the basis of the results, it is possible to estimate how big the amount of drug was which got into the blood circulation of users. At the intravenous application of a dose of opium received of 10 – 30 poppy heads, the clients applied 98,8 – 146,4 mg of morphine and so they exceeded the maximal dose 31,5 times; at the consumption of 31 – 70 poppy heads the clients applied 151,2 – 341,5 morphine. In that case the maximal dose was exceeded 74,8 times. If the clients used 10 – 20 poppy heads for a dose of smoking stuff, they applied 34,2 – 68,3 mg of morphine and so they went beyond the maximal dose 14,2 times. If the amount for a dose of smoking stuff reached 21 – 30 poppy heads, the clients applied 71,6 – 102,5 mg of morphine and the maximal dose was exceeded 21,8 times. The number of poppy heads needed for a preparation of tee was claimed to be from 10 to 30 pieces. The blood of clients contained 78,8 – 235,5 mg of morphine, which meant that they had exceeded the maximal dose 51,6 times. Owing to those results, it can be understood that the respondents were regularly and strongly addicted and a seasonal application of such big doses enhanced all the risks related to that dangerous behaviour.

To achieve avoidance of such a dangerous behaviour of addicts is very difficult and therefore it is necessary to emphasize the importance of the programme harm reduction and an effective prevention which should discourage potential users from that dangerous behaviour under the best of conditions.