

The present thesis deals with the issues concerning alcohol addiction among the homeless and focuses on opportunities of helping these clients with increasing the quality of life, primarily in cases when they are not able or willing to abstain. Although the providers of social services for the homeless in this country have to encounter alcoholism among their clients on a daily basis, the very problem has not been addressed yet conceptually nor professionally. The intention of the present thesis is not only to map the aforementioned issues but also to present experience and good practice from abroad, as well as possible solution to the problem that would suit our specific environment. First part of the thesis summarises the information about homelessness retrieved from all the major resources which have been published by Czech authors. These findings are reflected by the author in the light of her first-hand experience of several-year-long work with the homeless. Furthermore, the thesis presents the general issue of alcohol addiction and principles of relevant therapy. As there has not been any research carried out in this country to map the issue of alcohol addiction in the homeless, the author prepared short questionnaires on the topic which she distributed among the providers of social services for the homeless. The results of this investigation confirm the author's thesis, that alcohol addiction is widely spread especially among the male homeless. The core part of the thesis introduces examples of good practice how the problem of alcohol addiction among the homeless is solved abroad. Most of the findings have not been published in this country. Primary focus is on the information from Great Britain where these issues are thoroughly explored, supported by a number of researches and addressed in practical-methodical manuals. Another inspiring presentation of services is the one from Munich, Germany, and the project for chronic alcoholics in Ottawa, Canada. The thesis concludes that it would be helpful to adopt certain models of services for the alcohol-addicted homeless from abroad and gives recommendations for implementation of these measures.