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The risk factors of viral blood borne infections in the Czech prisons

BACHELOR'S THESIS

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Abstract:

Introduction: The blood-borne viral diseases mean for the prison environment serious health problem. So far there was no data in the Czech Republic that would be presented the distribution and dynamics of the disease in the prison population.

Methodology: A study that uses a combination of quantitative and qualitative methods was conducted in four Czech facilities for imprisonment selected to represent the possible range (34 totals) such prisons in the Czech Republic. In the sero-prevalence part of the study tests for the presence of antibodies against HIV and HCV were conducted at 967 prisons (700 M and 267 F).

During the tests were collected basic anamnesis data and qualitative in-depth interviews in a randomly selected sample of 380 prisoners (235 M and 145 F). The 283 (167 M and 116 F, the total number of 693; detection rate of 40.8%) members as follows based cohort with negative results in both tests were tested again in the range of 8-11 months from the first test by using the same combination of methods (in-depth interview: 112 (80 M and 32 F).

Results: The prevalence part of the study demonstrated antibodies against HCV in a total of 274 (28.34%); including 88 women (32.96% of tested women) and 186 men (26.57% of tested men).

Conclusions: The study confirmed the high seroprevalence of HCV virus in the imprisonment environment, so in order to protect public health there is a need for a full treatment of viral hepatitis and need to raise the general level of provision of health services and medical-preventive information, harm reduction services.

Keywords: viral hepatitis C – prevalence – prison - risk factors – general population