

Abstract

Background: In the Czech Republic and abroad, there is very little research regarding addiction-related issues of physically disabled people, although there are many risk factors that may contribute to the development of substance use problems in this group. Substance use also often plays a role in the aetiology of the disability itself.

Objective: The main aim of this paper was to map out and analyze the use of legal and illegal substances and addictive behaviour in a specific group of people with acquired physical disabilities.

Methods: The research was conceptualized using a quantitative method and data was collected through an online questionnaire survey. Further, the data was processed and analysed using Microsoft Excel and TIBCO Statistica 13. The research sample consisted of 102 individuals with acquired physical disabilities whose average age was 39,8 years.

Results: The results show that, according to the AUDIT questionnaire, 88,2 % of individuals in the group of people with an acquired physical disability abstain or consume alcohol at low risk. Respondents who had a positive prognosis for their disability had significantly lower AUDIT scores than respondents without a positive prognosis. It was also revealed that 18,6 % of the respondents smoked daily or almost daily and the majority (43,8 %) of the total smokers had very little or no nicotine dependence according to the Fagerström Test of Nicotine Dependence. About a quarter of the respondents use pills with a sedative/hypnotic effect, and 41,2 % use painkillers. The lifetime prevalence of use of most illicit substances is relatively high – for example, 54,9 % of respondents have at some point used cannabis, 10,8 % have used ecstasy, 7,8 % have used methamphetamines or amphetamines, and 8,8 % have tried cocaine. 35,7 % of respondents spend four or more hours a day on the internet during weekends and 43,1 % on weekdays. Games are played for one or more hours a day by 28,4 % of respondents on weekends and by 29,4 % on weekdays. In terms of land-based gambling, the most frequently reported experience was that of lotteries and scratchcards, with 46,1 % of respondents having tried them at some point in their lives. 20,6 % of respondents had experience with online lotteries. 9,8 % of individuals fall into the risk category of gambling according to the Lie/bet scale.

Conclusion: The questionnaire survey mapped and analysed the use of legal and illegal substances and the addictive behaviour of the focus group. This work can thus serve as a basis for further research but can also help addictionologists and professionals who are in contact with people with acquired physical disabilities.

Keywords: physical disability, substance use, addictive behavior, questionnaire study, acquired disability