

Abstract

This bachelor's work focuses on the area of crime committed by clients of facilities providing methadone substitution in Prague. It is divided into two parts – theoretical, where the chapters deal with main topics related with methadone substitution, substitution facilities in Prague, drug related crime and valid legislation concerning drug crime, whereas the research part provides data from questionnaire inquiry that took place in April – May 2013 in three Prague methadone facilities.

Decrease of drug related crime is one of the goals of methadone maintenance treatment (next to lowering health risks, stabilization of social status etc.), so fulfilment of this goal might provide a convincing argument for the appropriate authorities competent to distribute financial sources into social and medical services, just as for the public who also tend to see aspects of crime and financial costs for society with great importance. It then seems only fitting to research whether we are successful in meeting these goals.

With the permission of the Ethics committee of the General University Hospital, Prague there has been carried out a questionnaire inquiry in three different Prague facilities and data was gathered from 119 respondents (75 of them were from high-threshold facilities, 44 from low-threshold facility). Apart from basic sociodemographic indicators the questionnaire targeted criminal activity before and after the beginning of methadone maintenance treatment (MMT). The individual crimes that occur with the highest frequency for the needs of the questionnaire were chosen according to the *Annual Report on Drug Situation 2011 – Czech Republic*.

The research shows that the moment of entering the program of methadone maintenance treatment lowers occurrence of committing crime by clients of substitution centers. The difference in character of the crime committed before and after starting the treatment is apparent as well. Surprisingly there is no significant difference in the ratio of those clients who admit criminal activities during the MMT among the two different types of facilities. However there are differences in the character as well as amount of the crime committed by clients which is generally lower at the respondents of high-threshold facilities.

Difference in illicit drug abuse among the facilities is also significant. The percentage of the clients who admitted using other illegal substance beside methadone was similar among the facilities; however, there was a big difference in type of the drugs. Whereas the clients of

low-threshold facilities reported abusing of heroin and methamphetamine (very often these two drugs simultaneously), respondents from high-threshold facilities tend to use THC.

Key words: Methadone substitution – drug related crime – low-threshold facility – high-threshold facility