

Abstract

The theme of study was the influence of hearing impairment on human development and his status in society in context of risk situation for substance abuse development. Theoretical part is aimed on psychosocial development of hearing impaired people and social situations, which can have an influence on mental health of deaf and hard of hearing people. The aim of practical part is mainly to describe the presence of substance use among the target group, frequency, prevalence, initiation and abuse of substances with chosen screening methods and diagnostic tools, subjective perception of substance use around the respondent, presence of discrimination or bullying, staying in residential schools and other situation of capital importance which could relate to substance abuse. Used tool of data collecting was a questionnaire in paper and electronic form. To better understanding there were made a videos in sign language. Questionnaires was spread in public school in Prague and in club named Česká unie neslyšících (Czech Union of Deaf), through the social networks, organisation and webs which are focused on hearing impairment, by the snowball method. The only one selection criterion to participate the study was the hearing loss 26 dB and more on better ear. There was no local or age selection. The final sample was consisted of 129 respondents. The majority of respondents consists of prelingual deaf with hearing loss bigger than 91 dB. Measurement showed that respondents experienced substances of the whole offered spectrum and the most used substances are alcohol and cannabis. More than one quarter of respondents scores 2 and more points in questionnaire CAGE, which refer to substance abuse or addiction. Three respondents fulfill the criteria of addiction according to MKN-10 (czech version of ICD-10). In compare with non-impaired population, the hearing impaired have higher lifelong prevalence of substance use in case of most of the substances and higher frequency of cannabis use. On the other side they have lower frequency of alcohol use and higher initiation age in case of all the measured substances except LSD. The second theme is the presence of numerous barriers the hearing impaired have to deal with in access to substance abuse treatment and to point out to the lack of professional services for this target group.