

## Abstract

**Introduction:** In 2014, there were 180 thousand problematic users of drugs in the Czech Republic. Action plan of the realisation of National strategy of anti-drug politics in the Czech Republic concentrates on lowering the degree and risk of marijuana usage, while in the first period no specific programs for target group have been realised. In 2015, 2400 marijuana consumers were using low-threshold treatment programs. Topic of cannabis related drug users in drop-in centres and outreach programs appears at the expert meetings, though there is a lack of systematically developed material, which would include good practice of low-threshold treatment programs for the target group.

**Aim:** Primary aim of thesis is to provide a qualitative analysis of opinions of drop-in centers and outreach programs employees in Prague and Central Bohemian region regarding the possibility of offering harm reduction and therapeutic interventions to cannabis users. Thesis could serve as a summary of good practice of harm reduction services in the Czech Republic and become a material that could help individual services in the formulation of concept, respectively in changing and evaluating the work with cannabis users.

**Methodology:** Data were collected via semi-structured interviews and were subsequently analysed using clustering methodology, pattern and contrast recognition along with comparisons. All existing terrain programs and contact centres in Prague and Central Bohemian region, devoted to drug users, were approached (total selection of research sample). 78 % of approached services took part in the investigation (N=18).

**Results:** Small part of cannabis users in contact with addiction services is not using other drugs concurrently. Most of respondents do not consider cannabis consumption in polymorph users as problematic and actually describe advantages for the primary clientele of these programs. Most respondents do not consider work with cannabis users as important while perception of importance depends on the intensity of work with this target group. Drop-in centers work with users predominantly in the consulting activities. More respondents consider presence of marijuana users in the contact room as inappropriate due to the interaction with primary target group of these programs (which is not desired by marijuana users either). Outreach programs in Prague do not regard users of cannabis as their target group with an exception of outreach programs in the environment of entertainment. Terrain programs in the Central Bohemian region address marijuana users in their common environment and perceive distribution of filters for cannabis smoking as a contact tool. Respondents agree on the lack of exact order and if formulated, it is oriented towards controlled use rather than abstinence.

**Conclusions:** Selected methods of research enabled to provide a complex view of employees on the work with cannabis users and at the same time repeatedly identify topics worth of further investigation. These topics include controlled use of marijuana as a substitute substance during drug withdrawal syndrome states and during attempts to retain abstinence from other, more harmful and illegal drugs

**Key words:** - users - cannabis drugs - risk reduction – services -