

Abstract

Opioid use among problem drug users in the CR can be divided into several developmental periods, starting with the heroin epidemic after 1990 with the decline of methamphetamine use and followed by leakage of buprenorphine products to the black market. There is currently a continuous use of buprenorphine from the black market and an increase in use of opioid analgesics.

The theoretical part of the work was concerned with the development of opioid use in the Czech Republic after 1990 and with the trends during the years from 1990 until the present. The practical part consisted of a cross-sectional study; a semi structured questionnaire was used to collect the data. The research sample was made of 68 clients who had previously used an opioid drug and visited the Prague contact centres Drop In, o.p.s. and Stage 5, Progressive, o.p.s. where the data were collected during December 2016 and February 2017. The data were analysed using descriptive statistics.

The most used opioids in the last month were Subutex®, Suboxone® and heroin, to the lesser extent opium and fentanyl. Czech “braun”, methadone, Vendal®, morphine and Addnok® were used only sporadically. Respondents had also experience with use of other opioids, such as Palladone®, Tramal®, Ravata® and codeine. The most common form of drug application was injection. Subutex®, Suboxone® and heroin were most often bought at the black market, metadon, fentanyl a Vendal® were mainly gotten from someone, “braun” and opium were mainly home-made. The frequency of daily applications was highest in case of Subutex® (on average 2,6times a day). The prize at the black market was found out for heroin (100 CZK for 100 mg), Subutex® (75-150 CZK for 2 mg) and Suboxone® (50–150 CZK for 2 mg).

Recommendations for practical use were stated at the end of the work, regarding the coverage and functioning of the substitution treatment programmes and possible improvement of harm reduction interventions considering the level of high-risk use among clients of low-threshold treatment programmes and risks associated with newly appearing opioids.

Key words

opioids; drug use patterns; opiate scene; opioid scene; low-threshold treatment programmes