

Regional Comparison of Drug Use and Its Consequences in the Czech Republic in 2002: Situation Analysis in Wider Demographic and Socioeconomic Context

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Summary

- The monograph describes regional disparities in the extent of drug use and its consequences within the Czech Republic in wider demographic, socioeconomic and institutional context.
- It aims to explain the relationship between the presence of unfavorable environmental conditions (environmental risk factors), and the extent of risk behavior forms such as criminality or addictive substance use as discussed in international research studies.
- The analysis of available demographic, socioeconomic, institutional and drug use indicators in the Czech Republic and their regional comparison verify the hypothesis of existing relationship between the presence of environment risk factors and problem forms of behavior:
 - Drug use and criminality concentrate to the regions with higher average income, especially to cities and urbanized regions which offer a higher level of anonymity and a lower level of social control.
 - Within the regions, correlation was observed between the lifetime prevalence of drug use among young people (both licit and illicit drug use) and the indicators of problem drug use and treatment demands.
 - In those regions where drugs are more sought after and their availability is higher, the concentration of services for drug users is higher as well, since this corresponds to higher demand for these services.
 - Allocation of financial means for prevention and treatment services for drug users is differentiated within the republic and grants are allocated according to the needs and conditions of individual regions.
- Based on the extent of environment risk conditions and the extent of drug use and its consequences, the 14 administrative regions of the Czech Republic can be divided into 5 groups:
 - Regions of Vysocina, Southern Bohemia and Zlin display favorable socio-demographic conditions and relatively favorable situation concerning the extent of drug use.
 - Relatively favorable environment conditions as well as the drug use situation can be found in Central and Southern Bohemia, Hradec Kralove, Pardubice and Northern Moravia together with Pilsen and Olomouc regions.
 - Karlovy Vary and Liberec regions are characterized by unfavorable demographic conditions and concentration of social problems while the drug use situation is not above the national average.
 - Usti nad Labem is characterized by the highest concentration of environment risk factors and the most unfavorable situation in the extent of drug use.
 - Capital Prague is specific with worsened social environment, concentration of criminality and drug related criminality, and a great extent of drug use and its consequences.
- The differences between the regions identified should be reflected when formulating and implementing the measures of social and drug policies at both the national and regional levels.