Abstract

Background: Products with low content of the psychoactive tetrahydrocannabinol (THC) are a novelty on the market that has been growing in popularity in the Czech Republic and globally in recent years. This may be due to the high availability not only on the internet but also due to the promise of many positive medicinal effects.

Aims: This thesis aims to describe the range of low THC products available on the Internet and to map the information available about these products when buying them on websites. The focus is on information on the composition of the products, their purpose, risks, or positive effects.

Methods: The research sample was websites offering low THC cannabis products. To select relevant websites, a search string was used in the interface of the most popular internet search engine in the Czech Republic (Google). Once the target number of 30 websites was reached, a content analysis was carried out, focusing on predefined characteristics of the offered products.

Results: The analysis showed that oils were the most offered by sellers, followed by edibles and dried flowers. The most common information provided by vendors was the composition and total quantity of the product. 20 e-shops indicated the nature (purpose) of at least some of the items, mostly offered as food supplements, sometimes as products for industrial, technical, and horticultural purposes, collectors' items, or food. A third of the sellers did not indicate the nature of the products.

Conclusion: The research was probably the first time in the Czech Republic that the offer of online shops offering cannabis products with low THC content was systematically mapped. The work highlighted several problems and shortcomings in the sale of these products and opened up other topics for investigation, such as motives and patterns of use of these products. It would be appropriate to describe the supply of these products in the Czech Republic in more detail and to explore the whole sector in the Czech Republic from an economic point of view, among others.

Keywords: CBD – cannabis products – cannabis – market research – THC