

Abstract

Background: According to the Statistical Yearbook of the Prison Service of the Czech Republic, 17,498 people were imprisoned in 2022. Of these, 1,486 were women. The proportion of people at risk of using addictive substances in the prison population is around 30 %. Based on this assumption, there will be approximately 500 women at risk of using addictive substances in prison in 2022. In prison, women can receive addiction treatment in the specialised SpO1 section of the prison in Opava. The section includes women with a court order for protective treatment as well as women who apply for admission to the section on their own initiative. The programme is accredited by the Health Department of the General Directorate of the Ministry of Defence of the Czech Republic. A total of 612 women were treated in this unit from the start of operations until the end of 2023.

Aim: The aim of the study is to describe and evaluate the treatment stay in the specialised department SpO1 in the Opava Prison from the point of view of former clients and to gain inspiration for the practice in this department or for any other department with female clientele. Another aim is to gain knowledge about the functioning and implementation of therapeutic activities in this department.

File: The research file consists of ex-convict women who underwent SpO1 addiction treatment from the beginning of the activity until July 2023. These are women with prescribed protective treatment as well as women who voluntarily decided to undergo treatment.

Methods: Qualitative data collection took the form of a one-to-one semi-structured interview with 12 female respondents, conducted through a face-to-face meeting or an online meeting via a video call using the WhatsApp and Messenger applications. Qualitative data from the participants were recorded on an interview sheet. The method of clustering, simple enumeration and the method of contrasts and comparisons were used to analyse the data obtained.

Results: The SpO1 department of the Prison Opava provides quality therapeutic work with addicted women. The unit provides a safe and professional environment for addiction treatment. Treatment topics are very well covered in theory in the programme, but the limit of therapeutic work within serving a prison sentence is insufficient practical preparation for life after release. Women have specific needs after discharge and in aftercare.

Conclusion: In order to further improve the service, it is advisable to strengthen the practical part of the treatment process within the serving a prison sentence and to systematically support individual aftercare after release. The results can inspire therapeutic work with the female prison population and serve as an introduction to SpO1 activities for women. The results of the work need to be further developed.

Keywords:

addiction treatment – execution of imprisonment – women – prison in Opava