



Sekretariát Rady vlády
pro koordinaci
protidrogové politiky

How stigma limits the access of female drug users to drug services

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> Female drug users

- ▶ „double deviant“ as drug users and as persons overstepping the traditional female role imposed by society
- ▶ approximately a quarter of all people with serious problems related to the use of illicit drugs and 20 % of all specialized treatment entrants
- ▶ use of addictive substances such as benzodiazepines is more common
- ▶ less property crimes than men and more often support their drug habits through the sex industry (up to 60 % of drug-using women)
- ▶ gender-specific vulnerabilities to blood-borne infections
- ▶ higher proportion of women prisoners than of male prisoners inject drugs - the absence of harm reduction activities, especially access to clean syringes may have a greater impact on women

> Gender – differentiation or stigmatization?

- ▶ gender - more the social, sociological and cultural context of men and women rather than biological differences
- ▶ the ratio of female to male drug users in treatment tends to be 1:3
- ▶ the ratio of female to male drug users on the drug scene tends to be 1:2



Many reasons ...

Compared with men who use drugs, women may (EMCDDA):

- ▶ face higher levels of stigma and shame;
- ▶ carry heavier socioeconomic burdens;
- ▶ receive less social support;
- ▶ be more influenced by their parental role in issues concerning drug use and recovery;
- ▶ have a partner who plays a key role (drug use initiation, continuation and relapse, exposures to blood-borne infections, exposure to violence)



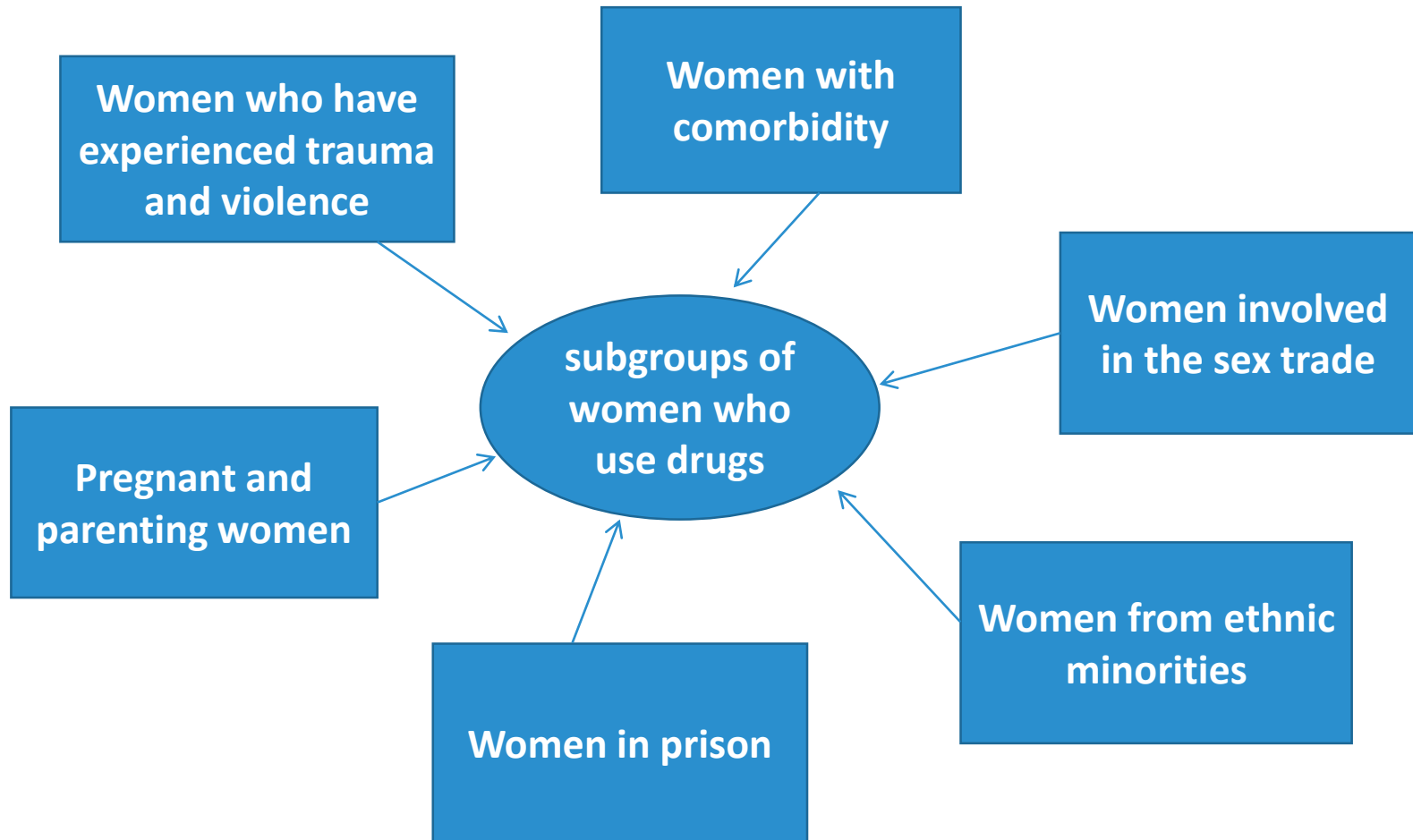
> Female drug users

Women are particularly likely to:

- experience stigma and economic disadvantage, less social support
- come from families with substance use problems and have a substance-using partner
- have children who may play a central role in their drug use and recovery
- have experienced sexual and physical abuse and have co-occurring mental disorders



➤ Subgroups of female drug users



> Specific need of female drug users

The types of responses needed for this group include (EMCCDA):

- 1) specific services for women
 - ▣ female-only or mixed-gender programmes
 - ▣ non-judgmental, supportive and physically and emotionally safe
 - ▣ promote healthy connections to children, family members and others
- 2) collaboration between drug treatment and mental health services
- 3) services for pregnant and parenting women drug use
 - ▣ health care, childcare, family support
- 4) overcome the barriers to care for women involved in the sex trade
 - ▣ evening opening, mobile outreach services, open access support
- 5) sensitivity towards ethnic and cultural aspects
 - ▣ interpreter services

> Conclusion: which type of service? (1)

Availability of services (Voboril 2003):

- appropriate programs where women take care for children (therapeutic communities, after-care facilities, treatment in prisons)
- services with counseling for pregnant women with HIV and HCV, for the elderly and middle aged women, women who use of medicines, etc.
- women-counselor
- anonymous services (phone counseling)
- cooperation with general practitioners, etc.

> Conclusion: which type of service? (2)

Specific gender problems (Voboril 2003):

- anorexia, bulimia
- high level of drug use
- prevention of drug use targeting young girls
- specific problem in mental health illness prevention of safe sex
- specific problems associated with pregnancy and maternity, etc.

> Female drug users in the Czech Republic

Illicit drug used 30.5% of the general population at least once in a lifetime

➤ 38.8% of men and 22.7% of women

Use of addictive substance 17.3% of the general population in the last 12 months

➤ 11.9% of men and 22.3% of women

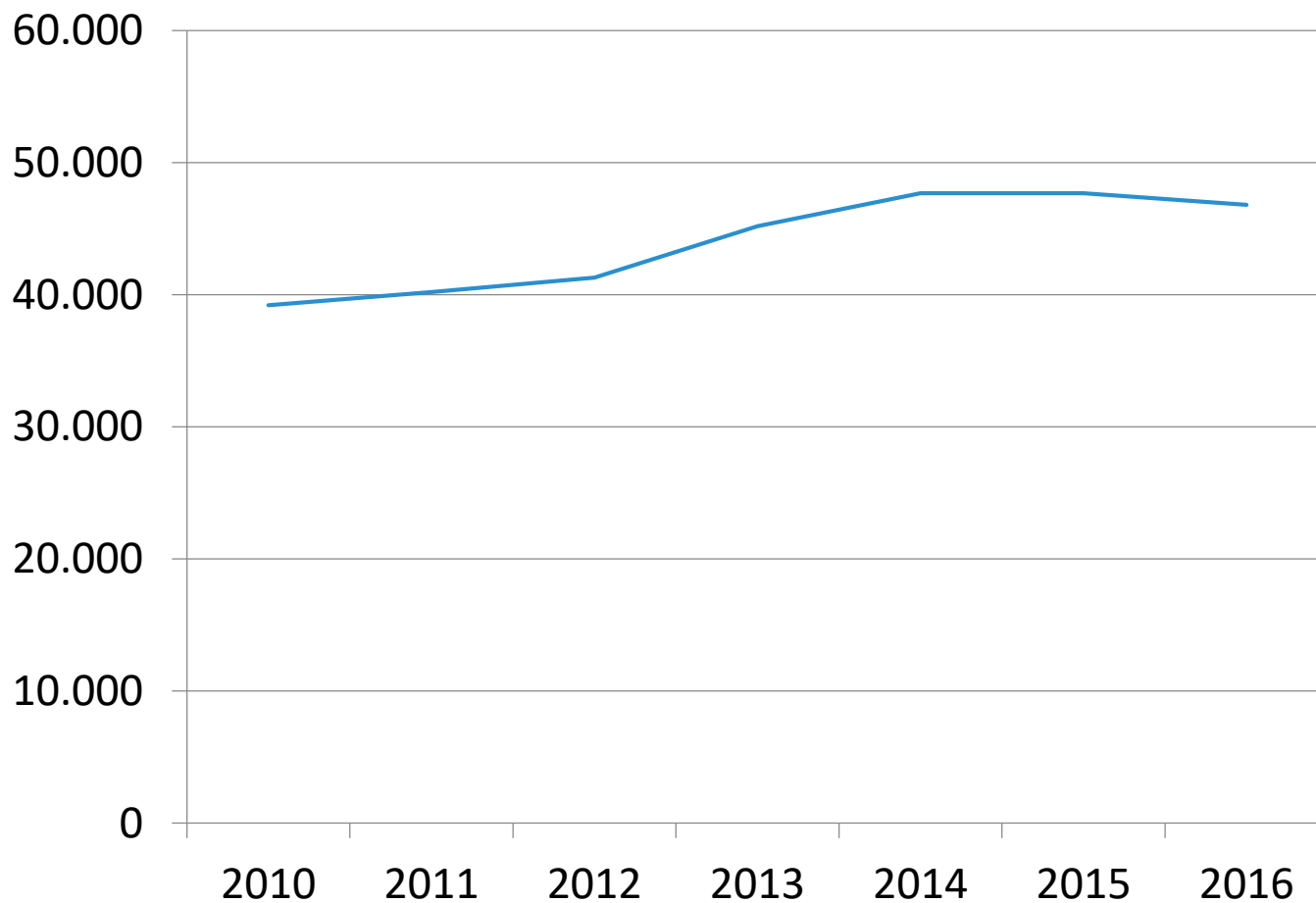
Approximately 46.8 thousand problem drug users

➤ 30% of women



Problem drug users in the Czech Republic

Problem drug users

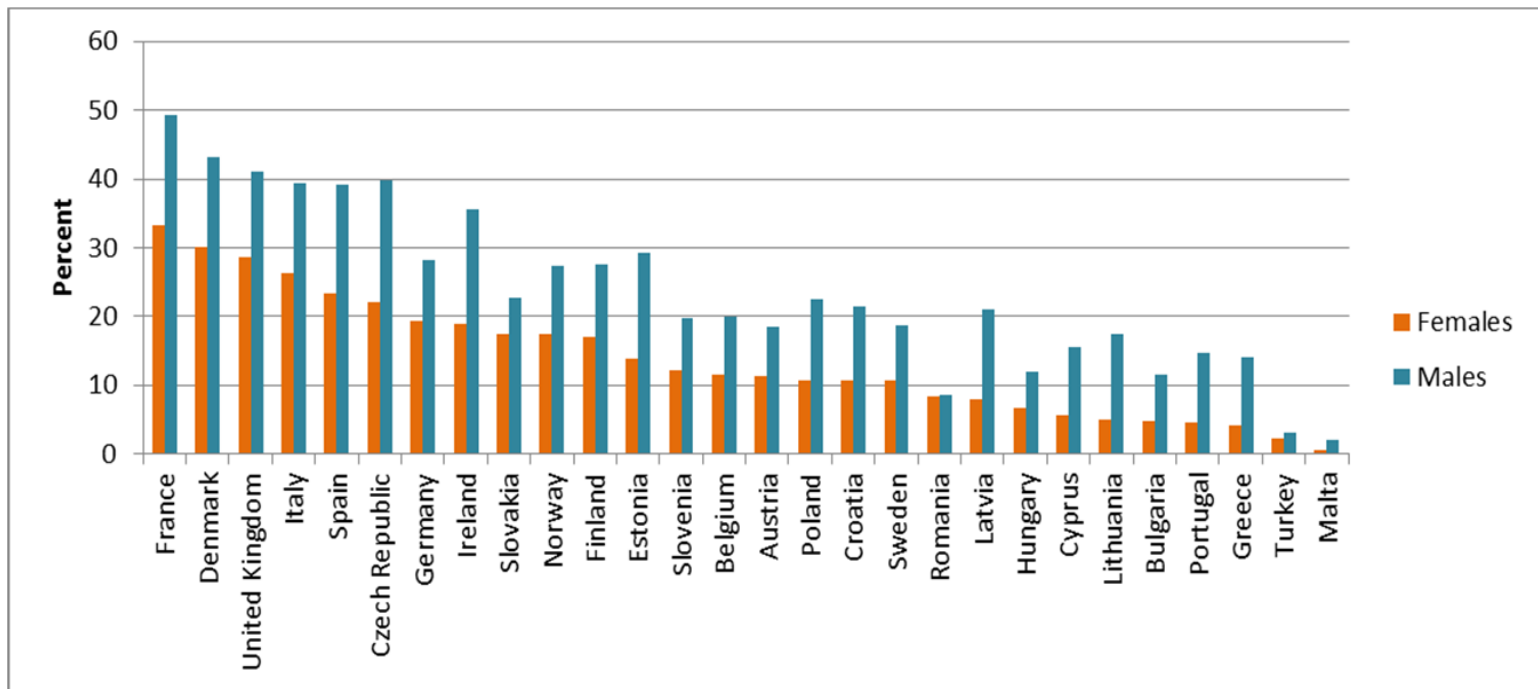


Year	Number of PDUs
2010	39 200
2011	40 200
2012	41 300
2013	45 200
2014	47 700
2015	47 700
2016	46 800

XX

> Illicit drug use among men and women

Illicit drug use: lifetime prevalence in the general population



> PDUs in Prague 2011

Table 5. The overall results (central values) obtained by the capture-recapture method including the special survey in comparison with the multiplier method (all estimates refer to the year 2011)

Source	Total PDUs	Men	Women	Heroin	Methamphetamine	Cocaine	Buprenorphine	Methadone
CRM	10,754	8,056	2,689	2,581	5,592	64	4,732	860
MM	10,900	n.a.	n.a.	2,200	5,400	n.a.	3,300	n.a.

CRM – Capture-recapture method

MM - Multiplier method

ESTIMATION OF PROBLEM DRUG USERS IN PRAGUE IN 2011 FROM LOW-THRESHOLD DATA: MODIFIED CAPTURE-RECAPTURE METHOD, ADJUSTED FOR CLIENTS AVOIDING ANY IDENTIFICATION (NON-CODED CLIENTS) (2016):

B. Sopko, K. Skarupova, V. Necas, V. Mravcik



> PDUs in 2006 and 2007

Table 4. Age and sex distribution of central PDU estimates in the Czech Republic in 2006 and 2007

Sex	Year	Age groups							Total
		< 15	15-17	18-24	25-34	35-44	45-64	> 64	
Men	2006	60	790	6 042	7 032	1 534	770	179	16 408
	2007	8	1 192	7 256	9 255	2 294	1 126	147	21 278
Women	2006	73	1 062	3 048	1 859	538	764	133	7 477
	2007	41	1 412	3 705	2 775	718	914	139	9 704
Total	2006	133	1 853	9 090	8 891	2 072	1 534	312	23 885
	2007	49	2 604	10 961	12 030	3 012	2 040	286	30 982

> Women in services in the Czech Republic

Type of facility	Number of clients	Proportion (%)	
		women	person under 19
Sobering up station	21 577	16	1
Outpatient treatment	36 419 (7 862)	36	4
> outpatient healthcare facilities - psychiatry			
> addictological (medical) ambulance	690	n. a.	n. a.
> outpatient (non-health) programs	1 471	41	n. a.
Substitution treatment			
> substitution treatment register	2 266	29	0
> annual statement from psychiatrists	2 792	32	0
> annual statement from general practitioners	494	30	n. a.
Prisons			
> drug prevention counseling	9 329	n. a.	n. a.
> substitution treatment	67	n. a.	n. a.
> voluntary treatment	578	–	n. a.
> compulsory (court-ordered) treatment	213	25	n. a.
> drug-free zones	4 014	4	n. a.
> NGO programmes	7 090	n. a.	n. a.
Crisis centres	47	43	2
Psychotherapeutic day care centres	39	72	5
Special aftercare programmes	2 880	34	n. a.



Women in treatment in the Czech Republic

Age group	Total	Men (%)	Women (%)
<15	7	85,7	14,3
15-19	390	50,5	49,5
20-24	619	65,6	34,4
25-29	948	66,8	33,2
30-34	1 373	68,0	32,0
35-39	1 671	75,9	24,1
40-44	908	74,7	25,3
45-49	450	73,6	26,4
50-54	361	69,5	30,5
55-59	224	70,1	29,9
60-64	150	76,7	23,3
≥65	96	63,5	36,5
Total	7 197	70,0	30,0
Average age	35,9	36,5	34,6



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**Thank you
for your attention ...**