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Advancing Addiction Nursing: Linking the past and the future in the heart of Europe



Population of the Czech
Republic: 10 759 525
millions of people

(Czech Statistical Institute, 2023)

Challenges related to addictive behaviours in the Czech population over 15 years of age

- Daily smoking 1,5 – 2,1 millions of people
- Daily drinking 800 – 980 thousands of people
- Problematic use of psychoactive medication 720 thousand - 1,2 millions of people
- Illegal drugs use 45 – 47 thousands of people

(Chomynová et al., 2022)

Prevalence of substance use leading to significant mortality – estimated numbers of annual deaths due to substance use in the Czech population

Smoking 16 – 18 thousands of people

Alcohol use 6 – 7 thousands of people

Psychoactive medication use - not available

Illegal drugs use 1,0 – 1,3 thousands of people

(Chomynová et al., 2022)

Estimated numbers of people in contact with addiction services and in treatment for addiction annually in the population of the Czech Republic

Smoking 1-2 thousands of people

Alcohol use 25 – 35 thousands of people

Psychoactive medication use 2 – 3 thousands of people

Illegal drugs use 40 – 50 thousands of people

(Chomynová et al., 2022)

Smoking

Daily: 1,5 – 2,1 millions of people

Annual deaths: 16 – 18 thousands of people

In contact with addiction services per year: 1-2 thousands of people

(Chomynová et al., 2022)

Alcohol use

Daily: 800 – 980 thousands of people

Annual deaths: 6 – 7 thousands of people

In contact with addiction services per year: 25 – 35 thousands of people

The problem?

Addiction nursing as a „way out“ – nursing as the largest group of professionals

In 2019 per 1,000 inhabitants:

Doctors - 4.07

Nurses - 8.56

(OECD, 2021)

General nurses and midwives workforce in the Czech Republic

- **General nurses - 93 501**
- **Midwives - 4 349**

(Czech Statistical Institute, 2023)

Shift in the approach towards educating nursing workforce in addictions

- The conception of education in the field of addictology for the period 2014 -2020 – highlighting the importance of educating different professionals in primary care in addictions

(Miovský, 2014)

- „**Essential treatment services** for drug use disorders should be available at different levels of health systems: from **primary health care** to tertiary health services, with specialized treatment programmes for substance use disorders“

(WHO, p. 8, 2020)

First attempts in addiction nursing in Czech Republic

- Two-day face to face training for **army nurses** (Mgr. Adam Kulhánek, Ph.D., MBA)
- Smoking cessation education
- 15 army nurses, 2020
- **One time training**
- One-day attendance training for **psychiatric nurses** (prof. PhDr. Michal Miovský, Ph.D.) each time with different topic, repeats each year
- **Hard to disseminate to a large number of nurses**

What is happening in addiction nursing in the Czech Republic now

- Current trainings – general nurses and midwives
- International collaboration - International Working Group on Competency Frameworks for Nurses in Addiction Medicine
- Collaboration on a national level - Czech Nurses Association

Current trainings

- For general nurses and midwives
- Fully online – Mooc platform
- 10 - hour online training – postgradual
- 15 - hour online training – pregradual
- accredited by the Czech Nurses Association

Current trainings - content

- Introduction to addictology
- SBIRT – screening, brief intervention and referral to treatment
- Substance dependence treatment - pharmacotherapy, psychotherapy, social support and community resources
- Specific addictology topics - dual diagnosis and comprehensive care, specifics of treatment of different populations (youth, seniors, pregnant women), relapse prevention and maintenance strategies
- Substance and non-substance addictions
- Specific topics – professional development and supervision, addiction care system, legal aspects in addiction medicine

International Working Group on Competency Framework for Nurses in Addiction Medicine

International Working Group on Competency Framework for Nurses in Addiction Medicine

- IntNSA - International Nurses Society on Addictions
- Colombo plan
- GCCC – Global center for credentialing and certification
- WHO
- INL - Bureau of International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs

Universal Nurses Addiction Curriculum (UNAC)

International collaboration - The approach of Universal Nurses Addiction Curriculum (UNAC) to competencies at 2 levels

1.) What a nurse who does not primarily work with patients with addiction (e.g. a general nurse) should know and be able to do to support people with substance use disorder

2.) What a nurse who focuses on working with patients with addiction should know and be able to do to support people with substance use disorder

International collaboration - The advantage of use of Universal Nurses Addiction Curriculum

- Specific nursing competencies in addictions
- International - possibility to adapt specific parts of the frameworks or the whole framework globally
- Definition of nursing roles in addiction medicine
- Development of educational interventions
- Supporting nurses in the care of patients with addiction and their loved ones

Carrying out a project

Main objectives of the project:

1.) Evaluation of the course

2.) Adaptation of the **Universal Nurses Addiction Curriculum** in the Czech Republic

Upcoming project - Evaluation of current courses

- To assess and evaluate the quality of the e-learning course for general nurses
- Study design – RCT - Randomized controlled trial
- 15 – hour version
- Research sample - nursing students
- Measures – attitudes and knowledge, online survey

Upcoming project - Role of nursing profession in the project

Study the and provide a feedback of a **Universal Nurses Addiction Curriculum** applicability in the conditions of Czech Republic

Other?

Nursing education in addictions

- Secondary schools
- Higher vocational schools
- University – bachelor degree
- University – master degree

Next steps?

- 40 hours certified course
- Looking for partners



WANTED - addiction nursing buddies!

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