

Selected Harm Reduction Services in Berlin



MLADÁ, K., PAVLOVSKÁ, A., NOVÁK, P.

Centre for Addictology, Department of Psychiatry, 1st Faculty of Medicine, Charles University in Prague and General University Hospital in Prague, Czech Republic

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SUMMARY: *The article deals with selected harm reduction services for drug users in Berlin. The introduction focuses on a general description of harm reduction based on a public health approach. A description of the epidemiology of drug use in Germany and, specifically, in Berlin is presented, with a special emphasis on problem heroin users. The main goal of this article is to provide information about the implementation and functioning of specific harm reduction services (the Birkenstube stationary consumption room and the Fixpunkt mobile consumption room and vending machines). In the Czech Republic, there is just one vending machine (s.p.o. POINT 14 in Pilsen), but no consumption room is available. Efforts to implement them have met with a lack of understanding on the part of the politicians and the community.*

KEY WORDS: CONSUMPTION ROOM – EPIDEMIOLOGY OF DRUG USE – HARM REDUCTION – VENDING MACHINES

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Address for correspondence: Kateřina Mladá / mlada@adiktologie.cz / Centre for Addictology, Department of Psychiatry, 1st Faculty of Medicine, Charles University in Prague and General University Hospital in Prague, Ke Karlovu 11, 120 00 Prague 2, Czech Republic