

Citizens' Knowledge, Opinions, and Attitudes Concerning the Drug Issue



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BACKGROUND: In 2010 the Institute of Criminology and Social Prevention (IKSP) prepared and conducted a representative public opinion survey into selected topics concerning the issue of drugs. **AIMS:** The aim of the survey was to gain new insights into the public's knowledge, opinions, and attitudes in relation to significant aspects of the problem of substance use. **DESIGN, MEASUREMENTS AND PARTICIPANTS:** The data were collected using the personal interviewing (face-to-face) method applied to a representative sample of 2044 respondents aged 15 and over. The respondents were chosen using quota sampling, with the quota criteria including sex, age, education, the size of the place of residence, and region. The data were

processed by means of the SPSS statistical software and subsequently analysed and interpreted by the research team. **RESULTS:** Czech citizens' level of knowledge of the drug-related aspects under study is not high and their attitudes are mainly based on mediated information. If faced with a drug problem personally, the citizens would be willing to address it, although they may not always know where exactly to seek help. **CONCLUSIONS:** The results have implications for the domain of the drug policy that deals with the public dissemination of relevant information. They indicate the topics on which the information-related segments of the drug policy system should focus.

KEY WORDS: PUBLIC OPINION SURVEY – ADDICTIVE SUBSTANCES – DRUG POLICY – DRUG SERVICES – HEALTHY LIFESTYLE

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