

ADDICTIONS AND CARE FOR PEOPLE WITH ADDICTIONS IN HUNGARY

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Pázmány Péter Katolikus Egyetem

Bölcsészeti és Társadalomtudományi Kar

LEGAL-ILLEGAL

Substances that can change the state of consciousness are called drugs. The trade and consumption of legal drugs is not prohibited, apart from minor or major restrictions.

Well-known legal drugs are: alcohol, cigarette and coffee.

However, the use and distribution of drugs selected as illegal by the state (using their legal term: narcotics) is a crime.

The most commonly used illegal drugs are: cannabis, amphetamine, MDMA, heroin, cocaine and LSD.

Lack of decriminalization!

Basic Concepts:

Biomedical model VS. Bio-Psycho-Social model

Criminal VS. Addict

Substance dependency VS. Behavioral dependency

Quantity VS. Quality

High social tolerance towards legal drugs VS. complete rejection towards illegal drugs

Recovery VS. Dry alcoholics



Basic Concepts:



- **Relapse:** Resumption of substance use after a longer or shorter period of sobriety after recovery
- **Tolerance:** Increasing amounts from the substance are needed to achieve the same effect
- **Withdrawal:** Physical and psychological symptoms in the absence of the drug
- **Overdose:** The appearance of negative effects during the use of the substance

3 stages of substance use

Social usage	Substance abuse/Problematic usage	Dependency
<p>Casual use Never use alone In most cases, the usage connects to an event Overdose never happens Always able to refuse</p>	<p>Regular use Finding reasons to use Denial of the problem Getting into problematic situations Later regret/guilt of our actions under the influence of the substance Continued use despite the appearance of bio-psycho-social problems Changing life situations in such a way to beeing able to continue the usage Control exist</p>	<p>Tolerance (somatic dependence) Withdrawal symptoms (somatic dependence) Constant desire to reduce substance use Spending a lot of time on substance-related activity Giving up social, occupational and recreational activities Continuation of use despite serious social, psychological and physical-physical problems Craving No longer denial Control does not exist anymore</p>

UNAUTHORIZED BEHAVIOR



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All unauthorized behavior related to illegal drugs is punishable.



In addition to consumption, acquisition and possession, the production, cultivation, offering, transfer and trading of drugs is prohibited.



The offer can be made even with a simple question, and the handover can be achieved by handing over a dose of the drug for free.



If someone gives drugs to more than one person, it is often considered distribution, and if they regularly sell them, they will be held responsible for trafficking.

MORE SEVERELY PUNISHMENT



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It is important to know that certain cases are punished more severely.



If the drug is handed over, offered, placed on the market or traded in a "protected location" or in its immediate vicinity, the penalty is much higher than if the crime is committed elsewhere.



Kindergartens, primary and secondary schools, higher education institutions, dormitories, cultural centers, etc. are considered protected locations.



It is also punishable more severely when an adult gives drugs to an underage person (under the age of 18).

THE AMOUNT OF THE DRUG



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The law regulates three quantity categories: small amount, significant amount, and particularly significant amount, which is ten times of the significant amount.

MEDICAL TREATMENT ORDERED BY THE AUTHORITIES FOR DRUG USERS (DIVERSION OR PRE-TRIAL DIVERSION PROGRAM)



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According to the law, if a person produces, acquires, keeps, consumes a small amount of drugs for his own use, admits this and undertakes to participate in a continuous preventive, curative or other activity for at least six months, he will not be punished (this is called diversion).

Criminal proceedings are initiated in these cases as well, but the prosecutor conditionally suspends them in the case of diversion, and when the suspect proves with a document that he/she has completed the six-month treatment, his/her case must be closed.

Diversion can only be used once in every two years.

Twice in a lifetime!

You have to identify your dealer!!

If someone does not prove the diversion at the prosecutor's stage, the prosecutor will file a charge, in which case the proof can be submitted until the first-instance judgment is rendered.

So if someone is caught by the police, it is advisable to start the treatment as soon as possible for the sake of safety, and if he/she misses the deadline, it is important that he/she have a certificate for the trial.

If the procedure is terminated, the costs may be paid by the suspect, but this may be waived by the prosecutor or the court upon request.

DATA:



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There were 7254 drug cases in Hungary in 2024 (latest available data). Most of them (5514, 76%) were small amount possession for personal use!!!



...tia et fidelitate

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THE CARE SYSTEM (*THE PYRAMID*)

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Bölcsészeti- és Társadalom

Low-threshold service

Harm reduction

Prevention

Building trust

Filtration

Street work

Party Service

Delegation



Anonymity

Active usage accepted

Drop in center

Conclusion of a contract for treatment
Community work



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Active usage accepted

Drug Ambulance

Therapeutic treatment

Medical treatment ordered by the authorities for drug users „diversion”

Substitutional programs (methadone, suboxone)



Active usage not accepted

Therapeutic communities

Resocialization

Halfway houses

Recovery-supportive workplace



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Self help groups

Maintaining the sobriety

Reintegration

Avoiding the relapse





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THE EXACT SITUATION IN HUNGARY

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Data:

329.000 Alcoholics

420.000 Abusive alcohol users

15.000-30.000 deaths/year

20.000-30.000 addikt

23 deaths/year

2.4 million nicotine users

20.000-25.000 deaths/year





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Lack of Drug strategy

Lack of prevention programs

Lack of needle exchange programs



Thank You for your attention!

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