

EPIDEMIOLOGICAL TRENDS CONCERNING DRUG DEPENDENCE IN POLAND
IN THE 80s, IN THE LIGHT OF LEGISLATION CHANGES

S U M M A R Y

The act on preventing drug abuse has provided conditions for development of a relatively integrated system of care for dependent persons. Availability of these services, particularly of rehabilitation, has considerably increased.

Legislative changes have reduced availability of poppy straw serving as raw material for opiates production. The system of control over poppy growing is not perfect and there are many gaps for persons remaining in the state of dependence for a long time. However, it is sufficiently tight to protect the youngest representatives of the risk groups. Availability reduction has curbed drug abuse propagation. This has not been accompanied by a stable escalation in the rate of criminal acts - after a dramatic rise in 1986, there has been a decreasing tendency in crime levels.

Making the law obligatory has stimulated educational activities. New social movements and organizations have appeared, due to which not only the amount of educational information offered but also its variety has increased. The hitherto conducted educational campaign on AIDS has enlarged general knowledge in the community, but has had rather limited effect on change of attitudes. Thus, there is an urgent need for more intense and efficient interventions aimed at diminishing repulsive attitudes and at promotion of tolerance and help the behavior.

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