

SOBERING-UP STATIONS: POLISH EXPERIENCES

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ABSTRACT – The author presents a history of sobering-up stations, which were founded as early as in the 1950s in Poland to protect drunken individuals from various risks and to offer them minimal medical care. Those persons “who are giving an evil example in a public place and work place; or remain in circumstances that may put their (or others’) life and health in danger”, can be brought to a sobering-up station or to a public health care services or to their place of permanent or current residence. The author reviews numerous reports that describe situation in the sobering-up stations, especially concerning their human rights records, provides statistical data and finally her own observations made during a visit in one of the sobering-up station.

Key words: sobering-up stations, public drunkenness, alcohol abuse.