

An aerial photograph of a city, likely Vilnius, Lithuania, showing a dense urban landscape with various buildings and a prominent orange tower on a hill. The sky is clear and blue. The image is overlaid with a dark blue gradient that contains the title text.

COHORT STUDY OF DRUG USER MORTALITY IN LITHUANIA

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Aim of the study

- ▶ to adapt a cohort study methodology of drug user mortality to Lithuania; and to conduct a comprehensive cohort study for the first time in Lithuania in accordance with the EMCDDA recommendations.

Tasks of the research:

- 1) to collect data of deaths of persons who used drugs and psychotropic substances;
- 2) to perform data processing and obtain comparable data using a standardized data collection methodology adapted to Lithuania;
- 3) To submit Survey data to the EMCDDA - fill in a standardized data submission form.

The study compared mortality, life expectancy and other indicators of drug and psychotropic substance users (study group) with those of the general European population.

Methodology (1)

- ▶ The study was conducted in 2019-2021
- ▶ EMCDDA mortality cohort study guidelines were used.
- ▶ Type of research - prospective cohort study, i.e. the study begins with the formation of a cohort of subjects, the death of the individual is determined later than the start of the study.
- ▶ The target group of the study (study cohort or study population) - citizens of the Republic of Lithuania who in 2017 addressed Lithuanian health care institutions for mental and behavioral disorders when using narcotic and psychotropic substances.
- ▶ Period of enrolment- 2017.01.01-2017.12.31
- ▶ Follow-up period -2018.01.01-2020.12.31

Methodology (2)

The method of conducting the research was data linkage of different data sources:

- ▶ Electronic health services and collaboration infrastructure information system (e-health). Note. E-health centrally collects various personal health data, including data from health care facilities, death cases, provided by different sources. So the linkage of personal data is automatic in one information system.
- ▶ Information System for the Monitoring of Persons who apply health care institutions for mental and behavioral disorders using drugs and psychotropic substances.

Methodology (3)

The study's target group includes individuals who meet all of the following criteria:

1. a citizen of the Republic of Lithuania, whose personal identification code is known.
2. person applied to health care institution for mental and behavioral disorders when using narcotic and psychotropic substances in 2017 (ICD-10-AM codes: F11, F12, F14, F15, F16, F18 and F19).
3. Age - from 15 to 49 years. Age on the day of death - up to 50 years.

Methodology (4):

Causes of death (coded according to the ICD-10 classification) were divided into the following groups:

1. HIV / AIDS (ICD-10 codes B20-B24);
2. direct deaths of individuals due to drug and psychotropic substance use (ICD-10 codes: X40-X44, X49, X60-X64, X85 Y10-Y14, Y19, F11-F16, F18 and F19, T40);
3. other causes of death;
4. cause of death not elsewhere classified (ICD-10 codes: R00-R99).

Main results (1)

- ▶ Number of subjects enrolled at the start of the study - 263
- ▶ Number of subjects followed up -231 (179 males and 52 females)
- ▶ Number of subjects at the end of follow up – 208 (as 14 died and 9 became older than 50 years)

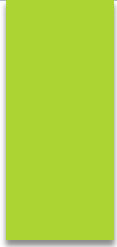
Main results (2)

- ▶ Number of opiate users among subjects followed up – 94 (41%)
- ▶ Number of multidrug users – 104 (45%)
- ▶ Total number of deaths at end of follow-up -14 (6.1%): 9 male and 5 female.
- ▶ The main cause of death was opioid use (9 persons or 64%). The majority of deaths was during the first year of the study (8 deaths).
- ▶ Three deaths were associated with HIV.
- ▶ Hepatitis C was mentioned in four death certificates.
- ▶ Treatment with methadone was noted in four death certificates.

Main results (3)

SMR and standardized mortality ratio

SEX	Standardized mortality ratio	95 CI min	95 CI max	SMR per 1 000 person years
Male	9,1	4,7	17,5	13,3
Female	43,2	18,0	103,7	30,5
Both sexes	12,7	7,5	21,4	21,9



Thank You

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