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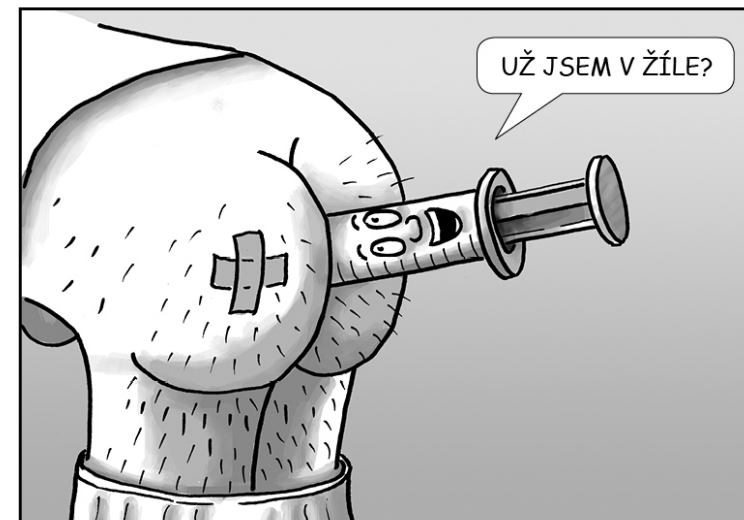
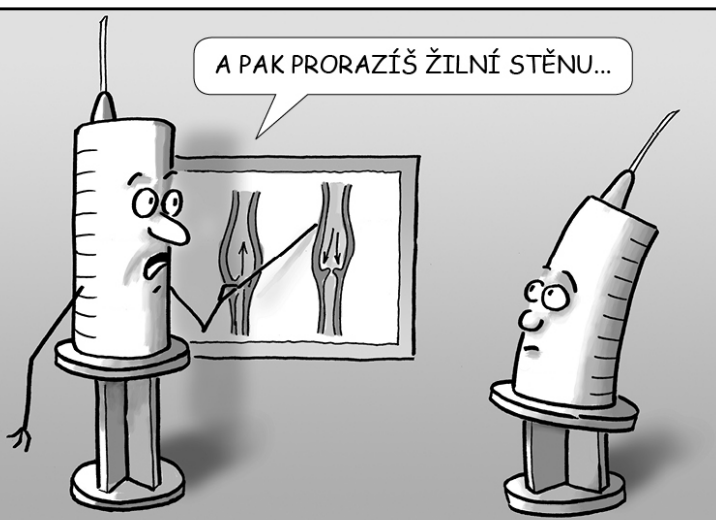


Czech Republic

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| sananim.cz
| drogovaporadna.cz
| odrogach.cz
| zavislost-info.cz

Process description



Process description: Focus groups

- one group with cathinones users in Prague (10 participants)
- one group with opiod users in Pilsen (10 participants) - in cooperation with Ulice - Agentura sociální práce
- one group with professionals including two police officers and one drug policy coordinator from non Prague
- one group with professionals including one peerworker and two police officers and one drug policy coordinator from Prague

Process description: online and offline markets

We located on the Internet only 4 shops with Czech localization :

www.rc-chem.eu,

<http://www.officialbenzofury.com/products/Czech.html>,

<http://cs.buzz-wholesale.co/>,

<http://cs.researchchemicalshop.eu/>),

which offer new synthetic drugs (particularly cathinones and synthetic cannabinoids).

Process description: online and offline markets

The sale of new synthetic drugs on the Internet and in physical stores occurred until 2011 when there was an update of the list of prohibited narcotic and psychotropic substances and a police closed these shops.

Online shops are usually not on the .cz domain. It is difficult to determine where online stores are located. They are generally only poorly translated to Czech language.

What are the recent trends and developments in NPS use among PUDH?

Increase in the incidence of new psychoactive substances in the Czech Republic is associated with the opening of on-line stores (2009) and especially with the development of physical stores (turn of 2010/2011).



What are the recent trends and developments in NPS use among PUDH?

After the change in the list of narcotic and psychotropic substances and the police raids and closings of shops there was a radical cut of availability of these substances. At present time there are new psychoactive substances expanded only locally (mainly in Prague).

What are the recent trends and developments in NPS use among PUDH?

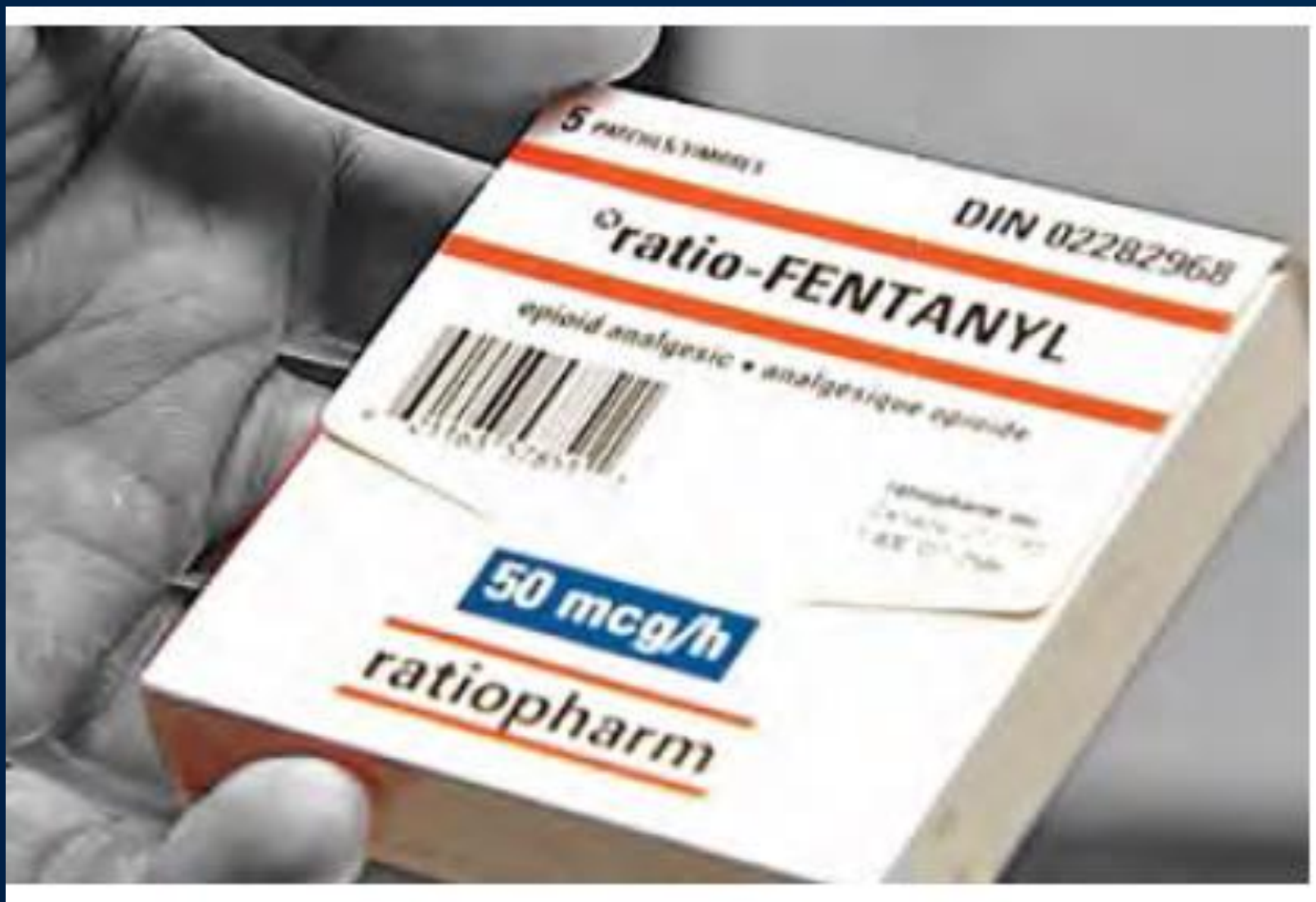
Among injecting drug users in Prague is a local trend of injecting cathinones. This group is marginal and rather small and shrinking, they are taking regularly cathinones with syringes.

Among injecting drug users in Western and Southern Bohemia is a local trend of injecting opioid medications prescribed by doctors to relieve pain to chronic patients. It is the medication Vendal Retard based on morphine and **fentanyl patches**.

Opioid Vendal Retard



Fentanyl patches



What patterns of use can be distinguished?

Users use new substances in the same manner as their original primary drug – intravenously.

For cathinones the use leads to an increase in frequency of use compared to meth use.

For opioid medications there is conversely decreased frequency of use.



Which factors influence the choice for NPS?

The main factor: changes in the availability of primary drugs and changes in the quality of these substances.

Which factors influence the choice for NPS?

Other factors:

- the price of these substances and reduction of the amount of income of the target group.
- strong intoxication effect,
- the insufficient capacity of centers for substitution treatment of opioid addictions and the absence of substitution treatment for meth.
- the practice of substitution treatment in opioid addictions.

Which factors influence the choice for NPS?

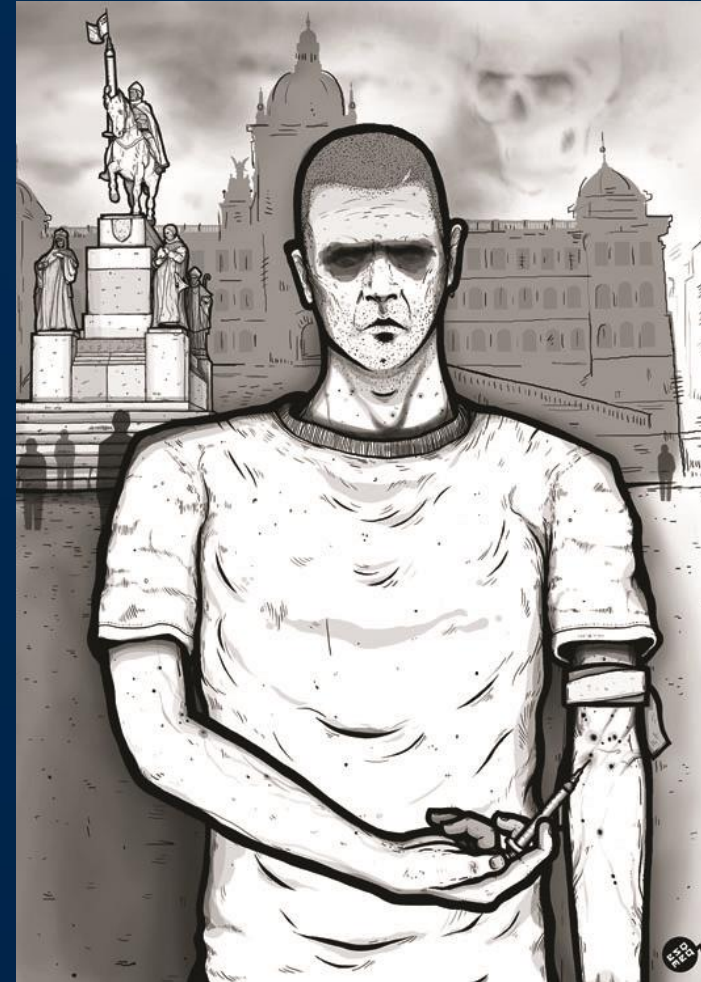
- It seems that for the users alone the legal status of these substances is not important reason for the use of these substances. Substances are sold similarly as illegal drugs through secret meetings.
- However, the legality of the trade of these substances may be an incentive for those who trade with these substances.

What do PUDH report on the positive effects of NPS?

- Shorter duration of effect of cathinones. The possibility to stop and go to sleep. For the use of methamphetamine is common that the users often several nights do not sleep.
- Easier access to dose due to lower price.
- With opioid medications smaller number of applications and thus improvement of the condition of the veins.

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What do PUDH report on the positive effects of NPS?

- Strong intoxication effect and relative stability of the effects of the substance.
- More money left over for other things, relief and energy for other things than seeking for drugs and thanks to this overall stabilization of life and improvement of social relations (while using opioid medications).
- There is no penalty interruption of substitution treatment in opioid addiction (if for example the patient is under treatment with methadone or Subutex and uses instead of methamphetamine cathinones and goes to urine tests, the results will not show cathinone use)

What do PUDH report on the positive effects of NPS?

Shorter duration of effect of cathinones. The possibility to stop and go to sleep. For the use of methamphetamine is common that the users often several nights do not sleep.

Easier access to dose due to lower price.

The intensity of the effect (for opioid medications).

With opioid medications smaller number of applications and thus improvement of the condition of the veins.

What do PUDH report on the negative effects of cathinones:

Risk of exhaustion (even leading to collapse).

Skin problems.

Fatigue.

More applications and faster devaluation of veins.

Psychoses, Disintegration of integrity.

Sorrows, moods.

Isolation from other people, loneliness.

Withdrawal symptoms with bad moods.

Reduction of intellect.

What do PUDH report on the negative effects of opioid medications:

The risk of overdose.

Constipation.

Loss of sexual interest and loss of virility among men.

Severe withdrawal syndrome.

Chills, fever.

What are the risks of NPS use for HIV, HCV transmission?

Drug users warned as risky about the use of cathinones the urgent need to take the substance immediately after its purchase. In places of meeting points are usually not clean syringes.

The packaging that is plastic bag sold under the brand name Funky typically contains the amount of substances for more than two standard doses. Drug users may in the absence of money put together money for the package and then in the interest of fair division they make the dose together and share it. This represents a risk if the dose is prepared in the same syringe.

What are the risks of NPS use for HIV, HCV transmission?

- Main risks for opioid drugs (fentanyl patches and morphine based Vendal Retard) are nonfiltering, making of shared doses, reuse of the remains of earlier application and storage of the substances, materials and paraphernalia..



What are the risk of (nonfatal) overdose? - Fentanyl patches

Injecting fentanyl patches represents high risk of overdose. Users reported as the cause of overdoses:

Strength of the substance and failing in estimating the strength of it.

Desire to get most intensive intoxication – to be unaware of oneself.

Weakened organism due to illness or prolonged intensive use.

The need to fight off withdrawal syndrome, bad estimation how much of the patch is necessary for the dose.

What are the risk of (nonfatal) overdose? - cathinones

- risk of overdose or bad trip for first time users of cathinones.
- risk of collapse due to very intensive use among injecting drug users cathinones who, thanks to its low cost and effect of additional doses
- problem with marking on the packaging of fentanyl patches from different manufacturers, when for the average user it is difficult to determine the efficacy



What measures are users taking in order to control their use of NPS and reduce the potential harms?

A typical coping mechanism is to use another substance to relieve incurred complications. For example, when psychosis is emerging to take benzodiazepines, when fatigue is coming to take methamphetamine, for bad moods smoke marijuana, for withdrawal syndrome to take any drug possible.

Some users mention that these strategies do not work well and the user must go to sleep anyway and interrupt the trip.







What interventions and policies exist with respect to the use of NPS?

- The early identification of new trends, to explore them, and to mediate information
- To work with the attitude of willingness or unwillingness to risk the use of an unknown substance.
- To promote self-help and exchange of objective information between users.
- To ensure the ongoing possibility of analyzing substances that are used on the drug scene.

What interventions and policies exist with respect to the use of NPS?

- To ensure closer cooperation between toxicological laboratories and medical institutions providing care to users in states of overdose.
- To get injecting kits and materials of harm reduction to places of massive application.
- To consider the distribution of naloxone and training in the application of naloxone
- Attitude of workers to users based on their current condition, particularly during intoxication with cathinones, which is very specific.

NEGATIVNÍ ÚČINKY NOVÝCH SYNTETICKÝCH DROG

-  Riziko, že vás droga vyčerpá natolik, že z toho zkolabujete. Jízda na *Funky* je intenzivní a náročná a může skončit návštěvou jednotky intenzivní péče.
-  Větší počet aplikací a rychlejší poškození žil. *Funky* je levnější než pervitin, ale zároveň má kratší účinek. Častější aplikací si tedy více devastujete žily, a zdraví celkově.
-  Různé kožní obtíže (vyrážky atd.). Tělo při své očistě potem vylučuje řadu látek. Po užití *Funky* se člověk hodně potí a látek tedy vylučuje mnohem více. Proto dochází k řadě kožních obtíží.
-  Psychózy. O neurotoxicitě *Funky* toho moc nevíme. Zprávy o intenzivních psychózách po jeho užití, však svědčí o její vysoké míře.
-  Izolace od jiných lidí, samota. Na uživatele *funky* se řada jiných závislých dívá s despektem. Je to možné i proto, že po užití se závislý dost izoluje. Často se „hrabe v zemi“ a je s ním těžký kontakt.
-  Silné a nepříjemné dojezdy, při nichž litujete mnoha věcí, které se vám v životě staly.

Již dlouhou dobu se setkáváme s tím, že někteří z vás buď experimentují, nebo i dlouhodobě užívají různé nové syntetické drogy. Tyto látky jsou na scéně podstatně kratší dobu, než drogy „tradiční“. Z toho důvodu je mnohem méně známo o rizicích, která jsou s jejich užíváním spojená. Každý, kdo se rozhodne pro experiment s těmito látkami, ze sebe dobrovolně dělá takového pokusného králíka.



PROČ NEBRAT FUNKY

V Praze se nejvíce setkáváme s lidmi, kteří mají zkušenost s tzv. katinony, většinou pod názvy *Funky* a *Magico*. Katinony jsou chemicky podobné amfetaminům. To, že jsou podobné, mimo jiné znamená, že jejich účinek může být podobný, ale také odlišný. O jejich účincích na lidskou psychiku a fyzický stav se mnoho neví. Několika z vás, kteří s těmito látkami mají zkušenost, jsme se zeptali, jaké negativní účinky při braní těchto drog na sebe pocítovali. A nebylo toho málo. Snad vám tyto informace pomohou při rozhodnutí, zda látky vyzkoušet nebo ne. Když už se proto rozhodnete, zvolte méně rizikový způsob aplikace než nitřní. To je totiž nejnebezpečnější způsob aplikace jakékoliv drogy. Natož látky, která se pod stejným názvem často používá. Tak jako je tomu u *Funky*.

What interventions and policies exist with respect to the use of NPS?

- Acceleration of procedures prohibiting new substances that are appearing.
- To provide sufficient substitution therapy of opioid and stimulant drugs, and positive alternatives if the patient breaks the rules the program.
- Services for experimenters - analysis of needs for this group, strategies, new ways of contacting them (via forums etc.), harm reduction on the internet, helping to handle difficult experiences (spiritual crisis - unprocessed experiences of borderline states).

DRUGOVÁ SCÉNA 3D

SEHNAT PRACHY NA

DROGY (NĚKDE NĚCO
UKRÁST A STŘELIT,
SOMROVAT, PODĚLAT
KÁMOŠE, ŠLAPAT, KOUPI-
NĀREDIT-PRODĀT)

SEHNAT

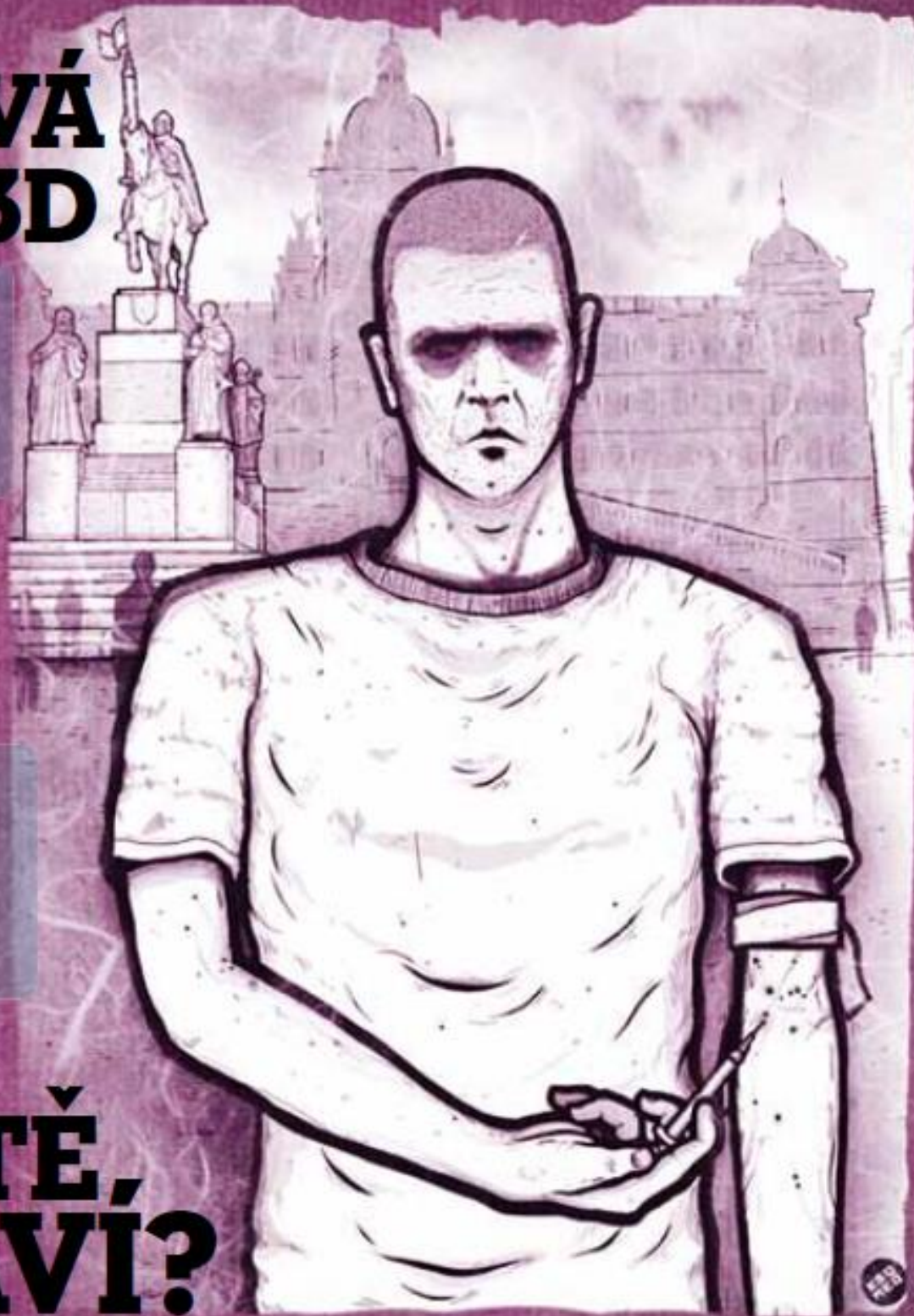
DROGY (SHĀNĚT V
ABSTĀKU, NECHAT
SE PODĚLAT, KOUPI
SI OMĪTKU, VYHÝBAT SE
POLICAJTŮM, SKONČIT NA
CĚPĚZETCE)

DÁT SI

DROGY (NASTŘELOVAT
SE NA ŠPINAVEJCH
ZĀCHODCÍCH, V POS-
RANÝM KŘOVÍ, MÍT SE CHVÍLI
DOBŘE ALE TAKY ABSCEZY,
MODŘINY, ZIMNICE, ABSTĀK)

A TAK POŘĀD DOKOLA...

JEŠTĚ TĚ, TO BAVÍ?



Conclusions:

In Czech Republic in recent times appeared offer of new synthetic drugs that were legally available. Rapid intervention of law enforcement authorities in criminal proceedings has decreased this offer greatly.

In limited ways new synthetic drugs are being used, especially cathinones among IDUs, but the occurrence is rather stagnant or vanishing.

Other detected new psychoactive substances that drug users inject are opioid medications, but so far only in local scale...



Thank you for attention!