DAD.NET CONFERENCE-DRUGS, ALCOHOL WOMEN NETWORK

Rome, 2 - 4 March 2011

WOMEN AND ADDICTION IN GREECE

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President of Greek Organization Against Drugs (OKANA)



The current drug situation in Greece

Sources: - Greek Reitox Focal Point
- OKANA

Statistics about Drug Use and Drug Treatment

- Estimated population of problem drug users in Greece

Total: 24,097

Males: 21,237 (85%), Females: 3,676 (15%)

- Drug treatment services capacity in 2009

Total: 6,467

Drug-free programmes: 1,667

Substitution programmes: 4,800

- Opioid maintenance treatment clients as a percentage of the estimated number of problem opioid users: 22%

Gender differences among patients admitted to OKANA's Substitution Programme:

Female addicts began heroin use and enter substitution treatment earlier than men. They have more medical and psychiatric problems as well as problematic interpersonal relationships, and fewer legal problems.

Main public Drug Treatment Services Providors

- Greek Organisation against Drugs (OKANA)
- KETHEA
- 18ANO

Services Provided By OKANA

- PREVENTION : 71 Prevention Centres
- TREATMENT: 25 Substitution Treatment Units in 15 Greek cities, 3 Drug-Free Programmes for Adults in 3 Greek cities, 4 Drug-Free Programmes for Adolescents in 3 Greek cities
- SOCIAL REINTEGRATION: 1 social Reintegration Unit in Athens and 2 Specialised Social and Professional Reintegration Centres in Athens and Thessaloniki
- LOW-THRESHOLD SERVICES: 1 Assistance Centre in Athens (medical services, social care service, streetwork service, needle exchange service, legal support service, first aid mobile unit), 1 Health Care Facility for drug addicts in Athens, 1 SOS Hotline (1031)

National Strategy and National Action Plan

- National Strategy on Drugs 2006–2012

Is covering the same pillars as the EU drug strategy: coordination, demand reduction, supply reduction, international cooperation, training, research and evaluation.

- National Action Plan on Drugs (2008-2012)

has five axes: prevention; treatment; social reintegration; Research, training, monitoring and documentation; Cross sectional cooperation and social participation

has as its goals: ensuring the right to treatment and the gradual elimination of waiting lists; facilitating access to prevention and information services; securing additional funds for prevention policy; reducing the demand for drugs; countering social stigma and mobilising civil society; developing cooperation with employers with a view to the social reintegration of drug users; and transforming Greece into a regional centre of dependence-related innovation and knowledge.

Specialized Programmes for women

Source: - Greek Reitox Focal Point

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Main public Drug Treatment Services Providors

- 18ANO
- KETHEA

Services Provided By 18 ANO

Specialised Women' s Programme provides prevention, treatment and rehabilitation services:

- **Admission Center for Women,**
- **Specialized Women's Programme,**
- **Specialised Programme for Drug Dependent Mothers with their Children**

They provide information about the treatment programme and support in resolving various psychosocial and medical problems, and stimulate awareness in the dependent individual. The aim is to help consolidate their decision to abstain from drug use and initiate dependence treatment, to engage them in therapeutic processes and ultimately in the treatment programme. This is achieved through individual sessions, support groups, psychotherapy groups, self-expression groups, etc. Counseling for parents and family therapy are also available.

Specialized Programmes for women

Source: - Greek Reitox Focal Point

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Services Provided By KETHEA

- **Special Programme for Addicted Mothers (2001)**

Is the first programme ever established in Greece to provide addicted mothers with the opportunity to start a long-term treatment while their children are looked after. Mothers participating in the programme follow the daily activities of the ITHAKI therapeutic community (9 a.m. to 5 p.m.) and spend the rest of the day and weekends with their children.

KETHEA EN DRASI, Non Residential Therapeutic Programme for Adults

Therapeutic Programme KETHEA EN DRASI is addressed to inmates who are drug users and provides services within three prisons of Attica: Koridallos Prisons, Psychiatric Division of Koridallos Prisons and Koridallos Prisons for Women. Inmates participate in self-help groups. The aim is to inform the inmates about the effects of drug abuse and the existing treatment programmes as well as to motivate them to enter a therapeutic programme.

KETHEA launched an innovative pilot programme at the Koridallos Prisons for Women, a therapeutic community within prison settings. The programme includes therapeutic and educational/vocational training activities. After completing the inmate programme and being released, these women receive support so as to be re-integrated into society. For this purpose, the Centre for Released Prisoners was established in 2002.

At the EDDRA data base, the therapeutic community of EN DRASI programme (KETHEA) in Koridallos Women's Prison is an example of good practices in prevention, treatment and rehabilitation services targeted to women.

http://www.emcdda.europa.eu/html.cfm/index52035EN.html?project_id=5458&tab=overview

Experts and Institutions in Greece specialised in women's issues

- **Spesialised National Organisations**

GENERAL SECRETARIAT FOR GENDER EQUALITY

The G.S.G.E. is the governmental agency competent to plan, implement, and monitor the implementation of policies on equality between women and men in all sectors. The G.S.G.E. implements co-financed Programmes and Actions through the Special Implementation Service of co-financed Programmes of the G.S.G.E. Through this website you are provided with direct and valid information on policies and projects being implemented, services provided, and legislative measures established in regard to equality between women and men.

http://www.isotita.gr/en/index.php

RESEARCH CENTRE FOR GENDER EQUALITY (KETHI)

the Research Centre for Gender Equality (KETHI), is a Legal Entity under Private Law. It was founded in 1994. KETHI is supervised and funded by the General Secretariat for Gender Equality of the Ministry of the Interior, Public Administration and Decentralisation. The main office is in Athens and there are four branches in Thessaloniki, Patras, Heraklion and Volos. The basic aims of KETHI's activities have a dual focus: to conduct social research on gender equality issues and to improve women's status and enable their advancement in all areas of political, economic and social life, within the framework of the policies defined by the General Secretariat for Gender Equality.

http://www.kethi.gr

- **Drug Treatment experts**

KETHEA: http://www.kethea.gr

18ANO: Tel: ++210-5388889, Ms Katerina Matsa

Gender differences among patients admitted to OKANA's Substitution Programme:

Source: OKANA-Research & Evaluation Department

Sociodemographic Characteristics	Male	Female	p-value
Age (mean±SD)	37.3±6.6	34.7±6.1	<0.001
Educational level			<0.001
Primary	37.2	19.0	
Secondary school	26.8	22.3	
High school	24.4	40.0	
Technical school/ University/ Postgraduate studies	11.6	18.7	
Had worked at least one day during the past 30 days	33.3	20.0	<0.001
Source of money			
Job	33.6	21.2	<0.001
Mate/Family/Friends	76.0	83.0	0.008
Prostitution	0.3	5.2	<0.001

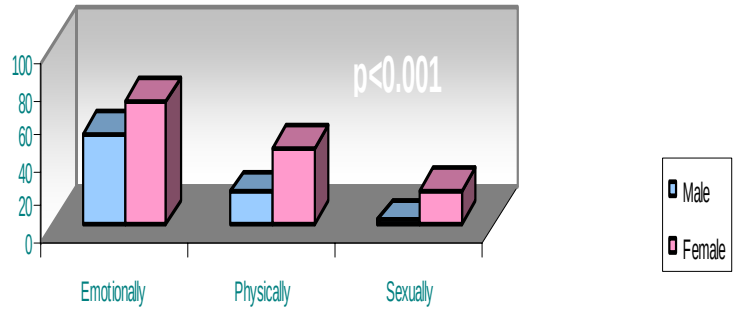
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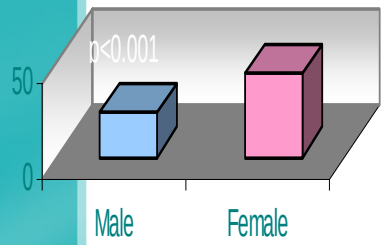
Source: OKANA-Research & Evaluation Department

Interpersonnal relationships

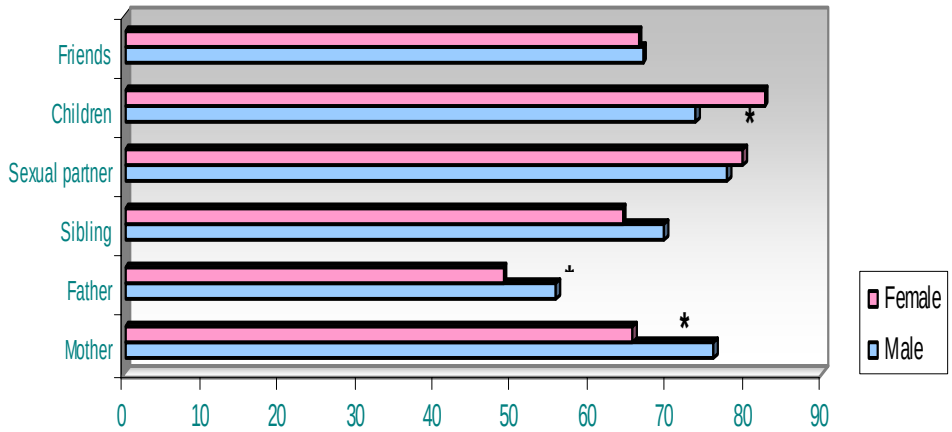
Had been abused



Cohabitation with person who uses psychoactive drugs



Close, long lasting, personal relationships with



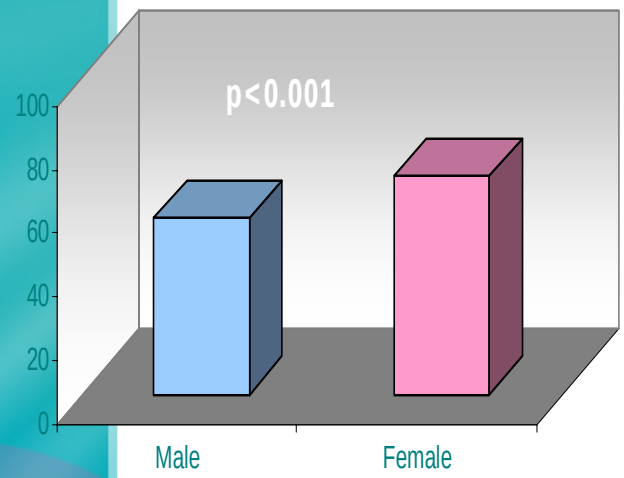
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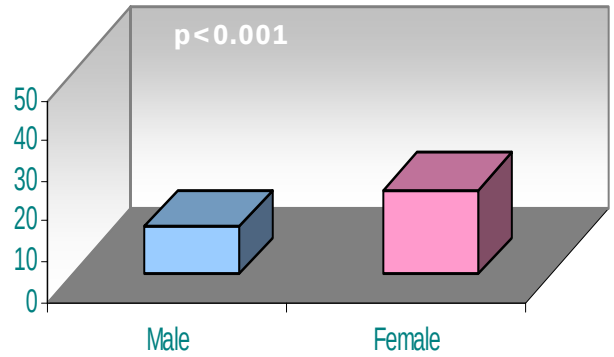
Source: OKANA-Research & Evaluation Department

Medical Status

Chronic medical problems which continue to interfere with his/her life



Prescribed medication on a regular basis for a physical problem



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Psychiatric Status

Had experienced in lifetime:	Male	Female	p-value
serious depression	44.6	55.3	0.001
serious anxiety or tension	55.5	60.5	0.108
trouble understanding, concentrating, or remembering	25.3	31.3	0.030
hallucinations	9.4	8.9	0.782
trouble controlling violent behavior	28.2	22.4	0.036
Had been prescribed medication for any psychological/emotional problem in lifetime	21.3	30.6	<0.001
Had experienced serious thoughts of suicide in lifetime	42.7	59.5	<0.001
Had attempted suicide in lifetime	25.1	40.8	<0.001