

METHADON THERAPY, DAMAGE REDUCTION IN A WIDER SOCIAL CONTEXT

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Two years ago the second methadon center was opened in Montenegro.

The goal of this treatise is to show all aspects of 'damage reduction', more precisely, of the benefit a methadon center offers to its environment. Under the term 'damage reduction' are meant medical aspects [smaller number of cases of hepatitis C and HIV] as well as the influence on the social functioning of an individual. This work will show the positive influence of the methadon center on the community in general , beginning with impressive reduction of the number of new heroin addicts on annual basis to the influence on the total heroin circulation on the street and reduction of criminal acts committed by heroin addicts. Better results are noticed in smaller communities , so the work considers optimal number of inhabitants that one center can cover to achieve the best effects in this sense.

In conclusion, the net of methadon centers ought to be spread, not only for the benefit of drug addicts and their families, but for the welfare of the entire society, as well.