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ABSTRACTS
BOOKLET





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Substance Use Among Syrian Migrants: Risk Factors and Recommendations

Abstract

Migration is one of the important risk factors related to addiction. This study aims to understand the substance use processes and the risk factors of Syrian migrants who use substance and discuss the prevention strategies. Phenomenology, one of the qualitative research designs, was used in this study. Based on this, semi-structured interviews were conducted with four substance users living in Bursa, determined by the criterion sampling method. Content analysis and descriptive analysis were made through the transcripts of interviews. Accordingly, the participants' ages are 18, 19, 21, 30; all of them are male, and have traumatic memories of the civil war (death of siblings, imprisonment, siege, witnessing the explosion, etc.). They reported first substance use occurs at the age of 13, 16, and 20. According to results, major risk factors in substance use were found as curiosity, friend influence, having users nearby, concern for the future, and family problems. Also, participants experience health problems, legal problems, family problems, anger control problems, and economic problems due to substance use, and their social supports are not sufficient, especially. Although they have the motivation to treatment, their treatment processes cannot progress due to language problems, fear of being deported, and lack of knowledge about treatment. Especially for migrants, it is recommended to be established social support programs, work on problems preventing their access to treatment, as well as to inform them about their treatment process.

Keywords: Substance Use, Syrian Migrants, Risk Factors, Curiosity, Friend Influence, Psychological Trauma, Bursa.

¹ This study was conducted with the support of the Alliance of International Doctors (AID) Bursa Representation.

