

Substance abuse from the sociological perspective

Summary

The first large-scale survey in the USSR was carried out in some places in Latvia, in the littoral and Stavropol regions, in Gorki, Novosibirsk and Lvov districts, as well as in two towns: Moscow and Tashkent. In the sample studied of 2971 substance abusers and substance dependent respondents predominated males (86 percent), subjects under 30 years of age (67 percent) and those with at least a secondary or university education (76 percent). Young people start using drugs out of curiosity and because they expect some unusual experiences called "cayphoo" state.

Drugs are usually taken when in the company of peers, friends or other drug users. The most popular drugs are: hashish (55 percent), "cocnar" - an extract of poppy heads and poppy straw (29 %), opium (29 %), and "tcheephyr" - strong tea brew (14 %).