

4. Cechą charakterystyczną polskiej młodzieży używającej wziewnych substancji odurzających jest to, że do odurzania stosują jedynie rozpuszczalniki organiczne i kleje zawierające lotne związki organiczne, które po kilkumiesięcznym systematycznym i intensywnym wężaniu powodują uzależnienie.

5. Sięganie po wziewne substancje odurzające przez młodzież zaczyna się z początkiem wieku dojrzewania, spowodowane jest głównie chęcią przeżycia nowych i niezwykłych wrażeń lub potrzebą akceptacji przez rówieśników, a tylko w niewielkim stopniu trudnościami w nauce oraz konfliktami w domu rodzinnym.

Zenon Kulka

Socio-demographic characteristics of adolescent volatile substance abusers

Summary

The aim of this work was to establish socio-demographic features of Polish adolescent volatile substance users. Specially structured questionnaire was given to 102 persons, age 12 to 20, who in the years 1994 and 1995 were treated in the in-patient rehabilitation and readaptation centers. Overwhelming majority of patients were boys from big and medium size cities. They were usually attenders of the upper grades of elementary schools and pupils of vocational high schools. Their school records were generally poor and many of them failed to pass to the next grade more than once. They posed behavioural problems in school, at home, and in the neighbourhood, often ending in conflict with the law. Habitual smoking was prevalent among them and alcohol abuse not uncommon. More than half of the sniffers came from broken homes, where alcohol problems were frequent and high percentage of the fathers had served time in jail. Their parents were generally of low social status as measured by education level and the kind of employment. Characteristic of the Polish sniffers is the fact that they use only the relatively cheap substances, such as organic solvents, and glues containing volatile organic chemicals. Experimenting with volatile substance use by youths starts usually with the beginning of adolescence, and is caused mainly by a need of new and exciting experiences, a need of acceptance by peers, and to a limited extent by difficulties in school and conflicts at home.

Key words: adolescents\ sniffers\ volatile substance abuse

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