

## PRZEKONANIA DOTYCZĄCE PALENIA TYTONIU WŚRÓD MŁODZIEŻY 15-LETNIEJ W RÓŻNYCH KRAJACH\*

**Barbara Woynarowska<sup>1</sup>, Joanna Mazur<sup>2</sup>**

<sup>1</sup>Katedra Biomedycznych Podstaw Rozwoju i Wychowania  
Wydziału Pedagogicznego Uniwersytetu Warszawskiego

<sup>2</sup>Zakład Epidemiologii Instytutu Matki i Dziecka w Warszawie

### **BELIEFS CONCERNING SMOKING AMONG 15-YEAR-OLD ADOLESCENTS IN DIFFERENT COUNTRIES**

**ABSTRACT** – The aim of the study was to investigate beliefs concerning different aspects of tobacco smoking among 15-year-old adolescents in Poland and seven Western European countries of different national policies on adolescent smoking. The study was linked to the Health Behavior in School-Aged Children. A WHO Cross –National Study. The international standard questionnaire CAS – Control of Adolescents Smoking was used. Data collection took place in 1997/98. The sample was selected as representative for 15-year-old students in Poland and seven other countries: Austria, Finland, Norway, (generally restrictive government policies on adolescent smoking), and Denmark, Germany, Scotland and Wales (fairly lenient policies). In all of these countries, except Poland, the rate of smokers was higher among the girls than among the boys. In every country the majority (about 80%) of adolescents did not expect themselves to be regular smokers in two years time, and considered smoking at this age to be foolish and in no way reflecting maturity. Most of the students believed that smoking makes your teeth yellow, while only one third of them believed that it helps people to calm down, reduce body weight, and feel more confident. Girls, in comparison to boys, less often expected themselves to be smoking in two years time, or considered smoking as a sign of maturity. In Western European Countries they were more tolerant of smoking by their parents at home and smoking by others in public places. No equivocal relationship between the government policy towards adolescent smoking and the beliefs on smoking in this age group was found. Generally, in countries with restrictive policies, percentages of adolescents who were unsure of becoming smokers in two years time, negatively perceived such perspective, and did not accept parental smoking at home, were lower than in countries with lenient policies. In comparison to the other countries, the Polish adolescents were more negatively inclined to become smokers in two years time, and more frequently intolerant of parental smoking at home, and smoking in public places in general.

**Key words:** adolescents, tobacco smoking, beliefs, intentions, smoking permissiveness.

---

\* Praca wykonana ze środków finansowanych przez Ministerstwo Zdrowia na realizację programu „Pierwotnej profilaktyki chorób odtytoniowych w Polsce 2001 roku”.