

Original papers

CO-OCCURRENCE OF SMOKING AND ALCOHOL USE IN THE RISK BEHAVIOURS SYNDROME AMONG ADOLESCENTS; TRENDS 1990-2002

Joanna Mazur¹, Barbara Woynarowska²

¹Zakład Epidemiologii Instytutu Matki i Dziecka w Warszawie

²Katedra Biomedycznych Podstaw Rozwoju i Wychowania
Wydział Pedagogiczny Uniwersytetu Warszawskiego

ABSTRACT – The objective of this paper was to present: (1) trends in regular smoking and alcohol abuse (being drunk 4 times or more lifetime) and co-occurrence of these risk behaviours among adolescents in Poland between 1990-2002 by gender and place of residence; (2) the relationship between concurrent alcohol abuse with daily cigarettes smoking and other risk behaviours in 2002.

Data from Health Behaviour in School-aged Children: A WHO Collaborative Cross-national Study (HBSC) carried out in Poland in 1990, 1994, 1998 and 2002 were used. Samples in each survey were selected as representative of general school population of 15-year-olds (the mean age was 15,7 years). The sample size in each survey ranged from 1540 to 2152 adolescents.

The results showed increasing trends in alcohol abuse between 1990-2002 in all subgroups under study except of girls living in villages. Increasing trends in regular smoking in 1990-1998 stopped in 1998-2002 in most of subgroups, except of boys living in villages.

The percentage of students who smoked daily and reported frequent episodes of drunkenness was equal to 7% in 2002, 10% in boys and 4% in girls. Increasing trends of concurrent regular smoking and frequent drunkenness in all period 1990-2002 were observed in boys from villages and girls from towns. Adolescents, abusers of both cigarettes and alcohol, compared to abstainers and those who used only one of both substances, were more likely to use illicit drugs (marijuana or hashish, amphetamine, solvents, medication „to get high”), more often participated in physical fights and had sexual intercourse in the lifetime.

Key words: smoking, drunkenness, co-occurrence of risk behaviours, trends, adolescents.