

ADOLESCENTS' OPINION ABOUT DRUGS: RESULTS OF QUALITATIVE STUDY

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ABSTRACT – The study aim was to analyze drug use patterns and consequences from the perspective of adolescents.

Individual interviews were conducted with 14-19-year olds, who were occasional drug users, i.e. used drugs but did not experience any related problems (n=6) or problem users, i.e. those who underwent a therapy (n=9).

Obtained data indicate that for adolescents occasional drug use has similar meaning with using during parties. Social motive is one of most popular reasons of drug use. Nevertheless, according to respondents opinions, presence or lack of psychoactive substances at a party, is not crucial for their decisions whether to participate or not (most important is friends' presence). Occasional users take drugs mainly in evenings and during holidays. For problematic users time and company is less important (they use drugs alone). Teenagers use drugs mainly because they feel happier afterward and only few of our respondents mentioned other reasons of drug use (e.g. to cope with stress or problems).

Adolescents who rarely use drugs face some psychological and/or social problems and express doubts concerning their own well-being. Perceived consequences increase together with drug use level and problematic users reported problems in many areas (psych-social, health, financial, legal, school).

Key words: drug use patterns, adolescents