

Możliwość wykorzystania standaryzowanych wskaźników umieralności do szacowania wybranych kosztów i strat związanych z uzależnieniami

Potential application of the Standardized Mortality Ratio estimating selected costs and losses related to addictions

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Abstract – The paper outlines the possibilities of estimating the range of selected of addiction-related behavioural outcomes using Standardized Mortality Ratio (SMR) data. It is assumed that these measures estimate parameters of life table for addicted persons, and on this basis the magnitude of lost life years – without taking into consideration the difficult and controversial estimation of influence of the given addictive behaviour on the considered cause of death. Next, alternative possibilities of using SMR to estimate the range of some other costs or losses are described. The estimates of the lost life potential of the addicts can be the basis for evaluation the losses of GDP (Gross Domestic Product) attributable to addictive behaviour. The SMR can also be applied to the estimation of additional addiction-related costs of health service drawing upon the Forbes and Thompson’s method, as well as to estimation (with the use of “population attributable risk”) of the share of health service costs attributable to addictive behaviour. The theoretical considerations are illustrated with practical examples coming from the author’s research experience concerning alcoholics, smokers and drug addicts. The biggest losses of life expectancy for newborn – nearly 30 years of life – can be ascribed to drugs. The smallest ones – to smoking, because deaths attributable to smoking affect, to great an extend, the older people. Among the smokers (both men and women) the average number of years of life lost for the age $x = 0$ is about 5 years. In the population of alcoholics lost life years amount to about 14 years for men and 5 for women. The biggest relative losses of life potential occur among drug addicts, and the smallest – among the smokers.

Key words: addictions, life expectancy, life potential, costs and losses

Streszczenie – W artykule przedstawiono niektóre możliwości szacowania wielkości skutków związanych z różnego rodzaju uzależnieniami z wykorzystaniem standaryzowanych wskaźników umieralności (*Standardized Mortality Ratio*). Według propozycji autorki można na ich podstawie oszacować parametry tablic trwania życia dla populacji osób uzależnionych, a na tej bazie można z kolei ocenić wielkość utraconego potencjału życiowego w populacjach osób uzależnionych, bez konieczności trudnej i kontrowersyjnej oceny znaczenia danego uzależnienia dla określonej przyczyny zgonu. Wskazano także na możliwości wykorzystania standaryzowanych wskaźników umieralności do oceny