

Porównanie wzorów i konsekwencji używania środków psychoaktywnych wśród młodzieży w wieku 13–15 lat i 18–19 lat

Comparison of patterns and consequences
of psychoactive substance use by 13–15 and 18–19 year olds

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Abstract – Introduction. Research on the prevalence of drug use among adolescents does neither provide comprehensive and detailed information about ways and circumstances of drug use, nor on the scope and quality of changes related to drug use in different domains of the individual's functioning. This study aimed at a quantitative and qualitative analysis of patterns and consequences of drug use by older (18–19 years old) and younger (13–15 years old) teenagers.

Method. Quantitative analysis was based on questionnaire data from 372 younger and 322 older adolescents, who in the past 12 months used illicit psychoactive substances. In qualitative analysis information was obtained from 10% of older (N = 32) and younger teenagers (N = 37) using individual interviews.

Results. Based on Two Step Cluster analysis three groups of younger teenagers were revealed: (1) experimenting with cannabis, (2) cannabis/cigarettes/alcohol users, (3) multiple substance users. Among older respondents two groups were identified: (1) multiple substance users, (2) cannabis/cigarettes/alcohol users. Since, qualitative analysis indicated that the last of these groups is not homogenous, it was broken down into three sub-groups differing by severity of cannabis use. Study results showed that younger adolescents “experimenting with cannabis” were the only once who did not use frequently and abuse alcohol. All other respondents tended to combine alcohol with illicit drugs. Moreover they experienced various negative consequences of substance use, i.e. lower school performance, delinquency, weakened self-control.

Based on the study results recommendations for preventive activities targeting parents and other adults working with adolescents were formulated.

Key words: drugs, adolescents, patterns of use, consequences of use

Streszczenie – Wstęp. Badania na temat rozpowszechnienia używania substancji psychoaktywnych wśród młodzieży nie dostarczają pełnych informacji na temat sposobu i okoliczności ich przyjmowania oraz zakresu i jakości zmian, jakie narkotyki powodują w różnych obszarach funkcjonowania.

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