

Picie alkoholu przez 15-letnią młodzież w Polsce w latach 2002–2010. Zmiany w ogólnej populacji oraz według płci i zamożności rodziny

Alcohol drinking among 15-year-old Polish adolescents in the years 2002–2010. Nationwide trends and trends by gender and family affluence

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Abstract – Aim. Presentation of changes in selected alcohol-related indicators among Polish adolescents in the years 2002–2010.

Materials and methods. Representative samples of 15-year-old schoolchildren who participated in the HBSC (*Health Behaviour in School-aged Children*) surveys were used (2152 in 2002; 2263 in 2006 and 1551 in 2010). Socioeconomic status was measured by the modified Family Affluence Scale composed of five items. Several indicators concerning alcohol consumption were defined.

Results. In 2010: 81% of adolescent respondents reported alcohol drinking in their life, 47% became drunk at least once, 12% drank beer, wine or vodka weekly. Comparing results with the 2002 survey, the percentage of adolescents who have been drunk at least once decreased and the age at onset of drinking was delayed. The positive trend toward less frequent drinking of beer, wine and spirits was reversed, in fact the only negative change observed. Group-specific relationships between alcohol related indicators and family affluence have changed as well. In 2002 the frequency of drinking among adolescents from well-off families was higher than among those from poor families, but in 2010 distinct positive changes were found only in the first group. At the same time many negative changes in alcohol consumption indicators were observed among adolescents from poor families, especially among girls.

Conclusions. Comparing the results of three latest HBSC surveys, more positive than negative changes in alcohol-related indicators were found. When defining high risk groups, one should bear in mind both the relative importance of the phenomenon and the rate of change. Especially, monitoring the trends in socioeconomic groups is recommended.

Key words: alcohol drinking patterns, social inequalities in health, social gradient, gender-related differences

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