

Abstract

Background: So far, no research has been conducted among children from children's homes in the Czech Republic, which would map their relationship to addictive substances and the potential risk of addiction to the internet, even though these children are a vulnerable group that is targeted by many state institutions and helping professions.

Objective: The aim was to find out the prevalence of internet addiction in children in children's homes, to map out the temporal character of addictive behavior and the internet applications they visit the most. The data collected were compared with the data obtained from ESPAD 2015 and the National Substance Use Research 2016. The data were used to analyze how much children ordered to institutional care differ in substance use, the internet and other communication technologies, from children that live in a family environment.

Methodology: The obtained questionnaire data were subjected to descriptive statistical methods. The results of the individual questionnaire questions were numerically expressed, then graphically presented and commented on in relation to the theoretical background. Individual data are intended as a basis for confirming or refuting the established research hypotheses and answering the research questions. The research focuses on children in children's homes answering questions in a questionnaire that was created from the questions of the ESPAD study on substance use, online activities and children's leisure time mapping. The research sample was 216 children placed in children's homes across the Czech Republic, aged 11 to 22, without any serious mental disability. The degree of internet dependency or the level of its risk has been evaluated according to the Internet dependency test by Smahel.

Results: Smahel's assessment of the internet addiction risk test suggests that 6 % of children in children's homes are at risk of becoming dependent on the Internet. 2 % of children can already suffer from internet addiction. A total of 59% of respondents aged from 15 to 17 said they are online daily, more boys spend time on the internet than girls. To the same situation, ESPAD states that 83 % of 15 - 16 year olds spend some time on the internet daily. Gambling-style games were sometimes played by 13.25 % of children from children's homes, while in ESPAD, 9.1 %, children from children's homes played gambling-style games more often than their peers. 19.51% of girls and 23.81 % of children from children's homes play computer games every other or every day. 27.6 % of children responded to the ESPAD study, which is also a few percent less for children in children's homes. Most often, children from children's homes visit social networks, download videos, music, and play computer games, which is no different from other children who responded to other studies.

Conclusion: The results show that children from children's homes are on the internet every day rather than peers without institutional care, while computer games are not played by children with institutional care to the same extent as their peers. More children from children's homes compared to peers were gambling. The results may be structured in children's homes and often

controlled leisure activities. However, children, even those from children's homes, who are on the internet daily, are at a greater risk of becoming dependent on the internet in the future than those who do not use the internet every day.

Keywords: addiction, addictive internet behavior, children's home, child deprivation