

ABSTRACT

Introduction: nicotine is very popular nowadays, especially among teenagers. Smokeless forms of tobacco products and their prevalence in primary school are a much neglected problem. In the Czech Republic, 2 300 000 people smoke, 26 % of whom are over 18 years of age.

Objectives: The aim of the study was to map the personal experience and awareness of oral tobacco use among Grade 2 pupils in a selected primary school.

Methods: quantitative research was chosen to obtain the necessary data. The questionnaire was created in paper form and also online in the Survio.com platform. The questionnaires were distributed to the students in paper form through chemistry and computer science classes. The data collected was processed in Microsoft Excel. The questionnaire survey consisted of 2 parts. In the first part, I examined the age, gender and personal experience with tobacco products of the students. In the second part, I investigated their awareness regarding oral forms of tobacco products.

Results: A total of 112 respondents from 7th, 8th, 9th grade aged 13 to 16 years participated in the study, of which 18.8% had ever used tobacco (nicotine) products in their lives. A total of 6,3 % of respondents had used tobacco (nicotine) products in the last 30 days. The most common forms of nicotine were conventional cigarettes (6,7 %) and electronic cigarettes (6,7 %). Awareness of oral forms of tobacco products was reported by 67,9 % of respondents and the most common place where they encountered them was the internet (23,9 %). Personal experience with chewing tobacco was admitted by 14 respondents (12,5 %) and with nicotine sachets by 10 students (8,9 %). The most common motivation for tobacco use was curiosity and the desire to try it. The place where pupils accessed chewing tobacco was the newsagent (38,7 %). Because of the small number of respondents at Birch Mountain Primary School, it wasn't possible to draw a relative conclusion about the use of smokeless oral forms of tobacco products.

Conclusion: this thesis focuses on smokeless oral forms and their use in a selected primary school. As an educator working in this school, I will contribute to the mapping of problem behaviours and the possibilities to improve prevention by the prevention methodologist.

Keywords: legislation, nicotine, prevention, tobacco, primary school, addiction.