

ABSTRACT:

Background: Low-threshold facilities for children and youth are a social prevention service that focuses on the children and adolescents. Research shows that clients of low-threshold facilities are often individuals who tend to be at a higher risk. It can be assumed that the prevalence of drug use will be higher for clients of these facilities than in the general school population.

Objectives: The aim of this study was to investigate the use of tobacco and cannabis in children and adolescents in some low-threshold facilities in Prague. The study should investigate whether clients of these facilities tend to be more likely to use named addictive substances than children and adolescents from the general population. The data were compared with the ESPAD 2015 study.

Methods: A quantitative method of research was used. The questionnaire was inspired by the ESPAD 2015 study questionnaire. Only questions relevant to the research, that were modified by pre-research, were used. The data was then processed by descriptive analysis in Microsoft Excel and converted to tables and graphs.

Results: The analysis showed that the lifetime prevalence of tobacco use was 77,3 %, the prevalence of daily tobacco use was 47,4 %. The lifetime prevalence of cannabis use was 52,6 %, prevalence of daily cannabis use was 4,1 %. When comparing with the ESPAD 2015 study, clients showed a higher lifetime prevalence (87.5%) of tobacco use than the general school population (66.1%), and significantly higher daily tobacco use (56.3%) than the general school population (16.4%). Higher lifetime prevalence among clients (62.5%) compared with ESPAD 2015 study (36.8%) was also demonstrated for cannabis use.

Conclusion: The main hypothesis – that children and adolescents attending low-threshold facilities will show higher prevalence of tobacco and cannabis use than the school population from ESPAD 2015 – was confirmed. Some secondary hypotheses have also been confirmed.

KEYWORDS

Low-threshold facilities for adolescents, tobacco, cannabis, addictive substances, prevention, children, adolescents

