

The use of illegal psychoactive drugs by the school-age youth of Rzeszów and Białystok

A comparative analysis based on the ISRD-3 research

Arkadiusz Leśniak-Moczuk
Eugeniusz Moczuk

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Translated from Polish by: Alicja A. Bielecka

Introduction to the subject-matter

According to the latest statistics, there are more than 500 million people in the world who are addicted to a variety of substances and activities to such an extent, that it leads to disruption of their social functioning and health. Perhaps this number is much higher, but it is difficult to determine it unequivocally, because many countries do not participate in studies on social problems, while in some countries there are no institutions dealing with counteracting social problems. The same is true for diagnosing the so-called new addictions, which include all behavioral addictions.¹

As such, nowadays, apart from the problem of young people drinking alcohol, using illegal psychoactive drugs and designer drugs, there is the issue of propagation of marijuana, hashish and other illegal substances that are presented as safe or harmless. When the phenomenon of drug addiction is viewed from the socio-psychological perspective, it can be deemed as any other social problem, such as poverty, social exclusion, marginalization, or unemployment, which means that it can be diagnosed, but cannot be effectively counteracted. However, when looking at this problem from a medical perspective, it will turn out that modern medicine knows almost all the neuronal mechanisms of narcotic euphoria, but to this day it has not invented any antidote to this problem.²

It is also important to notice that nowadays young adults face a dilemma of postmodernity and want to be ‘future-oriented’, without looking back at the experiences of their parents or grandparents, not even reckoning that satisfaction with life is achieved not at its dawn, but at its end, while making a profit and loss account of one’s life, and that when beginning one’s ‘own life adventure’ with ‘drugs’, it will be difficult to achieve satisfaction with life while ‘struggling’ with addiction and with failure to fulfill own dreams. If they ‘resist’ the temptations of postmodernity and reject the axionormative relativism, they may reach the social goals they had set, but will not necessarily be convinced that they have become modern and future-oriented.³ However, such a ‘philosophy of life’ results from the reality surrounding the young.

Zygmunt Bauman wrote that „modern societies cultivated the parochial morality under the mask of the propagation of ethical universalism. Revealing the fundamental mismatch between the ethical codes sanctioned by state coercion and the infinitely complicated condition of the moral self as well as revealing the groundless claims of the authorities to the role of the sole author and swordsman, the postmodern perspective exposes the relativity of the ethical codes. From this perspective it can be seen that it is not so much the codified situations and the moral behaviors, which the guards of the codes accuse of horizon narrowness and non-establishment, as the propagation by the authorities of the codes and the moral judgments (or orders to refrain from assessments) that these codes recommend, which are parochial, although they are cultivated under the auspices of the authorities having universal ambitions. (...)The intention to overcome moral pluralism by issuing laws through sanctioned coercion, under the auspices of an institutionalized political or cultural power(...)can only lead to

¹ M. Jędrzejko, M. Walancik, *Człowiek i uzależnienia – uwarunkowania zjawiska (Man and addiction - determinants of the phenomenon)*, [in:] M. Jędrzejko, M. Janusz, M. Walancik, *Zachowania ryzykowne i uzależnienia. Zjawisko i uwarunkowania (Risky behavior and addiction. The phenomenon and the conditions)*, Publishing house: ASPRA-JR and Centrum Profilaktyki Społecznej, Business School in Dąbrowa Górnica, Warsaw-Dąbrowa Górnica 2013, p. 13.

² M. Jedrzejko, *Marihuana – fakty. Marihuana – mity (Marijuana - facts. Marijuana – myths)*, Wrocław Scientific Publishing ATLA 2, Warsaw 2011, p. 15.

³ B. Cienki, *Satyfakcja z życia i bilans życiowy (Satisfaction with life and a balance sheet of life)*, Rzeszowskie Studia Socjologiczne (Rzeszów Sociological Studies) 2014, No. 3, p. 97.

supression, more radical than ever, of morality by ethics, of the moral self by the ethical codes, of moral responsibility by conformity to the legalized conventions, of autonomy by heteronomy, and can only deepen the ethical relativism actually existing.”⁴ It is therefore difficult to determine unequivocally what is good and what is bad for the society, particularly for the young generation.

According to Wiesława Walc, “a young man is curious about the world surrounding him. He wants to get to know it, to take advantage of the opportunities it creates. He tries to find in it a place for himself that would allow him to feel safe, comfortable, and at the same time to develop his potential, make satisfying bonds with others. Not only does he experiment with the reality surrounding him, but he also looks for the values and the patterns that he can follow.(...) The process of maturing, entering the world, is most natural; it has never been and still is not easy. It can even be said that nowadays it is particularly complicated and difficult. Contemporary reality is subject to constant, dynamic changes. Numerous development opportunities arise in it, unavailable for previous generations. (...) Many threats that a modern man has to deal with have also surfaced. What is more, new threats are constantly emerging. A young man is particularly vulnerable to these threats. Curious about the world, desiring novelties, experiments; he does not always see the lurking danger; all the more that they often are hidden behind something that seems particularly interesting, appealing.”⁵ Mariusz Z. Jędrzejko, however, asserts that “there is a widespread belief that young people in adolescence must take risks, that this time is a period of increased risk for mental and physical health. Such a belief generates anxiety and fear - whether to let our daughter go to a disco club, whether to let our son go to a concert with his friends, and how to stop the strong emotions of our child, who – in our opinion - reacts inadequately to the situation and has needs that frighten us. Well, the argument that adolescence is a period that should worry us is wrong and has no scientific justification. It is true, however, that during this period(12–24 y/o) ‘miracles’ happen in our child's brain, which cause strong emotions and great mobility”.⁶

Mariusz Z. Jędrzejko believes that modern-day youth struggles with many problems, which in consequence may lead to appearance of behaviors that are dysfunctional or even pathological, including a reversal of interests in positive values and the desire to fulfill oneself in a socially destructive activity, admiration for and interest in bad deeds, cynicism and dare deviltry in this regard, as well as an unfriendly attitude towards people and someone else's property.⁷ Such a diagnosis results from the fact that the contemporary Polish society is not free of various social problems, the more so that the following can be listed here *inter alia*: family dysfunction, alcohol problems, drug addiction problems, disturbances in interpersonal relations, crime problems, pathology of institution functioning, pathology of the systems fed by the budget, work pathology, pathology of population structures, pathology of the living conditions, pathology of the natural environment, dysfunction of space, health threats, sexual deviations, issues of youth sects and subcultures, the problem of behavioral addictions.⁸

One of such social problems is drug addiction. The issue of drug addiction entails the entirety of the harm and the damages associated with the use of illegal drugs and psychotropic substances, experienced by the persons using those substances, their family members and the entire society, which require action to reduce or eliminate this phenomenon,⁹ and which are related to both the scale and the spread of this phenomenon.

⁴ Z. Bauman, *Etyka ponowoczesna (Postmodern ethics)*, PWN Scientific Publishing, Warsaw 1996, p. 23.

⁵ W. Walc, *Wstęp (Introduction)*, [in:] (Eds.) W. Walc, *Zagrożenia dla rozwoju współczesnej młodzieży* (Threats to the development of modern-day youth), The University of Rzeszów Publishing, Rzeszów 2015, p. 7.

⁶ M. Z. Jędrzejko, *Dorastanie, czyli „buzujące” ciało i mózg – potencjały i ryzyka* (Growing up, that is the “buzzing” body and brain – the potentials and risks), [in:] M. Z. Jędrzejko, Z. Staśczak, T. Białas, *Narkotyki. Dopalacze. Nowe Środki psychoaktywne. Co warto wiedzieć? Jak chronić dzieci i młodzież?* (Conventional and designer drugs. New psychoactive substances. What is worth knowing? How to protect children and young adults?), Publishing house: ASPRA (ASPRA-JR F.H.U.) and Centrum Profilaktyki Społecznej – Von Velke Publishing, Warsaw 2018, p. 53.

⁷ M. Jędrzejko, *Wstęp (Introduction)*, [in:] (Eds.) M. Jędrzejko, *Patologie społeczne (Social pathologies)*, Publishing house: Aleksander GieysztorSchool of the Humanitiesin Pułtusk, Pułtusk 2006, pp. 10-11.

⁸ E. Moczuk, K. Bajda, *Problemy i zjawiska patologiczne w społeczeństwie tradycyjnym i nowoczesnym. Studium socjologiczno-kryminologiczne (Problems and pathological phenomena in traditional and modern society. A sociological and criminological study)*, Rzeszów University Publishing, Rzeszów 2016, pp. 138-140.

⁹ E. Moczuk, *Młodzież Miasta Rzeszowa wobec problematyki przemocy w szkole, używania Środków psychoaktywnych i uzależnień behawioralnych* (The Youth of the City of Rzeszów facing the problems of violence at school, psychoactive drug use and behavioral addictions), Publishing house: Stowarzyszenie Pomoc w Rzeszowie, Rzeszów City Hall, Rzeszów 2015, p. 6.

The subject of this study is to determine what is the experience of the surveyed school-age youth in the area of drinking alcohol and the use of illegal psychoactive drugs. The study has been carried out as part of the ISRD-3 research in Rzeszów and Białystok.

Characteristics of the surveyed population

The study was implemented in June 2017, using a questionnaire survey carried out as part of the ISRD-3 research. A total of 2179 school-age students from Rzeszów and Białystok took part in the study, including students from 6th grades (primary school) and 7th – 9th grades (junior high school) in both cities. It ought to be added that these studies are the last ones to have been conducted among a population constructed as such, because the process of liquidating junior high schools is currently underway.

The research was carried out in two comparable provincial cities located in the eastern part of Poland. Both cities are province capitals, where Rzeszów is the capital of the Podkarpackie Province, and Białystok of the Podlasie Province. Both cities seat state and local government offices. In Rzeszów, it is the Office of the Podkarpackie Province with the Provincial Governor of the Podkarpackie Province, the Marshal's Office, with the Marshal of the Podkarpackie Province, and the seat of the District Head of the County. Białystok has a similar structure of administration, including the Office of the Podlasie Province, with the Provincial Governor of the Podlasie Province, the Marshal's Office, with the Marshal of the Podlasie Province, and the seat of the District Head of the County.

For the research results to be analyzed, characteristics of the surveyed population need to be presented. The first of the variables under analysis is the place where the research had been conducted. The distribution indicating the proportions of the school-age students surveyed in both cities is presented in Table 1.

Table 1

Distribution of the surveyed population of young adults in Rzeszów and Białystok

City	Population size	%
Rzeszów	1146	52.6
Białystok	1033	47.4
Total	2179	100.0

Source: own elaboration

Analysis of the data presented in the above table indicates a selection of an almost uniform survey population, with 1146 students in Rzeszów, which accounts for 52.6% of all the respondents, and 1033 in Białystok - which constitutes 47.4% of the respondents.

Another variable is the respondents' gender. The proportions in this respect are presented in Table 2.

Table 2

Gender of the surveyed students

Gender	Population size	%
Female	1103	50.6
Male	1076	49.4
Total	2179	100.0

Source: own elaboration

As it can be seen, based on the data presented, the gender distribution is almost even, which is related to the deliberate selection of the group and indicates that 1103 girls participated in the study, which constitutes 50.6% of the entire population surveyed, and 1076 boys respectively, which constitutes 49.4% of the population under analysis.

Another variable analyzed is the respondents' age. Due to the fact that the study involved primary school and junior high school students, the group ranged between 12-15 years old. The distribution indicating the age range of the surveyed students is presented in Table 3.

Table 3

Age of the surveyed students

Age	Population size	%
12 y/o	359	16.5
13 y/o	667	30.6
14 y/o	641	29.4
15 y/o and over	512	23.5
Total	2179	100.0

Source: own elaboration

Based on the above-presented data, it can be seen that there are 359 students aged up to 12 years old, which constitutes 16.5% of all the surveyed students; 667 students were 13-year-olds, which constitutes 30.6% of the total; 641 students were 14-year-olds, which constitutes 29.4% of the total; and 512 students who were 15 year old and over, which constitutes 23.5% of the entire population.

The last variables describe the professional status of the surveyed students' parents, where the analysis involves the professional status of the father first, and secondarily of the mother, as presented in Tables 4 and 5. The father's professional status is presented in Table 4.

Table 4

Professional status of the surveyed students' fathers

Father's professional status	Population size	%
Unemployed	49	2.2
Working	2014	92.4
Other activity	110	5.0
No answer	6	0.3
Total	2179	100.0

Source: own elaboration

Based on the data presented above, it can be seen that, in the opinion of 2014 students, which constitutes 92.4% of the respondents, their fathers work; according to 110 students, which constitutes 5.0% of the total, their fathers do something else; according to 49 students, which constitutes 2.2% of the total, their fathers do not work; while 6 students, i.e. 0.3% of the total, did not answer this question.

A similar analysis has been conducted with respect to the respondents' mothers. The professional status of the mothers is presented in Table 5.

Table 5

Professional status of the surveyed students' mothers

Mother's professional status	Population size	%
Unemployed	126	5.8
Working	1946	89.3
Other activity	105	4.8
No answer	2	0.1
Total	2179	100.0

Source: own elaboration

Based on the data presented above, it can be seen that, in opinion of 1946 students, which constitutes 89.3% of the respondents, their mothers work; according to 126 students, which constitutes 5.8% of the total, their mothers do not work; according to 105 students, which accounts for 4.8% of the total, their mothers do something else; while 2 students, i.e. 0.1% of the total, did not answer this question.

It can therefore be concluded that a comparable number of respondents from Rzeszów (52.6%) and Białystok (47.4%) participated in the research. In addition, the population selection based on gender is almost uniform, including girls - 50.6%, and boys - 49.4% of the total. What is more, analysis of the age shows that the students up to 12 years old constitute 16.5% of the entire population; 13-year-olds - 30.6%; 14-year-olds - 29.4%; and the students aged 15 years old and over - 23.5% respectively. According to 92.4% of the respondents, their fathers work; 5.0% of them think that their fathers do something else; according to 2.2% of

them, their fathers do not work; while 0.4% of them did not provide and answer to this question. In turn, with regard to the professional status of the mothers, according to 89.3% of the respondents, the mothers work; according to 5.8% of them, their mothers do not work; according to 4.8% of them, their mothers do something else; while 0.1% of the students did not provide an answer to this question.

It should also be noted that in order to assess whether the differences between the groups under comparison are statistically significant, an appropriate statistical test was used.¹⁰ Because the features under comparison have been measured using a nominal scale, the right tool to be used here is the Chi-square test of independence.¹¹

Drug use of school youth in Rzeszów and Bielsk Podlaski

The research presented in this study is meant to answer the question of what is the experience of the surveyed school-age students, in terms of alcohol drinking and the use of illegal psychoactive drugs. It should be noted that this analysis constitutes only a small part of the research on present-day school youth and mainly is focused on the use of legal and illegal psychoactive substances. Analysis of the full ISRD-3 study results will be the subject of another study.

First, the respondents were asked whether they have had any opportunity to use legal (alcohol) and illegal (drugs) psychoactive substances. It should be noted, that out of the 2179 respondents, as many as 1739 students, representing 79.8% of the surveyed population, stated that they have never dealt with such substance. However, 440 people, which constitutes 20.2% of the respondents, have admitted to having used such substances. Distribution of the answers to this question is presented in Table 6 and on Figure 1.

Table 6

The use of legal (alcohol) and illegal (drugs) psychoactive substances by the students surveyed

Have you ever used?	Population	%
Alcohol	366	16.8
Cannabis	74	3.4
Soft drugs	29	1.3
Relevin	23	1.1
Hard drugs	23	1.1
Nothing (never used drugs)	1739	79.8

Source: own elaboration

¹⁰Statistical tests are used to assess whether the dependencies and the relations observed in the sample result from a more general regularity prevailing in the entire population or are just accidental results. The result of the statistical test is the so-called probability value (p), low values of which indicate a statistical significance of the dependence/relation under consideration. Most commonly, the following rules are adopted:

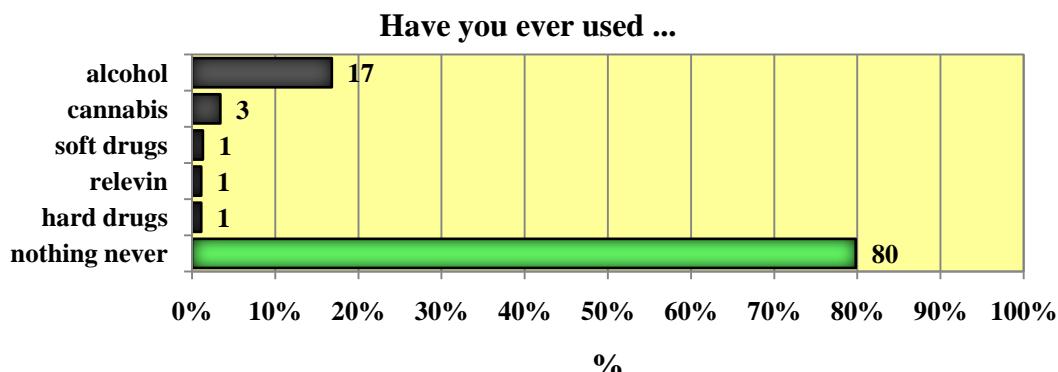
- when $p \geq 0.05$ there are no grounds for rejecting the null hypothesis, which means that the difference being tested (the dependence, the effect) is not statistically significant;
- when $p < 0.05$ is said to have a statistically significant dependence/relation (marked with *);
- $p < 0.01$ is a highly significant dependence (**);
- $p < 0.001$ is a very highly statistically significant dependence (***)

More on the issue of testing statistical hypotheses: A. Sokołowski, *Estymacja i testowanie hipotez (Estimation and testing hypotheses)* [in:] *STATISTICA w badaniach naukowych i nauczaniu statystyki (STATISTICA in scientific research and teaching of statistics)*, Publishing house: StatSoft Polska, Cracow 2010, pp. 25-60; P. Francuz, R. Mackiewicz, *Liczy nie wiedzą skąd pochodzą. Przewodnik po metodologii i statystyce (Numbers do not know where they come from. A guide to methodology in statistics)*, Catholic University of Lublin Publishing, Lublin 2007, pp. 245-275.

¹¹The Chi-square test of independence is the most popular statistical test used to examine a relationship between two characteristics measured on a nominal scale. In this test, a null hypothesis is put forward that occurrence of a variant of one trait does not depend on a variant adopted for a second trait (the features are independent). In the alternative hypothesis, it is assumed that the features are interrelated. Low probability values allow the null hypothesis to be rejected and allow inference about existence of a dependence in the entire population between the two features under consideration. Detailed calculation procedures can be found in many publications in the field of statistics. See: A. D. Aczel, *Statystyka w zarządzaniu (Statistics in management)*, PWN, Warsaw 2000, pp. 757-766. A description of the use of the test, using the STATISTICA program, can be found in the paper by P. Hydzik, M. Sobolewski, *Komputerowa analiza danych społeczno-gospodarczych (Computer analysis of socio-economic data)*, Publishing house: Rzeszów University of Technology, Rzeszów 2007, p. 89.

Figure 1

The use of legal (alcohol) and illegal (drugs) psychoactive substances by the students surveyed(in %)



Source: own elaboration

Due to the fact that the respondents could select a number of answers, the total does not add up to a 100%. Based on the data presented, it can be seen that among those who declared the use of the stimulants specified, as many as 79.8% indicated that they have never used any drugs. However, 16.8% of the surveyed school-age students 'admit' to drinking alcohol; 3.4% of the respondents have used marijuana; 1.3% of the respondents have used other 'soft' drugs; sedatives and hypnotics (Relevein) have been used by 1.1% of the surveyed students; while 'hard' drugs have been used by 1.1% of the respondents. As it can be seen based on the data presented above, almost 80% of the surveyed population have not used any legal or illegal psychoactive substances. This is a very positive research observation. Nevertheless, the fact that 16.8% of the students stated that they have used alcohol, 3.4% have used marijuana, 1.3% have used 'soft' drugs, 1.1% have used sedatives and tranquilizers, and 1.1% have used 'hard' drugs must cause concern. This means that almost every sixth respondent has undergone alcohol initiation and every fourteenth a drug initiation. The mere fact that 23 respondents have been in contact with 'hard' drugs, i.e. amphetamines, heroin, cocaine and others, is alarming. The fact that 74 students have smoked marijuana, 29 students have used 'soft' drugs, such as hashish, hallucinogenic mushrooms etc., and 23 students have used sedatives and hypnotics is a dangerous precedent. It is all the more alarming that the respondents are 12-15 year old students. The only 'comfort' here may be the fact that these answers fall within the limits of the statistical error.

In order to determine whether there are any dependencies between the dependent variable described above and the independent variables presented as the characteristics of the surveyed population, the variables were compared. First, an analysis based on the place of the research, i.e. Rzeszów and Białystok, was made. The distribution of the answers is presented in Table 7.

Table 7

The relation between the use of legal and illegal psychoactive substances by the students surveyed, with regard to the place of study

Have you ever used?	City				Probability value <i>p</i>	
	Rzeszów		Białystok			
	<i>N</i>	%	<i>N</i>	%		
Alcohol	179	16.0	187	18.4	0.1433	
Cannabis	37	3.3	39	3.6	0.6670	
Relevein	13	1.2	10	1.0	0.6982	
Soft drugs	16	1.4	13	1.3	0.7720	
Hard drugs	14	1.2	9	0.9	0.4204	

Source: own elaboration

Based on the data presented, it can be stated that the surveys conducted in Rzeszów and Białystok reveal a similar level of the risk of contact with alcohol and drugs among the school-age students from both cities. What is more, there are no statistically significant differences (*p* exceeds the value of 0.05) in the frequency of alcohol consumption (ever in life) and consumption of different types of drugs between the surveyed students from Rzeszów and Białystok.

The next variable analyzed is gender. Accordingly, the analysis of the dependencies between the dependent variable and gender is presented in Table 8 and on Figure 2.

Table 8

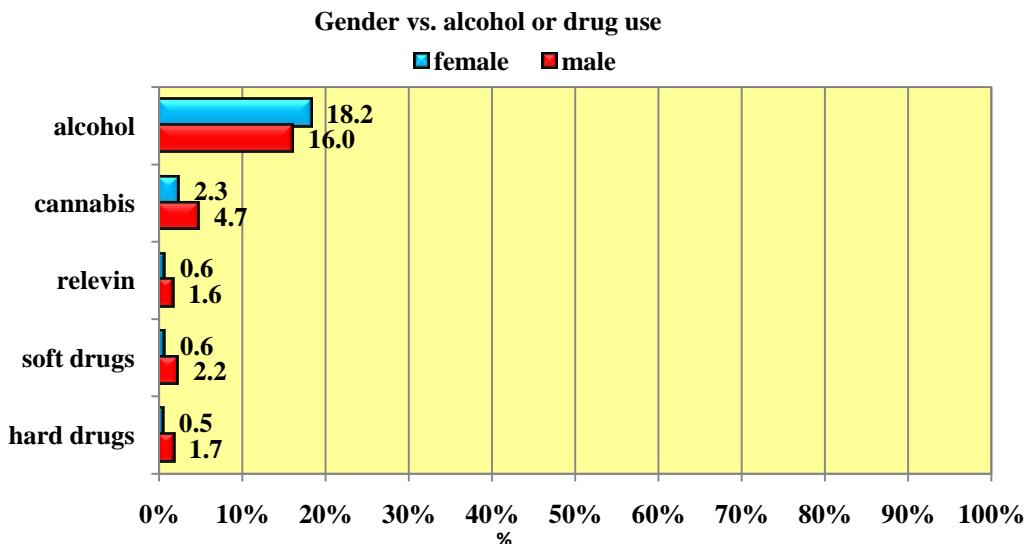
The relation between the use of legal and illegal psychoactive substances by the students surveyed and their gender

Have you ever used?	Gender				Probability value <i>p</i>	
	Female		Male			
	N	%	N	%		
Alcohol	198	18.2	168	16.0	0.1837	
Cannabis	25	2.3	49	4.7	0.0027**	
Relevin	6	0.6	17	1.6	0.0162*	
Soft drugs	6	0.6	23	2.2	0.0010**	
Hard drugs	5	0.5	18	1.7	0.0049**	

Source: own elaboration

Figure 2

The relation between the use of legal and illegal psychoactive substances by the students surveyed and their gender (in%)



Source: own elaboration

Based on the data presented, it can be seen that there is virtually no difference in the frequency of alcohol consumption by boys and girls, although a slightly higher proportion of girls consuming alcohol, rather than boys, can be seen. However, in terms of the contact with 'drugs', it can be noticed that a greater proportion of boys, with respect to girls, have had contact with these substances. It is characteristic that while there is no relation in the frequency of alcohol drinking among girls and boys, in terms marijuana consumption this relation is highly significant with regard to boys (2.3% of girls and 4.7% of boys); in terms of sedatives and tranquilizers, this relation is highly significant with regard to boys(0.6% girls and 1.6% boys); in terms of 'soft' drugs use, this relation is significant with regard to boys (0.6% girls and 2.2% boys), while in terms of 'hard' drugs use, this relation is significant with regard to boys (0.5% girls and 1.7% boys). The fact that the use of sedatives and hypnotics, hitherto the domain of girls, in the population under examination shows to be the domain of boys seems to be a very intriguing issue.

The third variable analyzed is age. Accordingly, the analysis of the dependencies between the dependent variable and the age is presented in Table 9.

Table 9

The relation between the use of legal and illegal psychoactive drugs by the students surveyed and their age

Have you ever used?	Age [y/o]								Probability value <i>p</i>	
	12		13		14		15			
	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%		
Alcohol	35	9.9	74	11.2	113	18.1	144	28.8	0.0000***	
Cannabis	3	0.8	13	2.0	18	2.9	40	8.0	0.0000***	
Relevin	4	1.1	3	0.5	6	1.0	10	2.0	0.0906	
Soft drugs	2	0.6	7	1.1	8	1.3	12	2.4	0.1041	
Hard drugs	2	0.6	6	0.9	8	1.3	7	1.4	0.6246	

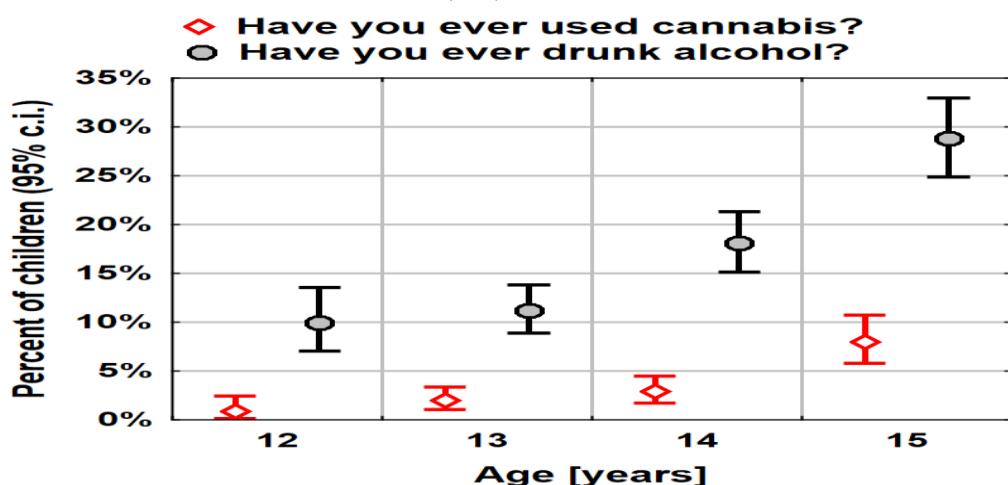
Source: own elaboration

As the research results show, out of the surveyed population, 9.9% of the twelve-year-olds, 11.2% of the thirteen-year-olds, 18.1% of the fourteen-year-olds and 28.8% of the fifteen-year-olds have admitted to drinking alcohol. At the same time, in terms of alcohol consumption, this relation is highly significant with regard to the students aged 15 y/o and over. The same applies to marijuana consumption, where this relation is very highly significant with regard to the students aged 15 y/o and over. In terms of sedatives as well as ‘soft’ and ‘hard’ drugs, there is no relation, meaning that, regardless of the surveyed students’ age, the contact they have had with these illegal substances is on a similar level. It ought to be pointed out, that the conclusions of this analysis are not optimistic, because there is a connection between alcohol drinking and the use of illegal psychoactive drugs, while regular contact with marijuana and other ‘soft’ drugs may turn into permanent use of these substances.

To further illustrate the threat posed by alcohol drinking and the use of illegal psychoactive drugs, the percentage of students who have drunk alcohol was compared with the percentage of those who have been in contact with marijuana, with regard to their age. As such, not only the percentage of those students who have drunk alcohol and smoked marijuana is shown with regard to the age groups, but also the 95% confidence interval, which determines the probable scope which the percentage falls at within the population. This distribution is illustrated on Figure 3.

Figure 3

Percentage of the school-age students who have drunk alcohol and smoked marijuana, with regard to age groups, in relation to the 95% confidence interval (in%)



Source: own elaboration

Based on the data presented, it can be seen that, when inferring that among the fifteen-year-olds surveyed 8.0% have smoked marijuana, the level is definitely a higher one, in relation to the entire population, which can be concluded with 95% confidence to fall between 5.8% and 10.7%. This is a very negative observation resultant from this study.

The next variable analyzed is the professional status of the students' fathers. Accordingly, the analysis of the relation between the dependent variable and this status is presented in Table 10 and on Figure 4.

Table 10

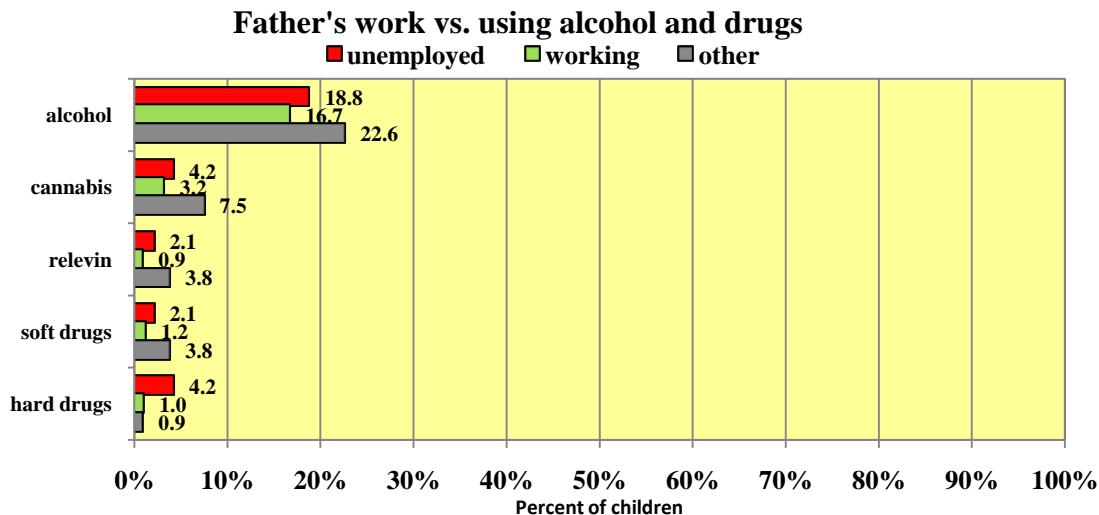
The relation between the use of legal and illegal psychoactive drugs by the students surveyed and the professional status of their fathers

Have you ever used?	Father's professional status						Probability value <i>p</i>	
	Unemployed		Working		Other			
	<i>N</i>	%	<i>N</i>	%	<i>N</i>	%		
Alcohol	9	18.8	331	16.7	24	22.6	0.2756	
Cannabis	2	4.2	64	3.2	8	7.5	0.0590	
Relevin	1	2.1	18	0.9	4	3.8	0.0168*	
Soft drugs	1	2.1	24	1.2	4	3.8	0.0780	
Hard drugs	2	4.2	20	1.0	1	0.9	0.1113	

Source: own elaboration

Figure 4

The relation between the use of legal and illegal psychoactive substances by the students surveyed and the professional status of the fathers (in%)



Source: own elaboration

Based on the data presented in table 10 and on figure 4, it can be seen that there is a certain relation between the fathers' professional status and the consumption of some psychoactive drugs, including marijuana or 'soft' drugs (these relations are close to the level of statistical significance, while the probability value *p* slightly exceeds 0.5), particularly in terms of the use of tranquilizers (the probability value *p* = 0.0168*). Undesirable behavior is exhibited by a greater percentage of the young adults from the group of the fathers with "other" professional status, while the children of the fathers who work look "best" against the background of the children of unemployed fathers.

The last variable analyzed is the professional status of the students' mothers. Accordingly, the analysis of the relation between the dependent variable and this status is presented in Table 11.

Table 11

The relation between the use of legal and illegal psychoactive substances by the students surveyed and their mothers' professional status

Have you ever used?	Mother's professional status						Probability value <i>p</i>	
	Unemployed		Working		Other			
	<i>N</i>	%	<i>N</i>	%	<i>N</i>	%		
Alcohol	20	16.0	325	17.0	20	19.2	0.8008	
Cannabis	3	2.4	65	3.4	6	5.8	0.3508	
Relevin	3	2.4	19	1.0	1	1.0	0.3369	
Soft drugs	3	2.4	24	1.3	2	1.9	0.4967	
Hard drugs	1	0.8	21	1.1	1	1.0	0.9448	

Source: own elaboration

Analysis of the data presented indicates that, in the case of alcohol and other psychoactive drugs, there is no dependence, and therefore, regardless of the mothers' professional status, the respondents have had similar contact with these legal and illegal substance.

Conclusion

Summarizing the above analyses, it should be stated that the research question posed in the introduction, i.e. what is the experience of the surveyed school-age students, in terms of alcohol drinking and the use of illegal psychoactive drugs, shows that among the population surveyed, issues of drug addiction are marginal, nevertheless, they should not be underestimated, especially that the research was conducted among the students of 6th grades (primary school) and 7th – 9th grades (junior high school), that is among 12-15 year old youth.

The research results indicate that 79.8% of the respondents have never used any psychoactive substances, which is a positive research observation. Nevertheless, 16.8% of the students surveyed have had alcohol initiation, 3.4% have used marijuana, 1.3% have used 'soft' drugs, 1.1% have used sedatives and tranquilizers, and 1.1% have used 'hard' drugs. This information is appalling, as the respondents are people aged 12-15 y/o. The only consolation from this analysis may be the fact that these results fall within the statistical error. The analysis involving the place of the research indicates that there are no statistically significant differences in the frequency of alcohol consumption and the use of different types of drugs among the surveyed students from Rzeszów and Białystok. With regard to gender, there is no difference in the frequency of alcohol consumption by boys and girls, although there is a slightly higher percentage of girls who have consumed alcohol than boys. In terms of the contact with drugs, boys have more 'experience' than girls. With regard to age, there is a relation, in terms of the students aged 15 y/o and over, compared to younger respondents, between the age and the use of different psychoactive substances. With regard to the parents' professional status, the rarest contact with psychoactive drugs was declared by children of the fathers who work. With regard to the mothers' professional status, there are no dependencies between this variable and the use of psychoactive substances.