

PRACE ORYGINALNE • ORIGINAL PAPERS

Knowledge about HIV and AIDS problems among school youth from Goleniów administrative district

Znajomość problemów HIV i AIDS wśród młodzieży szkolnej powiatu goleniowskiego

EWA SZCZEPANOWSKA^{1, 3, A, C-F}, EWA BOŻENA MARCINKOWSKA^{2, B-F}, JANUSZ MERSKI^{3, E, G}¹ University of Szczecin, Faculty of Earth Sciences, Chair of Recreation

Head: Prof. Ewa Szczepanowska DSc, PhD

² The Regional Sanitary-Epidemiological Station in Goleniów

Head: Ewa Bożena Marcinkowska MD

³ The Almamere University of Economics in Warsaw, Faculty of Tourism and Recreation, Chair of Recreation and Biomedical Bases of Tourism

Head: Prof. Wiesław Pilis PhD

A – Study Design, B – Data Collection, C – Statistical Analysis, D – Data Interpretation, E – Manuscript Preparation, F – Literature Search, G – Funds Collection

Summary Objectives. The aim of work was to evaluate knowledge on HIV and AIDS issues, in association with education in a complete or non-complete family and the emulation of parents, in the youth of the Goleniów administrative district, in West Pomeranian region, in Poland, from two primary school and gymnasium senior classes.

Material and methods. In this study 349 girls and 345 boys from the V and VI classes of primary school and the II and III classes of gymnasium were examined by anonymous questionnaire. Analysis of the results obtained regarded the kind of school, chronological age, gender, education in a complete or non-complete family, and emulation of parents. In the calculations, the nonparametric Pearson's χ^2 test and a correlation coefficient R of Spearman's rank were used.

Results. Results showed that the knowledge of youth about HIV and AIDS was significantly dependent on the kind of school and increased at gymnasium. It was dependent also on gender and was significantly higher among girls.

Conclusions. Knowledge about HIV and AIDS issues was dependent on education in a complete or non-complete family and was lower among boys, and significantly lower among boys educated in a complete family. Knowledge about the questions mentioned above was dependent whether parents played a role model for their children and it was significantly higher in girls.

Key words: HIV, AIDS, school youth, gender.

Streszczenie Cel pracy. Celem pracy była ocena poziomu wiedzy na temat zagadnień związanych z HIV i AIDS w powiązaniu z wychowywaniem w rodzinie pełnej i niepełnej oraz wzorowaniem się na rodzicach, u młodzieży z powiatu goleniowskiego, w województwie zachodniopomorskim, w Polsce, z dwóch najstarszych klas szkoły podstawowej i gimnazjum.

Material i metody. W badaniu wzięło udział 349 dziewcząt i 345 chłopców z V i VI klasy szkoły podstawowej oraz II i III klasy gimnazjum. Wypełnili oni anonimowy kwestionariusz ankiety. Analiza uzyskanych wyników odnosiła się do rodzaju szkoły, wieku chronologicznego, płci, wychowania w rodzinie pełnej lub niepełnej oraz wzorowania się na rodzicach. Do obliczeń zastosowano nieparametryczny test χ^2 Pearsona oraz korelację rang Spearmana.

Wyniki. Otrzymane wyniki pokazały, że wiedza młodzieży na temat HIV i AIDS jest statystycznie istotnie zależna od rodzaju szkoły i wzrasta w gimnazjum. Jest także zależna od płci, w tym jest statystycznie istotnie wyższa wśród dziewcząt.

Wnioski. Wiedza na temat zagadnień związanych z HIV i AIDS jest zależna od wychowywania w rodzinie pełnej lub niepełnej i jest niższa wśród chłopców, w tym statystycznie istotnie niższa wśród chłopców wychowywanych w rodzinie pełnej. Wiedza na temat powyższych zagadnień jest zależna od tego, czy rodzice są wzorem do naśladowania dla młodzieży i jest istotnie statystycznie wyższa u dziewcząt.

Słowa kluczowe: HIV, AIDS, młodzież szkolna, płeć.

Introduction

In the contemporary world, in the approach to health, a so-called holistic concept of treating human health as the entirety can be postulated: physical (somatic), psychological, social, and inner health [1]. Lifestyle can be defined as a way of human life – its behaviors, attitudes, activities and general life philosophy. Lifestyle favorable to health is determined as a healthy lifestyle [1–3].

Objectives

The aim of work was to evaluate, in the youth from the Goleniów district, in West Pomeranian region, in Poland, from two senior classes of the primary school and gymnasium, the level of knowledge on the effects of using drugs, and HIV and AIDS issues, in relation to a kind of school, feelings of happiness, education in a complete or non-complete family, and parents as a role model for youth.

Material

In this study 694 students, aged 11–14 years old participated: 349 girls and 345 boys from the V and VI classes of primary school (11–12 years old) and the II and III classes of gymnasium (13–14 years old) in the Goleniów administrative district, in West Pomeranian region, in Poland. They were examined by anonymous questionnaire. The results obtained were analyzed with regard to the kind of school, and in relation to chronological age, then gender, education in a complete or non-complete family, and playing role model by parents. The division of particular groups of students was 25% in relation to the entire number of respondents; at both primary school and gymnasium, the number of girls and boys was equal, and was close in each group of examined respondents.

Methods

The method used in this study was a diagnostic poll, and a tool – an anonymous questionnaire, with open and closed questions, constructed by the authors. Its reliability according to the Alfa-Cronbach coefficient was 0.89. The sampling of studied groups had a purposeful character, because it was limited only to the oldest classes of primary school and gymnasium and was random, because it involved students of a given class, with an educational lesson in the day of study.

Statistical analysis

To evaluate the results obtained, the Statistica 7.1 program with calculations of the nonparametric Pearson's χ^2 test and correlation coefficient R of Spearman's rank were used.

Results

Results were gathered in the Table 1: Pearson's χ^2 value coefficients and Spearman's rank – R -values, with regard to gender and the question considered, in connection with additional determinants. The youth studied in this work expressed the view that cigarettes and alcohol were not drugs, but this knowledge decreased at gymnasium, both in girls and in boys, although it was higher in girls (q. 1, Tab. 1). This knowledge was not dependent on being educated in a complete or non-complete family nor on happiness in life. Getting drugs at school was easier at gymnasium than at primary school, and equal for boys and girls (q. 2, Tab. 1). At primary school, 6.0% of girls responded that getting drugs was "easy or very easy" and in boys 10.0%. At gymnasium the figures were – 29.1% girls and 29.1% boys, respectively. Information about the nature of HIV and AIDS was dependent on the kind of school, and response "yes" was higher at gymnasium, in girls – 97%, in boys – 89%. At primary school the "yes" response was less noticeable: 71% and 69%, respectively (q. 3 and q. 4, Tab. 1). This information was not dependent on a complete or non-complete family and it ranged 77–87% in the groups studied, but it was statistically dependent on parents as a role model: in girls – 91%, in boys – 70% ($p = 0.066$, q. 3 and $p = 0.066$, q. 4, Tab. 1). Knowledge about HIV and AIDS was statistically dependent on the kind of school and it was higher at gymnasium, especially in girls (q. 5 and 6, Tab. 1). This knowledge was dependent on education in a complete family in boys (R at the level of $p = 0.082$, q. 5, Tab. 1), but it was not dependent on parents as a role model (q. 5 and 6, Tab. 1).

Discussion

The conviction of youth, from Goleniów administrative district, that cigarette and alcohol were not drugs, increasing at gymnasium, was a very alarming observation. An assumption can be postulated that this tendency was caused by visible examples from the nearest milieu and the lack of acceptance by youth of positive patterns, and also the inclination to establish authority among peers.

Postulate. It seems necessary to intensify activities in education of pro-health behavior and introduce economic mechanisms, in co-operation with

Table 1. Pearson's χ^2 value coefficients and Spearman's rank – R-values in regard to gender and question considered in connection with additional determinant as school (bold means statistical significance)

Question	Determinant	Gender	Pearson's χ^2 value	df	p	Spearman's rank – R	t	p
1. Are cigarettes and alcohol drugs?	school	girls	7.711	2	0.021	-0.123	-2.286	0.023
		boys	12.079	2	0.002	-0.162	-3.016	0.003
	complete or non-complete family	girls	0.523	2	0.770	-0.012	-0.214	0.831
		boys	2.935	2	0.230	0.016	0.287	0.774
	happiness in life	girls	3.065	4	0.547	0.010	0.176	0.861
		boys	4.271	4	0.371	-0.057	-1.037	0.300
2. Is easy to get drugs at your school?	school	girls	59.055	5	0.000	0.315	6.174	0.000
		boys	35.445	5	0.000	0.237	4.470	0.000
3. What HIV is?	school	girls	23.558	1	0.000	0.266	5.019	0.000
		boys	9.230	1	0.002	0.170	3.073	0.002
	complete or non-complete family	girls	1.880	1	0.170	0.076	1.371	0.171
		boys	1.809	1	0.179	-0.075	-1.345	0.180
	parents as a pattern to emulate	girls	3.368	1	0.066	-0.102	-1.839	0.066
		boys	1.616	1	0.204	0.072	1.271	0.205
4. Do you know what AIDS is?	school	girls	46.716	1	0.000	0.376	7.355	0.000
		boys	19.010	1	0.000	0.244	4.482	0.000
	complete or non-complete family	girls	2.009	1	0.156	0.079	1.418	0.157
		boys	0.286	1	0.593	0.030	0.533	0.594
	parents as a pattern to emulate	girls	4.166	1	0.041	-0.114	-2.048	0.041
		boys	0.120	1	0.729	0.020	0.344	0.730
5. My knowledge about HIV is very good to very bad.	school	girls	52.086	4	0.000	-0.317	-6.067	0.000
		boys	35.178	4	0.000	-0.291	-5.319	0.000
	complete or non-complete family	girls	1.457	4	0.834	-0.017	-0.312	0.755
		boys	4.769	4	0.312	0.100	1.747	0.082
	parents as a pattern to emulate	girls	2.968	4	0.563	0.026	0.471	0.638
		boys	3.952	4	0.413	0.039	0.669	0.504
6. My knowledge about AIDS is very good to bad.	school	girls	60.384	4	0.000	-0.363	-7.000	0.000
		boys	34.458	4	0.000	-0.299	-5.413	0.000
	complete or non-complete family	girls	1.472	4	0.832	0.011	0.198	0.843
		boys	4.090	4	0.393	0.043	0.737	0.462
	parents as a pattern to emulate	girls	2.808	4	0.590	0.079	1.416	0.158
		boys	6.293	4	0.178	0.088	1.507	0.133

local governments and parents, allowing organizing in schools, and outside of them, the pro-health education programs for adolescents with regard to psychoactive substances, HIV and AIDS, especially among the youth in primary school. The expected effect of these activities would be an improvement in the health status of the youth from Goleniów administrative district. The results obtained involving risk behavior and drugs use were convergent with the results of the international study HBSC 2001/2002 [4–7].

Conclusions

1. Boys show greater and greater negative attitudes towards a healthy lifestyle and this was more

distinct at the gymnasium, where the conviction of youth about the easy availability of drugs at school increased.

2. Information about HIV and AIDS was statistically dependent on the kind of school, and it was higher at gymnasium. It was also dependent on gender, and was significantly higher among girls.
3. Knowledge about HIV and AIDS was not dependent on education in a complete or non-complete family and it was lower in boys, and significantly lower in boys educated in a complete family.
4. Knowledge about HIV and AIDS was dependent on parents as a role model, and it was significantly higher in girls.

References

1. Woynarowska B. *Edukacja zdrowotna w szkole*. Warszawa: Wydawnictwo Lekarskie PZWL; 2000: 24–35.
2. Woynarowska B. (red.). *Zdrowie i szkoła*. Warszawa: Wydawnictwo Lekarskie PZWL; 2000: 126–264.
3. Bogucki J, Tuszyńska-Bogucka V, Maciaszczyk B, i wsp. *Styl życia a zdrowie. Wybrane zagadnienia*. Lublin: UMCS; 2005: 1–13, 31–82.
4. Woynarowska B. Międzynarodowe badania nad zachowaniami zdrowotnymi młodzieży szkolnej. *Zdrowie Publiczne* 2002; 112(3): 391–395.
5. Woynarowska B, Mazur J. *Zachowania zdrowotne, zdrowie i postrzeganie szkoły przez młodzież w Polsce w 2002 roku. Raport techniczny z badań*. Warszawa: Wydział Pedagogiczny Uniwersytetu Warszawskiego; 2006: 17–26.
6. Woynarowska B, Mazur J. Zachowania zdrowotne młodzieży szkolnej w Polsce. Wyniki badań HBSC 2002. *Zdrowie Publiczne* 2004; 114(2): 159–167.
7. Woynarowska B, Mazur J, Kołoto H, Małkowska A. *Zdrowie, zachowania zdrowotne i środowisko społeczne w krajach Unii Europejskiej*. Warszawa: Katedra Biomedycznych Podstaw Rozwoju i Wychowania, Uniwersytet Warszawski, BOVI; 2005: 5–7, 21–40, 48.

Address for correspondence:

Dr hab. Ewa Szczepanowska prof. US
Faculty of Earth Sciences, Chair of Recreation
The University of Szczecin
ul. Mickiewicza 18
70-383 Szczecin
Tel.: + 48 91 444-25-19
Fax: + 48 91 444-24-61
E-mail: eszczepan@poczta.onet.pl

Received: 30.06.2010

Revised: 17.10.2010

Accepted: 1.02.2011