

Abstract

Background: The use of alcohol beverages in adolescent group is a social problem. Teenagers are more likely to be exposed to alcohol as something worth experimenting on. They will neglect the side effects and warnings for alcohol in long term and that is potentially great issue. Also, in Czech society we mostly consider the not drinking of alcohol as antisocial behavior. The peer pressure of the teenager groups on not-drinking individuals to be not antisocial is even more urgent after use of alcohol with short-term effect as feeling fearless or boosted self-confidence.

Aim: Describe and analyze the characteristics of alcohol use among adolescents at secondary and higher vocational schools in Most Region.

Methods: Data were collected in the spring of 2022 by questionnaire inquiry. Population consisted of 697 students of secondary and higher vocational schools in Most Region. The sample was 680 respondents. The data were analyzed by using descriptive statistics and the results displayed using tables and graphs.

Results: 91.3 % of respondents tasted alcohol at some point in their lives. The average age of first experience with alcohol is 13.2 years. The most common alcohol among respondent sis hard liquor 36.2 %. It is mostly used in the club by 27.1 %. Consumption with friends was reported by 58.7 %. According to the AUDIT assessment, 72.4 % of respondent drink at risk, 26 % of respondents can be expected to be addicted, and health damage is evident in 45.9 %. According to CRAFFT, 18.4 % of respondents drink occasionally, 37.2 % of those who use harmfully and 14.9 % with a risk of addiction.

Conclusion and recommendation: Although the law prohibits alcohol consumption under the age of 18, the majority respondents have ever used alcohol. Risky drinking is obvious in many of them and the risk of addiction in not negligible. Therefore, further research could identify or suggest what specific interventions should follow to reduce adolescent alcohol use.

Key words: alcohol, adolescents, usage, risk behavior, Most Region