

Abstract

Since 2010, sociologists have noted that teenagers drink less alcohol and smoke a smaller number of cigarettes each year than in previous years. This paper analyses the association between family background and the decline in alcohol and cigarette use in the Czech Republic between 2010 and 2018. The data are from the international HBSC (Health Behaviour in School-aged Children) study, from the years 2010, 2014, and 2018. The bachelor thesis only discusses cases from the Czech Republic, the data have thousands of cases, so they are robust enough to perform quantitative analyses.

The analysis focuses only on alcohol and conventional cigarettes as the two most common addictive substances consumed by adolescents. Family background is examined in terms of parental presence in the household, ease of communication between parent and child, and family wealth.

Secondary analysis showed an association of family wealth with the amount of alcohol consumed and cigarettes smoked. Children from wealthier families drink alcohol more often than children from the opposite end of the spectrum, and conversely, children from poorer families smoke more cigarettes. The data does not have the potential to observe causality, only correlations could be observed. The main conclusion of the paper is that the decline in smoking and drinking among children in the Czech Republic between 2010-2018 was accompanied by changes in the family environment.