

## Abstract

**Background:** Flavoured non-alcoholic beers have become very popular among children and teenagers in recent years. These products are appealing because of their taste, packaging, design, but also because they give the impression that they are more like lemonade than beer. They are affordable and risk-free for most people, so children and adolescents usually consume it in the presence of adults, often parents.

**Objective:** The aim of this study is to map the experiences of 9th grade students with the use of non-alcoholic beers and to identify students' perceptions of their risk.

**Methods:** The research was realised by quantitative method, namely a questionnaire survey. Data were collected as questionnaires in paper form in selected schools in the district of Prague 9 and transcribed into MS Excel, where they were also processed. Students of 9th grade participated in the questionnaires. A total of 79 respondents took part in the questionnaire, with the largest representation of 15-year-old students.

**Results:** The results show that 85 % of the pupils have had at least one experience with non-alcoholic beers. Among the respondents who have had experience, girls are more represented (57 %). Only 61 % of pupils answered correctly the question what is a non-alcoholic beer. Frequency of use was less than once a week, which was the most common answer for 40 % of respondents. A total of 49 % of respondents thought that non-alcoholic beer could be purchased from the age of 15. More than half of respondents (53 %) said they would drink non-alcoholic beer again. The average age at which pupils first tasted non-alcoholic beer is 12 years. Most pupils (34 %) got their first non-alcoholic beer from their parents who offered it to them. Overall, 36 % of pupils think that non-alcoholic beer has a slight risk to human health.

**Conclusion:** The results can help in designing more effective prevention measures and strategies to protect the health and safety of children and young people in the field of alcoholic beverages.

**Keywords:** students, primary school, non-alcoholic beers, alcohol, prevention, research