

Socialization Aspects of Adolescents from Residential Care, Social Correction Institutions and Boarding Schools in Latvia and Patterns of Alcohol and Drug Use

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Introduction. The paper is based on the study on alcohol and drug use among adolescents (13–16) residing in three types of institutional settings. Although the institutions vary according to the type of institution (orphanage and crises centre are for youth without parents or parental care), boarding schools – for youth who might have parents or without them, youth in correctional institutions have committed an offence, might have parents or no. All those institutions are characterised by a common feature of their socialisation – no family environment and lack of parental role in their socialisation. Teachers and social workers are the major adults with whom the socialisation takes place.

The aim. The objective of the paper is to develop the analytical basis on the prevalence of alcohol and drug use among adolescents from residential and institutional care.

Materials and methods. The study is based on three data sources: survey data (adolescents aged 13–16), expert interviews and interviews with adolescents residing in various types of long term residential institutions.

Results. In residential care boarding schools, on the one hand, adolescents have higher autonomy on their use of leisure time than mainstream youth; on the other hand, due to financial restrictions, they have much more restricted consumption opportunities, including drug and alcohol use.

The first part of paper is related to the characteristics of the specific group of youth residing in the institutions and the main aspects of their socialisation.

The second part describes the data and examines relation between institutional setting and alcohol consumption of the adolescents of the residential and institutional care. Adolescents from the residential and institutional care report high level of alcohol and drug consumption.

The third part discusses the necessary policy interventions for the specific groups of adolescents.