

Summary

Correlation between Consumption Habits and Absence from Class among Secondary School Students

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The paper demonstrates the results of the study focusing on the incidence of cigarettes, alcohol and drugs consumption among secondary school students and its relationship to absences from class. The difference in the incidence of consumption in relation to the students' gender and age is analyzed. The results show that there are no significant gender differences in cigarette consumption. However, there is a statistically significant difference with respect to alcohol and drugs consumption. Boys consume alcohol and drugs more frequently than girls. Although some studies have shown that older students consume cigarettes more frequently than younger ones, our study shows that there is not a significant difference with regard to the participants' age. On the other hand, a statistically significant difference has been found in the frequency of drugs and alcohol consumption. As expected, older students consume drugs and alcohol more frequently. The results also show that students who are frequently absent also consume alcohol, cigarettes and drugs with greater frequency. There is a correlation not only with the unexcused absences, but also with the excused ones, showing that some students succeed in excusing those absences that should not be excused. We must stress that consumption can be both the cause and the consequence of absences, but in this article we discuss consumption as a consequence of absences.

Key words: cigarettes, alcohol and drugs consumption, absences, truancy.