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Considerations towards illicit drug use and trafficking in Romania

Rus Mihaela¹, Sandu Mihaela Luminița², Matei Raluca³, Rus Ciprian⁴, Tănase Tasente⁵

¹⁵Ovidius University of Constanta, Faculty of Law and Administrative Sciences,

²³Ovidius University of Constanta, Faculty of Psychology and Educational Sciences,

⁴Ovidius University of Constanta, Faculty of Orthodox Theology

psiholog_m@yahoo.com¹, mihaela_naidin@yahoo.com², ralum74@yahoo.com³,
rus_ciprian77@yahoo.com⁴, tanase.tasente@365.univ-ovidius.ro⁵

Abstract. Consumption and drug trafficking are worldwide recognized as a dynamic phenomenon influenced by various factors such as social and economic. Also in Romania, drug use and trafficking present new forms of manifestation, being known as a complex phenomenon, characterized by permanent mutations. Twenty years ago, Romania was known as a state where drugs were only transited, but in the last ten years, our country has been transformed into a market for drug use, especially heroin.

Keywords. drugs, drugs consumption, trafficking, illicit

1. Drugs. Conceptual clarifications

The World Health Organization considers drug a substance absorbed by a living organism, producing modification in one or more functions and the use of it creates physical and mental dependence, but also serious disorders of mental activity, perception and behavior.

In the opinion of Ardelean (2001), drugs are defined as “natural or synthetic substances used by consumers for their action on the psyche (psychotropic action) as stimulants or as sedatives of mental activity, changing sensations and perceptions” (Ardeleanu, 2001: 4).

Trying to find a more complete and complex definition of drugs, Cristina Otovescu-Frăsie (2008) identifies several meanings of the term drug (Otovescu-Frăsie, 2008: 309-321).

In addition to the definition given to drugs: "natural or synthetic substances used by consumers for their psychotropic action", Lupu and Zanc (1999) consider that they alter mental functions by influencing their attention, quality of sensations, affection and emotional life, ideation and imagination (Lupu, Zanc, 1999: 181).

In 1976, the World Health Organization defined drug addiction concept (drug addiction or chronic drug intoxication) as "the mental and sometimes physical condition resulting from drug use, characterized by behavioral disorders and other reactions, always comprising a continuous/periodical compulsive ingestion need in order to experience mental effects and sometimes to avoid withdrawal symptoms caused by the lack of drug" (Chiriță, Papari, 2002: 120).

J. Molto and C. Radel (1995 apud Lupu and Zanc, 1999: 183) stated that there are a series of factors that lead an individual to drug use, grouped in two main categories:

Socio-cultural factors:

- seeking pleasure and taste for unusual risks by transgressing an interdiction;
- belonging to a group that accepts drug use and drug consumers;
- pursuing spirituality through isolation from the world;
- a way to protest against something or someone;
- social isolation, precariousness, non-integration, living exclusively in the present.

Individual factors - often refer to the vulnerability of individuals before drug interactions:

- intolerance or low tolerance to frustration;
- the urge to obtain instant gratification;
- pathological aggression;
- lack of adaptation, to deviant behaviour;
- the relations between parents and children are disturbed;
- psychopathological disorders of variable severity, such as teen tantrums, psychopathy, schizophrenia, etc.

The World Health Organization classifies the main types of drugs that cause addiction in (Chiriță, Papari, 2002: 121):

- opium, opium alkaloids and their derivatives: morphine, codeine, heroin, laudanum;
- synthetic analgesics with morphine effects;
- barbiturates;
- other hypnotics (chloral hydrate), sedatives (bromides) or tranquilizers (Moprobamate, Diazepam, chlordiazepoxide, Alprazolam);
- cocaine;
- cannabis sativa (hashish, marijuana);
- amphetamines;
- other drugs: ether, alcohol, organic solvents.

In recent years, the illegal use of drugs has greatly expanded, at an unprecedented rate. All countries in all regions of the globe were involved, and the devastating problems of drug abuse did not respect any national, social, political or economic frontier. Abuse and illicit drug trafficking are currently an unresolved issue for the entire world and for the health of all mankind.

2. Incidence and prevalence of drug use

Drug addiction cases involve all social categories, of all ages, but especially young people prevail.

If we refer to the prevalence of global drug use, we can bring forward a study conducted in the US which reveals that the prevalence of the abuse diagnosis or even discussions about drug addiction amid population over the age of 18 is 17.7%, consumption being higher among the unemployed and in certain minority groups, than among those active on the labor market or the majority group (Rășcanu, 2008: 63).

Romania is among the last 10 European countries regarding the prevalence of any type of illicit drug used at least once in a lifetime when speaking about students of 16. The results offered by a national study within ESPAD 2011 place our country with 8 percent below the European average, respectively a percentage of 18%. But the largest increases were recorded in

the prevalence of cannabis/hashish, inhalants and amphetamines (National Anti-Drug Agency, 2012).

Theories and explanatory models of drug use

Biological theories

Biological theories state that there are specific physiological mechanisms for each individual that push or influence a person to either to drugs experience or to abuse them once they are exposed to. Some mechanism are innate, inherited, they are based on mechanisms present at birth and vary from person to person. Others are part of the environment, they consist of hereditary factors in conjunction with environmental factors that generate drug use behavior. Two of these explanations are genetic theories and theories of metabolic imbalance.

According to this thought line - **genetic theories** - the genetic data of individuals predisposes them to drug abuse and alcoholism. A gene or a combination of genes influences specific biological mechanisms as relevant to substance abuse - such as the ability to attain a certain degree of intoxication when using drugs, low-dose illness as opposed to high-dose, low or low levels of anxiety when under the influence of drugs or the ability to metabolize chemicals in the body. Any of these factors may vary from individual to individual, or from one racial/national group to another and may influence habitual use. This genetic load, in combination with environmental and personality factors, can give a significantly higher level of risk to certain individuals or groups of population. Indeed, the tendency to prefer alcohol to other beverages can be observed in animals, suggesting the relevance and strength of genetic factors in drug use and abuse (Goode, 2007).

A second theory postulates **metabolic imbalance** as a possible causal factor in at least one type of substance abuse - drug addiction. Developed by physicists Vincent Dole and Marie Nyswander (1965), this theory holds that heroin addicts suffer from a metabolic disease or disorder, like diabetics patients. A certain type of individuals take narcotics, a biochemical and physiological process occurs, and they begin to crave opiates in the same way that diabetic bodies crave insulin. Repeated doses of narcotics complete the metabolic cycle; narcotics act as a stabilizer, normalizing the existing deficiency. In both cases the substance provides what the body lacks and cannot obtain (Dole, Nyswander, 1965).

1. Sociological theories

For most sociologists, the main factor to examine is not the characteristics of the individual, but the situations, social relationships or social structures in which the individual is involved. More specifically, the individual is seen as part of specific structures.

Seven sociological theories that partially overlap are proposed by sociology in order to explain drug use: 1) anomie, 2) social control, 3) self-control theory, 4) social and subcultural learning, 5) selective interaction / socialization, 6) social disorganization and 7) conflict.

In 1930, sociologist Robert K. Merton developed a theory that came to be known as anomie theory of deviant behaviour. From his perspective, deviant behaviour - including drug use - occurs when the path to material success is blocked. Anomie theory holds that in a competitive, materialistic, achievement-oriented society, success is seen as achievable for all members of society, but in reality only a small percentage of society members achieve it. Failing individuals appeal to a deviant or disapproving adaptation to society to cope with failure. Those who have given up the material goals of society, whether by approved means or not, become those who withdraw. "This category includes some adaptive activities of psychotics, autistic people, pariahs, outlaws, vagrants, chronic alcoholics and drug addicts" (Merton, 1957: 153). An extension of this theory holds that a person is more likely to become addicted to drugs if he has

already tried to use both legal (legitimate) and illegal (illegitimate) means to achieve success and has failed in both cases. The addict is a person with a double failure, who has plunged into the no requirements world of addiction.

In accordance with the theory of social control, what causes drug use is the absence of social control that encourages conformity. Most of us do not engage in deviant or criminal acts because we have strong ties to the conventional, people of influence, beliefs, activities and social institutions. If these connections are weak or broken, we will be exempted from the rules of society and free to deviate - and here drug use is included. Addicts do not only have connections with unconventional subcultures attracting them to drugs, but they also lack conformity commitments, the influential sectors of society that prevent them from drug use.

Social control emphasizes the role of the actor in conformity. The more we "invest" - time, emotion, energy, money, etc. - in conventional activities and attachments, the more conventional our behavior will be. Someone who has invested a lot has little chance to jeopardize such investments, managing to protect the person from drug use.

The more attached we are to other conventions - parents, teachers, clergy, employers - and dedicated to conventional institutions - family, school, religion, work - the less likely we are to break society's rules and use drugs.

Developed by sociologist Edwin Sutherland in 1939, social learning theory and subcultural theory argue that deviant behavior is a learning product. He labelled it as „**differential association**“ because key mechanisms through which someone becomes a criminal or a deviant are different associations to social groups whose members define crime and deviance in favorable terms. The basic idea of this theory is that deviance and crime are learned in intimate, face-to-face interactions with significant others. A person engages in deviant behavior due to the fact that the violation of the law is defined in favorable terms. The cardinal point of this process is the proportion of favorable and unfavorable definitions of legal violations. When favorable definitions outweigh unfavorable ones, deviance and crime occur.

The **theory of social learning** claims that behavior is shaped through punishments and rewards, reinforcements. Past and present rewards, punishments for certain behaviours determine the actions of the individual. Reward and punishment structures are created and developed into specific social groups. By interacting with members of a specific group or social circle, people learn the definitions of good or bad behavior.

A clear application of social learning theory one can observe here: in the field of drug use, it implies that substance use and abuse can be explained by different exposure to groups where use is rewarded. “These groups provide social environments where definitions exposures, pattern imitations and social reinforcement have place. Definitions are learned by imitation and social strengthening of group members.” (Akers, 1977). Drug consumption is determined by "the extent to which a particular pattern (behavior) is sustained by the combination of the strengthening effects of the substance with social reinforcement, exposure to patterns, definitions by association with peers" (Akers, 1996).

The **theory of subculture** and the theory of differentiated association are related but also different. The central idea of the subculture theory is that being involved in a social group with favorable drug attitudes is the key factor in encouraging individual's drug use, while involvement in a drug-negative group tends to discourage. Consumption is expected to be encouraged in some social circles and discouraged and even punished in others. Subculture theory identifies the process of socialization as taking place by assimilating individuals into specific social groups or circles, resulting in the transformation of identity, values, norms, and behaviours.

2. Psychological theories

Theories based on psychological factors are divided into a number of varieties: those that emphasize the mechanism of reinforcement, and those that argue that the personality of the consumer, the user, particularly an addicted person, is different from that of an abstainer. The mechanism of strengthening is simple: people tend to maximize the reward and minimize the punishment; they continue to do certain things because they have been rewarded for them sometimes in the past.

Drug users are individuals who have been rewarded for their use and thus continue to use drugs. While theories of reinforcement do not support personality factors, personality theories, as might be expected, emphasize their important role. The precise personality configuration that is supposed to determine substance use and abuse differs depending on the theorist; a number of personality factors are invoked. The key factor linking these psychodynamic theories consists in admitting that certain individuals have a personality type that pushes them to use or abuse drugs.

A major psychological theory underestimates personality differences between consumers and non-consumers and emphasizes the role of reinforcement.

There are two different types of reinforcement - positive and negative - and, consequently, two different theories that bring forth reinforcement as a mechanism for continuous drug use (McAuliffe and Gordon, 1980, p. 139; Wikler, 1980, p. 174). Positive reinforcement occurs when the individual receives a pleasant sensation and is therefore motivated to repeat the thing that caused it. When it comes to drugs, this means that taking drugs is pleasant and what is pleasurable tends to be repeated (Wikler, 1980, p. 174).

As this view states, the continuous drugs use that stimulate euphoria is caused by their "extremely strengthening effect". Inferring from the way addicts behave, it is difficult to draw or clearly distinguish strong psychological from physiological addiction. Indeed, physical dependence is not necessarily an essential mechanism for proponents of positive reinforcement theory. They refer to addiction as an endpoint on a continuum line that indicates "a history of reinforcement that leads to an increased rate of consumption." This means that current, even compulsive drug use does not literally need a mechanism of physical addiction to continue. Many addicts are reinforced - they experience euphoria - from the first drug contact and the more they use it, the more intense is, offering even a greater motivation to continue.

Many psychological drug use theories are based on the notion of psychological pathology, or inadequacy: there is something wrong in emotional or mental life of certain individuals that make drugs attractive to them. They use drugs as an escape from reality, as a way to avoid life's problems and retreat into euphoria and indifference. Euphoria, says one theorist, is adaptive for an immature individual who lacks responsibility, a sense of independence, and the ability to take into account hedonistic gratification for the benefit of long-term goals. Although drug use is adaptive for a weak personality, in the sense that it hides some of life's problems, it is exclusively adaptive in a negative way: problems are never solved, only covered and in the meantime, drug use generates other serious problems.

Low self-esteem can be the result of "peer rejection, parental neglect, high expectations of achievement, school failure, physical stigma, social stigma, impaired gender identity, ego deficiencies, low coping skills and (in general) coping mechanisms that are either socially undervalued and / or defensive" (Kaplan, 1975, pp. 10-31).

Objectives of the study

Drug use has been and remains a major problem both locally and nationally. It remains a public health problem due to its effects on the population health, as well as on the social

implications. Young people remain the most vulnerable target in what regards drug use because they seek to satisfy a personal curiosity or due to pressure peers they choose drug as a lifestyle, considering it an alternative to the problems they face.

As a general objective of this study, we aim to evaluate the frequency of drug use in high schools in Constanta and the type of drugs that are most frequently used.

Research hypotheses

1. If the adolescent lives in an environment where drugs are used, then the risk of becoming himself a consumer also increases.
2. If drug purchase is accesible, then the consumption is constant.
3. If parents are more permissive, then adolescents are also on the risk to become drug users.
4. If a drug addict runs out of resources to buy drugs, then he or she may become a drug dealer.

Study participants

Considering the fact that current trends in drug use are more focused on adolescents and the debut of drug consumption at very young ages, also thinking about the period at which the onset of drug use occurs, the subjects sample used to reach our objectives and support the hypotheses is made up of students from three high schools in Constanța.

We chose only high school students from urban areas because the prevalence of drug use among them is dominant, high school students from rural areas being concerned with completely other existential problems. Moreover, there are very few high schools in rural areas in Constanța County.

A study of 173 students from three high schools in Constanța participated in this study, namely a national college, a technological high school and a theoretical high school.

Out of the total of 173 adolescents who participated in our study, 90 are boys and 83 are girls.

From a percentage perspective, more than half of adolescents are boys - 52.02% - and 47.98% of them are girls. The age range for all 173 teenagers is between 15 and 18 years old; 9 high school students are 15 years old, 33 high school students are 18 years old, 64 high school students are 17 years old, and most of them, 67 high school students are 16 years old, the average age at the level of the entire sample is 16,7 years.

It was important for our study to find out additional data about the family situation of the subjects, so we were interested in the aspect related to their relationship with their parents, more precisely with the people they live with.

Zonal and national studies have identified, among other social factors, family as an important factor in a young person's decision to initiate drug use. We wanted to know who are the persons teenagers live with and we obtained the results presented in table 2: 57 teenagers live with both parents, 47 teenagers live with parents and siblings, 26 teenagers live only with father, 24 live only with mother, 12 teenagers they live with their grandparents, and 7 high school students live alone, without parents, grandparents or siblings.

From the total number of 173 adolescents, 32.95% live with both parents, 27.17% live with parents and siblings, 15.03% live only with their father, 13.87% live only with their mother, 6, 94% live with grandparents, and 4.05% live alone.

Another important factor when we talk about drug use in adolescents is parents profession, being also important their income and time spent with their children. Most adolescents, 79, have parents employed in various positions, 23 adolescents have parents who are civil servants, 19 parents are self-employed, 17 young people have private employer parents, and the most important is that 35 of them have one or both parents working abroad.

Most adolescents have employed parents (45.66%), 20.23% of students have one or both parents working abroad, 13.29% of adolescents have parents in civil service positions, 10.98% of parents of students are self-employed, and 9.83% of parents of adolescents are employers.

A final question included in the category of socio-demographic data refers to individual learning situation of each adolescent in this school year.

Tools used

In order to achieve proposed objectives and validate the hypotheses, a questionnaire was designed with questions regarding the drug use of adolescents. The questionnaire includes 25 items with closed answers and refers to the drug use among adolescents, but also to the awareness of drug use effects, as well as the sources of supply, if parents know that their own children are drug users and information about consequences of drug use.

This is a sociological questionnaire and through its answers we try to identify if there are drug users among the sample established for research. In case of a positive response, we will determine the drug use frequency in the last 6 months as well as the drug type used.

Data analysis and processing

We considered useful to analyze the frequency distributions of the response options offered by questionnaire, both from the perspective of the support provided in interpreting statistical results and from the perspective that they may reflect information on drug prevalence among participating adolescents.

We will start the frequency analysis for each item, and during results processing, we will prove or disprove the established hypotheses.

We initiate our questionnaire with an introductory item in the first position, this item has a strong connection with our goals, studies show that smoking is related to drug use and most drug users are also smokers.

Table 1. Frequency of responses for the item "*Are you a smoker?*"

		Frequency	Percentage
Valid	yes	123	71,1
	no	50	28,9
Total		173	100,0

Analyzing the answers given by the subjects to the item "Are you a smoker?", it is observed that 123 of the respondents gave a positive answer, in other words they are smokers, and 50 respondents answered negatively to this item.

Observing percentage report, the distribution of answers for the item "Are you a smoker?" shows that 71.1% of the subjects state that they are smokers, and 28.9% of the respondents state that they are not smokers.

These results express the fact that a representative number of adolescents participating in the study were smokers at the time of the research, smoking among adolescents being almost common.

Starting with the second item in the questionnaire, we make direct reference to the topic of our research, entering the issue of drug use.

Table 2. Frequency of responses for the item *"Have you ever used drugs?"*

		Frequency	Percentage
Valid	yes	91	52,6
	no	82	47,4
	Total	173	100,0

Analyzing the answers given by adolescents to the item "Have you ever used drugs?", it is observed that 91 of the respondents answered "yes", in other words they have used drugs, and 82 of the respondents answered negatively to this item, that they have never used drugs. Percentagewise, the distribution of answers for the item "Have you ever

used drugs?" shows that 52.60% of the subjects used drugs at some point, and 47.4% of the respondents stated that they had never used drugs.

The result of this item shows that more than half of the surveyed adolescents used drugs at some point.

Table 3. Frequency of responses for the item *„Do you still continue to use drugs ?”*

		Frequency	Percentage
Valid	yes	61	35,3
	no	100	57,8
	Do not know/Do not want to answer	12	6,9
	Total	173	100,0

The answers received for question "Do you still continue to use drugs?" show that only 61 respondents answered in the affirmative, meaning they are drug users at the time of the study, 100 adolescents answered negatively, and 12 of them they „do not know (DNK) or „do not want to answer”(DNW) to answer this item.

Out of the total of 173 adolescents, more than half stated that they had not been drug users at the time of the research (57.8%), while 35.26% stated that they were drug users when they were surveyed, and 6.94% did not know or did not want to answer this question.

Compared to the answers given to previous question, out of the total of 91 adolescents who claimed they had used drugs, only 61 of them admitted to be addicted at the time of the survey. We must also take into account the 12 respondents who did not give any answer to this question, trying to avoid submission of a clear response.

From the fourth question on, we only address just to those who recognized themselves as drug users or former drug users. Nevertheless, responses were recorded from those who previously declared that they had never used drugs.

Table 4. Frequency of responses for the item *"How often have you been using drugs in the past 6 months?"*

		Frequency	Percentage
Valid	occasionally	30	17,3
	monthly	8	4,6
	weekly	9	5,2
	1-2 times per week	8	4,6
	3-4 times per week	4	2,3
	daily	2	1,2
	Total	61	35,3
Missing System		112	64,7
Total		173	100,0

To the question "How often have you been using drugs in the past 6 months?", we notice the constancy of answers: 61 respondents who answered to this question are those who had submitted in the affirmative to the previous question, and 112 respondents did not respond at all, in Table 4 they are shown as missing data.

From 61 responses, 30 persons stated that they had used drugs occasionally in the last 6 months, 8 respondents used to consume them monthly, another 8 said that they had

used them 1-2 times a week, 9 adolescents said that they had had weekly consume, for 4 of them the frequency of consumption is 3-4 times a week, and 2 respondents say that in the last 6 months they have had a daily use of drugs.

In terms of percentage, most adolescents used drugs occasionally in the last 6 months (49.18%), a percentage of 14.75% weekly usage, 13.11% used them monthly, the same percentage of adolescents used drugs 1-2 times a week, 6.56% had a consumption of 3-4 times a week, and 3.28% a daily consumption.

These results extracted from data processing demonstrate the fact that almost half of those who use drugs revealed to be occasional users, but there are also adolescents who have a weekly frequency or several times a week, the most representative being the situation of the 2 adolescents who use drugs daily. It is appreciated the courage to recognize that they are users and especially the openness in mentioning the frequency of drug consumption.

Table 5. Frequency of responses for the item
"How old were you when you started using drugs?"

		Frequency	Percentage
Valid	13 y.o.	5	2,9
	14 y.o.	8	4,6
	15 y.o.	30	17,3
	16 y.o.	38	22,0
	17 y.o.	10	5,8
	Total	91	52,6
Missing System		82	47,4
Total		173	100,0

Analyzing the answers given by the subjects to the item "How old were you when you started using drugs?", it is observed that 38 respondents indicated the age of 16, 30 respondents said that at the age of 15 they used drugs for the first time, 10 adolescents began using drugs at the age of 17, 8 subjects reported the onset age at 14 years, and 5 adolescents started drugs consume at 13 years.

Percentage values highlight the fact that most adolescents started drugs usage at the age of 17 (42.05%), a percentage of 31.82% of adolescents used

it from the age of 15, 11.36% made a beginning at the age of 17, 9.09% of subjects first tried drugs at the age of 14, and 5.58% started using them at the age of 13.

As for the analysis of the results presented above we should take into consideration the age of the respondents, between 15 and 18 years old, the age of 13 mentioned as being the starting point in drug consumption, even occasionally, is an early age, and for those who are already 18 years old, even if we consider that they have started using drugs at the age of 17, they still have merely one year since then.

Table 6. Frequency of responses for the item
"Where did you first take drugs?"

		Frequency	Percentage
Valid	school	17	9,8
	park	15	8,7
	party	27	15,6
	club	12	6,9
	home neighborhood	20	11,6
	Total	91	52,6
Missing System		82	47,4
Total		173	100,0

Top positions for initiating drug consumption as first experience, are occupied by „party” - 27 respondents, „home neighbourhood” is another common place for such activity - 20 adolescents, drug first contact was established in school for another 17 subjects, 15 of them have chosen „park” and 12 indicated „club” as being the place where they first consumed.

Percentage-wise, most teenagers started using drugs at a party (29.67%), while 21.98% of teenagers had their first drug contact

in the neighborhood where they live, 18.68% began consuming it at school, 16.48% took the first step in the park, and 13.19% had their first drug experience in a club.

Examining these results we can assert that parties are the most common occasions where the initiations of drug use occurred, but we can not rule out that school, a place where young people should only receive education, represents another „chance” to develop a series of behaviours, such as drug consumption. Not even the neighborhood where young people live does not protect them from dangers, and they designate it as the place where they first have come into contact with drug use. Even parks and clubs have been indicated as locations where respondents have begun to experience drug use.

Table 7. Frequency of responses for question
”What are the places where you use drugs now?”

		Frequency	Percent
Valid	school	3	1,7
	near school	12	6,9
	park	2	1,2
	party	19	11,0
	club	4	2,3
	disco club	1	,6
	home neighborhood	11	6,4
	my own house	7	4,0
	my friends' house	8	4,6
	Total	67	38,7
Missing System		106	61,3
Total		173	100,0

From the answers presented above, we found out that only 61 respondents stated that after the first experience they still use drugs, and 12 did not answer. To this question about the place used for current drug use, we have a number of 67 respondents who have indicated the location and this leads to conclusion that excepting 12 who have not wanted to answer to question referring drug place, there are another 6 teenagers who still continue to use drugs.

Regarding the place where the subjects practice drug use, 19 respondents indicate the parties, 12 indicate the

proximity of the school, 11 of them go to their home neighborhood, 8 teenagers consume it at friends' house, 7 consume at home, 3 teenagers declare the school as a place where they consume alcohol, 4 subjects consume in clubs, 2 go to the park for such behavior, and only one teenager consumes at the disco.

Percentage-wise, the distribution of answers for question *”What are the places where you use drugs now?”* shows that 28.36% of respondents use drugs at parties, 16.42% in their neighborhood, but it is worth noting that 17.91% of adolescents use drugs near school or even in school (4.48 %). Clubs (5.97%), disco (1.49%), parks (2.99%), as well as friends' houses (11.94%) and even their own house (10.45%) were also indicated as locations.

These outcomes point out main places where our subjects consume alcohol participating in parties, nearby their own school and home neighborhood. But we can not leave out of consideration the fact that friends' homes and their own home are being turned into places where teenagers use drugs.

Table 8. Frequency of responses for the item
"Are your friends drug consumers?"

		Frequency	Percentage
Valid	yes	92	53,2
	no	81	46,8
	Total	173	100,0

In reference to question "Are your friends drug users?", 92 adolescents answered in the affirmative, while 81 out of 173 participants in the study gave a negative answer, they do not have friends who use drugs.

In percentage view, just a bit over half of the 173 adolescents who participated in the research, 53.18%, said they had friends who use drugs, and 46.82% of the total number gave a negative answer to this question.

It should be noted that all 173 pupils answered this question, unlike the previous questions to which the teenagers who said they had not used drugs, did not give any answer.

Even teenagers who just experienced drug consume say they have friends who are addicts.

Table 9. Frequency of responses for the item
„Who influenced your choice to start taking drugs?"

		Frequency	Percentage
Valid	brother/sister	2	1,2
	an elder friend	16	9,2
	same age friend or younger friend	10	5,8
	one of the parents	2	1,2
	peer group	46	26,6
	classmates	15	8,7
	Total	91	52,6
Missing System		82	47,4
Total		173	100,0

Analyzing the answers given by subjects to the question "Who influenced your choice to start taking drugs?", it is observed that 46 of the respondents stated that peer group was the main influential factor to decision of drug use, 16 teenagers said that they had been influenced by elder friends, 15 adolescents had been influenced by classmates, 10 subjects - by friends of the same age or younger, and 2 adolescents stated that they had been influenced by family and brother /

sister and even parents in the case of 2 teenagers.

A surprising response was provided by 2 teenagers who were influenced by their parents in their choice to start using drugs. This can happen if one or both parents are drug users.

Speaking about percentage, the division of answers to the question " Who influenced your choice to start taking drugs?" shows that 50.55% of respondents were influenced by the peer group in their decision to start using drugs, 17.58% of them were influenced by an elder friend, 16.48% were influenced by school colleagues, 10.99% of respondents were influenced by a friend of the same age or younger, and 2.2% were influenced by parents and siblings, respectively.

These percentages represent the proportions derived from 91 subjects out of a total of 173, due to the fact that the remaining 82 subjects did not respond, as they were not drug users.

These results express that an important influence on the onset of drug use has had the peer group, whether we talk about adolescents who have used drugs in the past and have been satisfied only with that experience, or we talk about adolescents who still use drugs.

Table 10. Frequency of responses for the item
"What types of drugs do you use or have used?"

		Frequency	Percentage
Valid	marijuana	25	14,5
	ethnobotanical plants	49	28,3
	hashish	6	3,5
	cocaine	3	1,7
	ecstasy	2	1,2
	amphetamines	2	1,2
	LSD	3	1,7
	methadone	1	,6
	Total	91	52,6
Missing System		82	47,4
Total		173	100,0

For question „What types of drugs do you use or have used?“ answers analyze brings up the fact that 49

from 91 subjects who respond to this question, have consumed or still consume ethnobotanical (new substances with psychoactive properties - SNPP), 25 adolescents have resorted to or still use marijuana, 6 adolescents have opted for hashish, 3 adolescents have used cocaine and LSD, 2 adolescents have used ecstasy and amphetamines, respectively, and only one respondent has used methadone.

"Have used" signifies in our interpretation that are pupils who have consumed but at the time the survey was taken, declare that they no longer consume.

The corresponding percentage testifies that more than half adolescents involved in the research have used or continue to use ethnobotanicals (53.85%), and those who use or have used marijuana represent 27.47% out of 91 adolescents who stated that they had used or are drug users.

Table 11. Responses frequency for
„What is your company when you use drugs?“

		Frequency	Percentage
Valid	alone	7	4,0
	with friends	66	38,2
	with family	2	1,2
	with colleagues	16	9,2
	Total	91	52,6
Missing System		82	47,4
Total		173	100,0

Analyzing the answers given by the subjects to the question "What is your company when you use drugs?", we notice that 66 adolescents, out of 91 subjects who answered to this question, use drugs together with friends, 16 adolescents prefer to use drugs together with colleagues, 7 adolescents prefer to consume alone, and 2 adolescents consume together with family.

Percentage-wise, the distribution of answers to the question "What is your company when you use drugs" asserts that 72.53% of the subjects state that

they use drugs with friends, 17.58% of them prefer to use drugs with colleagues, 7.69% still use alone, and 2.2% of respondents prefer to use drugs with their family.

These results express that most of the subjects prefer to use drugs with friends and colleagues, but there are adolescents who do not need to be with someone, preferring to be alone when using. We notice that there is a very small number, it is true, of teenagers who consume together with the family, probably brothers or sisters, or maybe their parents.

Referring to the first hypothesis - **If the adolescent lives in an environment where drugs are used, the risk of becoming himself a consumer also increases** - the results obtained to the question "Are your friends drug consumers?", show that out of 173 respondents, 92 give a positive answer, their friends use drugs; the results of the question " **Who influenced your choice to start taking drugs?**" where the highest frequency occurs in the case of the

answer variant "peer group" which was chosen by 46 adolescents, half of those saying they had used or continue to use drugs, as well as the results obtained to the question "**What is your company when you use drugs**", where 72.53% out of 91 adolescents who have used or continue to use drugs, use them with friends, **come to confirm the second hypothesis**, drug users also have friends who use drugs.

Table 12. Frequency of responses for "**What was the motivation behind drug use?**"

		Frequency	Percentage
Valid	curiosity	35	20,2
	the state of feeling happy/good	23	13,3
	lift the spirits	9	5,2
	setting the mood for party	14	8,1
	relax	10	5,8
	Total	91	52,6
Missing System		82	47,4
Total		173	100,0

When asked, "What was the motivation behind drug use?", most teenagers said it had aroused their curiosity to use drugs or they had tried to feel good, 14 respondents use drugs to set the mood for parties, but 10 teenagers use them for relaxation, and 9 need drugs to lift their spirits.

The highest percentage is held by adolescents who have used drugs out of curiosity (38.46%), followed by those who have used them to experience well-being (25.27%). To stimulate good mood at parties, 15.38% of adolescents use drugs, as

well as those 10.99% who seek relaxation. There is also a percentage of 9.89% of adolescents who use drugs to raise self-esteem/lift the spirits.

To the question upon the motivation for drug use answered all 91 adolescents stating that they had used or continue to use drugs. Starting from this point, we tried to discover the basic motivation which produced and sustained drug use for two categories of consumers, former consumers and current ones.

Table 13. Table 13. Frequency of answers to the question "**What was the motivation behind drug use?**"

What was the motivation behind drug use?	At the time being, do you still use drugs?			Total
	yes	no	Do not know/Do not answer	
curiosity	6	19	10	35
the state of feeling happy/good	23	0	0	23
lift the spirits	9	0	0	9
setting the mood for party	14	0	0	14
relax	9	0	1	10
Total	61	19	11	91

The results presented in Table 13. indicate that 19 adolescents from those who had ceased drug usage before the time of the research, were led by curiosity, while from those who still continue to use, only 6 have started out of curiosity. Of those who did not know or did not

want to say if they were using drugs at the time, 10 teenagers started out of curiosity and only one to relax. Among those who continue to use drugs, 23 adolescents consume for the feeling of well-being offered by drugs, 14 consume at parties to stimulate good mood, 9 respondents consume to relax and 9 to lift spirits.

These results highlight the fact that those who consumed out of curiosity remained at this stage without continuing, and the others had various motivations related to what they wanted to achieve after consumption: good mood, relaxation, feeling good and last but not least, the change of mood at critical moments.

The sources and resources that adolescents have to purchase drugs are important, so we continue with questions for their identification.

Table 14. Frequency of responses for the item
"What are your drug supply sources?"

	Frequency	Percent age
Valid		
buy from elder friends	10	5,8
buy from strangers	16	9,2
receive from friends in users group meetings	20	11,6
receive from my elder brother or sister	1	,6
receive from my parents	2	1,2
receive from foreigners, free of charge	4	2,3
we all contribute for our share	13	7,5
Total	66	38,2
Missing System	107	61,8
Total	173	100,0

66 teens offer 66 answers to this question, putting into light that the most, 20, receive drugs from friends at consumer meetings, 16 teens say they buy from strangers, another 13 willingly put money and buy a quantity for all, 10 buy from elder friends, 4 receive it free from strangers, 2 even receive from parents, and one is supplied by his brother.

Percentagewise, the distribution of answers to question "What are your drug supply sources?" shows that

30.30% use drugs with friends from whom they receive drugs, 24.24% are drug buyers, 19.7% share with colleagues and also buy 15.15% buy from elder friends, but 6.06% receive free of charge from foreigners. It is noteworthy that a small number, it is true, of teenagers get their drugs from their parents and siblings.

Bearing in mind the fact that some of the respondents receive the drugs, some of them buy them, consequently, we wanted to identify more precisely how they procure their drugs.

Table 15. Frequency of responses for
"Where do you get your drugs from?"

	Frequency	Percent age
Valid		
„dream” stores	18	10,4
dealers	7	4,0
friends	27	15,6
colleagues	12	6,9
family	2	1,2
Total	66	38,2
Missing System	107	61,8
Total	173	173

A detailed examination of answers given to „Where do you get your drugs from?” displays that most of subjects - 27- obtain drugs from friends, a number of 18 teenagers get their supplies from „dreams stores”, 12 subjects buy from their colleagues, 7 take them directly from dealers, and 2 teenagers buy their drugs from the family.

Percentage, 40.91% out of 66 respondents to this question buy their drugs from friends, 27.27% them buy directly from "dream stores", a percentage of 18.18% take from colleagues, 10.61% buy directly from dealers, and for 3.03% of respondents indicated family as their supplier.

It is known that those who use drugs also use other types of drugs, this time legal drugs.

Table 16. Frequency of responses for the item

"Do you use other types of drugs (tobacco, alcohol, coffee)?"

		Frequency	Percentage
Valid	yes, all of them	20	11,6
	yes, just coffee	14	8,1
	yes, just alcohol	11	6,4
	Yes, just tobacco	38	22,0
	yes, alcohol and tobacco	44	25,4
	yes, tobacco and coffee	20	11,6
	no	26	15,0
	Total	173	100,0

To the question "Do you use other types of drugs (tobacco, alcohol, coffee)?" all 173 adolescents who participated in the research respond, excepting 26 of them who do not use any drugs, whether legal or illegal. Amidst those who said they were users of some substances, 44 were alcohol and tobacco users, 38 teenagers only smoked, 20 respondents said they had consumed all three and 20 of the respondents were only tobacco and coffee consumers, 14 adolescents said they had only consumed coffee, while 11 adolescents consumed only alcohol.

Percentage values for "Do you use other types of drugs (tobacco, alcohol, coffee)?" present first value of 15.03% subjects who said they never used any drugs, whether legal or illegal, but 25.43% of the 173 adolescents use alcohol and tobacco, 21.97% are smokers, while 11,56% consume both alcohol and tobacco, as well as coffee. Lower percentages represent those who consume only coffee (8.09%) and only alcohol (6.36%).

The results presented above indicate that our sample, young people in high schools are preoccupied with substance use, in addition to drug use, they also show interest to alcohol, tobacco and coffee, outcome confirmed by previous studies that have identified that drug users are also smokers. Our study also noted alcohol users in addition to drugs usage and smoking habit.

For drug use to be regular, young people's access to their procurement should be easy.

Table 17. Frequency of responses for item

"How difficult is to obtain drugs?"

		Frequency	Percentage
Valid	whenever I want	23	13,3
	very easy	37	21,4
	easy	85	49,1
	hard	27	15,6
	very hard	1	,6
	Total	173	100,0

Analyzing the answers given by the subjects to the question "How difficult is to obtain drugs?", one can notice that a number of 85 adolescents find it easy to buy drugs, 37 say it is very easy, yet 27 say that it's hard to buy drugs, while 23 teens get drugs whenever they want. Just one respondent had tough access to it.

Exploring results obtained for question "How difficult is to obtain drugs?" obviously displays the fact that half of 173 teens in the study find it easy to buy drugs. It is noteworthy that this question was answered by those who said they had not used before or have not used at the time of drug research, and they say that it

is easy and very easy to get drugs, their percentage being much higher than those who say it is hard to get.

Table 18. Frequency of answers to the question
"How difficult is to obtain drugs?" (measures the degree of difficulty)

How difficult is to obtain drugs?	Do you currently use drugs ?			Total
	yes	no	Do not know/Do not want to answer	
whenever I want	22	0	0	22
very easy	30	5	1	36
easy	9	64	11	84
hard	0	29	0	29
very hard	0	2	0	2
Total	61	100	12	173

Proof for the second hypothesis – **if drug purchase is accesible, then the consumption is constant** is based on the results presented in Table 18, where most of the adolescents who at the time of the research stated that were drug users indicate that most of them can easily get drugs whenever they want.

Even 64 adolescents who do not use drugs said that they could be easily purchased. From this perspective, we can consider that the third hypothesis has been confirmed, in the sense that adolescents who use drugs can get them whenever they want or, moreover, it is very easy to get drugs. Even a large proportion of non-consumer respondents said it was easy to buy drugs.

With regard to the accessibility of subjects to drug procurement, we also talk about the sources of income activated in procuring them.

			How difficult is to obtain drugs?	At the time being, do you still use drugs?
Kendall's tau_b	How difficult is to obtain drugs?	Correlation Coefficient	1,000	,210(**)
		Sig. (2-tailed)	.	,002
		N	173	173
	At the time being, do you still use drugs?	Correlation Coefficient	,210(**)	1,000
		Sig. (2-tailed)	,002	.
		N	173	173

Table 19. Frequency of responses for the item
"What are the sources of income to buy your drugs?"

		Frequency	Percentage
Valid	pocket money	18	10,4
	receive money from parents	28	16,2
	gambling income	1	,6
	own income	3	1,7
	receive from friends	11	6,4
	Total	61	35,3
Missing System		112	64,7
Total		173	173

The answers provided by teenagers to the question "What are the sources of income to buy your drugs?" show that 28 of them receive money from their parents, not necessarily for drugs, while 18 teenagers said that they bought drugs from their money pocket, but there is also a number of 11 respondents who receive drugs from friends. A number of 3 subjects have their own income and use it to buy drugs, and a subject gambles on,

the income obtained from games being useful in buying drugs.

A percentage view reflect the fact that out of 61 teenagers who answered this question, 45.9% receive money from their parents to cover their personal needs and they use it to buy their drugs. Among these children are those whose parents work abroad and live alone, and their parents send them money to support themselves. Among those living with parents, 29.51% buy drugs from the pocket money received from parents, 18.03% receive from friends, 4.92% have their own income from which they buy drugs and only 1.64% get their money drugs from gambling.

Referring to the percentage of 45.9% of adolescents who receive money from their parents, we discovered that most of them are children whose parents work abroad. Most of teenagers who use their pocket money have parents employed at various companies in the country, in different positions, as well as those who receive from friends. These are the ones who use drugs occasionally in drinking meetings with friends.

Adolescents whose parents are employers have pocket money as a source of income to buy drugs, but they also receive money from friends. Most teenagers whose parents are civil servants buy drugs from pocket money, and in the same manner proceed to those whose parents are self-employed (doctors, lawyers, artists, etc.).

Table 20. Frequency of responses for the item
"Have you had or do you have drug users in your family?"

		Frequency	Percentage
Valid	yes, father	3	1,7
	yes, mother	1	,6
	yes, brother/sister	2	1,2
	yes, other relatives	16	9,2
	no	151	87,3
	Total	173	100,0

The responses submitted to the question "Have you had or do you have drug users in your family?" assert that the majority of the 173 adolescents who participated in the research stated that they did not have people in the family who used or are still using drugs (87.28%). But 9.25% of the respondents said that they had other relatives who are drug users, and 6 teenagers had them in their families: in 3 of them the consumer is the father (1.73), one has a mother who is a drug user (0,58), and 2 have drug-using siblings (1.16%).

Analyzing these results we can say that most adolescents did not have models in the family to instruct them how to use drugs but still a small number of adolescents had these models even in their own family. For them, drug use is a learned behavior.

Table 21. Frequency of responses for the item
"Do your parents know that you have used / are still taking drugs?"

		Frequency	Percent
Valid	yes	21	12,1
	no	60	34,7
	Do not know-(DK)/do not want to answer(DWTA)	10	5,8
	Total	91	52,6
Missing System		82	47,4
Total		173	100,0

Regarding the question "Do your parents know that you have used / are still taking drugs?", most adolescents answered in the negative, 60 out of a total of 91 respondents who stated that they had used or continued to use drugs. However, there are 21 subjects who answered "yes" to this question, and 10 did not know or did not want to answer.

From those who declared that their parents knew about the fact that they had used drugs, a significant part admitted that they did it out of curiosity, but at the time of the survey they were ex-user.

Percentage-wise, more than half of the sample said that their parents did not take note of the fact that they had been using drugs and still their parents are not aware that they are active consumers (65.93%), but also a percentage of 23.08% say their parents know they have used or still use.

These results come and reinforce the idea that parents, most of the time, do not know what their children are doing, and when they find out about their behaviours it may be too late and addiction may occur.

Table 22. Frequency of responses for the item
"Generally, what are your parents like?"

		Frequency	Percent
Valid	permissive	34	19,7
	authoritarian	48	27,7
	self-centered parents	14	8,1
	very busy	29	16,8
	loving	43	24,9
	DK/DWTA	5	2,9
	Total	173	100,0

To the question "In general, how are your parents like?" all 173 adolescents who participated in the research answered, so 48 of them said that their parents were authoritarian (27.7%), while 43 adolescents said that they had loving parents (24.86%), 34 of subjects had permissive parents (19.65), 29 said that their parents were very busy (16.76%), 14 described that their parents as being self-

centered (8.09%), and 5 adolescents did not know or they did not want to answer this question (2.89%).

Due to the fact that all 173 adolescents answered this question, we wanted to identify how active drug consumers characterized their parents.

Table 23. Frequency of answers to the question "In general, how are your parents like?" according to consumers

"In general, how are your parents like?" according to consumers	„Have you ever used drugs?"		Total
	yes	no	
permissive	31	3	34
authoritarian	12	36	48
self-centered parents	14	0	14
very busy	15	14	29
loving	5	0	5
DK/DWTA	14	29	43
Total	91	82	173

Out of 91 adolescents who reported themselves ex-users or active users, 31 subjects pictured their parents as „permissive”, 15 adolescents admitted their parents were very busy, 14 depicted their parents as loving/caring, and an equal number reported sel-centered parents, while 12 teenagers had authoritarian parents. Responses „do not know or do not want to answer” were registered for 5 teenagers.

Of those who are not drug users, 36 have authoritarian parents, 29 of them have loving parents, parents of 14 are very busy, and 3 are permissive.

The same data are compared in Figure V.27, where it is observed that most parents of adolescents who have used or continue to use drugs are permissive parents according to their children.

These results support **the third hypothesis** - „**If parents are more permissive, then adolescents are also on the risk to become drug users**” - a hypothesis that we will verify through nonparametric correlation analysis, between the variable "In general, how are your parents like?" and the variable "Have you ever used drugs?".

Table 24. Correlation between the variable "In general, how are your parents like?" and the variable "Have you ever used drugs?"

			Have you ever used drugs?"	In general, how are your parents like?"
Kendall's tau_b	Have you ever used drugs?"	Correlation Coefficient	1,000	,210(**)
		Sig. (2-tailed)	.	,002
		N	173	173
	In general, how are your parents like?"	Correlation Coefficient	,210(**)	1,000
		Sig. (2-tailed)	,002	.
		N	173	173

** Correlation is significant at the 0.01 level (2-tailed).

Table 24 indicates that there is a correlation between characteristics of participants' parents and the drug use of these adolescents $\tau = ,210$, $p < 0.01$, which confirms the third hypothesis, taking into account the fact that most adolescents drug users have permissive parents. In other words, if parents are permissive, the risk of adolescents in becoming drug users increases, the correlation being a positive one, the higher the parents' permissiveness, the higher the risk of adolescents using drugs.

We continue our research analyzing answers to the questions from the applied questionnaire and we will try to identify the position of the parents towards the children's drug use, as subjects perceive it.

Table 25. Frequency of responses for the item
"What is your parents' attitude towards your drug use?"

		Frequency	Percentage
Valid	they do not know I am a consumer	52	30,1
	no opinion, they are not interested in	9	5,2
	totally against drug use	13	7,5
	they accepted the situation	6	3,5
	DK/DWTA	6	3,5
	Total	86	49,7
Missing system		87	50,3
Total		173	100,0

To the question "What is your parents' attitude on your drug use?" more than half of those who stated they had used or continued to use drugs, says that their parents do not know that they use drugs (60.47%), 13 adolescents affirm that their parents are totally against drugs (15.12%) and from the perspective of 9 teenagers, their parents have no opinion about drug use, they are not interested (10.47%). 6 teenagers said that their parents

accepted the situation (6.98%), while also 6 adolescents did not know or did not want to answer this question (6.98%).

These results obtained from the processing of data collected from respondents express the fact that, in general, parents do not know that adolescents have used or are using drugs, but also that there are parents who have comprehended and have accepted the idea that their children are drug users.

Table 26. Frequency of responses for the item
"Do you think young people are aware of the effects of taking drugs?"

		Frequency	Percentage
Valid	yes	78	45,1
	no	70	40,5
	DK/DWTA	25	14,5
	Total	173	100,0

The responses given by adolescents to the item "Do you think that young people are aware of the effects of taking drugs?" show that 78 of the respondents have answered in the affirmative, in other words they have considered that young people have been informed about the effects of drug use at the time of the study. 70 teenagers answered in the negative, and 25 of them did not know or did not want to answer this question.

In percentage terms, to the question "Do you think that young people are aware of the effects of taking drugs?", out of the total of 173 respondents, 45.09% answered in the affirmative, 40.46% gave a negative answer, and 14, 45% did not know or did not want to answer this question.

The results indicate the fact that approximately equal parts of adolescents are divided into believing that young people are informed about the effects of drug use, and the other party who considers that they are not informed. This information reveals an important difference of opinion between adolescents who use drugs and those who are not users.

Table 27. Frequency of responses for the item
"Do you know the long-term effects and the short-term effects of drug use? "

		Frequency	Percentage
Valid	yes	83	48,0
	no	70	40,5
	DK/D WTA	20	11,6
Total		173	100,0

Adolescents' answers to the item "Do you know the long-term effects and the short-term effects of drug use?" bear close resemblance to answers obtained in the previous question with a minor difference: a slightly higher number of subjects declared that they knew drug use effects (47.98%) while the number of those who did not know/want to answer decreased (11.56%), but the percentage of negative responses is the same (40.46%).

These results confirm that some young people are aware of the effects of drug use, both in the short and long term, while other young people are not aware of such effects.

Table 28. Frequency of responses for the item
"Do you consider that more lessons should be taught in school about drug use exposure?"

		Frequency	Percentage
Valid	yes	101	58,4
	no	58	33,5
	DK/D WTA	14	8,1
Total		173	100,0

Analyzing the answers given by the subjects to the item "Do you consider that more lessons should be taught in school about drug use exposure?", it is observed that all 173 adolescents answered this question, out of which 101 adolescents gave a affirmative answer, while 58 adolescents gave a negative answer, and 14 adolescents did not know or did not want to answer this question.

Percentage, 58.38% of respondents consider that more lessons should be taught at school, 33.53% do not consider that lessons about drug exposure as being a necessity and 8.09% have no opinion.

These results come to confirm that there are young people who want to assimilate more information about the effects of drug use, to be better informed about the dangers to which drug users are exposed.

Table 29. Frequency of responses for the item
" If you did not have enough money to buy drugs, would you become a drug dealer?"

		Frequency	Percentage
Valid	yes	22	12,7
	no	27	15,6
	DK/DW TA	12	6,9
Total		61	35,3
Missing System		112	64,7
Total		173	100,0

To test the fourth hypothesis - **If a drug addict runs out of resources to buy drugs, then he or she may become a drug dealer** - we took under observance the response frequency of answers recorded for " **If you did not have enough money to buy drugs, would you become a drug dealer?**" and a analysis was performed. Data presented in the table 29 where most of the subjects declared that they are drug consumers, indicate the fact they would not become

drug dealers despite they lack resources to buy them (44.26%). However, 22 adolescents declared they would had done this (36,07%), whereas 12 did not know what to answer or did not answer.

From this perspective, we consider that the fourth hypothesis has not been confirmed, a clear evidence is presented by the answers given above: adolescents who use drugs do not want to become traffickers when they can no longer procure drugs from their own financial resources. But the number of those who would do so is also considerable, some of the respondents who are consumers stated that they would become drug traffickers in order to procure them.

This fourth hypothesis has not been confirmed, adolescents having divided opinions on drug trafficking.

Conclusions

Our methodological approach sustain the objectives mentioned at the begining of the study, therefore we can say that the objectives of this research have been achieved, and the hypotheses initially established have been largely confirmed.

These conclusions emerge from the interpretation of the results given by the respondents to the applied questionnaire. Thus, out of the 173 adolescents from three high schools in the city of Constanța who participated in our study, 91 adolescents used drugs at some point in their lives, while 82 adolescents never came in contact with them. Of the 91 who admitted drug usage, 61 are still users, and 12 did not give a concrete answer, leading us to conclude that some of them might have been consumers at the time survey was taken.

The most common drugs used are new substances with psychoactive properties - SNPP (ethnobotanical), followed by marijuana, but adolescents are no strangers to other drugs, such as cocaine, hashish, ecstasy, LSD, amphetamines and even methadone.

Teenagers included in the group of subjects have average academic achievements, but there are also students above average and even with extraordinary school results mingled with low success rate students.

These students live with their parents and even with their siblings, those who have, but there are also teenagers who live with their grandparents and even alone because their parents work abroad. These children are not constantly supervised and, moreover, they have financial resources to procure drugs because their parents send them money to support themselves. There are also adolescents who state that their parents are very busy or even more concerned about their own person, which leads to a neglectful behaviour towards their children.

A fairly large number of adolescent drug users have stated that their parents are permissive, some of whom are aware that their child is a drug user. These teenagers come from single-parent families, living with either their mother or father, or face parental employment abroad situation.

The most common occasions when teens use drugs are parties, but it is worrying that some of them use them near school or even at school. One place where they go to use drugs is their home neighborhood, even organizing drinking meetings with friends or colleagues.

In the opinion of the participants in our study, buying drugs is effortless, some of them appeal to "dream stores" for supplies. Another proportion admit they can obtain drugs whenever they want to, facile accesibility and financial resource increase the possibility of a even higher consumption. In addition, as member of a group consumers or having an entourage of friends who are drug users, probability to satisfy drug need is maximized even they lack financial resources.

Although teens are aware of the risks of drug use, they want more information programs in schools to prevent drug use.

Most of the time, drug use stems in curiosity but usage continues in order to obtain a state of well-being. On the other hand, there are also adolescents who use drugs to raise their spirits, being caught in difficult situations where they cannot manage various life problems, referring here to some special problematic issues of parental employment abroad.

Even if they no longer had the financial resources to buy drugs or if they no longer received from colleagues and friends, they would not become drug traffickers to gain access to them, despite the fact half of them are regular consumers or occasional ones.

Our research confirms the results of the ESPAD 2012 study which highlights the fact that there is an increased prevalence of consumption of new substances with psychoactive properties - SNPP (ethnobotanical) among 16-year-old students in Romania, due to the high availability of these types of substances that can be purchased through "dream stores" or through online stores. Another aspect is related to the distribution of respondents by sex, as there are no differences between boys and girls in terms of drug use. Even occasionally, both girls and boys use drugs, girls being more oriented towards marijuana, erratically considered part of medicinal drugs.

Undeniable, our study have some data limitations, the number of subjects has been reduced to give us a complete picture of drug use in high schools in Constanta, but an extensive approach is intended in the future, including rural zones.

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