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Warsaw

JUVENILE DELINQUENCY AND SUBSTANCE ABUSE

Project coordinated by Fondazione Istituto Andrea Devoto (Florence, Italy) and supported by the European Commission – ref. number: 2002/HIP/047

Warsaw 2003

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INTRODUCTION

The research project, which this report is the result of, was concerned with the relationships between using psychoactive substances by the youth aged between 13 and 25 and youth crime. It was carried out from mid-2002 to April 2003. The project was financed mainly by European Commission funds. The following countries participated in it: Italy (Florence), Greece (Crete) and Poland (the commune of Ursynów¹ in Warsaw). The leading role was played by Alcohol Centre of University of Florence (Università di Firenze, Centro di Alcologia) and an Italian non-government organization Institute Foundation Andrea Devoto (Fondazione Istituto Andrea Devoto). Research was carried out in cities or districts/communes which numbered about 150,000 residents. The fact that in Poland the research was carried out in the commune of Ursynów had been determined by two factors. Firstly, huge commitment of local authorities to the project, what was a sine qua non condition for the project to be successful. Secondly, availability of relevant data gathered during researches previously carried out in the commune, what significantly facilitated the description of local situation.

Materials gathered during the research project not only give information about the relationship between using the substances and crime but also make it possible to investigate both of the phenomena separately. Moreover, due to international nature of the research it was also possible to compare the situation in the abovementioned two fields in the countries taking part in the project.

Taking into consideration the objective of this project, psychoactive substances were treated selectively and alcohol and drugs were exclusively concentrated on. With reference to crime, in the spectrum of interest there were these actions which were related in any way to pharmacological properties of the substances and/or internalised social norms. However, the actions which constitute a crime in its own right were neglected. As we will see further on in the report, the category of „crime” was very wide and covered such crimes as theft, banditry, burglary, school fights or fare dodging.

Apart from the analysis of relationships between youth crime and using psychoactive substances, another objective of the project was working out methodology of research and making it subject to pilot study. Thus all the countries involved in the project carried out the research according to the same methodology. In order to spread it and popularise it, it is planned to create a web site in the final stage of the project in the languages of the countries

¹ Due to administration reform of Warsaw in 2002 the commune of Ursynów became a district of Warsaw.

which took part in the research as well as in English version. The web site may become a useful tool in creating a European network of institutions/people dealing with the problems of youth crime and its relationship with the usage of psychoactive substances.

Background information on Poland

Poland is located in the east part of Central Europe

Population – 38 million

Relatively young population compared with Western Europe

Economical, political and social transition

Increasing trend in social problems:

- Unemployment (now 18%)
- Economical diversification (poverty)
- Substances abuse
- Offences

Background information on Warsaw-Ursynów

Ursynow is a part of Polish capital city Warsaw. Till 2002 Ursynow was self-governmental community, now it is district of the city.

Inhabitants area built in the period 70' - 90' but still under development, some rural areas also are included

Economical diversification – average higher then in whole Warsaw

Population – 112 936

Population age 7-19 years – 22 273 (19.7%)

Unemployment – 1 063 (1.4%)

Families profiting from social welfare – 3 252

THE METHOD AND RESEARCH MATERIAL

Methodology of quality research was used during the research. The research was carried out in several stages.

1. A review of Polish literature published between 1995 and 2002 dealing with the subject of using psychoactive substances by the youth as well as juvenile delinquency and relationships between the two phenomena.
2. In-depth interviews with representatives of both public and non-public institutions embroiled in a reaction to the problem of using psychoactive substances by the youth and the problem of youth crime.
3. Focus groups with representatives of both public and non-public institutions embroiled in a reaction to the problem of using psychoactive substances by the youth and the problem of youth crime.
4. In-depth interviews with the youth using psychoactive substances and/or embroiled in juvenile delinquency.
5. Focus groups with the youth using psychoactive substances and/or embroiled in juvenile delinquency.

Focus groups and in-depth interviews with representatives of institutions.

The research using method of focus groups as well as individual interviews were carried out from January to March 2003. Representatives of six public and four non-public institutions reacting to the problems which were the subject of the research took part in focus groups and individual interviews. All in all, 10 individual interviews were conducted and 1 discussion was organised among people responsible in the commune of Ursynów for preventing the phenomena that were the subject of the research. Representatives of the same institutions took part in individual and group interviews respectively. However, they were not the same people. The only exception to the rule was participation in an individual interview a representative of Ursynów Police Station, whereas in a group discussion police was represented by a representative of the General Headquarters of Police. Individual interviews lasted from 1 to 2 hours and discussion in focus groups about 3 hours. All the interviews were tape recorded. Non-public institutions were represented by representatives of non-government organizations who had been carrying out direct both therapeutic and health actions (an MD) in Ursynów aimed at the youth using drugs and/or committing youth crime. The list of the institutions

whose representatives took part in individual interviews and focus groups, with division into public and non-public ones, is presented in the table hereunder.

Public institutions	Non-public institutions
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Team for Preventing Social Pathologies of Ursynów District Office. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Social Prophylactic Guidance Service „Maraton”
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gymnasium No 5 in the commune of Warsaw – Ursynów. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consultation Station: Ursynów Family Guidance Service
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Social Security Office of Warsaw - Ursynów Communal Office. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • „Sławek” Foundation
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Team for the Underaged at Warszawa – Ursynów Municipal Police Headquarters. 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Warsaw Metropolitan Police Headquarters 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Probation officer 	

So among people who took part in individual interviews and focus groups there were:

- representatives of local authorities
- representatives of social welfare
- representatives of police
- teachers
- doctor of medicine
- psychologists/therapists
- probation office

Both during individual interviews and in focus groups standardised interviews were used which contained only open questions. Standardisation of interviews was aimed at simplifying collecting of information in comparable thematic fields.

Adults embroiled in social response to the problem of using psychoactive substances by the youth and/or youth crime were voicing their opinions on the following issues:

- The using of psychoactive substances (alcohol, drugs) by the youth aged between 13 and 25.
- Crime among the youth aged between 13 and 25.
- Relationships between using psychoactive substances and crime.
- Policy towards using psychoactive substances and crime.
- Local institutions and interventions made that are useful in both limiting the using of psychoactive substances and preventing crime.
- Desirable kinds of interventions which could contribute to limiting the using of psychoactive substances by the youth as well as youth crime.

Focus groups and in-depth interviews with the youth.

Focus groups and in-depth interviews with the youth were carried out from February to March 2003. There were organised 2 discussions with the youth in two age categories: those aged between 13 and 18 and those aged between 18 and 25. All in all, 17 people participated in focus groups, most of whom were male. 6 people took part in individual interviews, 3 of whom were aged between 16 and 17 and another 3 aged between 20 and 23. The selection of participants of focus groups and individual interviews was done mostly by Social Prophylactic Guidance Service „Maraton”, the probation officer helped to reach one participant. Having experience of using psychoactive substances and/or crime was the criterion for selecting youth for the groups and interviews. In case of people under-age, their parents were asked to consent to their participation in the groups and interviews. Focus groups lasted from 2 to 3 hours whereas individual interviews from 1 to 2 hours. Just like in the case of adults, the interviews and focus groups were carried out on the basis of standardised interviews which were aimed at simplifying the collecting of information in comparable thematic fields. The youth were voicing their opinions on the following subjects:

- The using of psychoactive substances (alcohol, drugs) at the age between 13 and 25.
- Delinquency among the youth aged between 13 and 25.
- Relationships between using psychoactive substances and delinquency.
- Policy against using psychoactive substances and delinquency.
- Local institutions and interventions made that are useful in both limiting the using of psychoactive substances and preventing delinquency.

- Desirable kinds of interventions which could contribute to limiting the using of psychoactive substances by the youth as well as youth delinquency.

The confines of the abovementioned thematic scope were not strict. It was more about provoking young people to spontaneous utterances in the scope of our interest. During the interviews and discussions young people often made comments beyond the confines of questions asked, sharing their opinions and reflection thus touching upon much broader context of the problem. The results of discussions and interviews were analysed separately for two age categories i.e. those aged between 13 and 18 and those aged between 18 and 25.

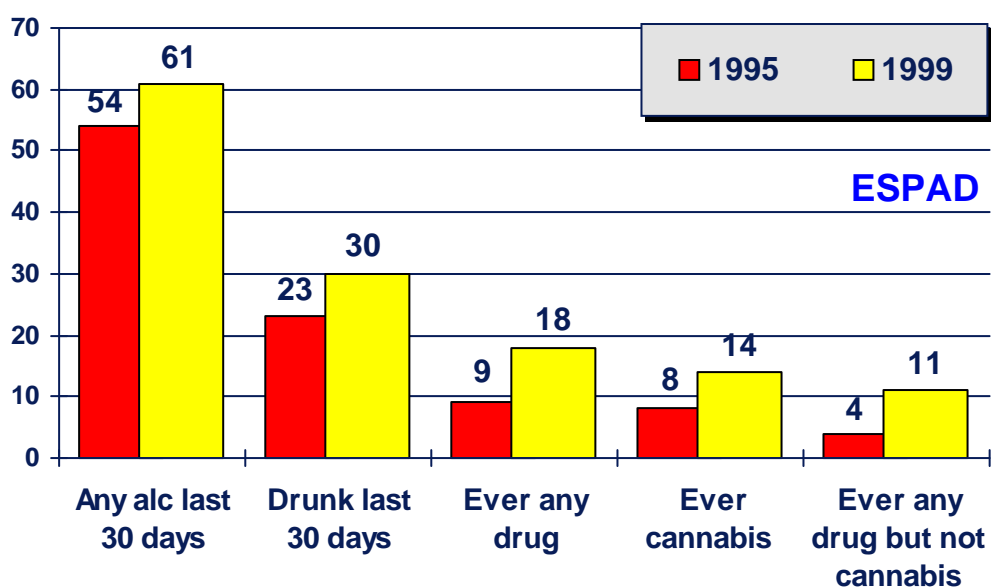
RESULTS

Substance use among youth

Prevalence and trend

Based on results of qualitative and quantitative studies as well as statistical data we can see increasing trend in alcohol and drug problem among youth on the national level.

Graph 1. Experiences with substances use among 1st grade students of secondary schools (age 15-16) – national sample (percentages of respondents)



The data presented on the graph 1 show increase of some indicators of substances use. The indicators of drug use grow up more than indicators of alcohol use. Among them the biggest increase concerns illicit substances other than cannabis such as amphetamine, ecstasy, heroine and so on. All these substances are dangers than marihuana and hashish.

Current changes in the prevalence of drug use on local level we can observe on the base of study conducted in 1996 and 2000 in the Warsaw's District Mokotów, which is neighbouring district of Ursynow. The study covered the samples of students from the populations aged 15 years and was conducted using self-administrated questionnaire. The drug use issue was examined by means of question on the use any drug (without medicines) during last 12 month.

Table 1. Current use of any drugs and participation in youth-parties with drugs – school surveys of 1996, 1998 and 2000 conducted among students of the first grade of secondary schools (ages: 15-16) in Warsaw's district Mokotów. (Percentages of respondents)

	1996	1998	2000
Any drug use in last 12 months preceding study	14.2	16.7	17.5
Participation in youth-parties with drugs in last 12 months preceding study	32.8	47.6	45.1

This studies indicate grow up of the prevalence of any drug current use from 14.2% in 1996 to 16.7% in 1998 and then to 17.5% in 2000. More increased percentages of students declared participation in youth-parties with drugs during last 12 months preceding study – from 38.2% in 1996 to 47.6% in 1998. In 2000 slight decrease was noted (45.1%). These results may be considered an expression of the acceptance of the cultural norm, at least. The stabilisation of percentages of students participating in youth parties with drugs could be considered to be sign of saturation effect in drug popularity at least in Warsaw.

Unfortunately school surveys were not conducted in Ursynów. The reason is that Ursynów is relatively new district and there are only a few secondary schools. Most of youth living in Ursynow learn in schools outside the district. The prevalence of substance use in Ursynów we can observe based on results of the survey conducted among army recruits. The survey covered the males only, but it could provide some picture and it is useful for trend monitoring.

The survey was conducted three times, in 1996, 1998 and 2001. The objective of the study was measurement of the intensity of use of psychoactive substances by youth, in order to monitor the epidemiological situation. The study was conducted on presentation of young men (age: 18-19) to the drafting commission, deciding about the ability to the army service. The self-administrated questionnaires were filled up anonymously, when waiting for the examination by the commission.

Table 2. Drug use among conscripts (age: 18-19) – results of surveys of 1996 and 1998 conducted in Warsaw’s Community Ursynów. (Percentages of respondents)

	Life-time		
	1996	1998	2001
Cannabis	43.6	45.3	45.8
Amphetamine	17.8	19.0	16.0
Ecstasy	*	*	3.5
LSD	17.2	16.2	11.3
Tranquillisers	11.0	10.6	8.5
Inhalants	7.0	3.9	2.6
Cocaine	4.7	5.7	5.6
Heroin	1.3	5.3	1.3
Heroin “Brown sugar”	*	*	2.5
Polish heroin	1.6	0.6	1.1
	Last 12 months		
Cannabis	34.4	37.3	31.8
Amphetamine	12.3	13.0	9.0
Ecstasy	*	*	4.4
LSD	13.8	10.7	6.9
Tranquillisers	7.8	7.1	6.6
Inhalants	2.5	3.6	0.9
Cocaine	3.5	3.6	4.4
Heroin	1.0	5.3	0.9
Heroin “Brown sugar”	*	*	1.5
Polish heroin	1.3	0.5	0.8
	Last 30 days		
Cannabis	21.2	19.7	18.2
Amphetamine	5.8	6.0	4.3
Ecstasy	*	*	1.4
LSD	5.7	3.0	2.8
Tranquillisers	4.9	3.6	3.8
Inhalants	1.4	0.3	0.9
Cocaine	1.6	1.3	1.4
Heroin	1.0	1.3	0.8
Heroin “Brown sugar”	*	*	1.1
Polish heroin	0.7	0.5	0.7

* It was not question about ecstasy and about “Brow sugar” in 1996 and 1998

Spring of 1996; Survey among conscripts; N = 697; males age 18 – 19; study covers all target population; self-administrated questionnaires fulfilled in the site of conscript commission, representativnes for males ages 18-19 of community Warsaw-Ursynów.

Spring of 1996; Survey among conscripts; N = 1139; males age 18 – 19; study covers all target population; self-administrated questionnaires fulfilled in the site of conscript commission, representativnes for males ages 18-19 of community Warsaw-Ursynów.

Spring of 2001; Survey among conscripts; N = 1116; males age 18 – 19; study covers all target population; self-administrated questionnaires fulfilled in the site of conscript commission, representativnes for males ages 18-19 of community Warsaw-Ursynów.

The results of the study indicate only slight increase in prevalence of use of specific drugs over the period 1996-1998 and than slight decreasing or stabilisation (table 2).

The greatest increase concerns occasional users of heroine was noted between 1996 - 1% and 1998 – 5%. Data of 2001 on heroin are not comparable because of changing the question – separate question about “brown sugar”. Even if we add heroin users and “brown sugar” users the figures of 2001 is less than noted in 1998. The cannabis derivatives increase and than fall (1996 – 34%; 1998 – 37%; 2001 – 31.8%). The same tendency was observed with amphetamine. Prevalence of occasional use of other drugs was stable or decreasing over whole period of 1996-2001, for example LSD: 1996 – 14%; 1998 – 11%; 2001 – 7%.

According to the results of the survey alcohol is the most prevalent substance. In 2001 most of respondents used alcohol during last 30 days before the study - 84,8% drunk beer, 36,7% drunk wine and 44,1% - vodka (table 3). Comparing to results of 1996 and 1998 slight a decrease is noted concerning vodka and wine drinking and stabilisation concerning beer drinking.

Table 3. Beer, wine and vodka drinking during last 30 days and last 7 days prior the survey

	Drinking during last 30 days prior the survey – percent of respondents		
	1996	1998	2001
Beer	84,4	82,7	84,8
Wine	44,9	39,5	36,7
Vodka	55,1	44,8	44,1
	Drinking during last 7 days prior the survey – percent of respondents		
	1996	1998	2001
Beer	66,8	58,3	60,8
Wine	16,9	13,8	12,5
Vodka	23,5	17,9	15,4

The same picture is provided analyzing the alcohol use during last 7 days before the survey. The percentages of last week wine and vodka drinkers fall down between 1996 and 2001, but especially between 1996 and 1998. As regards beer the slight decrease between 1996 and 1998 is noted as well, but next we observe slight increase.

Table 4. Average consumption of beer, wine and vodka by one occasion during last 30 days before survey.

Beer (average quantities in litres) – percents of respondents

	0.25 or less	0.5	1.0	1.5	2.0	More than 2.0
1996	8.6	33.9	24.8	11.9	8.6	12.2
1998	9.7	32.1	31.1	12.4	8.8	5.9
2001	7.9	36.9	28.1	11.4	9.7	6.0

Wine (average quantities in millilitres) – percents of respondents

	100 or less	200	350	700	More than 700
1996	33.8	27.7	16.2	13.1	9.2
1998	37.9	35.4	18.5	5.8	2.3
2001	34.8	36.3	18.5	7.3	3.3

Vodka (average quantities in millilitres) – percents of respondents

	25 or less	50	100	250	More than 250
1996	9.0	10.6	23.3	37.9	19.1
1998	17.1	11.3	27.7	28.7	15.2
2001	11.0	15.1	24.2	33.5	16.1

The percentage of respondents drunk alcohol beverages in high quantity by one occasion (more than 2 liters beer or more than bottle of wine or more than 0.25 liters of vodka decreased between 1996 and 1998 and then remained relatively stable (table 4).

Generally the surveys show high level of alcohol consumption and slight decreasing trend in frequency and quantity of strong alcohol drinking. Beer consumption remains more stable.

Patterns of use

The qualitative studies indicate the emergence of a group of very young experimenters, who use mostly cannabis products. On the stage of experimentation with drugs new methods of taking amphetamine are developing. It is dissolved in the Coca-Cola and taken a liquid. Drugs, particularly marijuana or hashish are also often combined with alcohol, especially with beer.

Adolescents under study reported without restraint their experiences with substances. It remains an open question whether all these reports are based on real facts. Since drugs are fashionable, some respondents perhaps may admit to drug use even though they have never had such experiences. On the other hand, some of the interviewees were very reserved when asked about their experiences with drugs, or even refused to answer such questions. Both these important factors – drugs being in fashion, and apprehensiveness of some respondents –

obviously reduce reliability of survey data obtained by means of quantitative techniques. Data from interviews suggest that the overestimation bias may be more marked than that in the direction of underestimation. Generally adolescents tend rather to exaggerate than to deny their experiences with drugs.

Cannabis constitutes the primary substance in the youths' occasional illicit drug use pattern. Other substances such as amphetamine and hallucinogens are sporadically used. Injecting is rather not found in this pattern. The other pattern is defined by the synthetic drugs: amphetamine or ecstasy. Sometimes additional drugs are taken. Use by injection is very rare. Stimulant users are often connected with criminal circles.

The other heroin-using pattern is based on smokeable heroin, known as brown sugar. Usually, other drugs are used too, but heroin is the primary drug. Brown sugar is more expensive than Polish heroin and users are sometimes involved in criminal activities. This pattern is very dangerous due to the short time it takes for a user to become dependent. Injecting brown sugar is sporadically

The final pattern combines the use of various drugs, such as amphetamine, hallucinogens, sedatives, sleeping drugs, cannabis and, less frequently, cocaine or heroin. In this pattern, only some of the above-mentioned substances may be used. It is usually hard to define the primary drug and even if it is possible, it is dominant only for short period of time. The intravenous administration of drugs is infrequent, and full dependency is not always reached.

Cultural context

The first contacts with drugs occur usually in high school, although in some cases this happens already in senior grades of elementary school. Among predominant motives underlying the initiation to drug use there are curiosity, seeking new experiences, and boredom. Sometimes there are also situational factors such as encouragement by peers, or an opportunity during a party. No examples of aggressive marketing from drug traffickers or peer pressure have been found in interviews. If the inspiration to drug initiation comes from outside, it is usually in the form of a mild stimulus, to which a variety of responses are possible. A refusal of taking advantage of the opportunity is not followed by rejection or other social restrictions. If e.g. a drug appears at a party, it is used by some guests only, while others continue alcohol drinking. Drug use does not result in enhanced social status, and refusal to

take drugs does not marginalize anybody. In contradistinction to alcohol drinking, it is not customary to insist on drug use or to press anybody to take drugs.

Among motives underlying occasional drug use, the following are most frequent: a need for strong stimulation, boredom, pleasure seeking, escaping from stress and frustration. Besides these psychological motives, there are also social ones. The integrative function of a shared experience of drug using in a group is emphasized. Drug use, of especially cannabis derivatives, allows young people to attain the feeling of being “free and easy” or “cool”, which is a state they value very highly. Our research findings, similarly as results reported by other authors, indicate that “being cool” is an important value for adolescents, a component of an attitude to life shared by most of them.

Another concept significant for the context of drug use is that of “having fun”, usually at a party. Drugs, particularly cannabis derivatives, may make such a party much more attractive. The context of “having fun” can be found in a majority of reports on adolescents’ experiences with drugs.

Some substances serve also other functions. E.g. amphetamine is used not only for having fun, but also in order to be able to study longer and more intensely before an examination or class test.

A significant factor contributing to popularity of drugs is fashion. The fact that drugs are “in” is not only reported directly by our respondents, but also can be inferred from the way that some of them talk about drugs. However, the fashion is not overwhelming and not all young people conform to it.

Summarizing, in adolescents’ opinion there are many reasons for drug using and many of them may apply to virtually any young person. In fact, none of the reasons given by our respondents could serve as a criterion for defining an “at risk” group. None is extraordinary, all of them fall into the normal range.

As a rule, occasional drug use is not condemned by adolescents. It is never perceived in ethical categories and does not present a moral problem. Young people talk about drugs in terms of pleasant effects and foreseen consequences and threats – mostly health-related, but sometimes also social.

Adolescents usually do not identify drugs with youth subcultures. In obtained descriptions of particular subcultures drugs are seldom mentioned. The drug problem develops as if in parallel, irrespective of subcultures. However, according to some of our respondents particular drugs may be characteristic of specific subcultures. Identification with a subculture will not always facilitate contacts with drugs. E.g. participation in the subculture of skinheads

may play even a preventive role, since drugs are definitely rejected and drug users are attacked, sometimes brutally, by members of these circles.

Diversification of the drug world in adolescents' opinions is accompanied by their predominating belief about unity of drugs with alcohol and tobacco. In this respect adolescents' opinions are surprisingly convergent with the standpoint of the World Health Organisation stating that all psychoactive substances are harmful, irrespective of their legal status. Thus, a majority of young respondents include alcohol and tobacco into the category of drugs. Consequently, their perception of psychoactive substances is closer to the perspective of public health than to that of e.g. legal order or social control. When justifying why alcoholic beverages and tobacco are considered as designates of the term "drug", adolescents referred to habit-forming properties of these substances.

The changes in drug-using patterns observed at the individual level are determined to some extent by the need for new experiences (which is typical of young people) and by emerging fashions. The new fashions in drug use are frequently related to other elements of leisure - new trends in music in particular. This was the case regarding ecstasy, which was associated with techno music, or heroin, which was related to hip-hop. One may, however, justly assume that individual needs also play a decisive role here.

Juvenile delinquency

An important factor relating to the process of the systemic transformation of society is increasing violence in interpersonal relations. Young people experience violence from both peers and adults and it decisively enters the world of drugs as well. The organized crime syndicates which monopolize drug supplies put young drug users under permanent threat.

In the 90' there were noted the increase in juvenile delinquency i.e. both in culprits and crimes that they committed. The characteristics of juvenile delinquency were the following: falling age level of culprits, criminal behavior of children prior to reaching 13 years of age, upward trend in number of culprits committing felonies jeopardizing both life and health, way the culprits operate characteristic of ruthless, aggressive and violent behaviour, acting in organized crime syndicates.

In the recent years the tendency to decrease in juvenile criminality is noted. According to the police statistics 54 026 under age culprits of punishable acts were revealed who were convicted of 69 366 crimes in 2001. 3 599 culprits acted under the influence of alcohol, which constitutes 6.7%. The highest involvement of intoxicated minors is reported in such categories as: homicide (45%), body damage (18%), assault and battery (25%), rape (22%) as well as the bodily assault on a police officer (approx. 60%). In 2001 there was a sharp increase in the involvement of intoxicated minors in crimes against police officers while in other categories of offences the decrease was noted.

As regards juvenile delinquents acting under the influence of psychoactive substances other than alcohol, the statistics show that in 2001 there were 75 minors, which constitutes 0.13% of the total number of juvenile delinquents. Acting under the influence of drugs they committed a variety of different crimes:

- Rape
- Extortion
- Assaults and thefts

Out of the total number of 9 952 culprits convicted of breaking the Law on Counteracting Drug Addiction minors constituted 18%.

The most frequent drug-related crimes included specifically related offences like distributing psychoactive substances, inducing to use in order to gain profit, possessing illicit drugs, bringing illicit drugs into circulation.

The high number of juvenile delinquency seems to be caused by:

- Lack of positive live perspective
- High level of unemployment among youth
- Rising discrepancy between social, economical possibilities and expectations of youth
- Erosion of values among adults which touch youth

Juvenile delinquency mainly covers: theft, shoplifting, violence and property devastation.

Adolescences' attitudes towards juvenile delinquency are being in the process of changing. According to the information collected using focus group method increasing acceptance for such behaviours is observed among growing part of youth.

Relationship between substance use and delinquency

There is not only one simple relationship between substance use and delinquency. Four models of relationships could be formulated:

- Substance use as a cause of delinquency
- Substance use as an effect of delinquency
- Common cause for substance use and delinquency – for example life style
- Substance use and delinquency as interrelated issues – feedback model

According to the first model substance use facilitate the delinquency commitment. The youngsters under influence of alcohol or other substance lose behaviour control and involvement in delinquency become more likely. Sometimes teenagers use the alcohol or drugs especially in order to increase their ability to commit offence.

The second model stress the opposite relationship. The example of such association could be offences committed for obtaining resources for substance buying.

The two first models constitute attempt of explanation on the individual level. The third one look for explanation factor on the aggregate level. Such factor is the life style. In this model the substance use and delinquency are considered as a effect of lifestyle attributable to specific subculture.

The forth model underline the dynamic aspect of previous one. The substance use is considered to be behaviour enhanced inclination to antisocial behaviour and vice versa.

In data collected by focus group we have found empirical support for each of this models. According to our respondents saying the alcohol or other drugs use usually facilitate delinquency commitment. Sometimes youngsters drink alcohol for increasing courage. The stimulants are used for increasing aggression. Youngsters often report need of money for alcohol or drugs as a motivation for theft, shoplifting or other offences.

Analyse of life style of youngsters deep involved in substance use shows that juvenile delinquency and substance use are the interrelated phenomena. In the life careers of such adolescents we find usually feedback mechanism between substance use and delinquency. This two issues strengthened each other.

Response to youth problems

There was undertaken a lot of efforts focused on the substance demand reduction and early intervention on the institutional level in recent years in Ursynow. The institutional solutions dominate among attempts of responses to youth problems. Despite not sufficient financing on the both, local and national level the demand reduction activities in Ursynow is very developed. There are various preventive program in schools as well as in the community run by NGO's. The counselling centre run also by NGO is operational and serve assistance for both youth with problems and theirs parents. The satisfactory cooperation between the police, the schools and the many other institutions on the local level was reported.

According to adolescents focus groups results the youth is not believed in the institutional possibilities of help and prevention. In their opinion a family have to play the most important role in prevention and intervention. Unfortunately the family is not enough prepared for proper response to juvenile problems like delinquency or to substance use. The important objection is the lack of consistency between adults' behavior and their expectations concerning youth. The adults, especially parents often demonstrate helplessness regarding substance use by youth. They are not able to set up clear rules regarding alcohol use or if they are even to do so, they are not able to execute them. Adults including parents usually manifest the bigger tolerance for using alcohol by young people in compared with drug use by them even less danger ones like marihuana and even on the experimental level. The idea behind such approach is that if drinking by juvenile is tolerated, they do not experiment with illicit substances. In consequences parents are more and more liberal in response to drinking be teenagers. Even if they declare the "zero tolerance" for drinking by teenagers under age 18, they are not able to execute this rule.

The alcohol and drug problem is usually identified earlier by the school than the parents. Due to not sufficient collaboration between schools and parents the intervention is usually undertaken to late and it is not relevant. Despite of a lot of efforts undertaken by schools and NGOs parents are not well educated in scope of drug problem.

The information that most of youths use substance disseminated by mass-media conducive to create harmful attitudes among youth. Some of them hearing that substance use is so popular decided to start use.

CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Based on our study and all available information some conclusions and recommendations could be formulated.

The most important factor of substance use and juvenile delinquency seems to be lack of socially acceptable norms among youngsters. It is related to limited influence of adult over youths attitudes and behaviours linked to transition time. The huge cultural differences regarding values, norms, and lifestyles between teenagers and adults inhibit mutual understanding. Additional objection is weak ethical condition of great part of adult society.

In response to such Work focused on improving of ethical standards among youth and adult society is recommended. The most promising way to achieve success seems to be working with families.