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## Samoocena młodzieży nadużywającej substancji psychoaktywnych

## Self-perception of youth overusing psychoactive substances

### Streszczenie

**Cel.** Celem niniejszej pracy było określenie charakterystyki samooceny młodzieży nadużywającej substancji psychoaktywnych.

**Materiał i metoda.** W badaniu uczestniczyło 100 osób w wieku 14-19 lat, nadużywających substancji psychoaktywnych. Grupa kontrolna obejmowała 301 osób nieleczonych pod względem zachowań ryzykownych. Zastosowano test przymiotnikowy ACL, opracowany przez H.G. Gough'a i Helibrun'a.

**Wyniki.** Młodzież nadużywająca substancji psychoaktywnych używała negatywnych przymiotników do samooceny. W porównaniu do grupy kontrolnej, charakteryzuje się wyższym poziomem potrzeby dominacji (Dom), potrzeby zwrócenia na siebie uwagi (Exh), potrzeby autonomii (Aut); jest nadmiernie ambitna i niecierpliwa (Mas). W porównaniu do młodzieży z grupy kontrolnej, ma zaniżoną potrzebę zrozumienia siebie, zrozumienia innych (Int) oraz sprawowania opieki nad innymi (Nur). W obszarze samokontroli (S-Cn), osobistej adaptacji (Pad), umiejętności przywódczych (Mls), młodzież z grupy badanej uzyskała niższe wyniki niż młodzież z grupy kontrolnej. W obszarze perfekcyjnego postrzegania siebie, młodzież z grupy badanej opisała siebie, używając w większości pozytywnych przymiotników. Młodzież z grupy badanej, w porównaniu do grupy kontrolnej pragnie mieć wyższy poziom: potrzeb osiągnięcia sukcesów (Ach), agresji (agg), opieki nad innymi (Nur), zmiany (Cha), kontaktów z płcią przeciwną (Het), przynależności (Aff), wsparcia od innych (Suc), wiary w siebie (S-Cfd) i autonomii (Aut).

**Wnioski.** Uzyskane wyniki potwierdzają istnienie zależności pomiędzy zachowaniami ryzykownymi dla zdrowia i życia a negatywnym obrazem siebie, wynikającym z niskiej wiary w siebie oraz rozbieżność pomiędzy „realnym ja” i nieadekwatnym do własnych możliwości „idealnym ja”.

**Słowa kluczowe:** wyobrażenie o sobie, substancje psychoaktywne.

### Summary

**Purpose.** The study aims to determine the characteristic features of self-conception of youth overusing psychoactive substances.

**Material and method.** The study comprised 100 people aged 14-19 overusing psychoactive substances. The control group consisted of 301 people not treated because of the risky behavior. There was H.G. Gough and Helibrun's Adjectival Test (ACL) used in the study.

**Results.** The youth overusing psychoactive substances used negative adjectives in self-description. Comparing to the control group it is characterized by the higher level of need for domination (Dom), need for turning the others attention to them (Exh), need for autonomy (Aut), it is excessively ambitious and impatient (Mas). Comparing to the youth from the control group, its need for self-understanding, understanding the others (Int) and taking care of the others is reduced (Nur). In the field of self-control (S-Cn), personal adaptation (Pad), leader's skills (Mls), youth from the tested group obtained lower results than the control group. In the field of the perfect self-image youth from the tested group described themselves using positive adjectives in predominant number. Youth from the tested group, comparing to the control group, wants to have higher level of: need for achievements (Ach), aggression (Agg), taking care of the others (Nur), change (Cha), contacts with the opposite sex (Het), affiliation (Aff), support from the others (Suc), self-confidence (S-Cfd) and autonomy (Aut).

**Conclusions.** The obtained results confirm the existence of relationship between behaviors risky for health and life and negative self-image resulting from low self-confidence and divergence between “real myself” and inadequate to own possibilities “perfect myself”.

**Key words:** self-conception, youth, psychoactive substances.

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## INTRODUCTION

Self-image can be defined as “an organized group of features, which the individual learned to consider as his or her own on the basis of the previous and current experiences, serving the function of integrating the personality structure and repeatability of groups of behaviour schemes”. It is constructed with three basic groups of elements: self-knowledge, self-confidence and ideal of own self. Self-conception can be supporting or destructive depending on what is our self-conception, that is imagination of whom we are.

Youth admitting to high level of alcohol consumption is characterized by the specific group of personality features indicating low level of self-control, higher probability of aggression development and tolerant attitude towards behaviours deviating from the standard, lower evaluation and expectations of successes in learning and higher level of seeking sensation and impulsiveness. Juczyński and others emphasize importance of drugs in escaping from negative emotions connected with the negative self-image resulting from low self-confidence, faint satisfaction coming from self-achievements, divergence between “real myself” and inadequate to own possibilities “perfect myself” leading to frustrations, tension, fear and other disorders. Drugs make these problems distant and less important, bring relaxation and satisfaction.

## AIM

The study aims to determine the characteristic features of self-conception of youth overusing psychoactive substances.

## MATERIAL AND METHOD

The research was conducted among the patients of the centres and departments related to their treatment. The group included 100 people aged 14-19 overusing psychoactive substances (G- NU). In this group, 46 subjects (100%) were marked out as youth abusing alcohol (G-A1) and 54 subjects (100%) as youth overusing drugs (G-Nar). The following sampling criteria of the research group were taken: undertaking treatment because of alcohol or drugs abuse (first month of stay), lack of symptoms of more serious somatic illnesses and symptoms of the narrow CNS damage, lack of symptoms of mental handicap and mental illness, consent of the tested person and his/her family to take part in the research. The control group comprised 301 subjects who were not treated for risky behaviors and met the defined criteria. The research was conducted over 2005-2008 in Poland. In the subgroup of youth abusing drugs, 85.19% were aged 16-17, 3.7% aged 18-19 and 11.11% – aged 14-15. In the group of youth abusing alcohol, 84.78% were aged 16-17, 2.7% – aged 14-15 and 10.40% respondents were aged 18-19. In the subgroup abusing drugs the majority of the investigated subjects were attending grammar school. In the subgroup of youth abusing alcohol about 26% were attending grammar school, 24% – high school, 24% – technical high school and 20% professional school. Youth centers accomplish the obligation of young people to attend school.

The research was conducted using H.G. Gough and Heli-brun's Adjective Check List Test (ACL), which belongs to the

wide-range personality tests. It is used to explore different variables connected with needs, interpersonal and self-adaptation and other psychological values formulated from the perspective of self-evaluation. The tested person's task is to choose these, which characterize him/her the best way, which are these that respond to the question “what am I like” (so called “real myself”). Adequately modified instruction allows exploring “perfect myself” (“what would I like to be”).

## RESULTS

The analysis of the results was made in order to find the significant differences between youth abusing psychoactive substances and people from the control group with regard to self-conception. The presented below results of the research show the differences among the separate subgroups in the group of youth abusing psychoactive substances.

Youth abusing psychoactive substances used negative adjectives in self-description. Comparing to the control group, they are characterized by a higher level of need for domination (Dom), need for turning others attention to them (Exh), need for autonomy (Aut); they are excessively ambitious and impatient (Mas). Comparing to the youth from the control group, their need for self-understanding, understanding others (Int) and taking care of others, is reduced (Nur). In the field of self-control (S-Cn), personal adaptation (Pad), leader skills (Mls), youth from the tested group obtained lower results than the control group. It means that the investigated subjects from the NU group show bigger leader inclinations and skills, do not rely on others' opinion, like to influence their behavior and manners. They want to attract the others' attention by any chance and when they fail, they are able to thrust, demanding attention. They act with no respect to anything, ignore others' opinion, are independent, firm and egoistic. The obstacles lead them to impatience and frustration. They act quickly and firmly but they do not feel certain about the value of making continuous effort. They stubbornly aim at the promised reward, which they treat as a kind of self-testing and confirmation of their own value and attractiveness. Such behavior may be partly motivated by strong oversensitiveness to themselves. Along with low self-control processes, quarrels and conflicts in the group are unavoidable and among tested people they considerably result from the egoistic motives such as: “I do what I want because I have a right”, “I have a right and I demand”. These people are susceptible to external impulses, which distract them and stress them out engendering their defensive attitude. This attitude is to hide different defects of them. This is also a source of uncertainty as for people's intentions and reluctance to contract closer relationships. In the transactional analysis scales: critical parent attitude scales (CP), protective parent (NP), adult (A), free child (FC) and adopted child (AC), youth overusing psychoactive substances obtained significantly higher results than the youth from the control group. In consequence the investigated subjects are impetuous, easily get angry, are opposed to the others for regularity, achieve benefits ignoring the others. They are independent and insensitive. They do not wonder how the environment reacts to themselves, they care only for what refers to them, they only regard themselves. They are not concentrated on work, are not ambitious, internally not disciplined; they do not watch their responsibilities and

do not fulfill their duties. They cannot freely express their feelings. They impatiently await rewards and they would do much to get them immediately. At the same time it is difficult for them to leave the dependent childish roles and they reluctantly face the adult life requirements. Stress is

**TABLE 1. Differences between youth abusing psychoactive substances (NU) and youth from the control group (GK) in the field of self-conception (real image – 1) measured by Adjectival Test ACL.**

Scale	NU		GK		Test <i>t</i>		
	M	SD	M	SD	t	Df	p.i.
NCK_1	38.74	8.89	34.15	7.80	4.26	242	***
FAV_1	42.24	10.61	45.15	8.58	-2.36	242	*
UFV_1	55.95	11.02	45.88	8.87	7.59	183	***
COM_1	34.68	10.06	38.25	8.44	-3.00	242	**
ACH_1	49.67	10.61	47.18	7.00	2.06	158	*
DOM_1	51.15	8.41	47.31	6.77	3.80	183	***
END_1	47.58	9.15	51.92	9.64	-3.53	242	**
ORD_1	45.95	9.76	52.89	10.41	-5.25	242	***
INT_1	39.84	10.20	44.74	8.46	-3.95	187	***
NUR_1	42.20	8.45	49.16	7.10	-6.96	242	***
AFF_1	45.62	10.70	46.66	9.89	-0.78	242	n.i.
HET_1	49.78	10.24	45.49	7.55	3.57	171	***
EXH_1	56.46	7.31	51.08	7.62	5.51	242	***
AUT_1	56.62	8.09	47.15	7.41	9.46	242	***
AGG_1	56.44	8.38	45.68	9.05	9.41	242	***
CHA_1	46.80	7.46	43.99	6.19	3.10	187	**
SUC_1	51.80	8.59	50.44	7.73	1.29	242	n.i.
ABA_1	44.76	9.56	52.57	8.28	-6.80	242	***
DEF_1	44.35	7.63	54.47	7.58	-10.23	242	***
CRS_1	45.96	10.16	44.60	8.53	1.13	242	n.i.
SCN_1	43.92	8.36	50.75	7.52	-6.66	242	***
SCF_1	49.86	11.10	48.27	8.99	1.19	183	n.i.
PAD_1	41.72	8.27	45.99	7.45	-4.21	242	***
ISS_1	53.11	9.84	54.65	8.21	-1.29	188	n.i.
CPS_1	49.90	7.33	47.38	7.26	2.66	242	**
MLS_1	41.06	9.87	44.38	7.58	-2.83	176	**
MAS_1	53.87	11.24	46.41	7.04	5.88	153	***
FEM_1	40.48	8.80	43.98	6.96	-3.32	180	***
CP_1	55.31	7.23	44.81	6.66	11.70	242	***
NP_1	46.56	9.26	51.01	7.70	-3.95	187	***
A_1	43.48	8.66	47.86	7.80	-4.12	242	***
FC_1	53.44	6.06	49.36	6.63	4.89	242	***
AC_1	52.92	7.81	50.98	7.43	1.97	242	n.i.
A_1_1	49.84	8.39	43.17	8.25	6.17	242	***
A_2_1	50.78	9.50	46.00	8.31	4.17	242	***
A_1_1	47.48	11.21	50.63	9.53	-2.36	242	*
A_2_1	43.51	8.98	46.80	8.64	-2.88	242	**

\*  $p \leq 0.05$ ; \*\*  $p \leq 0.01$ ; \*\*\*  $p \leq 0.001$

destructive for them and they get disorganized under its influence [Table 1].

In the field of the perfect self-image youth from the investigated group described themselves using positive adjectives in predominant number. Youth from the tested group, comparing to the control group, want to have higher level of: the need for achievements (Ach), aggression (Agg), taking care of the others (Nur), change (Cha), contacts with the opposite sex (Het), affiliation (Aff), support from the others (Suc), self-confidence (S-Cfd) and autonomy (Aut). The examined subjects want to be perceived as individuals who do not go below socially recognized standards, enterprising and energetic, needed and useful in the group. They would like to come into and keep numerous friendships, feel good in the group and quickly adapt to it without deeper considering and discussing internal relationships. They would wish themselves to go into interpersonal relations easier by accepting occasions and challenges resulting from them. They would also like to be more independent than the others, be noticed, stronger and more self-confident, they would like to achieve aims no matter what measures are needed. They wish to have confidence in own skills and initiate activities using all the possibilities in order to be better perceived by the environment. They want varieties and new experiences in life. They also wish to gain the others' liking and, if necessary, support of those whom they consider as stronger and more effective than themselves [Table 2].

In the description of the self-image in the tested subgroups G-A1 and G-Nar, significant differences appeared in the range of 5 scales: domination need (Dom), affiliation need (Aff), aggression need (Agg), subordination need (Def), readiness for others' help and advice (Crs). Drug addicts do not identify themselves with the group therefore they do not show activity in the group. They avoid competition because of lack of self-confidence. They do not strive after self-exposing, do not manifest their own attitude and do not defend it. They let themselves to be guided sometimes because of simple avoidance of inconvenience and lack of ambition [Table 3].

In the description of the perfect self-image the differences appeared between subgroups in 2 scales: Cha and A. Youth from the drug abusers subgroup are characterized by the lower need for change (Cha) and high level of behaviors resulting from adult attitude (A) comparing to the alcohol abusers subgroup. It is evident that drug addicts need stability; they are afraid of changes and risky situations, which they are not sure how would end and avoid them. They are not creative people although they feel a need for obtaining high results, internal discipline and being useful [Table 4].

## DISCUSSION

Young people abusing psychoactive substances in the investigated population were impatiently awaiting rewards and would do much to obtain them immediately. The obstacles lead them to impatience and frustration. They stubbornly aim at the promised reward, which they treat as a kind of self-testing and confirmation of their own value and attractiveness. Such behavior may be partly motivated by strong oversensitiveness to themselves. From the other site it is necessary to stress that main motivation of using psychoactive substances is striving after achieving psychical comfort in the aspect of decreasing fear, tensions and mood improvement.

**TABLE 2. Differences between youth abusing psychoactive substances (NU) and youth from the control group (GK) in the field of self-conception (perfect image – 2) measured by Adjectival Test ACL.**

Scale	NU		GK		Test <i>t</i>		
	M	SD	M	SD	t	df	p.i.
NCK_2	40.58	10.03	33.58	6.80	6.08	161	***
FAV_2	49.57	8.81	46.39	10.33	2.51	242	*
UFV_2	47.64	9.29	43.58	6.87	3.72	171	***
COM_2	35.18	8.73	37.10	7.30	-1.81	188	n.i.
ACH_2	53.97	9.62	49.92	6.96	3.60	169	***
DOM_2	53.03	7.31	52.25	5.94	0.88	184	n.i.
END_2	55.17	6.63	54.88	8.83	0.29	241	n.i.
ORD_2	55.01	8.56	56.42	9.06	-1.23	242	n.i.
INT_2	45.35	8.00	46.22	8.89	-0.79	242	n.i.
NUR_2	49.40	5.31	46.60	7.50	3.42	242	***
AFF_2	49.97	8.17	45.90	10.27	3.44	238	***
HET_2	53.92	8.72	46.95	11.54	5.37	240	***
EXH_2	56.09	6.70	52.18	6.59	4.53	242	***
AUT_2	53.00	7.10	48.75	7.16	4.58	242	***
AGG_2	52.18	5.64	49.02	7.96	3.63	242	***
CHA_2	45.50	7.17	43.17	4.90	2.82	162	**
SUC_2	48.26	8.73	46.10	6.35	2.11	169	*
ABA_2	43.42	7.65	47.83	7.21	-4.58	242	***
DEF_2	47.44	5.92	51.15	7.77	-4.22	240	***
CRS_2	45.58	9.49	45.28	8.28	0.26	242	n.i.
SCN_2	50.72	6.95	51.39	5.64	-0.80	184	n.i.
SCF_2	57.41	10.76	53.53	9.92	2.90	242	**
PAD_2	47.34	5.87	48.49	7.71	-1.33	240	n.i.
ISS_2	61.20	11.33	59.90	10.06	0.95	242	n.i.
CPS_2	53.54	8.33	50.49	7.65	2.96	242	**
MLS_2	46.53	7.18	47.02	7.91	-0.49	242	n.i.
MAS_2	54.86	11.71	50.78	7.91	3.04	160	**
FEM_2	42.97	7.04	41.98	6.92	1.09	242	n.i.
CP_2	52.62	5.82	47.81	7.25	5.74	237	***
NP_2	52.22	7.68	52.63	7.87	-0.41	242	n.i.
A_2	51.32	6.73	52.28	7.58	-1.02	242	n.i.
FC_2	54.46	6.16	50.52	6.59	4.71	242	***
AC_2	49.48	8.69	46.38	6.34	3.05	170	**
A_1_2	51.71	9.53	42.91	8.33	7.65	242	***
A_2_2	46.43	6.31	43.49	6.37	3.57	242	***
A_1_2	50.47	9.34	48.51	9.93	1.55	242	n.i.
A_2_2	48.03	8.66	49.90	9.50	-1.56	242	n.i.

\*  $p \leq 0,05$ ; \*\*  $p \leq 0,01$ ; \*\*\*  $p \leq 0,001$ **TABLE 3. Differences between youth abusing drugs (G-Nar) and youth abusing alcohol (G-Al) in the field of self-conception (real image – 1) measured by Adjectival Test ACL.**

Scale	G-Nar		G-Al		Test <i>t</i>		
	M	SD	M	SD	t	df	p.i.
NCK_1	37,65	7,47	40,02	10,25	-1,30	81	n.i.
FAV_1	42,89	9,74	41,48	11,61	0,66	98	n.i.
UFV_1	54,44	9,03	57,72	12,86	-1,45	79	n.i.
COM_1	35,22	7,88	34,04	12,20	0,56	75	n.i.
ACH_1	48,83	10,63	50,65	10,63	-0,85	98	n.i.
DOM_1	49,69	9,25	52,87	7,00	-1,91	98	n.i.
END_1	48,50	7,92	46,50	10,40	1,09	98	n.i.
ORD_1	46,30	9,51	45,54	10,13	0,38	98	n.i.
INT_1	40,31	9,58	39,28	10,97	0,50	98	n.i.
NUR_1	42,83	7,81	41,46	9,18	0,81	98	n.i.
AFF_1	47,54	9,59	43,37	11,58	1,97	98	n.i.
HET_1	50,59	10,11	48,83	10,42	0,86	98	n.i.
EXH_1	55,52	7,99	57,57	6,35	-1,40	98	n.i.
AUT_1	55,57	7,82	57,85	8,31	-1,41	98	n.i.
AGG_1	54,65	8,37	58,54	7,98	-2,37	98	*
CHA_1	47,24	7,41	46,28	7,56	0,64	98	n.i.
SUC_1	51,41	8,31	52,26	8,98	-0,49	98	n.i.
ABA_1	45,93	10,75	43,39	7,83	1,36	96	n.i.
DEF_1	46,04	6,78	42,37	8,16	2,46	98	*
CRS_1	44,11	10,51	48,13	9,38	-2,00	98	*
SCN_1	44,70	8,50	43,00	8,19	1,02	98	n.i.
SCF_1	48,98	11,47	50,89	10,67	-0,86	98	n.i.
PAD_1	42,70	8,15	40,57	8,34	1,29	98	n.i.
ISS_1	53,39	9,53	52,78	10,29	0,31	98	n.i.
CPS_1	49,78	7,26	50,04	7,49	-0,18	98	n.i.
MLS_1	41,54	8,91	40,50	10,97	0,52	98	n.i.
MAS_1	54,28	10,92	53,39	11,70	0,39	98	n.i.
FEM_1	40,70	9,00	40,22	8,66	0,27	98	n.i.
CP_1	54,89	7,12	55,80	7,40	-0,63	98	n.i.
NP_1	47,59	9,57	45,35	8,83	1,21	98	n.i.
A_1	43,80	8,11	43,11	9,35	0,39	98	n.i.
FC_1	53,89	6,09	52,91	6,05	0,80	98	n.i.
AC_1	52,56	7,99	53,35	7,66	-0,50	98	n.i.
A_1_1	49,69	7,69	50,02	9,23	-0,20	98	n.i.
A_2_1	50,85	10,47	50,70	8,33	0,08	98	n.i.
A_1_1	48,83	9,81	45,89	12,58	1,31	98	n.i.
A_2_1	43,09	7,25	44,00	10,72	-0,49	77	n.i.

\*  $p \leq 0,05$ ; \*\*  $p \leq 0,01$ ; \*\*\*  $p \leq 0,001$ 

Psychoactive substances allow reaching this aim by taking the line of least resistance: an individual experiences reward in the form of suppressing unpleasant emotions, reaching this position without bigger effort. Dimoff and Carper

worked out a list of “red signals” – warning symptoms indicating using and abusing drugs. Among those which concern personality, they list a need for immediate gratification. Reduced ability to defer gratification is connected with im-



**TABLE 4. Differences between youth abusing drugs (G-Nar) and youth abusing alcohol (G-Al) in the field of self-conception (perfect image – 2) measured by Adjectival Test ACL.**

Scale	G-Nar		G-Al		Test <i>t</i>		
	M	SD	M	SD	t	df	p.i.
NCK_2	39.78	10.57	41.52	9.37	-0.87	98	n.i.
FAV_2	49.80	8.57	49.30	9.18	0.28	98	n.i.
UFV_2	47.09	8.93	48.28	9.76	-0.64	98	n.i.
COM_2	34.57	8.37	35.89	9.18	-0.75	98	n.i.
ACH_2	54.35	9.39	53.52	9.97	0.43	98	n.i.
DOM_2	53.39	7.34	52.61	7.33	0.53	98	n.i.
END_2	56.11	7.09	54.07	5.92	1.55	98	n.i.
ORD_2	55.70	7.60	54.20	9.58	0.88	98	n.i.
INT_2	45.74	8.06	44.89	7.99	0.53	98	n.i.
NUR_2	49.50	5.40	49.28	5.26	0.20	98	n.i.
AFF_2	50.72	7.97	49.09	8.39	1.00	98	n.i.
HET_2	53.50	9.31	54.41	8.06	-0.52	98	n.i.
EXH_2	56.35	6.77	55.78	6.68	0.42	98	n.i.
AUT_2	52.31	6.43	53.80	7.80	-1.05	98	n.i.
AGG_2	52.26	5.53	52.09	5.82	0.15	98	n.i.
CHA_2	44.06	6.68	47.20	7.43	-2.22	98	*
SUC_2	48.69	8.57	47.76	8.98	0.53	98	n.i.
ABA_2	43.63	6.91	43.17	8.51	0.30	98	n.i.
DEF_2	47.56	6.49	47.30	5.25	0.21	98	n.i.
CRS_2	44.81	10.07	46.48	8.79	-0.87	98	n.i.
SCN_2	50.96	6.72	50.43	7.27	0.38	98	n.i.
SCF_2	57.96	10.28	56.76	11.38	0.55	98	n.i.
PAD_2	47.02	6.32	47.72	5.34	-0.59	98	n.i.
ISS_2	61.11	12.07	61.30	10.53	-0.08	98	n.i.
CPS_2	52.83	8.06	54.37	8.65	-0.92	98	n.i.
MLS_2	46.22	7.31	46.89	7.09	-0.46	98	n.i.
MAS_2	53.78	11.21	56.13	12.28	-1.00	98	n.i.
FEM_2	42.91	7.40	43.04	6.67	-0.10	98	n.i.
CP_2	52.70	5.76	52.52	5.94	0.16	98	n.i.
NP_2	52.65	7.09	51.72	8.37	0.60	98	n.i.
A_2	52.78	5.18	49.61	7.91	2.33	75	*
FC_2	54.81	6.27	54.04	6.07	0.62	98	n.i.
AC_2	49.41	8.88	49.57	8.55	-0.09	98	n.i.
A_1_2	51.41	10.35	52.07	8.56	-0.34	98	n.i.
A_2_2	45.37	6.32	47.67	6.12	-1.84	98	n.i.
A_1_2	51.37	9.33	49.41	9.34	1.04	98	n.i.
A_2_2	49.19	7.93	46.67	9.35	1.45	98	n.i.

\*  $p \leq 0,05$ ; \*\*  $p \leq 0,01$ ; \*\*\*  $p \leq 0,001$

pulsiveness which meanwhile is related with risky behaviors, including overusing psychoactive substances.

The investigated youth abusing psychoactive substances showed bigger leader skills ignoring the others' opinion.

They wanted to attract the others' attention by any chance and when they could not do it, they were able to thrust and demand attention. They acted quickly and firmly with no respect to anything, ignored the others' opinion; they were independent, firm, stubborn and egoistic. Jessor and Jessor in their study on adolescents' personality and drinking emphasized that those investigated subjects who earlier became "drinking persons", generally paid more attention to independence. Also other researchers suggest that values connected with independence and tendency to become excited are related to abusing psychoactive substances. Similarly, Block and others state that independence and pleasure coming from sensual experiences are related to using psychoactive substances while empathy is negatively connected with them. Simons and others also point that pro-social values negatively correlate with overusing psychoactive substances. Dimoff and Carper inform about an increase of irritability and nervousness of young drug addicts next to simultaneous decrease of sensitivity and tenderness.

Cekiera reports about irritability and impetuosity of people taking psychoactive substances. Numerous studies indicate significance of aggressiveness as a personality correlate, as well as manifesting it in the interpersonal relations. Aggressiveness and impulsiveness of young people drinking alcohol were pointed out. Maxwell in the personality profile of a young drug addict lists frequent blows of anger, hostility expressed in relation to parents, teachers by using words as well as by not verbal behavior. Cekiera and Dimoff and Carper affirm occurring in young drug addicts hostility and aggression directed against the others and themselves including verbal insulting of the others and resorting to fisticuffs towards them, destroying objects under irritation, giving self pain by self-injury as well as taking suicidal attempts. Generally it should be stated that researches on using psychoactive substances and violence by adolescents indicate that both of these risky behaviors have tendency to co-appear.

## CONCLUSIONS

The obtained results confirm the existence of interrelationship between behaviors risky for health and life and negative self-image resulting from low self-confidence and divergence between "real myself" and inadequate to own possibilities "perfect myself". The obstacles direct them to impatience and frustration. Striving after receiving is treated by them as a kind of self-testing and confirmation of their own value and attractiveness. Achieving psychical comfort by reducing such negative feelings as fear, tensions or low mood motivate to reach for psychoactive substances. The presented above variables can explain adolescents' motives of reaching for psychoactive substances.

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