

**TOBACCO ABUSE AMONG STUDENTS FROM VARIOUS
FACULTIES AND INFLUENCE OF LOW'S REGULATIONS ON THE
PASSIVE TOBACCO SMOKING**

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Research suggests that reducing the degree of nicotine and alcohol addiction in the population cannot be achieved only by prevention programs. Legislative measures are necessary to be taken by the state. The aim of this study was to assess the degree of tobacco abuse and awareness of the dangers of smoking in three groups of students from various colleges and departments. It also assesses of the impact of ban on smoking in public places on passive contact with the tobacco of the students. A customized survey was conducted made up of open and closed questions based on an international survey, the HBSC study (Health Behaviour in School-Aged Children: A WHO Collaborative Cross-National Study), D. Goldberg's GHQ-12 scale (General Health Questionnaire) and ES Huebner's scale (Student's Life Satisfaction Scale, 1991). The survey was conducted among 102 students of the department of electrical, 109 medical students and 71 students in animal husbandry department. The results showed that significantly more women from the electronics faculty smoked, or attempted to smoke. In the other groups the differences in the values of interest are not statistically significant. Among the students of animal husbandry men smoke significantly more cigarettes on average than women while women studying animal husbandry start smoking significantly earlier (by about 2 years) than women from other universities. Medical students smoke fewer cigarettes (less than half) compared with students of electronics and animal husbandry. They are also significantly less likely to smoke cigarettes at school and at home. Among students of agriculture men smoke more frequently in order to relax. According to the study, the Polish law to ban smoking in public places, in force since the 15th November, did not make students of the study groups quit smoking. It resulted however in reducing smoking, especially among women of the department of electronics. Students did not notice significant restrictions on smoking in their environment. The study indicates that the problem of smoking among young people is still an extremely important issue and requires the introduction of better, new prevention programs. Preliminary observations show the influence of the antinicotine legislation on reduction of passive smoking, just after 3 months from its introduction.