



'Drugs in the urban youth culture'
Research Report

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April 2008

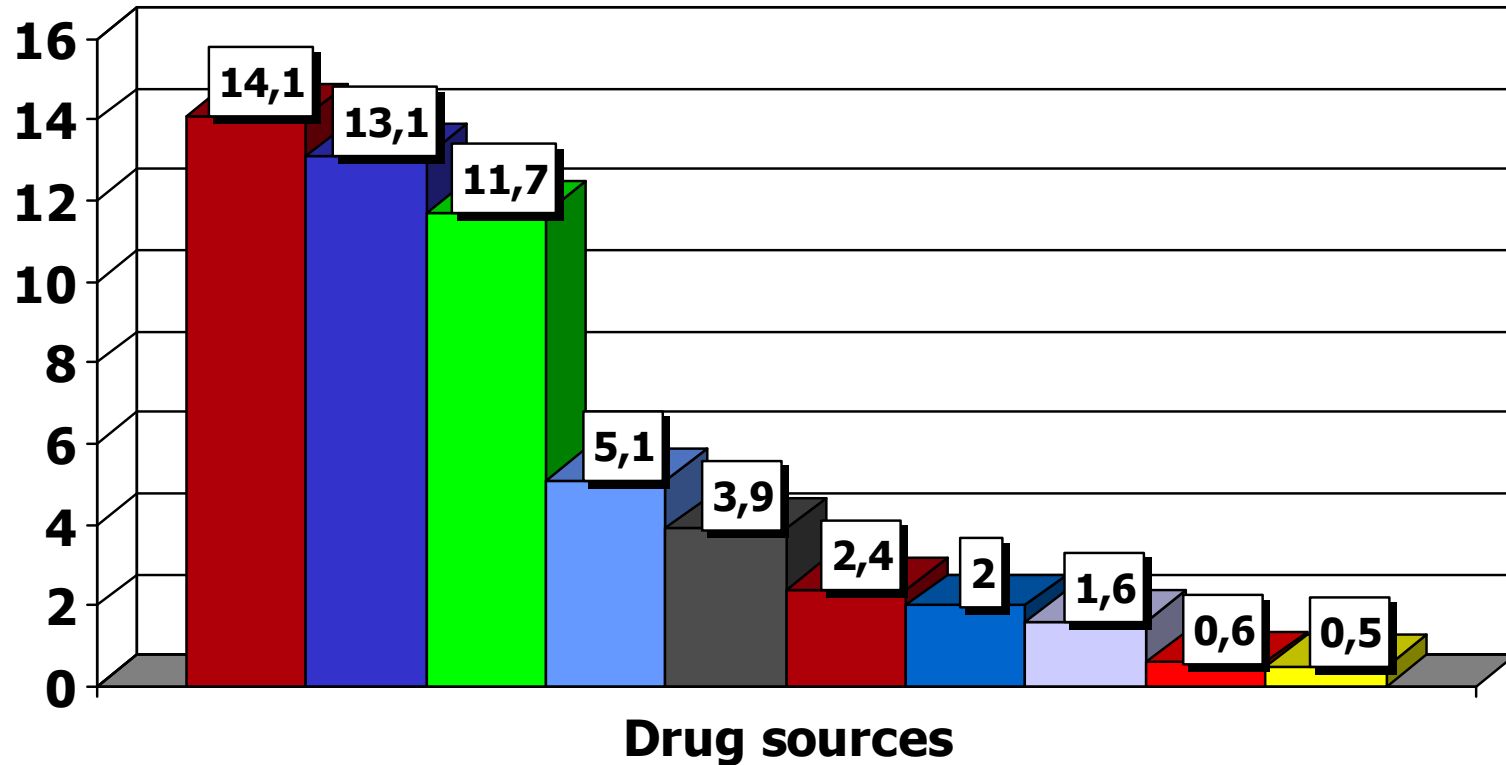
Survey description

- **Sample:** 1233 people aged 14-25 – students of various Warsaw schools
- **Time:** February 27th – March 19th, 2008
- **Method:** survey

Drugs availability - perception

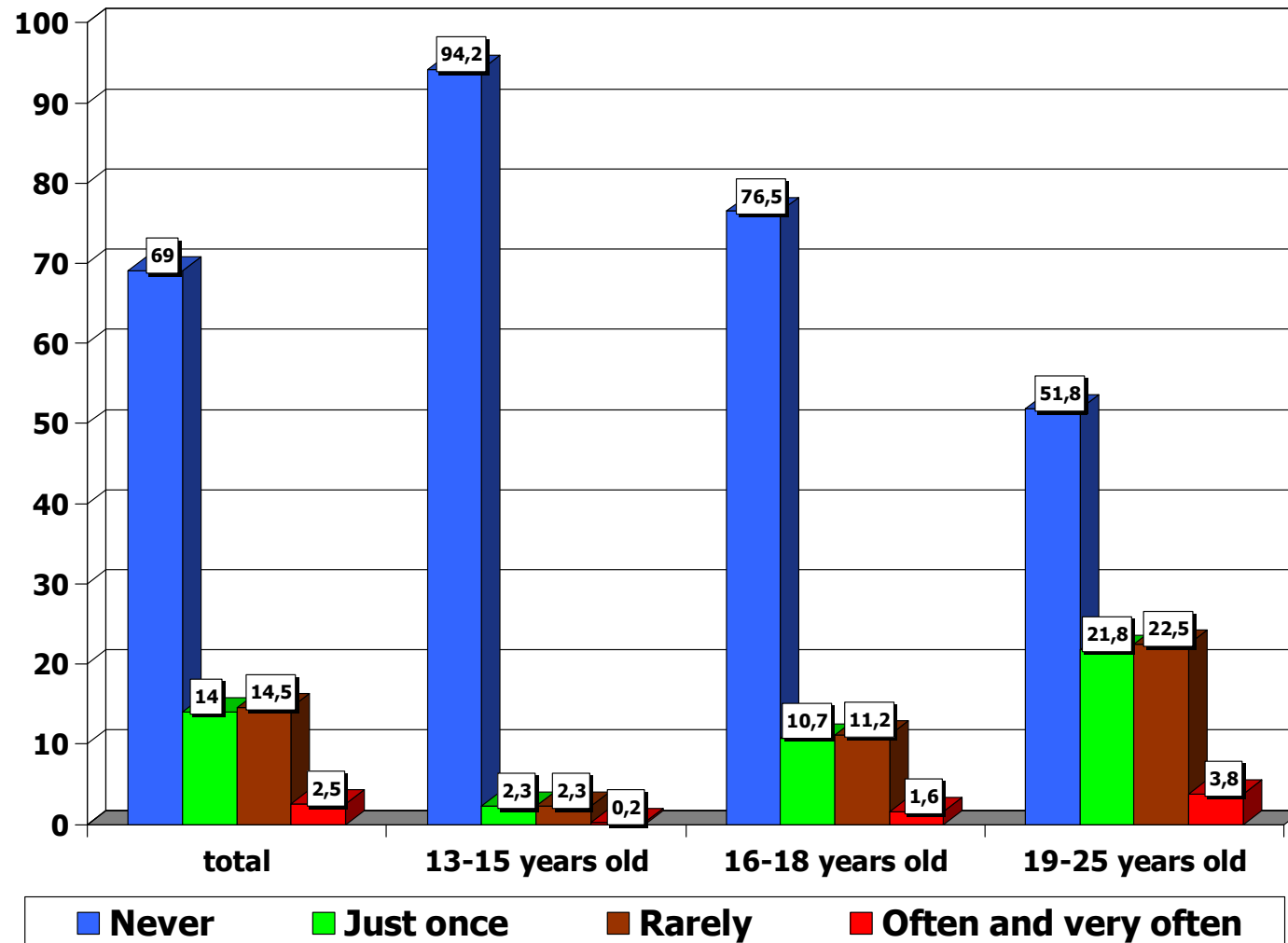
- 82% of respondents believe, that obtaining drugs in Warsaw is easy or very easy
- Only one third of the surveyed people (31.3%) does not know any places, where one can buy drugs
- Most common places are: dance clubs, parks and streets, dealer apartment and school
- Hard drugs like amphetamine and ecstasy are said to be more difficult to obtain than marijuana and antidepressants
- The perceived ease of obtaining drugs increases with age

Drugs availability - sources



- peer group - gift
- same age or younger acquaintance - gift
- older acquaintance - gift
- friend - sale
- acquaintance of an acquaintance - sale
- acquaintance of an acquaintance - gift
- siblings - gift
- unknown person - sale
- a gift from parents
- stolen from parents

Drugs use – scale of occurrence



Acceptance of addictive substances

- Predicted parent reaction to the use of selected addictive substances, percentage:

	getting drunk	smokin marijuana/ hashish	taking ecstasy	smoking cigarettes
Would not let	33,9	69,9	74,1	37,6
Would discourage	40,3	20,1	16,6	43,7
Would not be bothered	3,2	0,7	0,6	3
Would accept it	12,6	1,6	1	9,7
Don't know	10	7,6	7,8	6

- Acceptance of alcohol and cigarettes increases with age, acceptance of drugs does not.
- There is a close relation between the use of drugs and parents' attitude

Use of addictive substances in peer group

Number of friends using addictive substances, depending on age, percentage

	Total			13-15 years old			16-18 years old			19-25 years old		
	P	A	N	P	A	N	P	A	N	P	A	N
None	20,7	17,3	48,7	42,7	47,7	60,3	23,2	18,3	55	7,9	2,6	39
Few	36,1	24,8	37,3	36,6	36,6	24,8	33,2	24,3	33,9	39,9	19,7	45,3
A lot	22,7	19,5	9,5	9,2	12,2	8,8	21,1	19,6	8	30	22,7	10,8
Most	19,3	22,8	4,1	10,7	1,9	5,7	20,1	22,5	2,6	22,8	32,6	4,4
All	1,6	15,6	0,5	0,8	1,5	0,4	2,3	15,2	0,5	1,4	22,4	0,5

*P - smokes cigarettes, A - drinks alcohol, N - takes drugs

- There is a strong relation between the usage of addictive substances by peers and being persuaded to try and taking drugs

Image of drugs

- **Users:** more often perceive drugs as fashionable, making one more appealing, related to fun and relaxation
- **Non-taking:** focus mainly on the negative aspects of drug taking, in their eyes drug users are stupid/ reckless, cannot cope with their own lives
- **Heroin:** the dark side of addiction, associated with death and illnesses, syringes, filth and drug addicts
- **Marijuana:** the bright side of drug taking, associated with smoking a pipe, clouds of smoke, relaxation and fun
- **Ecstasy:** a ludic side of drug taking, associated with frantic fun, parties, sex, energetic drinks, but also rape and harassment

Factors favouring drug use

- **Environment:** drug usage in the environment – siblings, friends; indifferent relations with parents, higher or lower than average wealth
- **Self-assessment:** positive image of oneself
- **Values:** consent to breaking rules when they do not suit one, dreams of happiness and money
- **Learning:** grade average 2-3 (C-D), skipping classes and truancy
- **Lifestyle:** frequent home and club parties, spending nights out of home, spending most of the time outside, a lot of free time

Factors discouraging drug use

- **Environment:** large family (living with sisters, grandparents, relatives), parents expressing their negative opinion on addictive substances and non-taking siblings and acquaintances, average wealth
- **Self-assessment:** negative image of oneself, including physical appearance
- **Values:** taking part in religious practices, conforming to rules, responsibility, high manners, wish of professional success
- **Learning:** good marks (but not the best), regular class attendance
- **Lifestyle:** spending time at home – rare parties, being a book worm, little free time

Conclusions

- All young people in Warsaw who are willing to obtain drugs, will do so without a problem.
- Drug taking among young people is a social activity – they obtain drugs from people they know, and use them with people they know.
- Self-confidence and party lifestyle favour the use of drugs. Being a school outsider decreases the probability of being exposed to drugs.
- Adults are not able to control and limit the phenomenon of obtaining drugs from „the outside“. Young people have to either choose a drug-free environment or know how to say no.

Thank you for your attention