

Finnish Participants

The following students and teachers have been involved in this study:

Students:

Sari Mononen	Saku Peltovirta
Sanna Räksi	Niina Vesämäki
Heini Aro	Leena Kaukola
Salla Korkki	Orvokki Sianoja
Heli Stormi	Annika Sundgrén
Heli Kuukka	Elina Tala
Marika Toivanen	Terhi Vilkkula

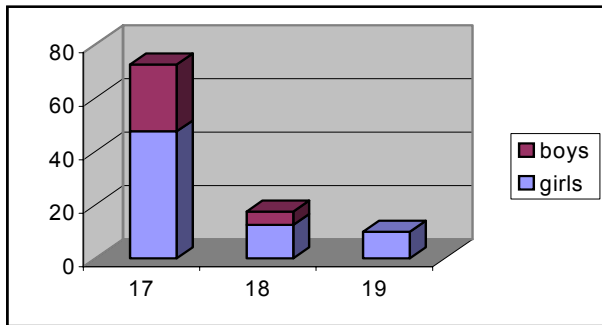
Teachers:

Timo Niemimaa (biology)
Kasper Kouvo (psychology)

Here are the results:

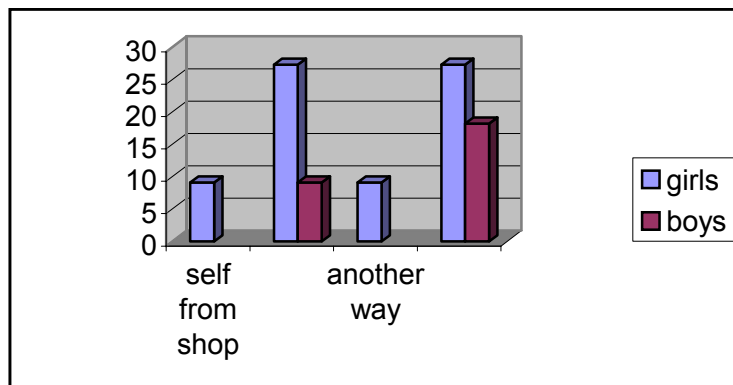
1. Age distribution of the students who answered the questions in per cent:

	17	18	19
girls	47,5	12,5	10
boys	25	5	



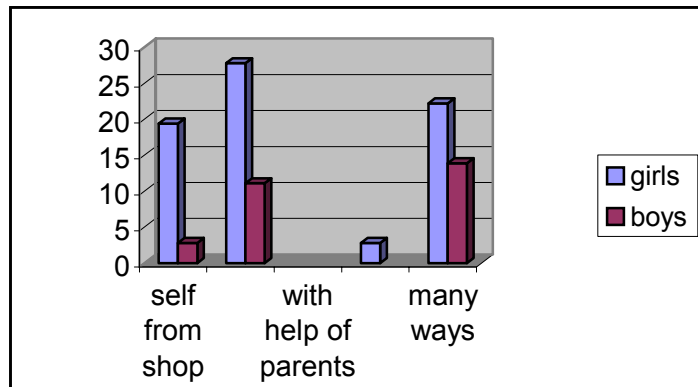
2. How do the students get the cigarettes?

	girls	boys
self from shop	9,1	
with help of friend	27,3	9,1
another way	9,1	
many ways	27,3	18,2



3. How do the students get alcohol?

	girls	boys
self from shop	19,4	2,8
with help of friend	27,8	11,1
with help of parents		
another way	2,8	
many ways	22,2	13,9



4. Parents' attitude to youngsters' smoking:

Only 10% of the parents whose child smokes knew about smoking. Youngsters thought that none of the parents accepted smoking.

5. Parents' attitude to youngsters' alcohol drinking:

75% of the parents knew about drinking and 79.3% of those 75% accepted it. 100% of the parents who didn't know, didn't accept.

6. Parents' attitude to youngsters' drug using:

100% of the parents didn't know about using and none either accepted.

Generally: On every case results told that those youngsters whose parents didn't know about using of cigarettes, alcohol or drugs, thought that their parents wouldn't accept. So the young people wouldn't tell, if they think that their parents wouldn't accept.

Attitude to smoking and using drugs is much more strict than attitude to drinking. Drinking seems to be quite acceptable, but also things like, how much and what is used, affects attitude too.

7. Comparing own smoking vs. friends' smoking:

23% are no smokers even though their friends are smoking daily. About 20% of answerers and their friends are no smokers.

Friends' smoking doesn't seem to have much effect on own smoking.

8. Comparing drinking alcohol vs. friends' drinking habits:

Friends affect very much. Usually young people drink with friends, so those people, whose friends drink weekly, drink weekly, too, and so on. There aren't big steps, for example nobody, whose friends don't drink, drinks weekly.

3. Comparing drug using vs. friends' drug using:

These results tell whether friends' drug using affect the answerers own using of drugs. The figures show that if your friend does not use any kinds of drugs you are not likely to use them yourself either. 80 per of the girls and boys answered that they do not use drugs and so do not their friends. The results showed that no one admitted to use drugs themselves. However, three of forty confessed to have friends using drugs almost every day. The conclusion we made is that there is no actual drug problem in our school.

4. Do the commercials effect on drinking alcohol?

Those people, who drink weekly, see commercials mostly on TV and Internet. Those who drink sometimes see them mostly on TV and magazines. And people, who don't drink at all, see commercials too, but not that much. The biggest affecter is TV. Radio commercials don't affect much.

11. Comparing sex vs. smoking:

The results pointed that 61 per cent of the girls and 50 per cent of the boys never smoke. 35 per cent of the girls and 33 per cent of the boys smoke occasionally. Surprising fact was that none of the girls who filled the form smoke daily or even weekly. Instead, every tenth boy said to smoke daily. Only few persons told to smoke a few times a month. 28 per cent of the people answered to the inquiry were girls and 12 were boys. The conclusion we made is that the sex does affect smoking. The girls seem to smoke clearly less than boys. According to this inquiry most of the girls and boys smoke either occasionally or never.

12. Comparing sex vs. drinking alcohol

	Daily	Weekly	A few times a month	Occasionally	Never	Total
Girls	0%	3,7%	33,3%	55,5%	7,4%	100%
Boys	0%	7,7%	61,5%	23,1%	7,7%	100%

According to the inquiry nobody uses alcohol daily. Only a few of the students use alcohol weekly. Most of the boys use alcohol a few times a month. 61,5% and most of the girls (55,5%) use alcohol occasionally. Only a small number of the students never use alcohol. The number of the girls that does not use alcohol is still bigger than the boys' number.

13. Comparing sex vs. drug using

70% of people who answered the question were girls and 30% were boys. One of the girls who answered to the question uses drugs sometimes. None of the boys uses drugs.

14. Comparing parents' drinking of alcohol vs. students' drinking:

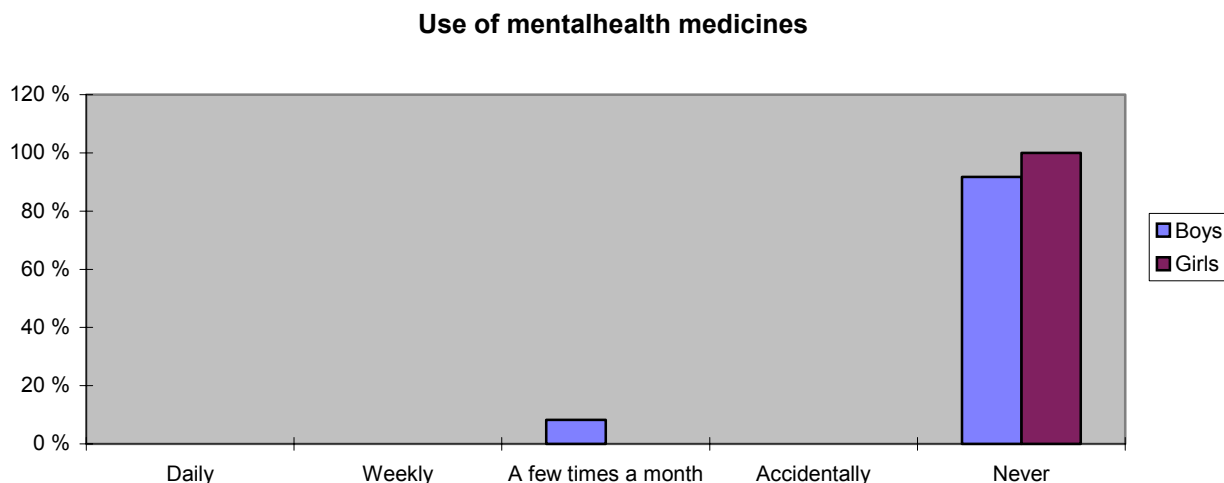
More than a half of the students drink couple of times in a month. Their parents drink couple of times per month or randomly. The rest drink only for a good reason because they drink seldom. Ten percent of all students never drink alcohol. Parents obviously drink more than students, because it's legal and they have more time to do it. According to the survey students don't have an alcohol problem. Parents do have a good reason to reduce their alcohol use. In Finland alcohol is a big problem in many families, it creates tension and violence between family members and often is a reason in divorce.

15. Comparing parents' smoking vs. students' smoking:

On the average 40 per cents of the students smoke randomly and 12.5 per cents of the adults smoke regulary. For our point of view the results that we had to study, shows that parents smoke less than

their children. The childrens' parents who smoke, haven't had influence on their childrens smoking habits. More than half of the students don't smoke at all. This test had been done only for two classes so it is quite a minority when thinking about Finnish youths' smoking.

16. Using mental health medicines:



In the inquiry form was asked if someone was using mental health medicines.

There were 40 young people who answered to it: 12 boys and 28 girls.

About 8 percent of the boys answered that they use medicines a few times a month. And the rest marked that they have never even touched mental health medicines.

100 percent of the girls answered also that they never use mental health medicines.

We notice that it is not rare using the mental health medicines. Although there were only 40 people who participated in this enquiry we still believe that very few of young people (age about 16 to 18) use any harder medicines.

It is hard to say what could be the reason that cause the using of these pills. There may be tens of shocking reasons. Perhaps stress or exhaustion are one of those reasons, but still, everyone has their individual reasons and there is always going to be ill-feeling and stress among young people.

So, we do not wonder if those numbers would increase in later years.

This enquiry was made by a group of students in a biology course in Vammala, Finland. We hope that the results will wake up some ideas or opinions to discuss in this net site.