

THE IMPACT OF SECOND HAND SMOKE EXPOSURE ON THE HEALTH IN SLOVAK SCHOOLCHILDREN

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Background and Aims: The prevalence of smoking in adult Slovak population is high. The aim of the project is to analyze the situation in school age children exposure to SHS and to analyze the impact of exposure on their health status.

Methods: Study elaborates the representative data of the sample of 1478 Slovak schoolchildren in the age 6 - 15 years, the same number of boys and girls, using anonymous questionnaire filled in by parents. General questionnaire was aimed at children's health status and environmental conditions. Validated questionnaires CIS (Columbia impairment scale) and BPI (Behavior Problem Index) are focused on emotional and behavioral functions in children. Basic anthropometric variables were measured. SAS program was used for statistical analysis.

Results: From 7.8 to 27.6% of Slovak children are exposed to passive smoking. The significantly highest numbers were in big cities Bratislava and Kosice. There were 21.3 % of smoking and 8 % ex-smoking mothers; 36.5 % of fathers smoke and 12.2 % of fathers are ex-smokers. Lower family social status was reported by the almost 30% of families. Older school children have been more exposed to passive smoke. Exposure to passive smoke decreases with the level of parental education. The positive relationships with low socio-economic status and incompleteness of the family have been shown. The significantly higher prevalence of respiratory diseases in children exposed to passive smoke was confirmed ($p = 0.02$). Children exposed to SHS have worse eating habits and regimen, lower physical activity and sports. No relationship between overweight / obesity ($BMI \geq 90\%$) and exposure to passive smoking has been confirmed.

Conclusions: Results showed that 19% of Slovak children are exposed to passive smoking in family with health consequences. The results of the study contribute to the effective protection of children from exposure to toxic tobacco smoke.