

ASSOCIATIONS OF SOCIODEMOGRAPHIC CHARACTERISTICS AND CIGARETTE SMOKING WITH BINGE DRINKING IN ADULT POPULATION IN AP VOJVODINA, SERBIA

Tanja Tomašević,^{1,2} Vesna Mijatović Jovanović,^{1,2} Ivana Radić,^{1,2} Snežana Ukropina,¹
Dragana Milijašević,^{1,2} Sonja Čanković,^{1,2} Tatjana Pustahija,^{1,2} Vladimir Petrović,^{1,2}

¹University of Novi Sad, Faculty of Medicine, Novi Sad, Serbia

²Institute of Public Health of Vojvodina, Novi Sad, Serbia

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Background: This study aims to determine the association of sociodemographic characteristics and cigarette smoking with binge drinking in the past month, in adult population in AP Vojvodina.

Methods and Objectives: Data were derived from a cross-sectional study. The research instrument was a specially designed questionnaire based on a questionnaire from the *Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System* in the sample of 3910 respondents aged 18 and older. The respondents who drank were divided into non-binge drinkers and binge drinkers. Binge drinkers were considered females who drank 4 and more drinks and males who drank 5 and more drinks in one occasion in the past month. Pearson chi-square test was used to compare differences between groups. Multivariate logistic regression was implemented to determine the association between binge drinking as a dependent variable and smoking and sociodemographic characteristics as independent variables (gender, age, type of settlement, marital status, and level of education).

Results: Out of a total, 49.4% of adults were drinking alcohol in the past 30 days. Among them, 49.5% reported binge drinking in past month (59,1% of males and 32,5% of females). Multivariate logistic regression showed that among persons who drink, binge drinkers were more likely to be male (OR 3.53; 95% CI 2.74–4.53), from rural settlements (OR 1.87; 95% CI 1.47–2.38) and smokers (OR 2.79; 95% CI 2.18–3.55). Younger adults had higher odds of binge drinking compared to adults 65 and over.

Conclusions: The research shows that there is a strong association between social determinants and binge drinking, which could help policymakers to create public health interventions across multiple levels to reduce alcohol consumption. These interventions should be specially directed to males, the younger population, smokers, and those who live in rural settlement.

Keywords: binge drinking, sociodemographic characteristics, smoking