# ESPAD'1999
# HUNGARIAN COUNTRY REPORT 2

**BY**

**Zsuzsanna Elekes, Borbála Paksi**

## I. Methodological results

### A. Evidence of reliability

#### A1. Testing or re-testing of reliability

We did not test or re-test reliability.

#### A2. Reliability within a single administration

The questionnaire included lifetime prevalence related to all kinds of drugs and questions about the first use. The reliability rate, measured by a simple consistency rate („used" or „never used" answers to both questions), takes an interval between 95,5% and 99,7%.

96% of the respondents gave reliable (consistent „used" or „never used") answers to the questions about smoking habits. The rate of inconsistency has considerably decreased compared to the survey in 1995.

The inconsistency rate of alcohol consumption in connection with drunkenness is 3,4% which means that 96,6% of the answers can be regarded as reliable. This number also shows the increasing reliability of data collection since 1995, due to the improvement in the answers of girls.

The rate of inconsistent answers has increased for any other kinds of drugs. The respondents gave the highest rate of opposite answers about tranquillisers or sedatives and marijuana (4,5% and 3,6%). The inconsistency rate is rather high (more than 1%) for amphetamines, inhalants and anabolic steroids. The other drugs show lower inconsistency (hallucinogens 0,9%, ecstasy 0,8%, heroin 0,6%, crack and cocaine 0,3%). Not only the inconsistency rate but parallel the rate of trying each drug has also increased. It means that the actual

inconsistency rate for almost each drug has decreased because of the increasing number of the users. The exceptions are: tranquillisers or sedatives where the inconsistency rate was higher than the increase of consumption and the inhalants where the inconsistency rate fell more slowly than consumption.

The difference between the sexes shows an opposite tendency. In 1995 the answers of the girls about almost each drug were slightly more reliable considering both the absolute numbers and the rate compared to all users. In the present survey the answers of the boys seem to be relative more reliable. The exceptions are: the questions about marijuana, LSD and the tranquillisers or sedatives.

**A3. Other comments about reliability**

We have also tested reliability of the data along the representation criteria and the dimensions of analysis such as type of school or region.

The reliability of lifetime prevalence for each drug shows considerable and tendentious differences according to schooltypes (harmonising with results of the survey in 1995).

In the skilled worker training schools the rate of reliable answers is significantly smaller in the case of smoking. In the training schools it is significantly smaller in the case of alcohol consumption.

We can lay down similar tendency for other kinds of drugs. The simple reliability index shows more reliable respondents in highschools, specialised secondary schools and skilled worker training schools. Significant divergences only occur in the use of marijuana, amphetamines, ecstasy, heroin and the inhalants.

*The rate of inconsistent answers in the different schooltypes*

*(The rate of those (%) who answered „used" to the one question and „did not use" to the other)*

| | Inconsistency rate/school type | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | **highschool** | **specialised secondary school** | **skilled worker training school** | **training school** | **All students** |
| **Cigarettes** | | | | | |
| Ever smoked | 3,2 | 3,0 | 6,9 | 0,0 | 4,0 |
| **Alcohol** | | | | | |
| Been drunk | 2,7 | 3,0 | 4,6 | 4,1 | 3,4 |

| | Inconsistency rate/school type |
|---|---|

| Other drugs | highschool | specialised secondary school | skilled worker training school | training school | All students |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Marijuana or hashish | 2,3 | 2,7 | 6,0 | 8,0 | 3,6 |
| Amphetamines | 0,4 | 1,3 | 2,1 | 9,3 | 1,5 |
| LSD or other hallucinogens | 0,6 | 0,8 | 1,3 | 1,3 | 0,9 |
| Crack | 0,0 | 0,3 | 0,5 | 1,4 | 0,3 |
| Cocaine | 0,1 | 0,3 | 0,0 | 2,7 | 0,3 |
| Ecstasy | 0,8 | 0,6 | 0,8 | 5,2 | 0,8 |
| Heroin | 0,1 | 0,4 | 0,9 | 4,1 | 0,6 |
| Relevin | 0,0 | 0,2 | 0,5 | 1,4 | 0,3 |
| Tranquillisers or sedatives | 3,4 | 4,7 | 5,0 | 6,7 | 4,4 |
| Inhalants | 1,1 | 1,0 | 2,2 | 5,3 | 1,5 |
| Anabolic steroids | 0,4 | 0,9 | 1,9 | 5,4 | 1,1 |

There were no significant differences of the reliability in the different the regions, similarly to the earlier surveys. But the tendence of the data from the countryside seems to be more reliable. The exceptions are: alcohol, marijuana, tranquillisers and inhalants where inconsistency in the capital is smaller.

Beside the quantitative method of testing reliability (simple inconsistency rate) we also used qualitative technics. On the 1 March 1999 in Hungary a new and more strict drug law came into force that increased penalty fees and cut the number of the alternative ways of punishment avoiding imprisonment. This fact also contributed to a more thoughtful analysis.
Three weeks after data collection, when the students could still remember the questioning but they already had an outside view of it, we made 45-minute-long focus group interviews in 10 classes (3 in highschools, 3 in specialised secondary schools, 3 in skilled worker training schools and 1 in a training school) with 10-12 randomly selected students in each class. Altogether 111 students took part in this survey.

*The questions and the technics of the focus group interviews:*

**Questions**

- In your opinion how many per cent of the 16-year-old students answered sicerely the questions about drug consumption.
- How many per cent of the 16-year-old students answered sicerely the questions about alcohol consumption.
- How many per cent of the 16-year-old students answered sicerely the questions about smoking.

**Technics**

Open voting about the mentionned pecentages (who estimates 0%....100%)

- How many per cent of your class answered sicerely the questions about drug consumption.
- How many per cent of your class answered sicerely the questions about alcohol consumption.
- How many per cent of your class answered sicerely the questions about smoking.
- Which factors may influence sincerity

- writing their own opinion on a separate sheet of paper
- discussing the mentioned factors with the whole group
- voting

- In your opinion, is there a difference between the sincerity of the answers depending on:
- what kind of drug it is
- which institution conducts and finances the survey
- who the questioner is, how old he/she is
- how strict the law is

voting about each point

The most frequent results (moduses) of open voting about the mentionned pecentages in each group show that the students answer more sincerely the questions about smoking and alcohol consumption than the questions about drugs.

They estimated the sincerity in connection with smoking 90-100%, in the case of alcohol 90-99%. The most characteristic numbers of the drug questions are 80-89% and even 60% was also mentioned.

We received slightly higher rates when we asked them about the sincerity of their own class while questioning ESPAD99. The students mentioned 90-100% in connection with smoking and alcohol consumption. They estimated 80-99% sincere answers to the questions about drugs.

*Estimates of the generation's sincerity in connection with the consumption of any drugs (number of classes)*

| type of drug | less than 60% | 70-79% | 80-89% | 90-99% | 100% |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| smoking | | | 2 | 5 | 3 |
| alcohol | 1 | 1 | 1 | 6 | 1 |
| other drugs | 4 | 1 | 5 | | |

*Estimates of the class' sincerity in connection with the consumption of any drugs*

| type of drug | less than 60% | 70-79% | 80-89% | 90-99% | 100% |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| smoking | | | 2 | 6 | 2 |
| alcohol | | | | 5 | 5 |
| other drugs | | 1 | 3 | 6 | |

Only three groups from the questioned ten groups thought that the amendment of law influences the answers beside providing absolute anonymity. Much more important factors are the institution conducting the survey and the type of drug questioned about.
Comparing these data to the results of ESPAD98 the numbers are more or less constant. The sincerity rates of drug consumption were between 80-100% before the amendment of the drug law, as well. The data of alcohol were nearly 100%.

After summarising the results on different types of drugs by quantitative and qualitative methods we can agreeingly establish that the reliability of the data differs to each group of drugs. The reliability rate of confession is higher on smoking and alcohol consumption than in the case of less wide-spread drugs. The data for each drug show constant reliability in time which means that the amendment of drug law in Hungary has not demolished the comparability of the data's reliability.

## B. Evidence of validity

### B1. Missing data rates on drug questions (compared to preceding questions)

The rate of the missing and invalid questions in the field of neutral background variables is between 0,3% and 5,1% (sex: 0,3%, members of the household: 0,8%, highest level of education father completed: 2,2%, highest level of education mother completed: 1,6%, term average: 5,1%).
The number of missing or inappreciable answers in connection with drugs is not high either, compared to the answers on any other topics. It is especially true in the case of lifetime prevalence questions. The rate of the missing data in lifetime prevalence questions is less than 1,5%, except alcohol consumption which is two times higher. The rate of the missing data in year and month prevalence questions is usually higher but it does not exceed the numbers of non-drug questions (0,6-4,5%). So the answers to questions on drug as valid as the average or even better. Of course, if we concentrate on the frequency of each question the rate of invalid answers on drugs increases but it is not a remarkable number.
The girls answered more drug and socio-demographic questions.
Comparing to the survey in 1995 no radical changes in the tendencies of missing data can be

observed. We could indicate a slight decrease of missing data on smoking, LSD, ecstasy, and some alcohol variables but the rate in the case of control variables and other kinds of drugs has increased.

**B2. Average number of unanswered questions**

The rate of unanswered questions is the highest at the optional questions, 4,57%. This rate does not differ in the other two groups. 2,48% of the compulsory questions and 2,56% of the own questions are unanswered. The girls answered considerably more questions in each group.

The rate of missing answers to the optional question was always rather high and compared to the survey in 1995 it has further increased. But this rate of the own questions fell. The missing data rate on the compulsory questions has not changed notably.

**B3. Inconsistency rates**

5,3% of all respondents gave inconsistent answers to the lifetime, last year and last month prevalence of alcohol consumption. The rates of both sexes significantly differ. 6,9% of the boys' answers and 3,8% of the girls' answers are contradictional. The rate of inconsistency related to the users is equal to this rate of the whole sample.

The prevalence of drunkenness shows lower inconsistency (2,3%) both in the whole sample and among the users. The boys gave less consistent answers but the difference between the sexes is not significant.

Less respondents gave inconsistent answers to illicit drug questions (marijuana, sniffing) than to alcohol consumption.

0,5% of all respondents gave inconsistent answers to the lifetime, last year and last month prevalence of marijuana consumption and 0,1% to inhalants. The rate of inconsistency among the users is considerably higher, 3% to marijuana and 1% to inhalants.

The boys' answers are less consistent, except the marijuana users.

Compared to ESPAD95 the tendencies are different. Consistency of alcohol consumption has declined and the one of other drugs has improved.

**B4. Results on „honesty" questions**

The frequency of the answers to the direct questions on validity of marijuana and heroin consumption are favourable.

Most of the respondents think that they would confess consumption. The rate of negative answers is below 10% on both drugs (8,7% on marijuana and 9,7% on heroin). But we must mention the significant differences between the sexes. The rate of denying honesty is higher among the boys but confession of consumption is also higher among them.
In the last four years the result on honesty questions has improved despite our expectations and the changes of law in Hungary.

**B5. Proportion reporting lifetime use of Relevin (a dummy drug)**

0,3% of the respondents marked use of the non-existing dummy drug. The rate of girls is 0,1% and 0,5% among the boys. So 99,7% of the answers to drug question are valid. This number has decreased by 0,2% but it is still satisfactory (equal to the international average in 1995).

**B6. Data collection leaders judgement about validity (based on classroom reports)**

The questioners marked serious problems which could endanger the validity of the answers only in 3-5% of the classes.
The bigger part of the class disturbed questioning in 7 classes (3,3%). Half of the class did not show interest in the questionnaires in 9 classes. the students took the questionnaire seriously in 96% of the classes according to the classroom reports. Interpreting of the questions was problematic in 3 classes.

**B7.-B9. Other comments about the validity**

After examining validity according to schooltypes and regions we can state the followings:

- The rate of missing data is usually higher in the training schools regarding both the drug questions and the background variables. There were no differences between Budapest and the countryside.
- The inconsistency rate of lifetime, last year and last month prevalence of alcohol consumption and drunkenness significantly differs in each schooltype. This rate is above the average in the training schools among the users and in the whole sample, as well. But no difference can be seen between the schooltypes in the answers about other drugs.

  Regional differences of inconsistency cannot be seen. But the tendencies in alcohol, marijuana and inhalants consumption are slightly higher in the countryside, calculated by simple reliability indexes.
- The answers to the direct questions on validity of consumption data show significant

differences in each schooltype. The rate of denying honesty is two times higher in training schools than in other schooltypes. Regional differences cannot be discovered but the validity of the data from the countryside is weaker.

The rate of use of the dummy drug does not differ in each schooltype. Regional differences cannot be discovered either but the data from the countryside are more favourable.

Based on the examination of validity according to schooltypes and regions we can state that the indicators in highschools and specialised secondary schools are . Neither significant nor tendentious differences can be discovered in the validity of the data between Budapest and the countryside.

## C. Problems and solutions

We had no methodological problems in connection with the utility of data.

## D. Conclusions (D1-D3)

Based on the quantitative analysis calculated according to ESPAD standards the reliability and validity parameters of the Hungarian database are satisfactory:

- The reliability rate of all respondents to all kinds of drugs, measured by a simple consistency rate, takes an interval between 95,5% and 99,7%.
- 94,7-99,9% of the respondents gave consistent answers to the lifetime, last year and last month prevalence questions.
- The number of missing or inappreciable answers in connection with drugs is not high compared to the answers on any other topics. It is especially true in the case of lifetime prevalence questions where this number is much smaller.
- Most of the respondents (90,3-91,3%) think that they would confess consumption.
- The qualitative analysis of reliability -by the focus group method- harmonises with the results of ESPAD98. The sincerity rates of drug consumption are between 80-100%.
- 0,3% of the respondents marked the use of the dummy drug. So 99,7% of the answers to drug questions are valid.
- The questioners marked serious problems which could endanger the validity of the answers

only in 3-5% of the classes.

Significant deviations can be seen in the subgroups along the above reliability and validity indicators. Considerable differences can be observed among the groups of drugs, schooltypes and sexes but we did not find a group where the above indicators were so different that it could cause a problem in further analysis.

Compared to the surveys in 1995 and 1998 the methodological parameters of the Hungarian database in 1999, calculated according to ESPAD standards, show strong stability. The amendment of the law has not decreased the reliability of the comparison in time.

The survey was conducted on a national representative sample on the whole territory of Hungary. While selecting the sample we used randomly sampling method proportionally layered according to schooltypes and grades. We kept the regional proportions by weighting.
We replaced the fallen-out classes from a substitude sample selected by the same principles. The final rate of fall-outs was 3,5%. No one denied answering. 99% of the respondents gave back usable questionnaires. The rate of individual sample drop-outs -because of absence- was 10,2%. The group and individual drop-outs did not deform the frequency of teh sample along the representation criteria. So the sample reached sufficient rate of the target population and the results can be reffered to the target population.
The whole process of the research was conducted according to ESPAD standards. The sample and the methodological indexes of the database are satisfactory both in national and international context. We have not found any factors that would decrease reliability of comparative and tendency analysis or could cause special problems.

# II. Substantive results

## A. Frequency of self-reported lifetime drug use

**Cigarettes**

28,3% of the questioned secondary school students have never smoked in their lives. The

difference between the boys and girls is not significant, 27,7% of the boys and 29,8% of the girls heve never smoked. But 30,8% of the boys and 14,9% of the girls have smoked 40 or more times. This rate is 27,8% in the whole sample.

The lifetime prevalence of smoking is increasing by both sexes, compared to ESPAD95. In the earlier survey 31,2% of the whole sample, 28,8%5 of the boys and 33,4% of the girls did not smoke. But the rate of smoking 40 or more times has not changed.

**Alcohol**

9,2% of the 16-year-old secondary school students have never drunk alcohol. The abstinence rate of boys and girls is similar, 9,5% and 8,9%. Almost half of the respondents drank alcohol maximum 10 times in their lives, one quarter of them did 20 or more times. The boys are overrepresented in the latter group. 30,9% of the boys and 19,4% of the girls drank alcohol 20 or more times.

51,5% of the students have already been drunken at least once. The prevalence of boys is higher. 58,4% of them and 44,7% of the girls have been drunk at least once. 25,4% of the boys have been drunk 6 or more times but it happened to only 11,1% of the girls.

The lifetime prevalence of alcohol consumption and drunkenness have not changed considerably since 1995. 9,3% of the students said „never drunk" in 1995 and 49,0% of them was drunken at least once.

**Other drug use**

12,5% of the respondents have taken illicit drug at least once in their lives. Lifetime prevalence shows significant differences between boys and girls. 8,3% of the girls and 16,7% of the boys have already taken any kinds of illicit drugs. Most of them have used it only several times but 6,9% of the boys and 3,4% of the girls took drug more than 5 times.

If we omit marijuana and hashish lifetime prevalence of illicit drugs is much lower, 5,5%. This rate is 6,5% at boys and 4,5% at girls. As the above data show the most wide-spread illicit drugs are marijuana and hashish among the 16-year-old secondary school students. Lifetime prevalence of the whole sample is 11,5%, 15,8% among boys and 7,3% among girls. Two times more boys have already tried marijuana or hashish than girls just as the lifetime prevalence of all kinds of illicit drugs shows. 3,6% of the students have used marijuana 6 or more times in their lives.

Although taking marijuana or hashish with alcohol is familiar among the Hungarian students as well they prefer taking them alone. 5,6% of the respondents admitted taking the two drugs together (7,8% of boys and 3,3% of girls). The second and third wide-spread drugs are LSD and other hallucinogens and ecstasy (lifetime prevalence is 3,3% and 3% in the whole sample). The boys take these drugs more often but the differences between the two sexes are smaller than in the case of marijuana. According to the answers of all respondents the lifetime prevalence of amphetamines is 2,3%, crack and cocaine 0,9%, heroin by smoking 1,2%, heroin other than smoking 0,8%. 0,7% of the whole sample have used any drug by injection.

Taking all illicit drugs into consideration after marijuana and hashish the third and fourth most wide-spread drugs are tranquillisers or sedatives without prescription and alcohol with medicines (9,7% and 7,7% of the Hungarian 16-year-old secondary school students have tried them at least once ).While lifetime prevalence of alcohol with medicines is similar among boys and girls (7,3% and 8,1%) lifetime prevalence of tranquillisers or sedatives without prescription is much higher among the girls (12,6% and 6,8%). Frequent use of both drugs is rather rare. We must pay attention to the fact that taking tranquillisers or sedatives medically supervised is rather high among the students (10,9% of girls and 7,8% of boys, 9,4% of the whole sample).

Lifetime prevalence of inhalants is also high, especially among the boys. The rate of sniffing is 6,3% among boys, 2,6% among girls and 4,5% in the whole sample.

The table shows the lifetime prevalence of other drug use in 1995 and 1999 among the Hungarian 16-year-old secondary school students:

| | 1995 | 1999 |
|---|---|---|
| use of illicit drugs | 4,8 | 12,5 |
| use of illicit drugs without marijuana and hashish | 1,4 | 5,5 |
| drug by injection | 0,3 | 0,7 |
| marijuana or hashish | 4,5 | 11,5 |
| amphetamins | 0,4 | 2,3 |
| LSD or other hallucinogens | 0,9 | 3,3 |
| crack | 0,1 | 0,8 |
| cocaine | 0,2 | 0,8 |
| ecstasy | 0,4 | 3,0 |

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| heroin | 0,4 | .. |
| heroin (by smoking) | .. | 1,2 |
| heroin (othr than smoking) | .. | 0,8 |
| tranquillisers, sedatives | 8,3 | 9,7 |
| inhalants | 5,8 | 4,5 |
| anabolic steroids | 1,1 | 2,2 |
| alcohol together with pills | 10,0 | 7,7 |
| alcohol and marijuána | .. | 5,6 |
| magic mushroom | .. | 0,5 |
| tranquillisers, sedatives medically supervised | 7,6 | 9,4 |

Significant changes occured in the spread of drug consumption in Hungary during the four years between the two surveys. Lifetime prevalence of illicit drugs with or without marijuana is more than two times higher than earlier. Consumption of almost every licit and illicit drug has increased, except inhalants and alcohol with medicines. The data show that marijuana is the most wide-spread drug among the students overtaking the traditional Hungarian ways of drug use: sniffing, tranquillisers or sedatives and alcohol with medicines. We have to point out that the increase of lifetime prevalence of illicit drugs has not meant the drop of lifetime prevalence of licit drugs. Taking tranquillisers or sedatives medically supervised or without prescription has even raised.

**Frequency of abstinence**

The rate of absolute abstinence (who never used anything) is 5,7% in the whole sample. The difference between boys and girls is not remarkable (5,8% and 5,6%). This rate is falling among the boys in comparison with ESPAD95. The proportion of those who never had a smoke or drink is 6,1%, who never had a smoke or drink and never used drug is 6,0% - slightly higher than the rate of absolute abstinence. These abstinence rates are similar among boys and girls and have not changed since 1995.

## B. Frequency of self-reported drug use in last 12 months

**Alcohol**

In the previous year before questioning 81,1% of the students drank alcohol at least once. The difference between boys and girls is not significant, the rate of boys is slightly lower. But 25,3% of the boys and only 16% of the girls drank alcohol 10 or more times. Drunkenness was also more seldom among the girls (35,8% at least once), 48,1% of the boys were drunk at least once in the previous year (41,9% in the sample). 15% of the boys and 5,4% of the girls were drunk 6 or more times in the last 12 months.

**Other drug use**

8,3% of the youngsters took marijuana or hashish in the last 12 months. The prevalence of girls is much lower (4,8%) than among the boys (11,9%). Bigger part of the respondents took marijuana or hashish only one or two times. 5,5% of the boys and 2,5% of the girls used marijuana or hashish 3 or more times.

2,2% of all students sniffed the previous year, 3,2% of boys and 1,3% of girls.

**Frequency of abstinence**

Nearly 20% of the respondents did not take alcohol, marijuana or inhalants in the previous year. More girls drank alcohol and more boys used other drug in that period.

## C. Frequency of self-reported drug use in last 30 days

**Alcohol**

In the previous month before questioning 51,1% of the students drank alcohol at least once. Most of them drank 1-5 times and 9,1% did 6 or more times (6,2% of the girls and 12,2% of the boys). The last month prevalence of the girls is 48,5%, the one of the boys is 53,7%.

Similarly to the survey in 1995 drinking of spirits was the most frequent among the boys and girls in the previous month. 44,8% of the girls drank spirits, the frequency of wine consumption is 27,1% , the one of beer consumption 20,1%. The prevalence of spirits is higher than the this rate of wine and beer. The students drank wine and beer one or two times but in connection with spirits they mentioned 3 or more times. The month prevalence of spirits among boys is 44%, equal to the girls. But the boys drank wine and beer more often

(month prevalence are 32,5% and 29,1%). The structure of consumption, especially of the girls, has changed since 1995. The month prevalence of spirits among the boys has slightly increased and in the cases of wine and beer it has strongly decreased. These prevalences were 37,5%, 42,4%, 41,4% in 1995. The month prevalence of beer and spirits among the girls has increased and in the case of wine it has decreased. These prevalences were 17,6%, 38,5%, 30,4% in 1995.

26,1% of the boys and 16,4% of the girls were drunk at least once in the last month (21,2% of the whole sample). The rate of drinking 5 or more drinks on one occasion is similar to drunkenness. This prevalence is 17,7% among girls and 28,7% among boys. Both indicators are rising among girls and having 5 or more drinks on one occasion is decreasing among boys compared to 1995.

**Other drug use**

The last month prevalence of marijuana is three times higher than in 1995. 3,8% of the respondents used marijuana in the last 30 days in 1999, most of them one or two times. The month prevalence of boys is 5,1%, the one of the girls is 2,4%. The month prevalence of inhalants has also risen. 1,2% of the students sniffed in the last month (0,8% of the girls and 1,6% of the boys).

**Cigarettes**

The last month prevalence of smoking is 36,4% in the whole sample. The difference between boys and girls is not significant, 35,3% of the boys and 37,5% of the girls smoked last month. The prevalence of boys has slightly but the one of girls has more considerably increased, compare to the data in 1995 (36,2% and 31,6%). The proportion of those who smoked 10 or more cigarettes last month is low at both sexes (6,5% of boys and 4,1% of girls).

## D. Age at first use

**Cigarettes**

Most of the youngsters have already smoked their first cigarette by the age of 14. One third of the boys and one quarter of the girls have smoked their first cigarette by the age of 12.

31,5% of the respondents smoke daily (32,6% of the boys and 30,5% of the girls). Both sexes

started daily smoking at the age of 14-15.

**Alcohol**

The age of first alcohol consumption considerably differs according to the sorts of alcohol. The boys drink beer first, one third of them drank it at least once before the age of 12 and most of them tried wine before the age of 14. The most frequent age of first glass of spirits is 14-15 years. Most of the girls have already tried beer before the age of 11 but the most frequent age of first glass is 14 years. They are usually 13-14 years old when drinking wine and 14-15 years old when drinking spirits the first time. The youngster possibly try beer first and spirits last.

The most frequent age of first drunkenness is 14-15 years. The boys are mostly 14, the girls are usually 15 when getting drunk first.

**Other drugs**

The students are 15 years old when they first try illicit drugs. Exceptions are marijuana, tranquillisers or sedatives and alcohol with medicines and in the case of boys trying of sniffing also starts at the age of 14.

Summarising the above data we can lay down that the youngsters first start smoking then drink beer, wine and at the age of 14 they try spirits, marijuana and other licit drugs. They are 15 years old when trying first most illicit drugs.

## E. Alcohol consumption

**Quantities**

The sort of alcohol drunk last time shows similar tendency to the prevalence. Almost half of the respondents (49,8%) drank spirits. The rate among girls is higher (53,9%) than among boys (45,9%) which means that this is the most frequent sort of alcohol drunk last time among girls. 40,9% of the students mentioned wine. 35,7% of the girls and 46,2% of the boys drank wine last time. The rate of wine over the rate of spirits among the boys. Consumption of beer and wine has decreased at both sexes, consumption of spirits stays at the same level since 1995.

The quantity of each sort of alcohol drunk last time refers to the fact that the rate of spirits is rather high in the consumption of the students, especially the girls. 24,3% of the respondents drank less than 5 cl and 9,2% drank more than 10 cl. The proportion of the latter category is 10,6% among boys and 7,95 of the girls. The boys drank more, the girls drank less wine than spirits. 8,9% of all questioned drank more than 30 cl wine (5% of girls and 12,9% of boys). . 4,3% of them drank more than 100 cl beer (0,7% of girls and 8% of boys).

Based on the data about last alcohol consumption the girls dominantly drank spirits and rarely drank small quantity of beer. The boys drank the biggest quantity of wine and the most frequently. On the second place they put spirits, considering frequency and quantity. And they also rarely mentioned beer.

**Drinking places**

26,4% of the students mentioned their own homes as the place of the last consumption. Home is the most frequent place of drinking among girls (30,5%). Home is on the third place among boys (22,4%), the second is the bar or pub (23,9%), and the most frequent place is the disco (25,1%). The girls put the disco on the second place (26,3%) and the pub on the third (11,4%). Both sexes often mentioned someone else's apartment (15,7% of boys and 17,3% of girls). But they rarely marked street, park or other public area (4,8% of all students) and restaurant (4,5% of them).

**Drunkenness**

Judgement of last drunkenness shows remarkable differences between the two sexes. 2,8% of the girls marked 10 on the scale and 5% of the boys did the same. 20% of the boys marked 7 or higher value but only 10,5% of the girls did so. 6,8% of the boys and 11,2% of the girls marked 1. 22% of the boys and 19,4% of the girls marked 2-4.

30,9% of the respondents needed 3-6 drink to get drunk. Both sexes similarly marked 3-4 drinks (16%) but the boys more often chose 5-6 drinks (15,3%, girls 13,1%). The more significant differences appear from the seventh drink. 21,9% of the boys needed 7 or more drinks to get drunk while only 9% of the girls marked this quantity.

**Possible personal effects**

Similarly to the data of 1995 the questioned students more often mentioned positive effects of alcohol consumption than negative consequences. Most of them marked „have a lot of fun" as the most possible effect of alcohol consumption. The next most frequent answer was: „harm

my health". They often mentioned „feel relaxed" and "feel more friendly and outgoing" as positive and „get a hangover" as a negative effect. There are no interpretabil differences between the two sexes. The boys usually think all effects to be more possible at a higher rate.

**Experienced problems**

Alcohol consumption caused problems in lives of only a few students. 6,5% of the respondents mentioned „damage to objects or clothing". Some of them marked „quarrel or argument", „loss of money or other valuable items". The boys had much more problems because of alcohol consumption. 9,3% of them mentioned „damage to objects or clothing" and 7,3% „quarrel or argument".

Even less youngsters mentioned problems because of drug consumption. The rate of all problems listed in connection with drug consumption stands below 1% in the whole sample. But we should not ignore that they rather often mentioned problems for other reasons, independently from alcohol and drug consumption. Most of them marked „quarrel or argument, bad performance at school, accident or injury, problems in relationship with friend or parents".

## F. Attitude towards alcohol consumption

**Anticipated drinking behaviour**

In 1995 we already mentioned that the „Do you think you will be drinking alcohol when you are twenty-five?" question is hardly usable in Hungary. A high proportion of the respondents say no to all types of „do you drink alcohol" questions because of the Hungarian alcohol consumption habits. People mean regular drinking of large quantities when thinking of alcohol consumption in the Hungarian culture. So when anticipating their own future drinking behaviour they think of large quantities. This attitude explains that only 9,2% of the youngsters have never drunk alcohol and the abstinence rate in the previous year before questioning is 18,9%. 28,3% of them thinks that they will not be drinking alcohol at the age of 25. 30% think that they will be drinking and 41,7% do not know. In our opinion these numbers do not show the expectable rate of alcohol consumption but different ways of interpreting the question.

## G. Knowledge of drugs

95% is the knowledge rate of the four most well-known drugs among the Hungarian secondary school students: heroin, cocaine, ecstasy and marijuana. The next group consissts of LSD and tranquilisers or sedatives, with a rate of 90%. Three quarter of the respondents have alreeady heard about amphetamines. The bigger part of the students does not know only three of the listed drugs: crack, methadon (33%) and magic mushrooms which slightly more than 10% of the respondents have heard about.

Compared to the survey in 1995 the number of known drugs has increased. Today the students know most kinds of drugs. The knowledge of ecstasy rose by 70% and the one of ampheetamines by more than 50%. The proportion of those who have heard about LSD and crack increased by 15% since the middle of the decade. We found only one drug that has become less familiar among students: tranquilisers or sedatives.
It is interesting that although marijuana is the most frquently used drug in Hungary, knowledgement rates of some drugs overtake it which are used more rarely and their lifetime prevalence is low.

## H. Perceived availabilityof drugs

90% of the respondents suppose that cigarettes and differeent sorts of alcohol can very easily or fairly easily be obtained. Getting of spirits is more difficult in their opinion. Its rate is 10% lower. About 2% of the students found the obtaining of the above mentioned drugs rather difficult or difficult.
Compared to the results of ESPAD95 significant changes cannot be seen. The number of those who found getting of all sorts of alcohol difficult at any rate has slightly decreased.
The availability of other drugs is much smaller than getting cigarettes or alcohol according to the judgement of the students. The availability of inhalants and tranquillisers or sedatives is the most positive. 40-50% of the respsondents marked fairly easy or easy.
Considering othere drugs students mostly marked difficult, rather difficult or impossible to get. 20-24% of the respondents could fairly easily get marijuana or ecstasy, 13-15% of them

think that it is possible to get LSD and amphetamines. The judgement about the availability of other kinds of drugs stands below 10%. 15-20% of the students suppose that it is impossible to get illicit drugs.
The answers of boys and girls show significant differences. In the boys' opinion the availability of most drugs is fairly easy.

Compared to ESPAD95 the results do not show radical changes in judgment of availability of alcohol, tranquillisers or sedatives, sleeping pills and inhalants. Although the number of „impossible" answers in connedtion with these drugs has fallen.
But the number of those who think that it is easy or very easy to get otheer drugs has conssiderably risen. This increase usually was 2-2,5 times higher and this rate of ecstassy was 5 times higher than 4 years ago.

*The rate of answering "easy" or "very easy" in 1995 and 1999*

| **Other drugs** | **ESPAD 95** | **ESPAD 99** |
|---|---|---|
| Inhalants | 50,8 | 50,3 |
| Tranquilizers or sedatives | 36,6 | 39,9 |
| Esctacy | 4,2 | 23,7 |
| Marijuana or hashish | 9,0 | 19,3 |
| LSD or other hallucinogenes | 5,9 | 15,9 |
| Amphetamines | 4,6 | 13,3 |
| Anabolic steroid | 8,5 | 11,4 |
| Heroin | 4,5 | 9,3 |
| Cocaine | 3,9 | 9,1 |
| Crack | 4,0 | 9,0 |
| „Magic mushrooms" | . | 6,3 |

## I. Disapproving of drug use

### Cigarettes and alcohol

28,9% of the respondents disapprove smoking in general, 72% of them disapprove smoking regularly (10 or more cigarettes a day).
9,8% of the students disapprove one or two drinks several times a year. 56,2% of them disapprove one or two drinks several times a week and 72,4% disapprove getting drunk once a week.
The girls are more tractable when judging smoking and drinking ocassionally while judging

smoking and drinking regularly shows opposite difference between the sexes .

The tendency of disapproving smoking and drinking alcohol, except smoking occasionally, has decreased since 1995. The number of those who disapprove drinking alcohol ocassionally and regularly but not a large quantity has significantly dropped during the last four years.

*The rate and the change in rate of those who "disapprove" or "strongly disapprove" smoking cigarettes or drinking alcoholic beverage*

| | ESPAD 95 | ESPAD 99 | change |
|---|---|---|---|
| **Cigarettes** | | | |
| Smoke cigarettes occasionally | 24,9 | 28,9 | 4,0 |
| Smoke 10 or more cigarettes a day | 75,4 | 72,0 | -3,4 |
| **Alcohol** | | | |
| Drinking one or two drinks of an alcoholic beverage | 17,7 | 9,8 | -7,8 |
| Having one or two drinks several times a week | 71,2 | 56,2 | -15,0 |
| Getting drunk once a week | 74,9 | 72,4 | -2,5 |

**Other drugs**

The rate of those who "disapprove" or "strongly disapprove" using other drugs is higher. The opinions about trying different kinds of drugs take an interval of 10% (81,6-91,3%). The students disapprove trying marijuana and tranquillisers or sedatives and strongly disapprove using heroin and cocaine.

While analysing the answers about different categories of marijuana consumption it turned out that the respondents make difference between disapproving trying, using occasionally or using regularly. This difference is small judging other drugs.

Tendentious differences can be observed between the sexes, as well. The girls gave stricter answers.

Compared to ESPAD95 the negative attitude against any forms of using any drugs has declined. This rate is about 2-4% and even less in connection with the two most disapproved drugs: cocaine and heroin.

*The rate and the change in rate of those who "disapprove" or "strongly disapprove" using other drugs*

| Other drugs | ESPAD 95 | ESPAD 99 | change |
|---|---|---|---|

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Try marijuana or hashish once or twice | 85,9 | 81,6 | -4,3 |
| Try tranquilizers once or twice | 86,0 | 82,9 | -3,1 |
| Try ecstasy once or twice | 90,0 | 86,1 | -3,9 |
| Try LSD once or twice | 90,2 | 86,6 | -3,6 |
| Try amphetamine once or twice | 90,9 | 87,1 | -3,8 |
| Try inhalants once or twice | 89,7 | 87,4 | -2,3 |
| Smoke marijuana or hashish occasionally | 92,0 | 88,3 | -3,7 |
| Try crack once or twice | 91,2 | 88,8 | -2,4 |
| Try cocaine once or twice | 92,2 | 91,1 | -1,1 |
| Try heroin once or twice | 92,1 | 91,3 | -0,8 |
| Smoke marijuana or hashish regularly | 94,8 | 93,0 | -1,8 |

## J. Perceived risk of drugs

**Cigarettes**

Most of the students answered „no or slight risk" when questioning about smoking occasionally. 24,8% of them marked „moderate risk" and 6% marked „great risk". 79,9% of the respondents found regular smoking (one or more packs a day) a great risk and 13,8% marked moderate risk. The girls answered more strictly to the latter question.

**Alcohol**

Most of the students found any forms of alcohol consumption dangerous. 69,4% of them marked moderate or great risk to having one or two drinks nearly every day, the opinion of moderate risk is dominant. A great more students, 85,5%, found having 5 or more drinks once or twice each weekend dangerous. The rate of those who marked great risk is 56,4%. 92,9% of the respondents found having 4 or 5 drinks nearly every day, dangerous, 73% of them marked great risk. The answers of the two sexes differ a lot. The girls evaluated each frequency of drinking alcohol more dangerous than the average.

Based on the results of the survey in 1995 we can point out that the proportion of those who found both smoking and alcohol dangerous has increased, although a considerable part of the students thought the same way earlier as well. The indicators of occasional or regular smoking and drinking alcohol moved to the direction of great risk in the last four years.

**Other drugs**

74,1% of the students marked moderate risk and 84% of them great risk in connection with

trying other drugs. Cocaine stands on the first place, then LSD, marijuana come and ecstasy, the inhalants and amphetamines follow.

Regular drug use is a moderate or great risk in the opinion of 91,3-93,2% of the respondents. There are no differences in the opinions about different kinds of the drugs when thinking of regular use. We cannot really draw an order in this question but surprisingly the students found regular smoking of marijuana the most dangerous.

So the respondents make a distinction between occasional, regular use and try of drugs when judging their risk. But no significant differences can be observed among the different kinds of drugs.

Compared to the results of the earlier survey an opposite tendency can be outlined in connection with the try and regular use of other drugs in the last four years. The number of those who found try dangerous has decreased (except cocaine) but the rate of those who found regular use dangerous has increased. It means that the students can draw a distinction between the risks of regular and occasional drug use. Today they can also better differ the try of each drug (earlier it took an interval of 4,4% and now 9,9%) but these differences disappear while estimating the risk of regular use.

*The rate of those who marked „moderate or great risk" of try and regular use (%)*

| | Try | | Regular use | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | ESPAD 95 | ESPAD 99 | ESPAD 95 | ESPAD 99 |
| Marijuana | 79,1 | 76,7 | 92,3 | 93,2 |
| LSD | 79,2 | 77,1 | 92,0 | 92,5 |
| Amphetamins | 79,0 | 74,1 | 89,8 | 91,3 |
| Cocaine | 82,7 | 84,0 | 91,6 | 92,9 |
| Ecstasy | 78,5 | 75,1 | 88,8 | 92,7 |
| Inhalants | 78,3 | 74,4 | 92,1 | 93,1 |
| Intervals | 4,4 | 9,9 | 3,5 | 1,9 |

## K. Estimated drug use among friends and siblings

**Cigarettes**

31% of the youngsters think that most or almost all of their friends smoke. 53% of them have elder siblings who at least occasionally smoke. Although the difference between the sexes is not considerable the girls mentioned higher rate of smoking among friends and siblings.

**Alcohol**

24% of the student marked that most of their friends drink alcohol. 72% of all respondents mentioned the alcohol consumption of elder siblings, 5,7% of them know that their friends get drunk at least once a week. 35,6% of the students think that their siblings have already been drunk at least once in their lives. The data do not show differences between boys and girls.

**Other drugs**

Only a tiny part of the students think that their friends use any drugs. A slightly higher proportion of them think that their siblings take drugs. But all these rates are lower than the lifetime prevalence of the respondents themselves. In our opinion the low rates of friends and siblings are due to the interpreting of the questions. The questions rather refer to regular use than to trying or occasional use. Regular use is also rare in the examined population. On the other hand they are more likely to admit try or occasional use of friends and siblings than regular use of these people.

We should not forget that they rather confess licit or illicit drug use of siblings than the consumption of friends

## L. First drug use occasion

**First drug used**

7,6% of all students used marijuana or hashish first. While most of the boys marked marijuana as first drug used the girls often mentioned tranquillisers or sedatives as first drug in their lives. The rate of marijuana is 4,3% and the rate of tranquillisers or sedatives is 3,3% among girls.

**How the substance was obtained**

The most frequent way of obtaining the first drug was sharing in a group among the members of both sexes. 6% of the boys and 3,2% of the girls mentioned it. The second source of drug

was an older friend (3,4% of the boys and 4% of the girls marked it). A rather often mentioned way was obtaining from a friend the same age (3,4% of the boys and 1,3% of the girls). We must pay attention to the fact that 3% of the girls were given by a parent or took it at home without anyone's permission. The girl more often marked their homes as the source of first drug in 1995, as well.

**Reasons**

The students most frequently mentioned being curious as the reason for taking drug (11,9% of the boys and 6,3% of the girls). The second reason of boys was „wanted to feel high"(5,8%), the girls marked „other reasons" (3,6%). The respondents rarely mentioned such reasons like: „had nothing to do", „did not remember" and only a small proportion of the girls answered „did not want to stand out of group".

## M. Places to buy cannabis

Half of the questioned secondary school students know a place where they can buy marijuana. Most of them (35,5%) mentioned disco or bars. 11,4% of them answered dealer, 9,7% mentioned other place. The less frequent places are street, park (7,7%) and school (6,9%).

## N. Background variables

**Leisure time activities**

The youngster most frequently mentioned sport as a regular leisure time activity every month (82,6% of the boys and 76,5% of the girls). The computer games stand on the second place (70,6%). It is more popular among boys (78%) than girls (63%). Going out in the evening or other hobbies stand on the second place in the range of the girls. Only 53% of the respondents read books regularly. This rate is much higher among girls (62%) than boys (45%). The students rarely mentioned playing on slot machines (14% of the boys and 4% of the girls). The girls especially seldom ride around a moped (6,4%) but 33,4% of the boys marked this kind of activity.

**Missed schooldays**

In the previous month before questioning 42% of the students were absent at school because of illness. ( February is the usual month of influenza epidemic in Hungary.) 14% of them missed 1-2 schooldays because of „skipping" and 3% missed 3 or more days. 28% of the respondents missed 1-2 days for other reasons. The difference between the sexes is not worth mentioning. The girls more often referred to illness, the boys more often marked skipping or other reasons.

**Average grades**

The school performance of the students is measured by a scale from 5 to 1 in Hungary. 5 is the best and 1 is the worst mark. We classified grades between 1-2,9 as the low range, from 3 to 3,9 as middle range and from 4 as the high range. Based on this scale 25,4% of the respondents belong to the low category, 45,2% of them to the middle one and 29,4% had high grades. The rate of high grades was two times higher among girls and the rate of low grades half of the results than among boys.

**Parents level of schooling**

7,8% of the students marked primary school or less when answering about the highest level of education father completed. The most frequent qualification of the fathers (39,6%) is skilled worker training school (8 years elementary school and 3 years vocational education). 27% of the students mentioned completed secondary school and 20,6% of them college or university degree. A bit higher rate of the mothers completed primary school (13,2%), secondary school (36,8%), college or university (22,7%). Fewer mothers completed skilled worker training school.

**Household composition**

Overwhelming majority of the students (94,4%) live together with their mothers, 78,3% of them live with their fathers and 79,5% have got a brother or sister. 7,7% of the respondents have got step father and 2,1% have got step mother. Altogether 0,2% of the youngsters live alone.

**Family situation**

Almost half of the secondary school students (47,2%) think that their family lives on the average. Rather few of them (8%) think that they live worse than the average (8,8% of the

girls and 7,2% of the boys marked this answer). But the rate of those who live better than the average is considerably high (44,9%). 47,3% of the boys and 42,4% of the girls shared this opinion.

**Satisfaction with relations**

86% of the students are satisfied with their relations to their friends. A large proportion of them is satisfied with the relation to their mothers. Only 64% of them are satisfied with relation to their father. The rate of unsatisfaction shows a similar tendency. They are most rarely satisfied with their friends, then mothers and most frequently unsatisfied with their fathers. It is noteworthy that the girls are usually less satisfied with their relations than the boys.

**Parents knowledge about Saturday evenings**

72% of the respondents answered that their parents always know where they spend Saturday evenings. Only 6,4% of them marked „rarely know" or „usually do not know". The rate of those who tell the parents where they go on Saturday evenings is higher among the girls. So the parents know about the Saturday programme of the majority. But we have already mentioned the problem coming up while pilot questioning that recently the youngsters have spent the evening with their friends on Friday. So it is possible if the question had referred to Friday evenings we would have got lower rates.

## O. Socio-economic status and drug habits

The correlation of drug consumption with the parents level of schooling shows deviation that is difficult to interpret. Only heavy smoking (40 or more cigarettes in their lives or 10 or more cigarettes a day) is less wide-spread among the children of higher educated parents. Consumption of any other kinds of drugs is more wide-spread among the children of higher educated parents and less frequent among the children of low educated parents. It is also true in the case of drinking alcohol 6 or more times in the last 30 days, consuming illicit drugs, alcohol with medicines and sniffing. If we take only the girls into consideration a similar tendency can be observed, namely the rate of smoking is the lowest among the children of higher educated parents and the consumption of any other drugs the most wide-spread among

them. Examining the boys we can lay down that smoking, drunkenness, consumption of amphetamines and LSD are the most wide-spread among the sons of the parents who completed secondary school. The children of middle and high educated parents show similar frequencies in consumption of other drugs. It is also true among the boys that the rate of drug use, except smoking, is the lowest among the children of low educated parents. At this point of data processing we cannot establish yet whether the children of high educated parents really take more drugs or they are more sincere when confessing drug use. The reasons for the latter explanation could be the amendment of drug law at the time of questioning. This fact could result fear and lower rate of confession in the families with lower socio-economic status. But the new law does not mention licit drugs, so the higher rate of confession among the children of high educated parents cannot be explained this way.

## P. Household composition and drug habits

The rate of consumption is the lowest among the children who live together with their natural parents. Much higher frequencies are characteristic of the families with one parent. The rate of most drugs is even higher in those cases where there are a natural and a step parent (higher than in families with one parent). The most frequent drug use is typical of the students who live in another composition of families. The lifetime prevalence of illicit drugs in the last group is 25,6%, in the first group 10,6%. This rate with the exception of marijuana is 17,3% in „other composition" of families and only 4,1% in the families with two natural parents.
There is a remarkable difference between boys and girls. The step parent has a „bad" impact on the girls. The girl growing up with one parent have lower prevalence rate than those who have a natural and a step parent. The lifetime prevalence is the highest in this group. In spite of these data the step parent has a „good" impact on boys. The prevalence of boys who live with a natural parent and a step parent is lower than of those who have only one parent.

## R. Module B

We put the question about watching TV an video into the questionnaire. Based on the answers more than half of 16-year-old secondary school students watches TV or video at least 3 hours

on an average weekday. 58,7% of the boys and 52% of the girls sit in front of the TV at least 3 hours. 19,5% of the boys and 25,3% of the girls watches TV maximum 1 hour. So the secondary school students spend quite a lot of time watching TV, the girls sit there shorter time than the boys.

## S. Module C

We used questions C1, C2, C3 from Module C.

Based on the answers of students about their general feeling the main characteristics are the followings: The girls have worse opinion about themselves than the boys. There is only one question where the tendency is opposite: „ I do not have much to be proud of". The bigger part of the girls did not agree with it. There is no significant difference between the two sexes in the answers to the establishment: "I feel useless at times". 54,9% of the girls and 56,5% of the boys agree or strongly agree with it.

The frequency often answers show that the girls reacted to the establishments of C2 more sensitively, similarly to C1. One quarter of them and 14,2% of the boys had difficulty in concentrating on what he/she wanted to do. Nearly one third of the girls and 14,2% of the boys feels often depressed. One quarter of them had to put great effort and pressure to do the things. 28,5% of the girls and 11,3% of the boys fells often sad. The students rarely marked lost of appetite and could not do his/her work.

The boys and girls similarly answered the questions referring to anomie. But we should not ignore the rate of „do not know" answers to most establishments. In our opinion the answers definitely show that the Hungarian secondary school students have a lot of insecurity in their lives. More than the half of the respondents agreed with the sentence: I never can be certain of anything in life. The rate of those is similarly high who feel that it is difficult to trust anything changes. Nearly half of the respondents agree that there are very few rules absolute in life. A remarkably small part of them agree that they break most rules if they do not seem to apply. It is important because another surveys anomie of the adult population also showed that breaking rules is acceptable by a considerable part of the Hungarian society.

## V. Results among students born in 1983

In 1999 71,1% of the questioned students born in 1983 have already smoked at least once in their lives. 90,8% of them have tried alcohol and 12,5% have already used any kinds of illicit drugs.

The spread of smoking and alcohol consumption Haas not changed significantly compared to the results of ESPAD95. The prevalence of smoking in last 30 days have slightly increased among boys and considerably among girls. The frequency and quantity of alcohol consumption, the spread of heavy drinking and the frequency of drunkenness are similar to the data of 1995. The rate of drinking large quantities and drunkenness decreased among boys but increased among girls. Based on the data about last month and last occasion of drinking the dominant sort of alcohol is spirits. The data about different sorts of alcohol show that the rate of spirits has increased among boys (other sort are falling)and the rate of spirits and beer has risen among girls. So the results indicate that the consumption of girl is getting nearer to the boys' quantity.

A considerable change has taken place in the use of illicit drugs. Consumption of most drugs increased in the least four years. Although marijuana was the most wide-spread drug in 1995 too, its lifetime prevalence hardly exceeded the prevalence of the opiates or sniffing. In 1999 the spread of marijuana is larger than any other drugs. Not only lifetime prevalence of marijuana has increased but also its last month prevalence. The rise in use of marijuana and the other illicit drugs has not associated with the drop of lifetime prevalence of licit drugs. The use of tranquillisers or sedatives without medical supervision rose in the last four years. Based on the methodological surveys in some counties in 1996 and as a preparation ESPAD99 in 1998 we can suppose that the increase of illicit drug use took place between 1996 and 1998. Comparing the lifetime prevalence results of 1998 conducted in the second grade of the secondary schools of the capital with the results of the present survey we can see considerably similar data. The table shows these comparison:

| Drug used | Budapest 1998. II. grade | Budapest 1999. II. grade |
|---|---|---|
| Cigarette | 72,6 | 72,8 |
| Alcohol | 92,9 | 93,0 |
| Drunkenness | 53,4 | 57,6 |
| Drug by injection | 1,5 | 0,5 |

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Marijuana, hashish | 16,9 | 24,5 |
| Amphetamines | 4,5 | 7,8 |
| LSD or other hallucinogens | 7,4 | 8,2 |
| Crack | 1,6 | 1,5 |
| Cocaine | 1,5 | 2,1 |
| Ecstasy | 5,4 | 6,3 |
| Heroin | 1,3 | 1,3 (1,0) |
| tranquillisers, sedatives without medical supervision | 10,5 | 12,3 |

The increase of illicit drugs between 1998 and 1999 can be seen in the table but this increase is lower than what comparison with ESPAD95 shows. First we supposed that the already mentioned amendment of the law will possibly result decrease in confession. So the similarity of the data in 1998 and 1999 shows not only the process that the increase of illicit drug use took place before 1998 but also the fact that the stricter law has not influenced the rate of confession.

The consumption of illicit drugs has considerably increased since 1995 among the Hungarian secondary school students. This change followed the traditional consumption habits. The spread of marijuana is rising, the use of other illicit drugs is increasing, Tranquillisers and sedatives, alcohol with medicines belong to the most popular drugs and the spread of sniffing has not fallen. The spread of drug use is completed with a slight increase of smoking and the non-declining rate of alcohol consumption.