

MEETING ABSTRACT

Open Access

# Alcohol: use and related problems - prevalence among foreigners and the natives in Belarus

Menizibeya Welcome\*, Vladimir Pereverzev

From 1<sup>st</sup> International Congress on Neurobiology and Clinical Psychopharmacology and European Psychiatric Association Conference on Treatment Guidance  
Thessaloniki, Greece. 19-22 November 2009

## Background

Alcohol use is a major public health problem. The problem of alcohol use might differ among the natives and foreigners in a given cultural milieu. Aim: To screen for the prevalence of alcohol use and related problems among the native Belarusians and foreigners in the general students population in Belarus.

## Materials and methods

A total of 1517 respondents (172 foreigners and 1345 native Belarusians) from all major cities in Belarus enrolled for the survey. Standardized AUDIT, CAGE and MAST questionnaire including other alcohol-related questions were used as a measure. All three questionnaires were administered since it has been suggested that the CAGE might show less sensitivity, compared to the results of the MAST and AUDIT in some population [1,2]. The Student's *t* and Pearson,  $\chi^2$  tests were employed for analysis of results.

## Results

Overall, 90% native Belarusians and 62% foreigners were alcohol users. Problem drinkers were 16% native Belarusians and 30% foreigners. A significant increase (in approximately 2 times) in the rate of alcohol use after a 2-4 years stay in Belarus was noted among the foreigners ( $p < 0.05$ ).

## Conclusions

There is a significant difference in the pattern of alcohol use among the foreigners and native Belarusians. The rate of alcohol use and related problems is higher among foreigners, compared to the native Belarusians.

Published: 22 April 2010

## References

1. Welcome MO, Razvodovsky YE, Dotsenko EA, Pereverzev VA: Prevalence of alcohol-linked problems among Nigerian students in Minsk, Belarus and their academic performance. *Pirt Harcourt Med J* 2008, **3**(2):120-129.
2. Catherine LGC: Global status report on alcohol. Geneva. WHO 2004.

doi:10.1186/1744-859X-9-S1-S213

**Cite this article as:** Welcome and Pereverzev: Alcohol: use and related problems - prevalence among foreigners and the natives in Belarus. *Annals of General Psychiatry* 2010 **9**(Suppl 1):S213.

Submit your next manuscript to BioMed Central and take full advantage of:

- Convenient online submission
- Thorough peer review
- No space constraints or color figure charges
- Immediate publication on acceptance
- Inclusion in PubMed, CAS, Scopus and Google Scholar
- Research which is freely available for redistribution

Submit your manuscript at  
www.biomedcentral.com/submit



Department of Human Physiology, Belarusian state medical university, Minsk, Belarus