

Substance use disorders among male general secondary school students in Ca iro

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This work was conducted in the Institute of Psychiatry, Ain-Shams University Hospitals during the educational year 2001-2002. The study aimed to collect data about the abuse of alcohol, tobacco and other drugs among Cairo students born in 1986-1988. A pilot study, followed by study proper using MEDSPAD (Mediterranean School Project on Alcohol and other Drugs) survey design was done. The study assessed 638 male students distributed among six schools in urban, semi-urban and rural areas in Cairo. In each area, one governmental and one private school were selected. For each school, three classes representing the secondary educational levels were randomly studied. The prevalence of cigarette smoking was 30.4%, alcohol 24.3%, hashish/bango 5.5%, inhalants 5.5% and other drugs (sedatives and tranquilizers, hallucinogenic, ecstasy, amphetamines, heroin, cocaine and anabolic steroids) 11%. Those students who had never taken any illicit drug constituted 88.2%. The study concluded that substance