Abstract

Substance Consumption in University Students and the Relationship with Self-Esteem and Psychological Well-Being

Liliana Mendes 1,2*, Levi Leonido 3,4, Bruna Soares, Tânia Guimarães, Cátia Romão, Mariana Guerra, Elsa Morgado 5,6

Conflict of interest: nothing to declare. Funding: nothing to declare.

The consumption of psychoactive substances by university students is a subject that has progressively gained more attention in the literature. However, there is still a lot of disagreement on this topic. Thus, the present study intends to relate the impact of substance consumption habits (alcohol, tobacco and other psychoactive substances) with self-esteem and psychological well-being in university students in order to acquire a better understanding of this problem. The present study is characterised as being descriptive, cross-sectional, quantitative and correlational. The sample consists of 460 university students aged between 18 and 66 years old. Of these participants, 299 are biologically female, 158 are biologically male, and 3 identify with another gender. The

¹Coimbra Institute for Clinical and Biomedical Research, Coimbra, Portugal

² Research Center in Sports Sciences, Health Sciences and Human Development - CIDESD, Vila Real, Portugal

³ Research Centre for Science and Technology of the Arts - CITAR, Portuguese Catholic University, Porto, Portugal

⁴ School of Human and Social Sciences, University of Trás-os-Montes e Alto Douro, Vila Real, Portugal

⁵ Instituto Politécnico de Bragança, Bragança, Portugal

⁶ Centro de Estudos Filosóficos e Humanísticos – CEFH, Portuguese Catholic University, Braga, Portugal

^{*}E-mail: liliana.mendes@icnas.uc.pt

instruments used were a sociodemographic questionnaire, the Psychological Well-Being Manifestation Measure Scale and the Rosenberg Self-Esteem Scale. The results showed the absence of statistically significant differences in terms of self-esteem and psychological well-being according to substance use. Furthermore, it appears that only the consumption of psychoactive substances other than alcohol or tobacco was significantly higher in male participants than in female participants.

