Medical Research Agency

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Self-study of ABM on addictive substance use

The risk factor that has caused the highest loss of healthy life years in Poland since 1990 is smoking. Every third Pole smokes traditional cigarettes on a daily basis. Soon, the Agency for Medical Research plans to launch an in-house study entitled 'Analysis of the prevalence and factors associated with the use of selected addictive substances in the Polish population'.

The study will be conducted by the ABM team with the principal investigator, who in the project will be Łukasz Balwicki, MD, PhD, Professor of the Medical University of Gdańsk (GUMed), Head of the Department of Public Health and Social Medicine at GUMed, and his team including such specialists as Professor Dorota Kaleta of the Medical University of Łódź and Ewelina Chawłowska, PhD, of the Medical University of Poznań.

The ABM's own study will aim to gather reliable information among a representative sample of the Polish population on their use of new nicotine products such as electronic cigarettes and heated tobacco. The outcome of the project is expected to be a comprehensive description of the use not only of traditional cigarettes, but also of new nicotine products.

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Poland is a market of rapid penetration of new tobacco products - particularly among youth and young adults. Basing health policy decisions by public authorities on thorough knowledge and critical analysis of data is one of the most important elements for effective action. Conducting sound, rigorous research will therefore allow for the design of effective health policies.

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