

Students' risk behaviors and selected dimensions of a school culture: a students' perspective

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Context

School culture and climate was found to be associated with youth substance use, school victimization, school misconduct and low academic performance (DeWit, 2002)

Aim

To examine opinions of 14-years old students about selected dimensions of school culture in two Warsaw middle schools chosen because of the high or low prevalence of student risky behaviors (alcohol, cigarette, pain reliever use, violence).

Method

The study was conducted in 2010 in four purposely selected Warsaw schools; two "good" and two "bad". Two schools were selected for further analysis - a school labeled "A" with the highest and a school labeled "B" with the lowest indicators of risky behaviors. Essays written by 143 students (from schools A and B) about the theme „How are you getting along with your school?” were analyzed.

Results

