ALCOHOL CONSUMPTION PATTERNS AMONG VOCATIONAL SCHOOL STUDENTS IN CENTRAL THAILAND

Wisit Chaveepojnkamjorn

Department of Epidemiology, Faculty of Public Health, Mahidol University, Bangkok, Thailand

Abstract. The objective of this study was to evaluate alcohol consumption patterns among vocational school students in central Thailand. We conducted a cross-sectional study among 1,803 vocational students (80.4% aged < 17 years) in central Thailand using a self-administered questionnaire which consisted of 2 parts: sociodemographic factors and alcohol drinking behavior from December 2007 to February 2008. Descriptive statistics, a chi-square test and multiple logistic regression were used to analyze the data. The results of this study showed 40.9% of male students and 20.9% of female students drank alcoholic beverages. Multiple logistic regression analysis revealed 2 factors were associated with alcohol consumption among male subjects: field of study (OR 1.5, 95% CI 1.1-2.0), and GPA (OR < 2 = 1.8; 95% CI 1.2-2.7; OR > 3 = 0.6; 95% CI 0.4-0.9). The three most popular venues for drinking were at parties (43.1%), at home/in the dormitory (34.9%) and in bars or saloons near the school (20.9%). Fifty-three point two percent of males drinks alcohol 1-2 times per month and time, 47% drank > 2 times per month. Nearly 78% of female students drink alcohol 1-2 times per month and 22% drink alcohol > 2 time per month. Forty point nine percent of male students consumed 1-2 drinks per time and 36% consumed more than 4 drinks per time. Fifty point four percent of females drank 2 drinks per month. One-third of male students said they engaged in binge drinking in a 2-week period and 14% of girls said they binge drank in a 2-week period. Alcohol consumption is a significant problem among Thai vocational school students. Measures for managing this problem are discussed.

Keywords: alcohol consumption patterns, vocational school students, central Thailand