

Problem of drug addiction in the youth in the Republic of North Ossetia-Alania of the RF North Caucasian Federal District



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Abstract. This article is based on the large-scale survey “the problem of drug addiction among the youth in the Republic of North Ossetia-Alania of the RF North Caucasian Federal District”. In April-May North Ossetian Center of Social Research of the Institute of Socio-Political Research RAS together with North Ossetian State University after K.L. Khetagurov conducted a monitoring aimed at evaluating the drug abuse situation in the Republic of North Ossetia-Alania and identifying the causes of drug abuse among young citizens of the republic. It studied the system of beliefs, habits and aspirations of young people. The research focused on the sociological assessment of the drug abuse situation in the Republic of North Ossetia and it was based on the study of systems of beliefs, habits and preferences of the residents, as well as on the identification of the reasons for the spread of drug addiction among the population. The achievement of this goal required solution of the following tasks:

- to evaluate beliefs, value systems, life plans, the state of health of the North Ossetia-Alania citizens, learn their opinion on the possibility of rational leisure time and recreation by means of monitoring;

- to assess bad habits of the republic citizens, estimate the society's relation to the problems of drug addiction and drug addicts, analyze the reasons for the emergence and existence of this phenomenon in the society;
- to evaluate effectiveness of the measures to combat drug addiction;
- to identify reasons for drug addiction, most frequently used types of drugs, the cost of a single dose, a market place and consumers' access to drugs;
- to assess practical activities aimed at improving the drug abuse situation in the republic. The sample size was 600 people.

Key words: liberalization, psychotropic substances, drug dealers, drug addiction, drug addicts, former drug addicts, lectures and talks, adolescent, prosperous European countries, advertising, authorities, pupils, students, pleasure, feelings, stress relief, high level of income, drug treating.

Measures against drug use

In the scientific literature, on paper and on the Internet there are plenty of sources that reflect the research methods to socialize drug addicts. The most extensive sector of such information demonstrates drug addiction as a social, medical, psychological phenomenon. The experts have developed research areas in the field of drug prevention. However, the survey of social events, conducted in this direction, is presented insufficiently. It often just registers the measures carried out by ministries, departments and associations without their proper evaluation.

Sometimes the publications authors only consider activities, such as thematic lectures, discussions in certain educational institutions, claiming that the projection of the latter on a larger audience can be effective [9]. Some publications in the journal "Narcology" are exceptions [8]. This article fully presents an overview of drug prevention resources of the Russian-speaking segment of the Internet. The main attention is paid to the description of the informational projects implemented by the

government agencies, private entities and individuals. The analysis of advantages and disadvantages of the thematic Internet-projects created for the drug use prevention. These reviews help form a clear picture of drug prevention activities, performed in our country and the world, highlight the most effective of them and give recommendations in this direction to the social institutions.

According to some experts, participated in our study, in the Republic of North Ossetia-Alania there are many public events aimed at drug prevention. The Ministry of Youth Affairs, Physical Culture and Sports, the Youth Parliament held a number of successful events with the participation of pop singers and dance groups. However, propaganda, its scale and frequency, is still weak. This discloses people's insufficient awareness about these events, and their concentration mainly in the capital and irregular character.

Over half of the respondents answered the question about the concerts and festivals against drug use negatively: "For the last two years I have not come across them" (52.3%). Other survey participants

can be divided into two practically equal groups: “I have participated, seen, heard” (23.4%) and “I have known about it from friends, acquaintances, read about it” (24.3%). The responses of Vladikavkaz residents are identical to those in the general survey. So, 52.7% of Vladikavkaz also have not come across them for the last two years. The rest of responses are divided into 2 groups: “I have participated, seen, heard” (22.8%), and “I have known about it from friends, acquaintances, read about it” (24.5%) (tab. 1).

The answers of the respondents living in the region vary greatly. So, the respondents of Digorsky District (77.4%) and Alagirsky District (70.4%) are the least aware of the activities. Then, the same answers are given by 57.1% of the Kirovsky District residents, 55.2% of Mozdoksky District, 48.45 of Pravoberezhny District and 44.4% of Ardonsky District. The least number of the answer “For the last 2 years I have not come across them” is registered in Irafsky District (31.0%). The answer “I have participated, seen, heard” is given

by 41.9% of the Pravoberezhny District residents, 37.9% of the Irafsky District residents, 24.1% of the Mozdoksky District residents, 22.6% of the Prigorodny District residents, 22.2% of the Ardonsky District residents, 21.4% of the Kirovsky District residents. The least number of the response “I have participated, seen, heard” (14.8%) is observed in Alagirsky District

The answer “I have known about it from friends, acquaintances, read about it” is given by 45.2% of the Prigorodny District residents, one third of the Ardonsky District residents, 31.0% the Irafsky District residents, 21.4% the Kirovsky District residents, 20.7% the Mozdoksky District residents, 16.1% of the Digorsky District residents, 14.8% of the Alagirsky District residents. The respondents from Pravoberezhny District give the answer “I have learned about it from friends, acquaintances, read about it” least of all (9.7%).

The respondents living in the region are poorly informed about the concerts and festivals dedicated to the campaign to combat drugs.

Table 1. What drug prevention measures have you come across for the last two years, and how much have you been interested? (Special concerts, festivals; %)

	All respondents	Place of survey								
		Vladikavkaz	Alagirsky District	Ardonsky District	Digorsky District	Irafsky District	Kirovsky District	Mozdoksky District	Pravoberezhny District	Prigorodny District
I have participated, seen, heard	23.4	22.8	14.8	22.2	6.5	37.9	21.4	24.1	41.9	22.6
I have learned about it from friends, acquaintances, read about it	24.3	24.5	14.8	33.3	16.1	31.0	21.4	20.7	9.7	45.2
For the last 2 years I have not come across them	52.3	52.7	70.4	44.4	77.4	31.0	57.1	55.2	48.4	32.3
	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

On average, about 70% of the respondents answer “For the last 2 years I have not come across them”. The share of those who answer “I have participated, seen, heard” does not exceed 40% and amounts to 25% on average. The negative answers are especially wide-spread among the respondents of Digorsky District: more than 70% have no idea about current activities; the number of people participated in the events is significantly lower than in other districts of the republic.

So, in the districts of North Ossetia-Alania there is a large percentage of those who are not aware of the republic’s drug prevention events (concerts, festivals). Irafsky District is the only exception: its residents are equally unaware of the measures and aware from friends. It is noteworthy that teenagers, pupils and students of secondary specialized educational establishments are least aware of such events (about 50%); less than a third of the university students know about them.

More than half of the large-scale survey participants (55.4%) claim “I have parti-

cipated, seen, heard” regarding anti-drug advertising on television, radio, in the press (*tab. 2*).

23.0% of them have learned about these events from friends or have read, 21.5% have not come across them for the last 2 years. The capital residents have participated, seen, heard more often (65.7%). 16.7% have learned about them from friends, acquaintances, read about it, 17.6% have not come across them for the last 2 years.

The villagers’ responses vary greatly. Thus, the residents of Prigorodny District and Irafsky districts have participated, seen, heard about the events more than others (74.2 and 70.0%, respectively). The least activity was shown by the respondents from Digorsky District (22.6%), Alagirsky District and Ardonsky District (both 25.9%). About half of the respondents from Mozdoksky District (51.6%), Pravoberezhny District (45.2%) and Kirovsky District (41.9%) have participated, seen, heard about the measures. The Ardonsky District residents (66.7%) have learned about it from friends,

Table 2. What drug prevention measures have you come across for the last two years, and how much have you been interested? (Anti-drug advertising on television, radio, in the press; %)

	All respondents	Place of survey								
		Vladikavkaz	Alagirsky District	Ardonsky District	Digorsky District	Irafsky District	Kirovsky District	Mozdoksky District	Pravoberezhny District	Prigorodny District
I have participated, seen, heard	55.4	65.7	25.9	25.9	22.6	70.0	41.9	51.6	45.2	74.2
I have learned about it from friends, acquaintances, read about it	23.0	16.7	25.9	66.7	9.7	26.7	38.7	22.6	25.8	22.6
For the last 2 years I have not come across them	21.5	17.6	48.1	7.4	67.7	3.3	19.4	25.8	29.0	3.2
	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

acquaintances, read about it more than other respondents. The share of such respondents in other districts varies between a third and a quarter: namely, 38.7% of the responses are given by the respondents of Kirovsky District, 26.7% – Irafsky District, 25.9% – Alagirsky District, 25.8% – Pravoberezhny District, 22.6% Mozdoksky District and Prigorodny District. The respondents from Digorsky District (9.7%) are less informed about the current events. 67.7% of the Digorsky District residents and 48.1% of the Alagirsky District residents have not come across them for the last 2 years. The same answer is given by 29.0% of the respondents of Pravoberezhny District, 25.8% – of Mozdoksky District, 19.4% – of Kirovsky District and 7.4% – of Ardonsky District. The share of such respondents in Irafsky District and Prigorodny District is negligible – 3.3 and 3.2%, respectively.

According to *table 3*, the respondents in North Ossetia assess the quality of anti-drug posters and postcards negatively.

For the last two years 44.4% of all respondents have not come across such

products, about one-third (33.6 percent) have participated, seen, heard about them, 22.0% have learned about them from friends, acquaintances, read about it.

The answers given by the capital residents are similar to those of all respondents: for the last two years 47.9% have not come across such products, 34.3% have participated, seen, heard about it, 17.8% have learned about it from friends, acquaintances, read about it.

The villagers' responses are very different. Such products are least of all spread in Digorsky District (according to 77.8% of the respondents).

There is a downward trend in the answers of respondents living in other districts: 57.7% of the Alagirsky District residents, 48.4% of the Kirovsky District residents, 41.9% of the Mozdoksky District and Prigorodny District residents, 29.0% the Pravoberezhny District residents, 23.1% of the Ardonsky District residents have never seen posters or postcards for the last two years. The respondents from Irafsky District are least aware (6.7%).

Table 3. What drug prevention measures have you come across for the last two years, and how much have you been interested? (Posters, postcards; %)

	All respondents	Place of survey								
		Vladikavkaz	Alagirsky District	Ardonsky District	Digorsky District	Irafsky District	Kirovsky District	Mozdoksky District	Pravoberezhny District	Prigorodny District
I have participated, seen, heard	33.6	34.3	19.2	30.8	16.1	63.3	19.4	32.3	48.4	32.3
I have learned about it from friends, acquaintances, read about it	22.0	17.8	23.1	46.2	6.5	30.0	32.3	25.8	22.6	25.8
For the last 2 years I have not come across them	44.4	47.9	57.7	23.1	77.4	6.7	48.4	41.9	29.0	41.9
	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

There is a downward trend in the answers of respondents living in other districts: 48.4% of the Pravoberezhny District residents, and 32.3% of the Mozdoksky District and Prigorodny District residents, 30.8% of the Ardonsky District residents, 19.4% of the Kirovsky District residents, 19.2% of the Alagirsky District residents have participated, seen, heard about posters and postcards on this topic. The respondents from Digorsky District are least aware (16.1%).

Of all the surveyed residents the representatives of Ardonsky District (46.2%) are more aware about similar products from friends. There is a downward trend in the answers of respondents living in other districts: 32.3% of the Kirovsky District residents, 30.0% of the Irafsky District residents, 25.8% of the Mozdoksky District and Prigorodny District residents, 23.1% of the Alagirsky District residents, 22.6% of the Pravoberezhny District residents have learned about them from friends, read about similar products. The respondents from Digorsky District are least aware (6.5%).

So, about a third of the villagers have seen drug-prevention posters and postcards. Practically the same share has known about such products from friends or has read. The Pravoberezhny District respondents are most active in this regard. On average, about half of the villagers have not seen posters or postcards for the last two years.

As for the question about the distribution of drug prevention booklets and brochures, half of all the respondents with such a variable as “place of residence”, state that they have not come across them for the last 2 years (47.8%) (tab. 4).

28.4% choose the option “I have participated, seen, heard”; 23.7% – “I have known about it from friends, acquaintances, read about it”; 47.8% – “for the last 2 years I have not come across them”.

Exactly one third of the respondents from Vladikavkaz have participated, seen, heard about the measures, 17.0% have learned about them from friends or have read about it. Half of them have not seen drug prevention booklets and brochures for the last two years.

Table 4. What drug prevention measures have you come across for the last two years, and how much have you been interested? (Drug prevention booklets and brochures; %)

	All respondents	Place of survey								
		Vladikavkaz	Alagirsky District	Ardonsky District	Digorsky District	Irafsky District	Kirovsky District	Mozdoksky District	Pravoberezhny District	Prigorodny District
I have participated, seen, heard	28.4	33.0	11.5	25.9	6.7	17.2	25.8	13.3	60.0	29.0
I have learned about it from friends, acquaintances, read about it	23.7	17.0	34.6	59.3	6.7	51.7	32.3	33.3	3.3	25.8
For the last 2 years I have not come across them	47.8	50.0	53.8	14.8	86.7	31.0	41.9	53.3	36.7	45.2
	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

60.0% of the Pravoberezhny District residents, 29.0% of the Prigorodny District residents, 25.9% of the Ardonsky District residents, 25.8% of the Kirovsky District residents, 17.2% of the Irafsky District residents chose the answer option “I have participated, seen, heard”. This option is seldom observed among the respondents from Mozdoksky District (13.3%), Alagirsky District (11.5%), Digorsky District (6.7%). In the latter case there is a small number of answers “I have known about it from friends, acquaintances, and have read about it”.

More than half of the respondents from Ardonsky District (59.3%) and Irafsky District (51.7%), 34.6% of Alagirsky District, exactly one third of Mozdoksky District, 32.4% of Kirovsky District, 25.8% of Prigorodny District have known about it from friends, acquaintances or have read about it. The respondents from Pravoberezhny District are least aware (3.3%).

89.7% of the residents of Digorsky District, more than half of the residents of

Alagirsky District (53.8%) and Mozdoksky District (53.3%), 45.2% of Prigorodny District, 41.9% of Kirovsky District, 36.7% of Pravoberezhny District, 31.0% of the Irafsky District have not seen these products for the last two years. The respondents from Ardonsky District are least aware (14.8%).

According to the study, the citizens of the republic do not read drug prevention booklets and brochures actively: only one third of the population in Vladikavkaz, up to 30% in the rural areas. The Digorsky District residents are least aware (6.7%). The respondents from Pravoberezhny District (60%) are an exception – about half of the respondents in the republic have not seen such materials for the last two years.

The villagers’ responses vary greatly. Thus, the Prigorodny District residents have participated, seen, heard about such events more than others (80.6%). The least activity is shown by the respondents from Alagirsky District (26.9%) and Ardonsky District (18.5%) (*tab. 5*).

Table 5. What drug prevention measures have you come across for the last two years, and how much have you been interested? (Thematic programs and films on TV; %)

	All respondents	Place of survey								
		Vladikavkaz	Alagirsky District	Ardonsky District	Digorsky District	Irafsky District	Kirovsky District	Mozdoksky District	Pravoberezhny District	Prigorodny District
I have participated, seen, heard	46.3	46.9	26.9	18.5	53.3	43.3	46.7	45.2	80.6	45.2
I have learned about it from friends, acquaintances, read about it	25.1	19.7	30.8	74.1	3.3	36.7	40.0	22.6	12.9	29.0
For the last 2 years I have not come across them	28.6	33.5	42.3	7.4	43.3	20.0	13.3	32.3	6.5	25.8
	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

More than half of the population in Digorsky District (53.3%), Kirovsky District (46.7%), Irafsky District (43.3%), Mozdoksky District and Prigorodny District (45.2%) have participated, seen, heard about the measures. The Ardonsky District residents have learned about it from friends, acquaintances or have read about them more than others (74.1%). The proportion of responses from other districts is as follows: 40.0% of the answers are given by the respondents from Kirovsky District, 36.7% – from Irafsky District, 30.8% – Alagirsky District, 29.0% – Prigorodny District and 22.6% – Mozdoksky District. The respondents of Digorsky District are least informed about the ongoing promotions on TV (3.3%). Their most frequent answer variant is “For the last 2 years I have not come across them” (43.3%).

The same answer is given by 42.3% of the respondents from Alagirsky District, 32.3% – from Mozdoksky District, 25.8% – Prigorodny District and 13.3% – Kirovsky District. The share of such respondents

in Ardonsky District and Pravoberezhny District is small (7.4% and 6.5%, respectively).

As for the question about the coverage of drug-related harm in the mass media, 38.6% of all respondents have not seen articles on the topic for the last two years. The numerical data of *Table 6* show that 34.8% of the respondents have answered “I have participated, seen, heard” and 26.5% of them have learned about it from friends, acquaintances or have read about it. 36.2% of the respondents from Vladikavkaz choose the answer option “I have participated, seen, heard” and 23.4% – “I have known about it from friends, acquaintances, and read about it”. 40.4% of the respondents have not seen them for the last 2 years (*tab. 6*).

The villagers’ responses are very different. Thus, the residents of Pravoberezhny District and Prigorodny District have participated, seen, heard about the measures more than others (54.8 and 51.7%, respectively). The least activity is shown by the respondents from Alagirsky District

Table 6. What drug prevention measures have you come across for the last two years, and how much have you been interested? (Articles in the press; %)

	All respondents	Place of survey								
		Vladikavkaz	Alagirsky District	Ardonsky District	Digorsky District	Irafsky District	Kirovsky District	Mozdoksky District	Pravoberezhny District	Prigorodny District
I have participated, seen, heard	34.8	36.2	19.2	33.3	12.9	40.0	22.6	32.3	54.8	51.7
I have learned about it from friends, acquaintances, read about it	26.5	23.4	26.9	44.4	16.1	33.3	29.0	35.5	22.6	31.0
For the last 2 years I have not come across them	38.6	40.4	53.8	22.2	71.0	26.7	48.4	32.3	22.6	17.2
	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

(12.9%) and Digorsky District (12.9%). A third of the respondents from Ardonsky District, 22.6% – from Kirovsky District, 40.0% – Irafsky District and 32.3% – Mozdoksky District have participated, saw, heard about the events. The respondents from Ardonsky District have learned about them from friends or have read about them (44.4%). The share of respondents from other districts is the following: 29.0% of the answers are given by the residents of Kirovsky District, exactly one third – of Irafsky District, 26.9% – Alagirsky District, 31.0% – Prigorodny District and 35.5% – Mozdoksky District. Digorsky District is the least informed about ongoing promotions on TV (16.1%). Its population prefers the answer option “For the last 2 years I have not come across them” (71.0%).

The same answer is given by 53.8% of the respondents from Alagirsky District, 48.4% – from Kirovsky District, 32.3% – Mozdoksky District and 22.6% – Pravoberezhny District. The share of such respondents in Ardonsky District and Prigorodny District is small (22.2 and 17.2%, respectively).

According to Table 6, the population of North Ossetia is not particularly interested in the articles on drug prevention, so only half of the respondents give positive answers.

35.9% of all the respondents have not seen publications on the Internet and specialized sites for the last two years. 39.5% of all respondents have participated, seen, heard about publications on the Internet, about a quarter (24.6%) have known about them from friends, acquaintances, read about them.

The answers of the respondents who live in the capital are similar to those of all respondents. 35.0% in the last two years have not come across this information, 43.9% have participated, seen, heard about it and 21.1% have learned from friends, acquaintances, read about it. The villagers' answers are different.

The majority of people in Digorsky District have not seen such publications on the Internet or on specialized sites for the last two years (90.0%). The answers of other districts' residents are presented in the descending order: 56.7% – Kirovsky District, 40.0% – Mozdoksky District, 25.9% – Ardonsky District, 23.1% – Alagirsky District, 20.7% – Irafsky District. The population of Pravo-berezhny District and Prigorodny District has negative responses least of all (19.4 and 16.1%, respectively) (*tab. 7*).

The residents of Prigorodny District have seen publications on the Internet more often than others (64.5%). The answers of other districts' respondents are presented in the descending order: 58.1% of the residents of Pravoberezhny District, 43.3% of Mozdoksky District, exactly a third of Ardonsky District, 30.8% of Alagirsky District, 24.1% of Irafsky District, 16.7% of Kirovsky District have participated, seen, heard of Internet publications on such topics. The population in Digorsky District is least informed (6.7%).

The Irafsky District residents have known about such sites from friends, read about them more than other interviewees (55.2%). The answers of other districts' respondents are presented in the descending

Table 7. What drug prevention measures have you come across for the last two years, and how much have you been interested? (Publications on the Internet, specialized sites; %)

	All respondents	Place of survey								
		Vladikavkaz	Alagirsky District	Ardonsky District	Digorsky District	Irafsky District	Kirovsky District	Mozdoksky District	Pravoberezhny District	Prigorodny District
I have participated, seen, heard	39.5	43.9	30.8	33.3	6.7	24.1	16.7	43.3	58.1	64.5
I have learned about it from friends, acquaintances, read about it	24.6	21.1	46.2	40.7	3.3	55.2	26.7	16.7	22.6	19.4
For the last 2 years I have not come across them	35.9	35.0	23.1	25.9	90.0	20.7	56.7	40.0	19.4	16.1
	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

order: 46.2% of the residents of Alagirsky District, 40.7% – of Ardonsky District, 26.7% – of Kirovsky District, 22.6% – of Pravoberezhny District, 19.4% – of Prigorodny District and 16.7% – of Mozdoksky District have learned from friends, acquaintances, read this information. The respondents of Digorsky District are least informed (3.3%).

More than a third of the respondents from villages have seen web-sites on drug prevention. About a quarter of the respondents have known from friends, acquaintances, read about it.

The most informed respondents are Prigorodny District residents (over 60%), the least informed – Digorsky District residents (90% of them have no idea about it). On average, about 40% of the villagers have not seen web-sites on this topic for the last two years.

As for the famous people's speeches on drug-related harm, about half of the respondents in the republic (48.1%) have not heard them for the last two years (*tab. 8*).

The rest survey answers can be divided into two groups: "I have participated, seen, heard" (26.9%) and "I have learned about it from friends, acquaintances, read about it" (25.0%). The responses of residents of Vladikavkaz are similar to those of the general survey. So, 50.4% of the population in Vladikavkaz has not come across them for the last 2 years. The rest of the respondents almost evenly divide their votes between two variants of answers: "I have participated, seen, heard" (28.3%) and "I have learned about it from friends, acquaintances, read about it" (21.3%). The villagers' responses vary greatly. So, the respondents from Digorsky District (67.7%) and Kirovsky District (58.1%) have not heard such speeches. The same answer is given by 51.6% of the residents of Pravoberezhny District, 46.2% of Alagirsky District, 41.9% of Prigorodny District, 37.9% of Irafsky District and 30.0% of Mozdoksky District. The Ardonsky District residents choose the answer option "For the last 2 years I have not come across them" least of all (29.6%).

Table 8. What drug prevention measures have you come across for the last two years, and how much have you been interested? (Speeches of famous people in the field of politics and art in the media; %)

	All respondents	Place of survey								
		Vladikavkaz	Alagirsky District	Ardonsky District	Digorsky District	Irafsky District	Kirovsky District	Mozdoksky District	Pravoberezhny District	Prigorodny District
I have participated, seen, heard	26.9	28.3	7.7	14.8	22.6	20.7	19.4	50.0	35.5	29.0
I have learned about it from friends, acquaintances, read about it	25.0	21.3	46.2	55.6	9.7	41.4	22.6	20.0	12.9	29.0
For the last 2 years I have not come across them	48.1	50.4	46.2	29.6	67.7	37.9	58.1	30.0	51.6	41.9
	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

The answer variant “I have participated, seen, heard” is preferred by exactly half of the respondents from Mozdoksky District, 35.5% – from Pravoberezhny District, 29.0% – Prigorodny District, 20.7% – Irafsky District, 19.4% – Kirovsky District and 14.8% – Ardonsky District. The fewest responses “I have participated, seen, heard” are given by the respondents from Alagirsky District (7.7%).

The answer variant “I have learned about it from friends, acquaintances, read about it” is preferred by 55.6% of the respondents from Ardonsky District, 46.2% – from Alagirsky District, 41.4% – Irafsky District, 29.0% – Prigorodny District, 22.6% – Kirovsky District and 20.0% – Mozdoksky District. The fewest responses “I have learned about it from friends, acquaintances, read about it” are given by the respondents from Digorsky District (9.7%).

As for the reports of physicians, policemen, drug enforcement officers presented in the media, about one-third of the

surveyed (34.2%) mention that they have not come with them for the last two years. Other participants divide their votes between two variants of answers: “I have participated, seen, heard” (40.1%) and “I have learned about it from friends, acquaintances, read about it” (25.7%). The responses of the Vladikavkaz residents are similar to those in the general survey.

So, 32.4% of the Vladikavkaz respondents have not come across them for the last two years. The rest divide their votes between two variants of answers: “I have participated, seen, heard” (45.6%) and “I have known about it from friends, acquaintances, read about it” (22.0%) (tab. 9).

The residents of Digorsky District (71.0%) and Kirovsky District (48.1%) have not come across them for the last two years. The same answer option is chosen by the 41.9% of the respondents from Pravoberezhny District, 38.5% – from Alagirsky District, 22.6% – Prigorodny District and 29.0% – Mozdoksky District.

Table 9. What drug prevention measures have you come across for the last two years, and how much have you been interested? (Speeches of physicians, policemen, drug enforcement officers; %)

	All respondents	Place of survey								
		Vladikavkaz	Alagirsky District	Ardonsky District	Digorsky District	Irafsky District	Kirovsky District	Mozdoksky District	Pravoberezhny District	Prigorodny District
I have participated, seen, heard	40.1	45.6	23.1	28.6	25.8	48.3	22.6	45.2	38.7	41.9
I have learned about it from friends, acquaintances, read about it	25.7	22.0	38.5	53.6	3.2	34.5	29.0	25.8	19.4	35.5
For the last 2 years I have not come across them	34.2	32.4	38.5	17.9	71.0	17.2	48.4	29.0	41.9	22.6
	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

The respondents from Irafsky District prefer the answer variant “For the last 2 years I have not come across them” least of all (17.2%).

The response “I have participated, seen, heard” is given by 48.3% of the respondents from Irafsky District, 45.2% – from Mozdoksky District, 38.7% – Pravoberezhny District, 41.9% – Prigorodny District and 28.6% – Ardonsky District, 25.8% – Digorsky District and 23.1% – Alagirsky District. The population of Kirovsky District has have participated, seen, heard about such reports least of all (22.6%). The answer option “I have learned about it from friends, acquaintances, read about it” is preferred by 53.6% of the respondents from Ardonsky District, 38.5% – from Alagirsky District, 34.5% – Irafsky District, 35.5% – Prigorodny District, 29.0% – Kirovsky District and 25.8% – Mozdoksky District. The Digorsky District residents have learned about it from friends, acquaintances, read about it least of all (3.2%).

The representatives of Irafsky District are informed about the reports of physicians,

policemen, drug enforcement officers to a greater extent (48.3%). Digorsky District (71.0% of the respondents) and Kirovsky District (48.1%) have not come across such statements more than others.

As for the drug prevention lectures and seminars carried out in schools, 40.3% of the respondents have not come across them for the last two years.

Other participants of the survey divide their votes between two variants of answers: “I have participated, seen, heard” (35.7%) and “I have learned about it from friends, acquaintances, read about it” (24.1%). The responses of the Vladikavkaz residents are similar to those in the general survey. So, 38.2% of the Vladikavkaz respondents have not come across such seminars for the last two years. The rest divide their votes almost evenly between two variants of answers: “I have participated, seen, heard” (37.0%) and “I have learned about it from friends, acquaintances, read about it” (24.8%). The answers of the respondents living in the region are different. So, the residents of Digorsky District (74.2%) and Kirovsky

District (58.1%) have not come across such events more than others. The same answer is given by 57.7% of the residents of Alagirsky District, 45.2% – of Pravoberezhny District, 34.5% – Mozdoksky District, 32.3% – Prigorodny District and exactly a quarter – Ardonsky District. The respondents from Irafsky District answer “For the last 2 years I have not come across them” least of all (10.3%) (*tab. 10*).

The answer variant “I have participated, seen, heard” is preferred by 44.8% of the respondents of Mozdoksky District, 45.2% – of Pravoberezhny District, 32.3% – Prigorodny District, 58.6% – Irafsky District, 19.4% – Kirovsky District and 32.1% – Ardonsky District. The respondents from Alagirsky District choose such a variant least of all (15.4%).

The answer option “I have learned about it from friends, acquaintances, read about it” is preferred by 42.9% of the residents of Ardonsky District, 26.9% – of Alagirsky District, 31.0% – Irafsky District, 35.5% – Prigorodny District, 22.6% – Kirovsky District and 20.7% – Mozdoksky District.

The Digorsky District residents do not give such an answer.

According to Table 10, from one-third to half of the respondents regardless of place of residence admit that they have not heard about seminars on drug-related harm conducted in educational institutions for the last 2 years. The Digorsky District residents are especially uninformed on this issue (74.2%); nobody among them has known about the measures from friends or read about it. On average, about one-third of the respondent-villagers have participated in such events, up to 30% have known about them from friends and acquaintances.

As for the measures to talk with parents about drug abuse and its consequences, 58.9% of the surveyed have not participated in such events for the last two years (*tab. 11*).

Other participants of the survey divide their votes were between two variants of answers: “I have participated, seen, heard” (20.3%) and “I have learned about it from friends, acquaintances, read about it” (20.8%).

Table 10. What drug prevention measures have you come across for the last two years, and how much have you been interested? (Lectures, seminars in an educational institution; %)

	All respondents	Place of survey									
		Vladikavkaz	Alagirsky District	Ardonsky District	Digorsky District	Irafsky District	Kirovsky District	Mozdoksky District	Pravoberezhny District	Prigorodny District	
I have participated, seen, heard	35.7	37.0	15.4	32.1	25.8	58.6	19.4	44.8	45.2	32.3	
I have known about it from friends, acquaintances, read about it	24.1	24.8	26.9	42.9		31.0	22.6	20.7	9.7	35.5	
For the last 2 years I have not come across them	40.3	38.2	57.7	25.0	74.2	10.3	58.1	34.5	45.2	32.3	
	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	

Table 11. What drug prevention measures have you come across for the last two years, and how much have you been interested? (Conversations with pupils' parents; %)

	All respondents	Place of survey								
		Vladikavkaz	Alagirsky District	Ardonsky District	Digorsky District	Irafsky District	Kirovsky District	Mozdoksky District	Pravoberezhny District	Prigorodny District
I have participated, seen, heard	20.3	16.9	11.5	20.0	9.7	50.0	12.9	40.0	22.6	22.6
I have learned about it from friends, acquaintances, read about it	20.8	18.6	23.1	48.0	3.2	33.3	22.6	13.3	19.4	25.8
For the last 2 years I have not come across them	58.9	64.6	65.4	32.0	87.1	16.7	64.5	46.7	58.1	51.6
	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

The responses of the Vladikavkaz residents are similar to those in the general survey. So, 64.6% of the Vladikavkaz residents have not come across them for the last 2 years. The rest divide almost evenly their votes between two variants of answers: "I have participated, seen, heard" (16.9%) and "I have learned about it from friends, acquaintances, read about it" (18.6%).

The answers of the respondents living in the region vary greatly. So, the respondents from Digorsky District (87.1%), Kirovsky District (64.5%) and Alagirsky District (64.4%) have not had such conversations with parents for the last two years more than others. The same answer option is chosen by 58.1% of the residents of Pravoberezhny District, 46.7% – of Mozdoksky District, 51.6% – Prigorodny District and 32.0% – Ardonsky District. The respondents from Irafsky District have given the answer "For the last 2 years I have not come across them" least of all (16.7%).

The response "I have participated, seen, heard" is preferred by exactly half of the respondents from Irafsky District, 40.0% –

from Mozdoksky District, 22.6% – Pravoberezhny District and Prigorodny District, 20.0% – Ardonsky District, 12.9% – Kirovsky District and 11.5% – Alagirsky District. The respondents from Digorsky District answer "I have participated, seen, heard" least of all (9.7%).

The answer variant "I have learned about it from friends, acquaintances, read about it" is chosen by 48.0% of the respondents from Ardonsky District, 23.1% – from Alagirsky District, exactly one third of the respondents from Irafsky District, 25.8% – from Prigorodny District, 22.6% – Kirovsky District and 13.3% – Mozdoksky District. The Digorsky District residents give such answer least of all (3.2%).

According to Table 11, the vast majority of the respondents irrespective of place of residence admit that they have not come across the talks with parents about the dangers of drug abuse for the last two years. The Digorsky District residents are especially uninformed (87.1%). They have not also known about it from friends or read about it (3.2%). On average, about a quarter

of the respondents-villagers have participated in such events and known about them from friends and acquaintances.

For the last two years more than half of the respondents (53.1%) have not heard about such a measure as speeches of former drug addicts. Other survey participants divide their votes were between two variants of answers: “I have participated, seen, heard” (32.2%), and “I have learned about it from friends, acquaintances, read about it” (14.7%). The responses of the Vladikavkaz residents are similar to those in the general survey. So, 56.1% of the respondents from Vladikavkaz give an answer “For the last 2 years I have not come across them”. The rest respondents divide almost evenly their votes between two variants of answers: “I have participated, seen, heard” (31.2%), and “I have learned about it from friends, acquaintances, read about it” (12.7%) (*tab. 12*).

The residents of Digorsky District (64.5%), Alagirsky District (61.5%) and Prigorodny District (61.3%) have not heard such speeches for the last two years more

than others. The same is answer is given by 48.4% of the respondents of Pravoberezhny District, 43.3% – of Mozdoksky District, 53.6% – Ardonsky District and 38.7% – Kirovsky Districts. The respondents from Irafsky District have come across these measures least of all (30.0%).

The response “I have participated, seen, heard” is preferred by 53.3% of the respondents of Mozdoksky District, 46.7% – of Irafsky District, 41.9% – Pravoberezhny District, 35.5% – Kirovsky District, 29.0% – Digorsky District and 25.8% – Prigorodny District. The residents of Ardonsky District and Alagirsky District give the answer “I have participated, seen, heard” least of all (14.3% and 15.4%, respectively).

The answer option “I have learned about it from friends, acquaintances, read about it” is preferred by 32.1% of the respondents of Ardonsky District, 23.1% – of Alagirsky District, 23.3% – Irafsky District, 12.9% – Prigorodny District, 25.8% – Kirovsky District and 6.5% – Digorsky District. The Mozdoksky District residents choose this answer option least of all (3.3%).

Table 12. What drug prevention measures have you come across for the last two years, and how much have you been interested? (Speeches of former drug addicts; %)

	All respondents	Place of survey								
		Vladikavkaz	Alagirsky District	Ardonsky District	Digorsky District	Irafsky District	Kirovsky District	Mozdoksky District	Pravoberezhny District	Prigorodny District
I have participated, seen, heard	32.2	31.2	15.4	14.3	29.0	46.7	35.5	53.3	41.9	25.8
I have learned about it from friends, acquaintances, read about it	14.7	12.7	23.1	32.1	6.5	23.3	25.8	3.3	9.7	12.9
For the last 2 years I have not come across them	53.1	56.1	61.5	53.6	64.5	30.0	38.7	43.3	48.4	61.3
	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

According to Table 12, most respondents, regardless of place of residence, claim that for the last two years they have not come across such events, as speeches of former drug addicts. The residents of Digorsky District and Alagirsky District are especially uninformed on this issue (64.5% and 53.6%, respectively). Also about 25% of the respondents have participated in such events and as many have learned about them from friends and acquaintances.

Half of the experts assess the measures to combat drug abuse positively. The Ministry of Youth Affairs, Physical Culture and Sports and the Youth Parliament are working in this direction. Many events are held by the Government of the republic; recently the mass concerts have been mainly devoted to this issue. The number of published products is sufficient.

Twenty percent of the experts agree that the conditions of keeping patients at the drug abuse department of the republic hospital have been improved in recent years. On the initiative of one of the deputies the drug abuse clinic with good conditions and anonymous treatment is opened.

According to other experts (40%), the above mentioned measures are insufficient due to a lack of the global national program on combating drug trafficking. The conducted events are only half-measures. Other experts (12.0%) complain that the measures propaganda is inadequate to inform every citizen of the republic. There are those who give a negative assessment of the work the Committee for Combat the Illicit Trafficking and the feedback from the population (12.0%). Only small distributors are wanted, while the root of the problem remains untouched.

The analysis of the respondents' attitudes to the effectiveness of drug prevention measures allows us to draw the following conclusion: only about half of the respondents have expressed their opinions on this subject actively. The rest has preferred the negative answer "For the last 2 years I have not come across them".

The respondents from rural areas are poorly informed about the concerts and festivals dedicated to the fight against drugs. On average, about 70% of the respondents give an answer "For the last 2 years I have not come across them". The percentage of those who have participated, seen, heard about it does not exceed 40% and on average amounts to 25%. Especially a lot of negative answers are given by the respondents of Digorsky District: more than 70% have no idea about current events; the participation is significantly lower than among residents of other regions in the republic. It is noteworthy that teenagers, pupils and students of secondary specialized educational establishments are least aware of such events (about half); less than a third of the university students know about them.

Most respondents of North Ossetia give a negative assessment of the quality of drug prevention posters and postcards; only the well-to-do give positive and negative responses equally. About a third of the respondents-villagers have seen posters and postcards on the theme of drug-related harm. The respondents of Pravoberezhny District are most active in this respect. On average, about half of the villagers have not known about such measures.

The population of North Ossetia gives many positive assessments of programs and films on TV, dedicated to the fight against

drug addiction. The survey suggests that the population of North Ossetia is not interested in the drug prevention articles in the press, as only half of the respondents give positive estimates.

More than a third of respondents from villages have seen web-sites on the drug-related harm. About a quarter has known from friends, read about this information. Prigorodny District is most active in this sense (over 60%) and Digorsky District is least informed – 90% of them have no idea about it. On average, about 40% of the villagers have seen websites on this topic for the last two years.

The representatives of rural areas are informed about the statements of physicians, policemen, drug enforcement officers to a greater extent (48.3%). The respondents of Irafsky District (48.3%), Digorsky District (71.0%) and Kirovsky District (48.1%) have not heard about such speeches more than others.

According to the survey, from a third to a half of the respondent, irrespective of place of residence, admit that for the last two years they have not heard about the lectures, talks about the dangers of drug abuse in educational institutions of the republic. The residents of Digorsky District are especially uninformed on this issue (74.2%), nobody among them has learned about it from friends or has read about it. On average, about one-third of the respondents-villagers have participated in such events, and up to 30% have known about them from friends and acquaintances.

The survey discloses that the vast majority of respondents, irrespective of place of residence, have not come across

the conversations about drug-related harm with the students' parents for the last two years. The residents of Digorsky District are especially uninformed on this issue (87.1%), among them only 3.2% of the respondents have known about it from friends or have read. On average, about a quarter of the respondents-villagers have participated in such events, and as many have known about them from friends and acquaintances.

The overwhelming majority of the respondents, regardless of place of residence, have not come across such events, as speeches of former drug addicts, for the last two years. Digorsky District and Alagirsky District are especially uninformed on this issue (64.5% and 53.6% of the respondents, respectively). Also there is a small average percentage of the respondents from villages (about 25%) who have participated in such events and as many have known about them from friends and acquaintances.

The study of the respondents' attitude to anti-drug activities results in the following conclusions:

1. About half of the population is not aware of the carried out measures in the republic. The situation is especially bad in the rural areas, where the share of positive responses reduces to a third. In Digorsky District the number of positive responses is significantly lower than the national average.

2. The printed materials get the lowest estimates of the respondents. Published posters, postcards, booklets, brochures about the dangers of drug abuse are not popular among the population. It is obvious that their content is interesting to the public.

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