

## SOCIAL AND LEGAL ASPECTS OF THE FIGHT AGAINST PHARMACY DRUG ADDICTION AMONG MINORS

### ASPECTOS SOCIAIS E JURÍDICOS DA LUTA CONTRA A DEPENDÊNCIA DE MEDICAMENTOS DE VENDA LIVRE ENTRE MENORES

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#### Abstract

In modern conditions of social relations, new trends of drug addicts have appeared. Of particular concern is Pharmacy drug addiction among minors. This term has widely formed in the consciousness of people, especially among minors. The fight, suppression and prevention of pharmacy drug addiction has become not only the concern of the state, but also of the whole society. The prevalence of pharmacy drug addiction in Kyrgyzstan is a particular alarm and concern for law enforcement agencies and social institutions. Of particular concern is the rapid spread among young people, which in turn will lead to inevitable consequences. The relevance of the study of pharmacy drug addiction, the improvement of prevention and suppression measures poses a special task for scientists. The article, based on statistical data, content analysis, conducted a study of the spread, awareness of minors about pharmacy drug addiction. A set of measures and basic principles for the suppression and prevention of pharmacy drug addiction are proposed. This is scientific research work is financed by Osh State University (A.31/24).

#### Resumo

*Nas condições atuais das relações sociais, surgiram novas tendências entre os dependentes químicos. Motivo de particular preocupação é a dependência de medicamentos entre menores de idade. Esse conceito se consolidou amplamente na consciência das pessoas, especialmente entre os menores. O combate, a repressão e a prevenção da dependência de medicamentos tornaram-se uma preocupação não apenas do Estado, mas de toda a sociedade. A prevalência da dependência de medicamentos no Quirguistão é motivo de especial alarme e preocupação para as agências de aplicação da lei e as instituições sociais. É motivo de particular preocupação a rápida disseminação entre os jovens, o que, por sua vez, levará a consequências inevitáveis. A relevância do estudo da dependência de medicamentos de farmácia e o aprimoramento das medidas de prevenção e repressão representam uma tarefa especial para os cientistas. O artigo, com base em dados estatísticos e análise de conteúdo, realizou um estudo sobre a disseminação e a conscientização dos menores sobre a dependência de medicamentos de farmácia. É proposto um conjunto de medidas e princípios*



**Keywords:** Drug Addiction. Pharmacy Drug Addiction. Minors. Psychotropic Substances. Prevention. Suppression.

*básicos para a repressão e prevenção da dependência de medicamentos de farmácia. Este trabalho de pesquisa científica é financiado pela Universidade Estadual de Osh (A.31/24).*

**Palavras-chave:** Dependência Química. Dependência de Medicamentos de Farmácia. Menores. Substâncias Psicotrópicas. Prevenção. Repressão.

## 1 INTRODUCTION

In the current conditions of Kyrgyzstan, a number of complex structures of public relations have been formed, and the issues of their adequate legal and social regulation, protection and provision are becoming particularly acute.

The conditions of a market economy, the development of mass media, and information technologies in the system of public relations have not only brought about socially beneficial results, but also brought about negative consequences.

Kyrgyzstan, as a legitimate social state, recognizes fundamental rights and freedoms based on the human factor as an invaluable value and has been working to ensure their comprehensive implementation and protection by creating state institutions and a system of law enforcement agencies.

It is a clear fact that the value of rights and freedoms is accompanied not only by a number of positive social effects, but also by negative, socially dangerous actions in some cases.

The current criminological situation in Kyrgyzstan is not encouraging. With the increase in the number of crimes, some new elements of crime are emerging. The legislator sets himself the task of regulating and effectively implementing them, adequately addressing such phenomena.

The increase in the number of crimes committed with the use of narcotic drugs, psychotropic substances and precursors in the composition of crime is a matter of concern to the public.

Especially considering that the composition of these crimes is predominantly made up of minors, the fact that they are much more dangerous to society poses a serious

threat to the security of the state and society as a whole. It is no secret that the formation of market relations, the pursuit of profit, accompanied by the violation of moral and ethical norms, has become a profession for some people, the main goal of which is to make a profit.

There is a need for scientists, medical and social services to develop appropriate measures for prevention and suppression. Among scientists, the task of resolving the legal aspects of preventive measures and liability issues is being put forward.

There is a need to develop scientifically based provisions on issues such as preventing and suppressing offenses related to narcotic drugs, psychotropic substances and precursors, ensuring their legal regulation.

The fight against drug addiction is not only a problem for law enforcement agencies, it is a problem for the entire society and its institutions. Recently, the so-called "pharmacy drug addiction" has become especially relevant. The wide coverage of layers of the population, including minors, this disease represents a public danger. Since the destruction of the health of the young generation is equal to the destruction of the state itself.

The spread of narcotic substances and their use for non-medical purposes has become widespread in recent times

That is why the above circumstances make the study relevant.

## **2 MATERIALS AND METHODS OF RESEARCH**

In the process of the research were used statistical data of the National Statistical Committee of the Kyrgyz Republic, monitoring of interviews among the youth of the city of Osh, legislative acts on combating illegal trafficking of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances and their precursors, expert opinions in this field. In the process of the research were used general scientific and specific scientific methods of cognition such as analysis, synthesis, induction and deduction, formal logical, grammatical, systemic functional, formal legal methods of cognition.

### 3 DISCUSSION

In a state governed by the rule of law. any activity is included in the sphere of a defined law. and relations between public relations are recognized as subjects of law. Any general public authority. however limited. is exercised only within the scope of the authority granted to it. which is regulated by a defined sphere of public relations (Zhusupov. B. A.2016).

The trend of crime related to narcotics is of particular concern. According to the National Statistical Committee of the Kyrgyz Republic. it looks like this (National Statistical Committee of the Kyrgyz Republic.2024).

**Table 1**

	<b>2019</b>	<b>2020</b>	<b>2021</b>	<b>2022</b>	<b>2023</b>
Registered criminal - that's all	<b>41 622</b>	<b>31 211</b>	<b>37 784</b>	<b>45 096</b>	<b>41 961</b>
of them:					
crime. related to illegal drug trafficking	999	795	990	1 334	1 371

Drug use has increased worldwide. and the age of onset is gradually decreasing. It has been established that earlier initiation of drug use leads to more drug abuse. crime. and difficulty in abstaining. Drug use has serious physical. social. psychological. and economic consequences that. in addition to personal harm. impose high costs on individuals. families. and society (Shalabi S.F.. & Soliman M.A. 2019).

In accordance with Appendix No. 1 to the Resolution of the Government of the Kyrgyz Republic dated November 9. 2007 N 543. the CRITERIA for classifying substances as narcotic drugs. psychotropic substances or precursors are: "Medical criterion: a substance with psychoactive characteristics. in case of abuse it causes physiological and (or) psychological dependence. Social criterion: abuse of a psychoactive substance acquires such a scale that it becomes socially significant (Appendix No. 1 to the Resolution of the Government of the Kyrgyz Republic dated November 9. 2007 No. 543).

Legal criterion: - the substance. in accordance with the requirements of the Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs of 1961 (SINGLE CONVENTION No. 1137 on Narcotic Drugs. 1961 (As amended by the Protocol of 25 March 1972). the Convention on Psychotropic Substances of 1971. is included in the relevant international lists of narcotic drugs or psychotropic substances(Convention on Psychotropic Substances (concluded in Vienna on 21.02.1971).

"Pharmaceutical drugs" is an unofficial. commonly used name for drugs with a powerful analgesic or sedative effect that can be bought at a pharmacy. often without a prescription. and which can be used for non-medical purposes to achieve a state of intoxication similar to drug intoxication.

Pharmaceutical drugs containing narcotic or potent substances can be used on their own. in combination with other drugs or substances. and also used in the process of preparing other drugs (precursors).

"Pharmaceutical drugs" are usually used in large doses. Such abuse. as a rule. leads to severe intoxication of the body. as well as to mental disorders. neuroses. neurasthenia. serious exhaustion of the body. "Pharmaceutical drugs" can cause the effects of addiction. dependence and withdrawal syndrome.

The child's body is especially vulnerable to the destructive effects of pharmaceutical drugs. Minors develop addiction faster (usually from the first time) and the consequences are more severe. In addition. to enhance the sensations of intoxication. teenagers gradually increase the amount of the drug they take. This often leads to an overdose. If there are no adults nearby at this moment. tragedy cannot be avoided.

The survey we conducted among students of the southern capital gave us the following results

181 students took part in the survey

Results of the survey:

**a) Are you personally acquainted with people who use drugs to get euphoria (high)**

- Yes 24/ 13.3%
- No 156/86.2%
- Didn't try 1/0.6%

**b) What would you do if you were offered to try drugs? Most likely**

- I would refuse 89%
- I would proceed based on what drug; 2.2%
- I would act depending on the situation and mood; 1.1%
- I would try; 0%
- I don't know. 7.2%

**c) Have you tried drugs?**

- Yes 5%
- No 95%

**d) Where can I get these substances. after using which I can get euphoria (high)?**

- In apartments 2.2%
- At school 0.6%
- In a pharmacy 8.3%
- On the Internet 3.3%
- I don't know 85.1%
- In prescription pharmacies 0.6%

**e) Have you ever bought any medications from pharmacies to get euphoria (high)?**

- Yes 5.5%
- No 94.5%

**f) Why are modern youth interested in using substances that cause euphoria?**

- It's fashionable 7.2%
- It helps to forget problems 15.5%
- If you don't try it. you become an outcast among friends 3.3%
- I don't know 71.8%
- How should I know this 0.6%
- Weak psyche 0.6%
- Simple idiocy 0.6%
- Suppresses emotions 0.6%

**g) How do you feel about drugs from school talks. TV shows. newspaper articles?**

- causes a negative attitude towards drug use 61.9%
- makes me want to try 1.7%
- does not affect my attitude towards drugs 21.5%
- don't know 14.9%

**h) What would you do if you found out that your friend was using drugs?**

- I would tell my parents 19.3%
- I would advise them to go to a drug treatment center 26%
- I would talk to my friend and offer my help 35.4%
- I would do nothing. it's their personal business 18.8%

**i) How hard do you think it is to get drugs today?**

- very hard 9.4%
- easy 16%
- don't know 74%
- I don't know 0.6%

**j) What, in your opinion, can change the situation with illegal drug use**

- Changing legislation to toughen penalties for drug sales and distribution 45.9%
- Introducing mandatory drug treatment 18.2%
- Strengthening anti-drug propaganda among young people 22.1%
- Increasing the number of leisure facilities (access to clubs, sections) 7.7%

The conducted analysis raises the alarm that drug addiction has become widely available, especially widespread among young people.

The social danger of drug addiction has the property of a destructive nature of a person, in particular, the degradation of personality, mental disorders, influence on deviant behavior, violation of social psychological qualities of a person.

Long-term use of narcotic substances can lead to material need, the consequence of which is criminal behavior of the individual, the commission of serious and especially serious crimes.

This is due to the physical craving for drugs do not stop before committing crimes (most often thefts) in order to get another dose or means to acquire it. Drugs are

widespread in the criminal environment. and many crimes. one way or another. are related to them.

The formation of special markets for the underground industry of drug addiction allows for the rapid acquisition of the necessary drug

Drug addiction threatens the physical and moral health of the population. including the younger generation.

Systematic use of drug-containing pharmaceutical drugs inadequately reflects reality. self-control decreases. critical assessment of the situation decreases. the sense of risk is dulled. coordination of movements is impaired.

The “social contagion” of pharmacy drug addiction is of particular concern. according to a number of experts. with the ability to become involved. and teenagers and young people often becoming the most vulnerable category.

According to Kazakh researcher B.K. Setakoyo: “Thus. the prerequisites for the widespread distribution of “pharmacy” drugs are their availability. low price. as well as limited access to illegal street drugs. including an increase in their price. Such drugs can be much more dangerous than their consumers assume. In most cases. this is due to exceeding the dosage (increasing the therapeutic doses recommended by the instructions and / or doctor). frequent use and mixing (“mixing”). Such drugs include codeine-containing drugs. The most popular among drug addicts are such drugs as “Terpinkod”. “Nurofen Plus”. “Tetralgin”. “Tropicamide”. “Tramadol”. “Pentalgin-N”. “Solpadeine”. “Antispasm”. “Unispasm” and others”( Seitakova B.K. 2020).

The group of psychoactive substances includes psychotropic drugs. narcotics and toxic substances. Their use. in addition to the medical. also has a social and legal aspect: unauthorized use of these substances is socially dangerous and legally punishable ( P.F. Litvitskiy 2014).

Children's body is especially vulnerable to the destructive effects of pharmaceutical drugs. Minors get used to it faster (usually from the first time). and the consequences are more severe. In addition. in order to increase the sensation of intoxication. teenagers gradually increase the amount of the drug taken. Rarely this leads to an overdose. If at this moment there are no adults nearby. the tragedy cannot be avoided.

According to the researcher S.L. Panova "necessary expansion of responsibility for refusal of drug addiction treatment. promotion of consumption of narcotic drugs (Panov. S. L. 2011).

#### 4 RESULTS

Overall. the results highlight the need to develop and implement educational and therapeutic programs that strengthen emotion regulation skills to reduce the risk of substance use among students. Among the variables examined. only age and gender did not significantly predict substance use among Iranian students. whereas alexithymia. both directly and through the mediating role of emotion regulation difficulties. significantly predicted substance use (Hatami Nejad. M.. Sadeghi. M.. & Sadri Damirchi. E .2025).

Emphasizing the role of educational programs to provide or correct knowledge of youth about the dangers of drug use. improving life skills to combat drug use. and treating drug addicts are some of the strategies to address drug use among youth. Implement comprehensive drug prevention programs that focus on increasing knowledge about the health risks associated with drug use and the availability of support services (*Kabbash. I.A.. Abdo. S.Af.. and Orebi. H.A.2025*).

- a) The wide availability of some drugs without a prescription or weak control over their distribution contributes to the growth of "pharmacy" drug addiction.
- b) An important factor may be the influence of social norms. which may not perceive the use of some prescription drugs as a problem.
- c) The use of affordable drugs as an alternative to more expensive drugs is seen as a consequence of economic accessibility. This includes the possibility of abusing pharmacy drugs in low-income environments. where people are looking for a cheap way to cope with psychological and social difficulties.
- d) We propose measures to strengthen the regulation of drug circulation. increase the responsibility of pharmaceutical companies. and introduce educational programs for the population about the harm of uncontrolled use of prescription drugs (Akmatova. A. 2024).

## 5 CONCLUSION

The conducted analysis enables us to draw certain conclusions on the suppression of the spread of pharmacy drug addiction among minors.

Preventive work should be carried out by systemic measures of prevention subjects

- The suppression of pharmacy drug addiction among minors should be accompanied by scientifically based methods of influence. taking into account the socio-psychological and legal characteristics of minors.
- Prevention of pharmacy drug addiction should be carried out by complex measures with the participation of parents. guardians. medical. pedagogical workers. as well as law enforcement officers.
- some procedures for identifying drug addiction should be anonymous.
- it is necessary to introduce new qualifying features of administrative and criminal liability for pharmacy drug addiction.

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### **Authors’ Contribution**

All authors contributed equally to the development of this article.

### **Data availability**

All datasets relevant to this study’s findings are fully available within the article.

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