

AUTHORS' RESPONSE (DECEMBER 7, 2017) TO THE LETTER TO THE EDITOR CONCERNING THE PAPER “TRENDS IN SMOKING AMONG SECONDARY SCHOOL AND HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS IN POLAND, 2009 AND 2011”

Dear Editor,

We have read the letter from Dr. T. Kawada [1] regarding our published paper on „Trends in smoking among secondary school and high school students in Poland, 2009 and 2011” [2] with great interest. In response we would like to point out that our findings were mainly on tobacco smoking rates in the case of secondary and high school pupils as well as the trends observed during these times, and causes of smoking were not analyzed in our survey. Our questionnaire was based on the USA model used for monitoring studies, i.e., the Youth Risk Behavior Surveillance System (YBRFSS) [3], which enabled the defined relationships to be analyzed as described in the letter to the editor. Our studies were focused on the anti-health behavior that included tobacco smoking among adolescents of reproductive age and pregnant women, along with the health effects on their offspring. Many of our past publications are devoted to these topics [4–9].

The health behavior of adolescents is being constantly monitored, which is why another randomized survey was performed on over 15 000 adolescents and 3000 pregnant women in 2017, using the same methodology as in the case of the 2009 and 2011 studies. We are in the process of

analyzing the data and preparing a report of our findings. Many thanks for valuable comments, and as the letter to the editor by Dr. T. Kawada has suggested, we will soon present the comparison of the differences in the rates for adolescent tobacco smoking and nicotine addiction over the years 2009–2017 and related causes.

Key words:

Health education, Cigarette smoking, Tobacco epidemiology, Smoking initiation, Secondary school students, High school students

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