

## *The Association of Social Intelligence Factors, Normative Expectations, and Perceived Accessibility with Legal Drug*



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**BACKGROUND:** Individual, intrapersonal, interpersonal, and social factors are associated with drug use. The analysis of gender-specific aspects of the association between risk/protective factors and drug use is important for the development of effective prevention strategies. **AIM:** To explore the associations between social intelligence factors (social information processes, social skills, and social awareness), normative expectations, and perceived accessibility on the one hand and cigarette smoking and alcohol consumption on the other. **METHODS:** The Tromsø Social Intelligence Scale, a questionnaire enquiring about normative expectations and the perceived accessibility of alcohol and cigarettes and their consumption among young adolescents. Analyses were carried out separately among boys and girls. **SAMPLE:** 3,725 young adolescents; 51% of them girls, average age 14.3;  $SD = \pm 0.65$ . **RESULTS:**

Higher levels of social skills were associated with boys' smoking and girls' alcohol consumption; a lower level of social information processing was associated with boys' smoking; a lower level of social awareness was associated with boys' alcohol consumption. Higher levels of normative expectations and perceived accessibility were associated with smoking and alcohol consumption among boys and girls, with the exception of the association between normative expectations and girls' smoking, which was not confirmed. **CONCLUSION:** The results support the importance of the development of cognitive skills, especially among boys, a reduction in smoking and the accessibility of alcohol among boys and girls, and the correction of normative expectations in the prevention of legal drug use.

**KEY WORDS:** SOCIAL INTELLIGENCE – NORMATIVE EXPECTATIONS – PERCEIVED ACCESSIBILITY – TOBACCO CIGARETTE SMOKING – ALCOHOL CONSUMPTION

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