

5TH INTERNATIONAL STUDENT CONFERENCE ON LOCAL SAFETY AND SECURITY

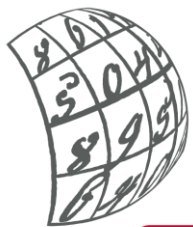


UNIVERZITET CRNE GORE
PRAVNI FAKULTET



University of Maribor

Faculty of
Criminal Justice and Security



arrrs

SLOVENIAN RESEARCH AGENCY

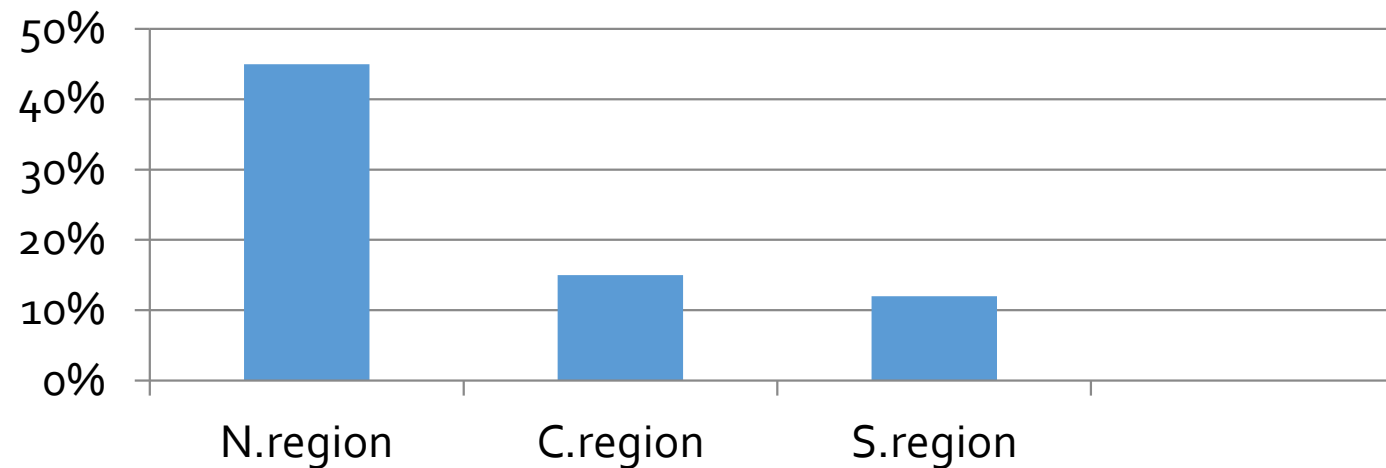
POVERTY AS A POSSIBLE CAUSE OF SOCALLY DEVIANT BEHAVIOUR - COLLECTIVE DESTRUCTION AND SELF-DESTRUCTIVE RESPONSES (ALCOHOLISM AND DRUG ADDICTION)

Dušan Pejović, Ana Jović, Marko Tošić, Milica
Plamenac, Jelena Jovović

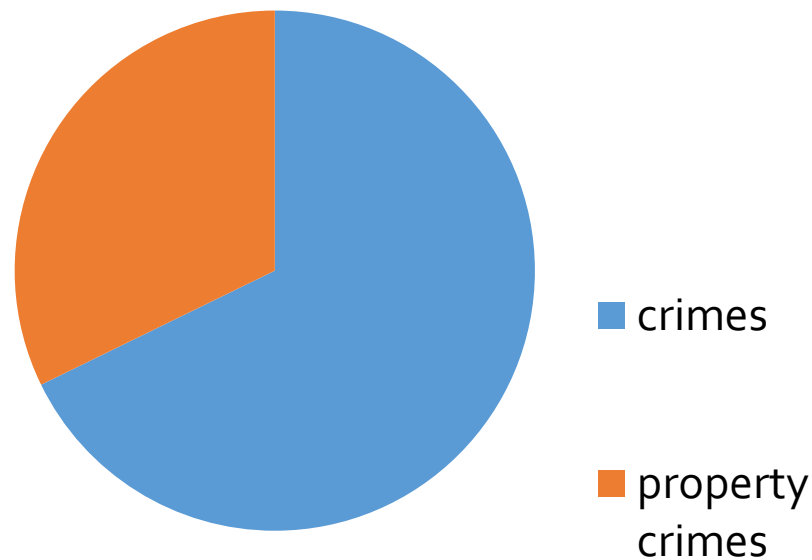
Sustainable Development Goal 1: No Poverty

- Deviance is any behavior that deviates from the norms and values accepted in a society. Violation of generally accepted norms can be caused by numerous endogenous and exogenous factors in offenders.
- Economic factors are among many causes of deviant behavior at any age of offenders (juveniles, adults). Numerous researches show that in the conditions of the increased economic crisis of the society, the crime rate increases. Economic crises lead to stratification of society (enormous enrichment and rapid impoverishment of the population). The economic crisis is an exogenous factor of deviant behavior. Unfavorable conditions for life lead to: family crises, depression, alcoholism, drug addiction, theft, fraud. Poverty is a major factor in property crimes. Crime caused by poverty or some other economic factor is called scarcity crime.

- The economic situation in Montenegro is very unfavorable, and a large number of the population is on the poverty line, if it has not already crossed that line. On the occasion of the World Day of Social Justice, which is celebrated on February 20, UNICEF reminds that at least one third of children in Montenegro live in poverty. According to these data, the percentage of poverty rate is significantly higher in the northern region than in the central and southern:
- Northern region (45%);
- Central region(15%);
- Southern region(12%).



- Among juveniles, poverty can be the main precondition for turning to criminal acts, as well as an accelerated way of life, struggle for existence, and less commitment to the family. In such conditions of growing up and living, there is a growing chance that juveniles become easy targets of some individuals or criminal organizations forcing them to commit crimes.
- According to research, in 2020 in Montenegro, juveniles committed 347 criminal offenses, the most criminal offenses against property, as many as 165.



- Developing guidelines and programs, as well as systematic action in achieving the best interests of young people, can affect the overall reduction of crime:
 - an appropriate environment for the healthy development of children and young people;
 - prevention program (continuous work with young people);
 - respecting the rights of children and young people in the judiciary;
 - reintegration and rehabilitation of juveniles, perpetrators of criminal offenses.



DRUG ADDICTION

- Out of all socio-pathological phenomena, drug addiction is the one that is the most related to crime.
- A drug is any substance that causes a change in an organism when consumed.
- As a consequence of drug use, addiction occurs, making an individual unable to control his mental tension without drugs.



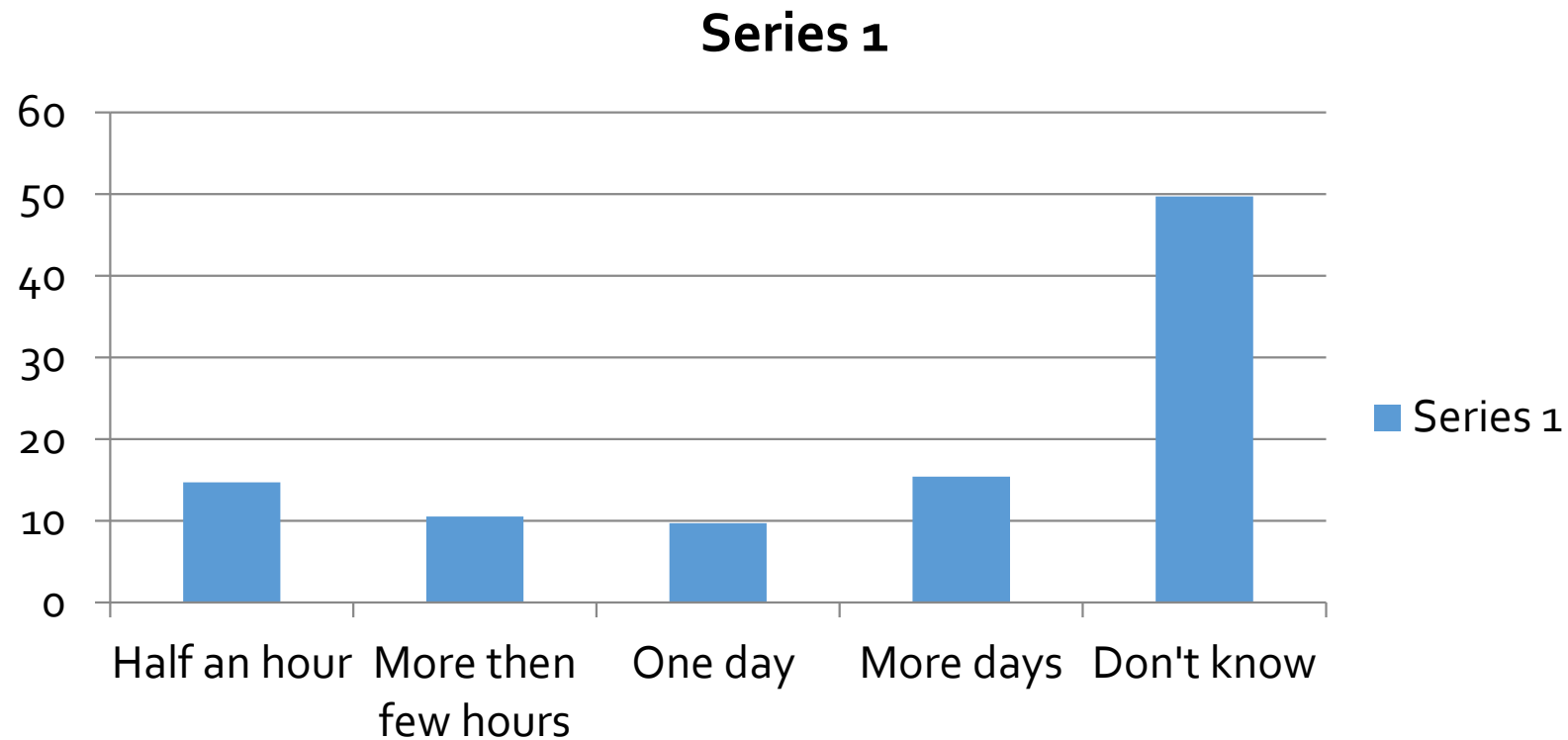
- In drug-related crime, we distinguish:
 - 1. Criminal offenses committed to obtain drugs or funds to purchase drugs;
 - 2. Criminal offenses committed as a result of drug use. Most commonly: murder, bodily harm and sexual offenses;
 - 3. Criminal offenses related to production, selling, smuggling and illegal drug trafficking.
- Drug addiction is considered a form of delinquency because addiction as a consequence of drug use makes any drug addict a potential delinquent.
 - There are three types of delinquents among drug addicts:
 - 1. Addict;
 - 2. Occasional drug user;
 - 3. A smuggler with no special relationship to drugs.



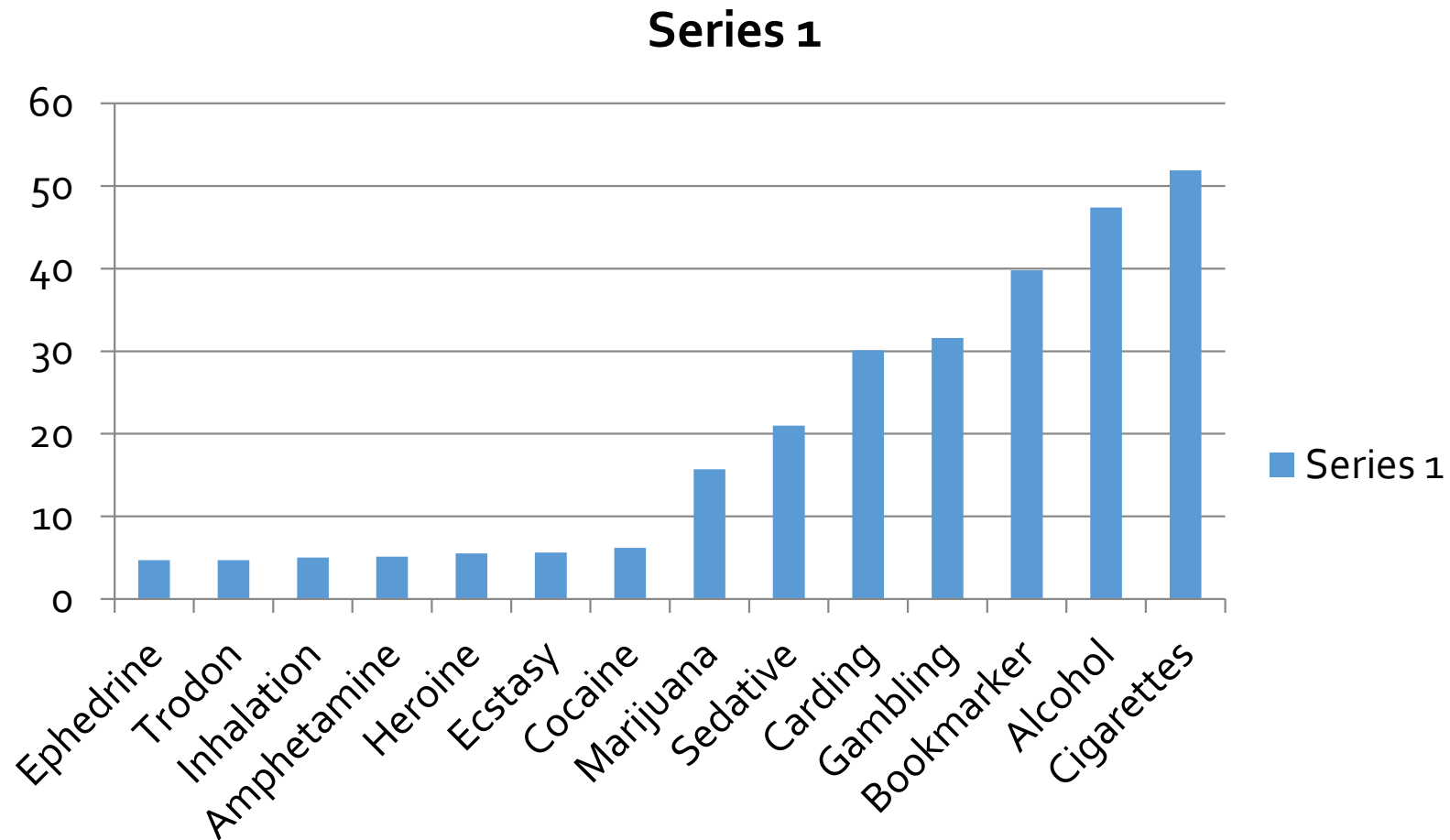
- Offenses related to drugs can be divided into two groups:
 - 1. Offenses committed under the influence of drugs;
 - 2. Offenses committed in order to obtain drugs.
- When we talk about offenses committed under the influence of drugs, it is mostly about aggressive behavior, violence and even the most serious crimes.
- Such behaviors generally occur at extremely high doses.
- When we talk about offenses committed in order to obtain drugs, it should be emphasized that buying drugs requires a large amount of money that is difficult to earn in a legal manner. An addict obtains money to buy drugs by committing criminal offenses.
- Drug addiction as a factor of criminal behavior is increasingly finding its foothold in young people in Montenegro.



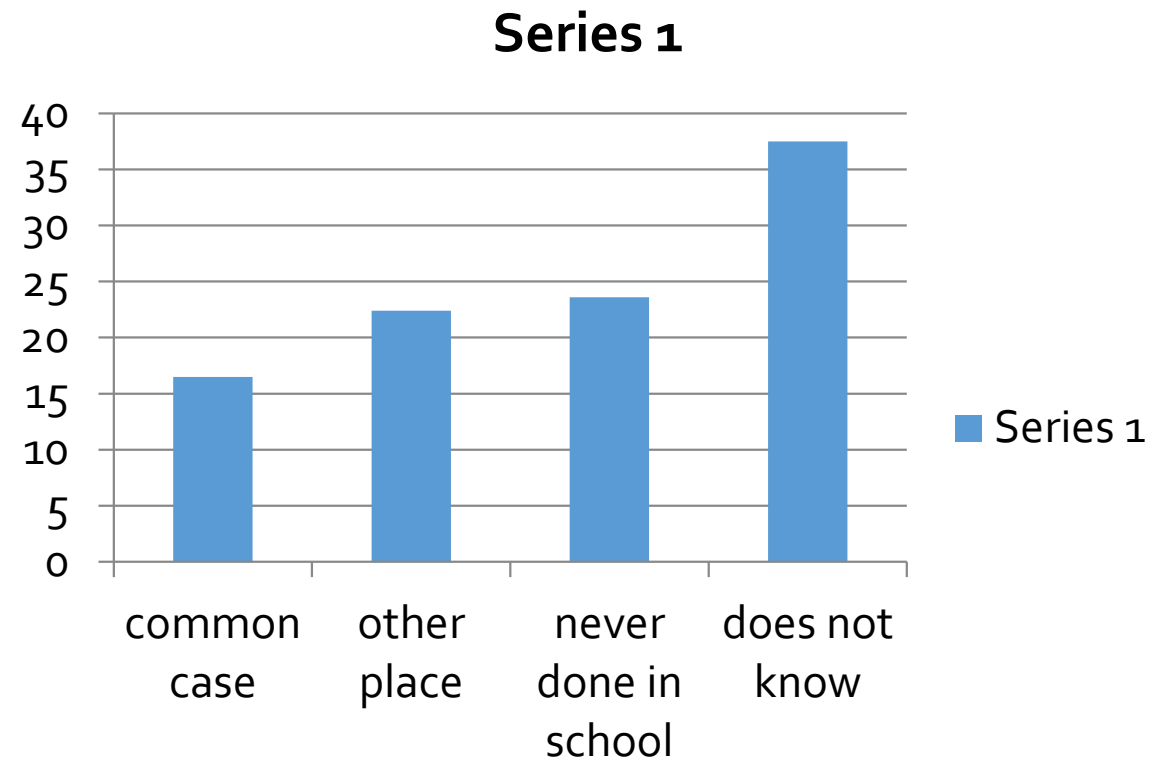
- According to the Report of the Protector of Human Rights and Freedoms of Montenegro from 2019, we see that numerous studies have been conducted on the availability of psychoactive substances to minors. Research shows that over 25% of students are of the opinion that drugs can be obtained in a time interval from half an hour to several hours.



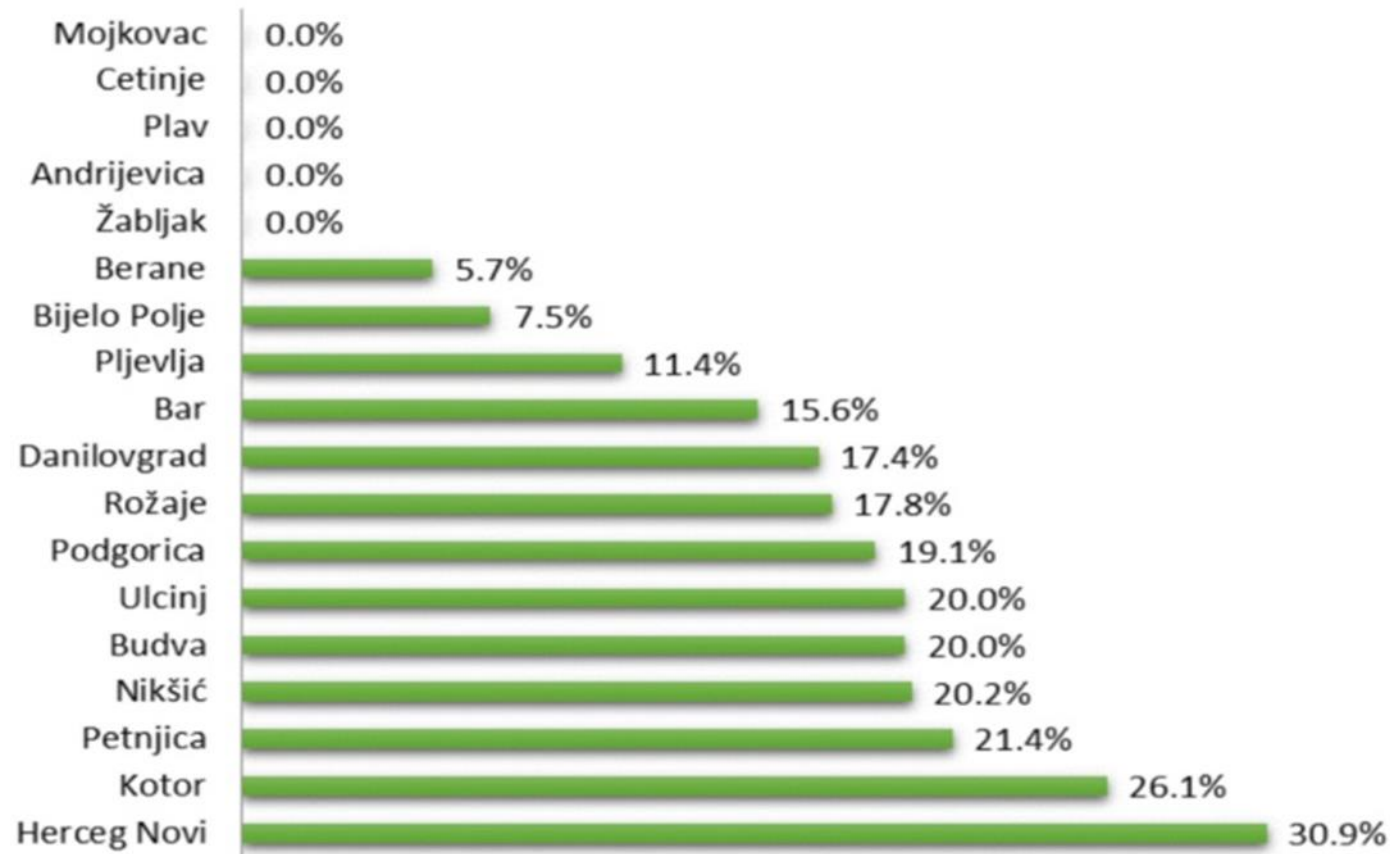
- The following chart shows the perception of the availability of certain drugs and other substances (cigarettes, alcohol, etc.):



- It is worrying that more than a fifth of high school students recognize the frequent practice of using narcotics in schools. The following graph shows the perception of availability (whether there are cases of use of psychoactive substances in school):



- The following chart shows the frequent use of psychoactive substances by municipalities. The data indicate that in this respect, the most endangered students are in Herceg Novi and Kotor.



- As a country, we must make significantly greater efforts to combat all forms of drug addiction since it is the cause of many crimes committed for the above mentioned reasons, but also because drug addiction is associated with other criminal activities: arms trafficking, human trafficking, money laundering, extortion, brutal murders, etc.



ALCOHOLISM

- Alcoholism is one of the most widespread addictive diseases, leading to complete psychological, somatic and social decline. Alcohol consumption is the third leading risk factor for illness and disability in the world, while in developing countries it is the leading risk factor. It is also one of the risk factors in over 200 diseases and conditions and about three million people die each year from alcohol-related consequences. Alcoholism can be explained by a combination of three main factors:
 - 1. The man factor;
 - 2. The environmental factor;
 - 3. The alcohol factor.



- Poverty can certainly be classified as a factor that plays one of the main roles in the development of this disease. Humans are social beings who sometimes develop alcoholism as a result of numerous social distress. In the constant struggle to achieve the best possible living conditions and striving for a sense of security, difficult social conditions often prevail, and a person reaches for alcohol as a consolation. Alcohol has different effects on people's economic status, but economic status also affects alcohol use in many ways.



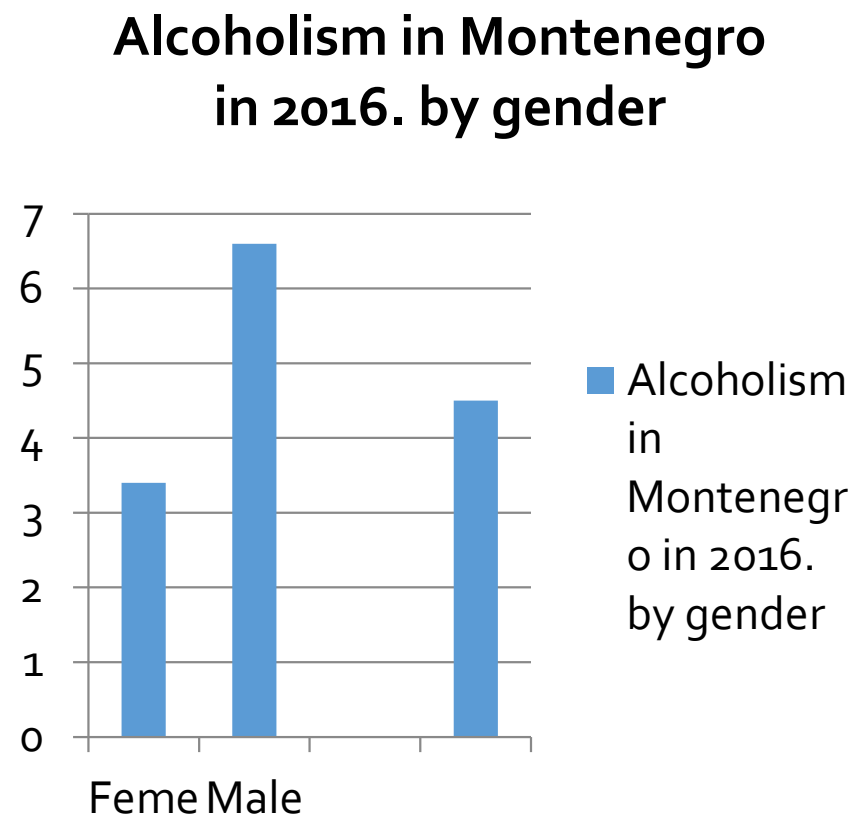
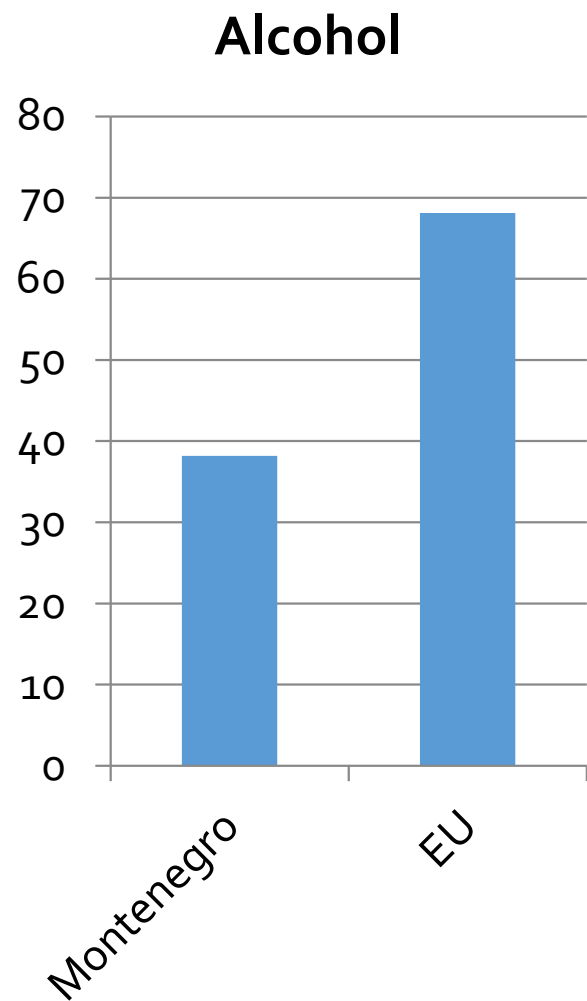
- Alcoholism in the poor population is justified by the fact that it can be related to the alcohol factor, and that is that alcohol reduces anxiety and stress due to its sedative effect. So many actually find an escape from reality in alcohol and gain a sense of courage and security, which due to the bad conditions in which they live they do not feel when sober.
- Frequent consumption of alcohol puts people at increasing risk of deteriorating their health, but also makes them incapable of performing their daily activities and obligations, which leads to increased unemployment and thus poverty.



- In Montenegro, the habit of drinking alcohol arrived late, but that is why it is widely socially accepted in today's culture. Alcohol consumption is becoming more common among young people, which can lead to problems in education and barriers when it comes to employment.
- Table 1 - Perception of peer poor behaviors in relation to the level of education, gender and region from 2019

	Elementary school	High school	Male	Female	Northern region	Central region	South region
Alcohol consumption	4.7%	41.8%	26.5%	33.3%	23.9%	28.0%	38.9%

- However, compared to peers from EU member states, a drastic difference is noticed:



- Alcohol is often an escape from poor living conditions, but poverty is also a precondition for delinquency. Alcoholism and criminal acts are linked by an easily noticeable connection, and although the most common offenses in traffic safety are those that are committed under the influence of alcohol, unfortunately blood and sexual crimes do not lag behind too much.
- A common characteristic of the perpetrators of these crimes is aggression which was manifested by alcohol consumption. Alcohol is considered an indisputable criminogenic factor, but it should be noted that alcohol consumption does not always lead to criminal behavior and conflict with the law, while on the other hand, crime significantly contributes to the spread of alcoholism.



- Criminality is related to two forms of alcoholism:
 - ALCOHOL CRIMINALITY (alcohol is the dominant cause of crime);
 - CRIMINAL ALCOHOLISM (alcoholism occurs as a complementary cause of crime).
- Alcoholism is especially pronounced in domestic crime, or in marital and family relations. Alcoholics react to minor inconvenience with inappropriate behavior, which is reflected in physical and psychological violence, while the victims are most often women and children. It is estimated that there are about 30,000 alcoholics in Montenegro out of about 620,000 inhabitants. Montenegrins consume 12.8 liters of alcohol per year, while the average global consumption is about 7 liters per person.



- Poverty is a big problem in Montenegro. Young people find it difficult to cope with it, and later in adolescence, in the absence of basic means of subsistence, they do everything to stand out in the community. They do everything to make money, so they often fall victim to a bad system. Those who are the victims of poverty become the main actors in various illegal actions. Thus, the state must include its entire apparatus and regroup state forces, which must prevent the flow of alcohol, drugs and other substances. It should also stimulate young people to help each other, not to reject each other, and to try to reduce the economic gap in various social ways and enable young people to live a healthy, prosperous and normal life. Hoping that all criminal acts will be stopped, and first of all those in which young people are victims and the main actors, we want to thank you for your attention!



THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION.