

**RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE SOCIOECONOMIC STATUS AND THE PATTERN USE OF ALCOHOL AND MARIJUANA OF STUDENTS FROM YOUTH AND ADULT EDUCATION (EJA)**

***RELAÇÃO ENTRE O PERFIL SOCIOECONÔMICO E O PADRÃO DE USO DE ÁLCOOL E MACONHA DE ESTUDANTES DA EDUCAÇÃO DE JOVENS E ADULTOS (EJA)***

***RELACIÓN ENTRE EL PERFIL SOCIOECONÓMICO Y EL PATRÓN DE USO DE ALCOHOL Y MARIHUANA DE LOS ESTUDIANTES DE EDUCACIÓN DE JÓVENES Y ADULTOS (EJA)***

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**ABSTRACT:** The goal is to discuss the socioeconomic status of EJA's students in Florianópolis concerning the pattern use of alcohol and marijuana. An epidemiological and cross-sectional design, with 364 participants, using descriptive and inferential statistics. The consumption pattern presented in the last year and month of alcohol (73.9% and 59.3%) and marijuana (39% and 31.9%) was significantly higher than data available from other surveys on Brazilian students, such as those of CEBRID and IBGE. Among the students, the dimension of the age group was the one that showed the most significant differences, when those aged 15-17 years had higher rates of substance use than the older ones, reflecting the issue of the juvenilization of EJA. The vulnerability history of EJA students, who come to this modality with several experiences of school and social exclusion, is one of the main conditions for this high use of psychoactive substances.

**KEYWORDS:** Epidemiology. Youth and Adult Education. Students. Alcohol. Marihuana.

**RESUMO:** *Objetiva-se discutir o perfil socioeconômico de estudantes da EJA em Florianópolis em sua relação com o padrão de uso de álcool e maconha. Delineamento epidemiológico e transversal, com 364 participantes, uso de estatísticas descritivas e inferenciais. O padrão de consumo apresentado no último ano e mês de álcool (73,9% e 59,3%) e de maconha (39% e 31,9%) foi significativamente maior do que os dados disponíveis de outras pesquisas sobre estudantes brasileiros, como do CEBRID e do IBGE. Entre os estudantes, a dimensão da faixa etária foi a que apresentou diferenças mais significativas, quando os de 15-17 anos tiveram índices mais elevados de consumo de substâncias do que os*

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*mais velhos, refletindo a questão da juvenilização da EJA. O histórico de vulneração dos estudantes da EJA, que chegam a esta modalidade com várias experiências de exclusão escolar e social é uma das principais condições para este uso elevado de substâncias psicoativas.*

**PALAVRAS-CHAVE:** *Epidemiologia. Educação de Jovens e Adultos. Estudantes. Álcool. Maconha.*

**RESUMEN:** *El objetivo es discutir el perfil socioeconómico de los estudiantes de EJA en Florianópolis en su relación al patrón de consumo de alcohol y marihuana. Diseño epidemiológico y transversal, con 364 participantes, utilizando estadística descriptiva e inferencial. El patrón de consumo presentado en el último año y mes de alcohol (73,9% y 59,3%) y marihuana (39% y 31,9%) fue significativamente superior a los datos disponibles de otras encuestas de estudiantes brasileños, como las de CEBRID e IBGE. Entre los estudiantes, la dimensión del grupo de edad fue la que mostró las diferencias más significativas, cuando los de 15-17 años tenían mayores tasas de consumo de sustancias que los mayores, reflejando el tema de la juvenilización de EJA. El historial de vulnerabilidad de los estudiantes de la EJA, que llegan a esta modalidad con varias experiencias de exclusión escolar y social, es una de las principales condiciones para este alto consumo de sustancias psicoactivas.*

**PALABRAS CLAVE:** *Epidemiología. Educación de Jóvenes y Adultos. Estudiantes. Alcohol. Marihuana.*

## Introduction

The Education of Youth and Adults (EJA) was consolidated in Brazil based on the precepts of the Law of Guidelines and Bases of Education (BRASIL, 1996), in which it was defined in Article 37, as the "modality of teaching intended for those who did not have access or the continuity of studies in elementary and high school in their own age". In its antecedents this modality was called "supplementary teaching", but the change to the perspective of Education was fair to break with the logic of supplementation, starting to incorporate it as an effective modality of the educational process, beyond the merely instructional, in a complex process, involving different teaching-learning routes, with formal and informal practices related to basic knowledge, technical and professional skills and the dimensions of citizenship and sociocultural skills of the enrolled students (FRIEDRICH *et al.*, 2010).

The EJA has been consolidating itself in an educational action for students who have life trajectories marked by difficulties in various areas, including experiences of exclusion and denial of rights, in addition to psychosocial risk conditions, contextualized from the existential territories of popular class youth in Brazil (ARROYO, 2005). These vulnerabilities focus on restricting access to education in regular age schooling and end up being determinant in the choices for absenteeism and school dropout, casting these students in the exclusion of the

regular school and in the search for more welcoming educational alternatives for the diversity of sociocultural formation of Brazilian youth.

In the transformations of educational policies, the minimum age for entry into the EJA was changed, which went from 18 to 15 years in elementary school and from 21 to 18 years in high school. This regulation has produced, little by little, what has been defined as a process of juvenilizing of EJA students (SOUZA FILHO; CASSOL; AMORIM, 2021). Increasingly, young adolescents who give up studying in regular education have sought vacancies in this modality. It is a new social group that occupies these school benches, different from traditional EJA students, rural or urban workers, who have not had previous opportunities to become literate.

These young people generally bring a previous school trajectory that is poorly understood, and to a large extent, while older people see in the EJA a perspective of sociocultural integration, the younger ones maintain with it a relationship of tension and conflict learned in the previous experience (HADDAD; DI PIERO, 2000). Both groups bring strong social markers, with histories of social vulnerability and intersectionalities that constitute them: issues of race (PASSOS; SANTOS, 2018), social class and gender cross the stories of these students, imposing challenges for teachers and pedagogical teams in the planning of educational actions and in the reconciliation of audiences with such diverse interests (HADDAD; DI PIERO, 2000).

The EJA meets a great diversity of social situations, which further increases its challenges: people with disabilities, prisoners, indigenous, quilombolas, landless, homeless people, among others, who require teachers to "work with heterogeneity – cultures, ages, interests, traits and individual profiles, which suggests that it is no longer feasible to be stuck to an abstract homogeneity" (MELLO, 2009, p. 6, our translation). Thus, the tense and conflicting relationship with the school already comes from the previous school trajectory of the young in the face of disciplinary and pedagogical aspects, factors that end up being excluded from the perspective of social and cultural interaction. "These views, attitudes and postures end up stigmatizing this young student, labeled as a problem" (SOUZA FILHO; CASSOL; AMORIM, 2021, p. 723, our translation).

Thus, the EJA, in its dimension of management and pedagogical project, has to face the challenge of dealing with the consequences of socioeconomic inequities that impact access to education. Its difficulties are, therefore, a historical expression of the inequality of material and symbolic goods, as well as the denial of fundamental rights, among them the full right to education for part of the Brazilian population (RUMMERT, 2007).

EJA students have different educational needs from students of the same age who are part of other teaching modalities, because their profile is mostly workers, who have their social reality marked by the exercise of professions that require physical effort, receive low salaries, study at night, after exhaustive working hours and have difficulties in accessing cultural materials and goods that would facilitate their learning process (ARROYO, 2005). All these problems compete with the pedagogical practices of the EJA, and, often, due to the present living conditions and the previous history of school failure, they cannot prioritize studies. Thus, their educational trajectories are delineated, in a certain sense, by experiences of failure, disability, disinterest, indiscipline, as well as risk behaviors (SOUZA FILHO; CASSOL; AMORIM, 2021).

Among the most common psychosocial vulnerabilities of these publics is the issue of psychoactive substance abuse and involvement with trafficking. This condition is related to a multidetermined view of this phenomenon of alcohol and other drugs abuse, with historical and intersectional characteristics (social class, race, gender), which permeates territorial issues, because many of these young people live in impoverished neighborhoods, with histories of violence, which end up full by these situations of illegal trade and disputes between criminal factions (MELLO, 2009; CARRANO, 2007). Likewise, they have been crossed by family issues, marked by the transgenerationality of various experiences departing from trajectories of vulnerability and, very common, of problems related to the use of psychoactive substances.

It is important to highlight that several epidemiological surveys in Brazil have shown that the consumption of alcohol and other drugs among students from regular schools is present from an early age (IBGE, 2021; CARLINI *et al.*, 2010), indicating the need to think about public policies directed at this public. For example, the latest PENSE (School Health Survey, 2019) showed that in the south of the country 38.1% of schoolchildren aged 13 to 17 years, 30.9% in schoolchildren aged 13 to 15 years and 51.9% of schoolchildren aged 16 to 17 years consumed alcohol in the last month. The rate was higher in Santa Catarina (41.4%), and Florianópolis is among the capitals with the highest rates (34.4%) (IBGE, 2021). Marijuana use in the last month in the south of the country among students aged 13 to 17 years was 6.7%, 4.7% for students aged 13 to 15 years and 10.3% for 16- and 17-year-olds. Florianópolis was the capital with the highest rate of marijuana use in the last 30 days among students (9.4%) (IBGE, 2021).

The data from the V Survey between Brazilian Students, even if they are from 2010, indicate important data for comparison, such as high consumption for students from

Florianópolis of alcohol in the last year (63.4%) and in the last month (59.3%), with the use in the year of marijuana in this capital of 5.0% and in the month of 3.2% (CARLINI *et al.*, 2010).

However, in these national surveys there are no data on students of Youth and Adult Education, which, due to the various dimensions mentioned above, are characterized by conditions of greater social vulnerability and increased exposure to risk situations, including the abuse of psychoactive substances. In a search carried out on the Scielo and Redalyc portal, in March 2021, we did not find any article describing an epidemiological approach related to the pattern of alcohol and other drug use on these students, except for an article that addressed the issue of tobacco use among students in a city of Goiás (VARGAS *et al.*, 2017).

This article aims to describe the relationship between the socioeconomic profile of Students of the EJA of the city of Florianópolis and the pattern of alcohol and marijuana use of the group in question, as part of the needs survey to support the development of a program for health promotion and risk prevention of drug abuse in the EJA (BRAZIL, 2002), which has in harm reduction and health promotion the guiding principle for actions. The general methodology of the project sought to involve students and teachers as co-builders of the intervention development process, so that they could be the authors of the development of health promotion actions in an educational context (RAUPP; SCHNEIDER, 2017; SCHNEIDER *et al.*, 2019).

This research and extension action arose from a demand of the Municipal Department of Education of Florianópolis, upon request of an intervention project in the EJA, in order to address problems related to the use of drugs by students, especially marijuana. The demand was justified by reports about marijuana use being considered one of the main problems faced by coordinators and teachers, when it was perceived as a frequent practice among a considerable portion of students during school hours, leading to various problems, internal and external to the teaching centers. Due to the understanding of the complexity involved in the issue of the consumption of psychoactive substances in the perspective of avoiding reductionism, it was proposed, as a first step, the survey of the pattern of use reported here, to understand the real dimension of the problem raised, aiming to support health promotion actions and harm reduction, based on the specific needs of this public of the EJA (RAUPP; SCHNEIDER, 2017; SCHNEIDER *et al.*, 2019). This is the part of the research and extension reported here.

## Method

### General design

This is a cross-sectional study, developed through an epidemiological survey with students from the Youth and Adult Education (EJA) centers of the city of Florianópolis. Data were collected from October to November 2017.

### Survey participants

The sampling was by conglomerate, not random, and the students present on the day of the application of the research in the classroom of six nuclei of the EJA of Florianópolis, who agreed to participate and answered the Term of Free and Enlightened Assent (TALE). Prior to data collection, the management of each EJA nucleus had already signed the Free and Informed Consent Form (TCLE), agreeing to the participation of students enrolled in the institution.

The research sample had the initial inclusion of 378 students, among whom 14 participants were excluded because they left the instrument blank ( $n = 12$ ) or because they answered questions that asked about the use of nonexistent drugs as an exclusion criterion for positive false answers ( $n = 2$ ), thus totaling a valid final sample of 364 students.

### Instrument and data collection procedure

The instrument used was a questionnaire, previously validated in collaborative research between the Federal University of São Paulo (UNIFESP) and the Federal University of Santa Catarina (UFSC) to evaluate preventive programs (SANCHEZ *et al.*, 2017). It consists of a set of 76 items that aimed to track explanatory variables related to sociodemographic data, issues of violence and bullying and the relationship of students with studies and school. In addition to the explanatory variables, the instrument also included outcome variables related to the pattern of consumption of psychoactive substances. The questionnaire was constructed from three instruments: the *Questionnaire of the European Drug Abuse Prevention Trial* (EUDAP) adapted to Portuguese (PRADO *et al.*, 2016), the questionnaire widely used in surveys with Brazilian students by the Brazilian Center for Psychotropic Drugs Information (CARLINI *et al.*, 2010) and some items extracted from the National School Health Survey (IBGE, 2016), mainly about the relationship of students with the school.

The application of the questionnaire was online and conducted by the students of the EJA themselves, co-participants of the research project, who were trained for the task and

supervised by the team of researchers, graduate students of the Center for Research in Clinic of Psychosocial Care (PSICLIN/UFSC).

### **Analytical procedures**

The data were initially tabulated and organized in their respective variables and categorical modalities of responses. Some sociodemographic data were grouped and synthesized for the composition of a socioeconomic variable based on criterion Brazil (ABEP, 2018). Descriptive frequency statistics were also used to synthesize and estimate the trends observed with the data of each variable separately.

For inferential analysis of the data, the chi-square test was used to compare groups in relation to the categorical modalities of responses of the variables included in the study. In the occurrence of violation to the statistical assumptions of the chi-square test, the Likelihood Ratio test was used. The size of the effect of the associations between the categories of the variables was estimated by Cramer's V statistic. The Adjusted Residuals analysis was also used to estimate the crosses of categories with differences in estimates in higher z-scores ( $1.96 \geq \alpha \leq -1.96$ ; CI 95%).

For the analytical procedures, only *the valid cases (pairwise deletion) of the variables in paired* analyses were considered to optimize the volume of data as much as possible and avoid imputation and the consequent risk of artificialization of the results. Data analysis procedures were performed using the *Statistical Package for the Social Sciences (SPSS-12)* software.

This study followed all the ethical requirements of CNS Resolution 466/12, approved by the Ethics Committee under no. CAAE no. CAAE 75283317.3.0000.0121.

### **Presentation and discussion of results**

The socioeconomic profile of EJA students - Florianópolis.

The data obtained in this study show relative sample heterogeneity in the responses of the socioeconomic variables of the participants, indicating, however, a higher prevalence of male participants (61%), young people aged 15 to 17 years (51.4%), black (50.3%), belonging to disadvantaged socioeconomic conditions, considered by criterion Brazil (ABEP, 2018) as being from classes D and E (49.2%) (Table 1).

**Table 1** - Characterization of the sociodemographic data of students of the EJA of the city of Florianópolis, 2017

	Total	
	n	%
<b>Sex</b>		
Female	142	39,0
Male	222	61,0
Total	364	100
<b>Race/Color</b>		
Yellow	12	3,3
White	162	44,5
Indigenous	7	1,9
Black	183	50,3
Total	364	100
<b>Age group</b>		
15 to 17 years	187	51,4
18 to 21 years	65	17,9
≥ 22 years old	105	28,8
Missings	7	1,9
Total	364	100
<b>Social class</b>		
The	2	0,6
B1	3	0,8
B2	23	6,3
C1	49	13,5
C2	108	29,7
D-E	179	49,2
Total	364	100

<sup>a</sup> The participants who declared themselves brown color/race were grouped with the participants who declared themselves black, according to the IBGE classification, for the adequacy in terms of black race.

Source: Prepared by the authors

This profile shows the intersectionalities that cross the conditions of these students of the EJA, to the extent that the intersection of the dimensions of race, social class, age group and gender/gender enhance the experiences of the subjects (HIRATA, 2014). Here we will work with the concept of vulnerability that, for Bioethics, that goes beyond what is simply a possibility for the concrete act of submission to various sufferings (SOTERO, 2011).

The racial issue is one of the main ones highlighted to discuss in the profile of the students' respondents, since the distribution by race/color in Santa Catarina, in the 2010 Census, were predominantly white (86.96%), followed by blacks (9.98%) and brown (2.63%), finally, indigenous (0.2%) (IBGE, 2011). Thus, the population of Students of the EJA in Florianópolis does not reflect this statistic, since we had the presence of a majority of young black people, when added those who declared themselves brown and black. Florianópolis stands out as the Brazilian capital with one of the highest Municipal Human Development Index (MHDI), which



aggregates the analysis of three dimensions: longevity, education and income. However, the capital demonstrates, according to research by the Community Institute Greater Florianópolis on the social diagnosis of the situation of adolescents and young people in the world of work (ICOM, 2019), deep social inequities, among which a higher workload of blacks, because browns (37.8 hours/week) and blacks (34.6 h/s) work more hours than whites (33 h/s) and earn less, and the wage gap between these populations can reach almost R\$ 1,400. In addition, there is a difference in Florianópolis between the MHDI of the black population (0.80) and the white population (0.85), and in Santa Catarina this difference is even greater, since the index for the black population was 0.76 and the white population was 0.82, according to data from the United Nations Development Program (ICOM, 2019). These issues show the crossing of structural racism in access and educational success and its impacts on the prevalence of a given profile among EJA students.

These data are reinforced, thus, in their intersectionality when we observe that in its absolute majority (92.3%) they are part of classes C1, C2, D or E, that is, whose families earn up to two minimum wages or less. Among these, we have almost half of the students who fall within class D and E, that is, those whose family income was on average, in 2017, of R\$ 708.19 (ABEP, 2018), unfamiliar with the condition of high economic vulnerability of those who seek the EJA to complete their studies. Thus, historical issues of access and permanence in the structure of the regular school of the population with this type of social markers are demarcated. Compared to the survey among students conducted by CEBRID in 2010, between public and private schools in Florianópolis, in which 33.1% belonged to class B, 46% to class C, being only 12.7% to class D and 2.7% to class E, it turns out that the issue of socioeconomic vulnerability is, in fact, a central part of the profile of students of the EJA.

This data shows that students belonging to these less favored classes are exposed to a process of school exclusion that led them to seek educational strategies more consistent with their reality. The educational conditions proposed by the EJA seem to facilitate the inclusion of these students, because, for example, night classes are a facilitator for a public of characteristics mostly of workers. On the other hand, students, who, due to their history of what is usually defined as "learning difficulties" in regular education, go in search of alternative teaching methods, which facilitate access to universally produced knowledge, as many of the Pedagogical Didactic Proposals of the EJA are characterized. The return to school benches means possibilities for social and educational reintegration, as well as a possibility of obtaining more accelerated certification that allows entry into the labor market or continuity to other educational levels (CARRANO, *et al.*, 2015).

Often, however, the EJA ends up reinforcing the previous process of exclusion by maintaining a traditional pedagogical project, which conflicts with cultural values and sociability of these students (HADDAD; DI PIERO, 2000; MELLO, 2009). This is not the case of the EJA of Florianópolis, which, when faced with these challenges, sought to innovate by using research as an educational principle, following a methodology based on Paulo Freire (REIBNITZ; MELO, 2021).

The higher prevalence of young people among the participants of this study (up to 21 years are 69.2%) reinforces the discussion of the juvenilizing process of the EJA, in line with another survey conducted among students of the EJA in Santa Catarina between 2012 and 2014 (LAFFIN *et al.*, 2015). These data embody the hypothesis that the student public of this educational modality has been changing, being increasingly characterized by young people who seek the EJA due to their truncated trajectories with their regular schooling process, with impacts on their processes of social vulnerability and implications for the basic rights of citizenship (CARRANO *et al.*, 2015).

### **Pattern of alcohol consumption and its relationships with socioeconomic profile of Students of the EJA - Florianópolis**

Regarding the pattern of consumption of psychoactive substances in the last year and last month, the data showed that alcohol was the substance most consumed by students of the EJA of Florianópolis, with a prevalence of 73.9% in the last year and 69% in the last month as shown in table 2.

**Table 2** - Characterization of the pattern of consumption in the month and year of alcohol and marijuana of students of the EJA of Florianópolis, 2017.

Substance	Pattern of alcohol and marijuana consumption in the last year					
	No	(%)	Yes	(%)	Missing	(%)
Alcohol	60	16,5	269	73,9	35	9,6
Marijuana	80	22,0	142	39,0	142	39,0

  

Substance	Pattern of consumption in the last month and number of days of those who pointed alcohol and marijuana consumption											
	No	(%)	Yes	(%)	Missing	(%)	1-5 days	(%)	6-19 D	(%)	≥ 20 d	(%)
Alcohol	113	31,0	216	59,3	35	9,6	172	47,3	28	7,7	16	4,4
Marijuana	106	29,1	116	31,9	142	39,0	50	13,7	13	3,6	53	14,6

Source: Prepared by the authors

These data confirm previous research, in which alcohol was the most consumed substance among students from public and private schools (CARLINI *et al.*, 2010; GALDURÓZ *et al.*, 2004; IBGE, 2021). The prevalence of alcohol consumption of Students of the EJA in the last year and month are slightly higher than the data of surveys among students from the Southern Region, Santa Catarina and Florianópolis among regular school students, as described in the data in the introduction (CARLINI *et al.*, 2010; IBGE, 2021).

Table 3, in turn, shows the pattern of alcohol consumption of participants with available answers in relation to the last year and the last month considering the dimensions of gender/gender, social class, race and age group. On the issue of sex/gender there was no significant difference in the pattern of consumption of students, which implies that women also accompany their male colleagues in the consumption of psychoactive substances. In other studies, the consumption pattern of female students also appeared high, and in some surveys, they presented even higher standards than male students (CARLINI *et al.*, 2010; GALDUROZ *et al.*, 2004; IBGE, 2021), or a similar consumption between participants of both sexes (IBGE, 2016).

**Table 3** - Pattern of alcohol consumption of participants with available answers in relation to the last year and last month and in relation to sex, age group, race and social class of students of the EJA of Florianópolis, based on valid cases and confidence interval of 95%

	Alcohol consumption in the last year						Alcohol consumption in the last month												
	No	%	Yes	%	$\chi^2$	p	V <sup>to</sup>	No	%	Yes	%	$\chi^2$	p	V <sup>to</sup>					
<b>Sex</b>																			
Female	2	7,6	10	32,	0,10	0,746	0,01	48	14,	83	25,	0,50	0,47	0,03					
	5		6	2				5	8	5	0				8	0			
Male	3	10,	16	49,				68	20,	13	40,								
	5	6	3	5				5	3	1									
Total	6	18,	26	81,				11	34,	21	65,								
	0	2	9	8				6	9	6	1								
<b>Age group</b>																			
15 to 17	2	6,8	14	45,	16,0	0,001	0,22	52	16,	11	36,	7,80	0,020*	0,15					
	2		7	5				1	7	2									
18 to 21	6	1,9	51	15,				1	8	15	4,6				42	13,	0	6	5
≥ 22	3	9,3	67	20,				44	13,	53	16,								
	0		7	7				6	4	4									
Total	5	18,	26	82,				11	34,	21	65,								
	8	0	5	0				1	4	2	6								
<b>Race/Color</b>																			
Yellow	5	1,5	5	1,5	8,11	0,044	0,15	4	1,2	6	1,8	0,25	0,96	0,02					
White	2	8,8	11	35,				50	15,	97	29,								
	9		8	9				2	5	5	5								
Indigenous	1	0,3	6	1,8				2	0,6	5	1,5								
	2		14	42,				57	17,	10	32,								
Negress	5	7,6	0	6			3	8											
Total	6	18,	26	81,			11	34,	21	65,									
	0	2	9	8			3	3	6	7									
<b>Social class</b>																			
The	0	0,0	2	0,6	10,0	0,074	0,16	0	0,0	2	0,6	6,36	0,27	0,01					
B1	0	0,0	3	0,9				0	0,0	3	0,9								
B2	2	0,6	19	5,8				6	1,8	15	4,6								
C1	1	3,0	33	10,				4	0	17	5,2				26	8,0	4	2	2
	0		0	0				30	9,0	65	20,								
C2	1	3,3	88	26,						1	0								
	1		7	7				60	18,	10	31,								
D-E	3	11,	12	37,			5	1											
	7	2	4	7			1	1											
Total	6	18,	26	81,			11	34,	21	65,									
	0	2	9	8			3	8	2	2									

<sup>to</sup> Cramer's V; \*P-value  $\leq 0.05$

Source: Prepared by the authors

In relation to race/color, a statistically significant association was observed with alcohol consumption in the last year (Cramer V = 0.157, p = 0.044), although not very strongly in the association, and the group that declared themselves of race/yellow color had the most significant adjusted waste load, both those who claimed consumption (z = -2.6) and those who

denied ( $z = 2.6$ ). This data, however, is weakened by the low "n" of yellow students present among the respondents. In the last year and month, alcohol consumption in the black race was 42.6% and 32.9% and in white was 35.9% and 29%, respectively, and despite being slightly higher among black students the difference was not significant. Thus, it can be suggested that the race analysis variable does not seem to indicate a factor related to susceptibility to alcohol consumption in students of the EJA.

Regarding the dimension of social class, there was no significant difference in alcohol consumption among the students of the EJA.

The most significant association among students of the EJA Florianópolis was in the relationship with the age group, especially in alcohol consumption in the last year and month (table 3). A significant  $p$  was observed, although the strength of the association was moderate (Cramer  $V = 0.223$ ,  $p = 0.001$ ), demonstrating in the analysis of adjusted residuals more significant differences for the group of participants aged 15 to 17 years ( $z = 2.4$ ) for higher consumption indexes and for the group aged 22 years or more ( $z = 4.0$ ), for lower consumption indexes. For alcohol consumption in the last month in relation to age group, a statistically significant but weak association in its associative power was also observed (Cramer  $V = 0.155$ ,  $p = 0.020$ ), with the analysis of adjusted residues, showing a greater difference for the group of 22 years or more who claimed to have consumed alcohol in the period ( $z = -2.7$ ) or not ( $z = 2.7$ ).

### **Pattern of marijuana consumption and its relationships with socioeconomic profile of EJA students - Florianópolis**

Regarding the pattern of marijuana use of students of the EJA of Florianópolis, in 2017, the participants' data showed high rates, with 39% of use in the last year and 31.9% in the last month (Table 2). The results reveal, when considering only illicit substances, a higher prevalence in marijuana use, as evidenced in other studies conducted with the general population (BASTOS *et al.*, 2017; CARLINI *et al.*, 2002) and with Brazilian students (CARLINI *et al.*, 2010; IBGE, 2016; IBGE, 2021).

It is important to highlight, however, the significant difference in higher marijuana use among EJA students compared to regular school students. While CEBRID (CARLINI *et al.*, 2010) indicated consumption in the year, in Florianópolis, as being 5.0% among students from public and private schools, 39% of the students analyzed here indicated that they had consumed marijuana in the last year. Pense (IBGE, 2021) indicated the consumption in the last 30 days of

6.7% of students in the Southern Region of Brazil, with 10.3% among the age group 16 to 17 years, closer to the age of the Students of the EJA analyzed. In this same survey, Florianópolis was the capital with the highest marijuana use in the last month (9.4%) (IBGE, 2021). For students of the EJA of Florianópolis, according to the data discussed here, the index in the month was 31.9%, significantly higher.

When looking at the significantly high number of marijuana use patterns in the EJA in Florianópolis when compared to national and local standards, it is necessary to turn to contextual and intersectional issues that may be influencing this situation. One issue that may be associated, requiring the crossing with qualitative data, is the issue of the high psychosocial vulnerability of this population, as demonstrated by the socioeconomic profile, but also the statements of exclusion from the regular school and the discussion of the meaning of studying for this group.

Table 4, in turn, shows the pattern of marijuana consumption of participants with valid answers in relation to the last year and last month, considering the dimensions of gender/gender, age group, race and social class.

**Table 4** - Pattern of marijuana consumption of participants with answers available in relation to the last year and last month and in relation to sex, age group, race and social class of students of the EJA of Florianópolis, based on valid cases and confidence interval of 95%

	Marijuana use in the last year							Marijuana use in the last month						
	No	%	Yes	%	$\chi^2$	p	V <sup>to</sup>	No	%	Yes	%	$\chi^2$	p	V <sup>to</sup>
<b>Sex</b>														
Female	33	14,9	46	20,7	1,75	0,18	0,08	42	18,9	37	16,7	1,442	0,23	0,08
Male	47	21,2	96	43,2	18,9	0,001*	0,29	64	28,8	79	35,6	11,44	0,003*	0,22
Total	80	36,0	142	64,0				106	47,7	116	52,3			
<b>Age group</b>														
15 to 17	27	12,4	87	39,9				44	20,2	70	32,1			
18 to 21	20	9,2	28	12,8	18,9	0,001*	0,29	24	11,0	24	11,0	11,44	0,003*	0,22
22 or +	32	14,7	24	11,0				37	17,0	19	8,7			
Total	79	36,2	139	63,8				105	48,2	111	51,8			
<b>Race/Color</b>														
Yellow	1	0,5	4	1,8				2	0,9	3	1,4			
White	34	15,3	67	30,2	1,59	0,66	0,08	44	19,8	57	25,7	1,572	0,66	0,08
Indigenous	1	0,5	3	1,4				2	0,9	2	0,9			

Negress	44	19,8	68	30,6				58	26,1	54	24,3		
Total	80	36,0	142	64,0				106	47,7	116	52,3		
Social class													
The	0	0,0	2	0,8				0	0,0	2	0,9		
B1	0	0,0	2	0,8				0	0,0	2	0,9		
B2	5	2,1	10	4,1				5	2,3	10	4,5		
C1	3	1,2	23	9,5	13,4	0,05	0,02	6	2,7	20	9,0	15,7	0,017*
C2	49	20,2	40	16,5	2	5	2	37	16,7	32	14,4		0,249
D-E	43	17,8	65	26,9				58	26,1	50	22,5		
Total	100	41,3	142	58,7				106	47,7	116	52,3		

<sup>10</sup> Cramer's V; \*P-value  $\leq 0.05$

Source: Prepared by the authors

Among the students of the EJA of Florianópolis, in 2017, there were no significant differences in the pattern of marijuana use between sex/gender, and men and women had approximate rates of consumption in the last month and year. These data differ from other national surveys, which indicate an important association with the gender/gender dimension of the participants, in which there was a higher consumption of marijuana in males (CARLINI *et al.*, 2010; GALDUROZ *et al.*, 2004; IBGE, 2016; IBGE, 2021).

Regarding the issue of race/color, the data did not show a significant difference in the pattern of marijuana consumption among students of the EJA of Florianópolis.

As in alcohol consumption, it was the age group that showed significant differences in marijuana consumption among participating students (Table 4). The differences observed were mainly between the group of younger participants (15 to 17 years) and the group of older participants (22 years or more). Marijuana use in the last year showed a significant p, but a not so strong index in its associative effect (Cramer V = 0.295, p = 0.001). The analysis of adjusted residues showed higher residue loads in the groups of 15 to 17 years (z = 4.0) for higher consumption indexes and in the group of 22 years or more (z = 3.8), for lower consumption indexes. Marijuana use in the last month also had an association similar to year in relation to age group (Cramer V = 0.229, p = 0.003). The group of participants aged 15 to 17 years (z = 3.0) and the group of 22 years or more (z = 3.1) presented the greatest residual differences of the analysis, which contributed mostly to the association observed. This significance in the consumption of the age group resumes the discussion of the impacts of juvenilizing the EJA (CARRANO, 2007; SOUZA FILHO; CASSOL; AMORIM, 2021).

As Carrano (2007, p. 3) (Our translation) states, the entry of young people into the EJA brings challenges that transcend traditional pedagogical projects, as they imply the need to

[...] understand the non-school times and spaces of young subjects who are in school but are not ultimately school. This young student increasingly young who arrives at the EJA classes carries to the institution references of sociability and interactions that distance themselves from institutional references.

In this direction, even though "youth" is a category built in the post-war period, this social construction became praxis, making itself productive and thus producing world and sociability (CARRANO, 2007).

This same author reflects on the unresolved conflicts between young people and institutions, caused by difficulties in recognizing and translating signs not adequately deciphered by the school, arising from the specificity of the culture of young people (CARRANO, 2007). It is in this sense that alcohol and marijuana abuse can have its signs rooted in the culture of these young people with trajectories of vulnerability, whose deciphering can be difficult to understand for professionals and researchers. In this sense, it is important to carry out investigations that consider the trajectories of life and the rescue of the existential senses of these students.

Regarding the association between marijuana use and social class, the results obtained on marijuana use revealed a low association with marijuana use in the last month ( $CsV = 0.249$ ,  $p = 0.017$ ). The analysis of adjusted residuals indicated a higher residual load of greater disparity for socioeconomic class C1 ( $z = 2.7$ ), with higher consumption rates. Given the low number of participants in the higher social classes (A and B1) complementary analyses were performed, such as exclusion, grouping and management of these participants and, even so, it was observed the maintenance of the probability of marijuana use in the last month and social class being a non-random association ( $0.006 \geq p \leq 0.019$ ), ( $0.21 \geq v \geq$  of Cramer  $\leq 0.25$ ). Thus, to preserve the heterogeneity of the sample, we opted for the maintenance of classes A and B1.

It is important to highlight that in the 6e survey conducted by CEBRID, it was revealed a greater involvement of students from private schools with the consumption of substances in general and, specifically, for marijuana, alcohol and tobacco, with a higher prevalence of classes A and B, in relation to public schools, which, in turn, have a higher prevalence of students in classes C, D and E. However, when considering the frequent or heavy consumption pattern, the rates were higher among students from public schools. Thus, possibly the social differences in the case of students, seem not to be related to greater access to the consumption of these substances, but possibly be associated with a greater vulnerability to the development of a problematic consumption pattern (CARLINI *et al.*, 2010).



## **Final considerations**

This was the first study focusing on the characterization of the consumption of psychoactive substances in the EJA in Florianópolis, as well as one of the first surveys on the pattern of use of alcohol and other drugs of the population of students of this educational modality in Brazil. These students, due to their profile of greater psychosocial vulnerability, require greater epidemiological and descriptive studies of their profile, either with qualitative and quantitative characteristics, aiming at subsidies for the formulation of specific strategic actions and public policies.

Regarding the age group, alcohol and marijuana consumption showed a more significant relationship. Younger students, 15 to 17 years old, reported higher consumption of both substances than students over 18 years of age and, mainly, than older students over 22 years of age. These data make us reflect on the impacts of juvenilizing of the EJA and the pedagogical challenges arising from it.

In general, the differences between alcohol and marijuana consumption patterns of students of the EJA of Florianópolis, in 2017, when moderated by socioeconomic indicators such as gender/gender, race and social class, did not show significant results, presenting weak correlation strength. Thus, there are indications that the profile of these students, when they seek the modality of the EJA, considered as the "school board of the second chance", as Carrano (2007, p. 2) states, has in the psychosocial vulnerability a situation that transcends the condition of race, social class and sex/gender itself, implying history of vulnerability, marked by the processes of exclusion of school benches and social stigmas, that cross the general profile of students in this modality, increasing their condition of involvement in psychosocial risk situations.

The results obtained in the survey, which characterized the consumption of alcohol and especially marijuana of students of the EJA of Florianópolis, were significantly higher than that of national rates of consumption of psychoactive substances among regular school students, being even higher than in the Brazilian population in general. These data reinforce the need for attention to this group, with the challenge of formulating strategies and programs for health promotion, risk prevention and harm reduction, with a specific focus on the EJA modality.

Important, too, the care in addressing this issue of high consumption of alcohol and marijuana so as not to transform this relationship into another justification for the already costly prejudices that surround EJA students and to increase the stigmas that surround them. Therefore, this situation also requires the need for actions that turn to the investigation of the

processes of social determination, this exposure to greater risks, seeking to unveil the intersectionalities and meanings implied in the return to school benches by these students, the field of possibilities that are unveiled with this educational modality for this population and the function of the use of substances in the management of the challenges and conflicts of their lives.

Thus, resulting from these data and their discussion, two intervention proposals were developed for Students of the EJA: one of them was the realization of psychoeducational workshops focused on harm reduction and self-care, aimed at young people and teachers. In 2019, a cycle of workshops was conducted in the six different centers of the EJA of Florianópolis, involving the participation of more than 100 students and 20 professors, with the collaboration of undergraduate and graduate students from UFSC as moderators. Very important for students who have a high pattern of psychoactive substance use, when verified by research, to establish a dialogical, participatory approach that is not prohibitionist and that considers the diversity of experiences with substances and their life contexts. Therefore, it is indicated the reduction of damages as one of the approaches that best fit for this type of public, such as the profile of the EJA of Florianópolis. It is not an approach that serves any and all audiences, for example, younger students who have not yet started in the use of psychoactive substances, for which they would be more adequate actions focused on life skills, for example.

Another action resulting from the research was the development of the proposal of life project workshops, built from the perspective of health promotion, as a way to face personal vulnerabilities and build a planning of strategies to strengthen perspectives of academic and professional future. This is because most of those young people declared that the EJA was their last educational opportunity and consider it a bridge to a better future, in terms of attending a university, in improving working conditions, employment and income. Thus, developing concrete possibilities for building bridges for the future becomes an important responsibility and pedagogical challenge for the EJA (RODRIGUES, 2020).

The limitation of the study is the scarcity of reliability estimates of the instruments used and, consequently, the estimates of the underlying constructs, and the indexes of strength of association between the explanatory variables and the variables explained were moderate or low. In addition, the research results should be evaluated with parsimony in relation to the external validity, given the survey design and the high number of variables used to test the hypotheses related to the research problem. Thus, the results presented and discussed are restricted to the profile of students of the EJA of Florianópolis, in 2017, and should be used with care for generalizations in other contexts. Finally, it is suggested new research that can

triangulate qualitative and quantitative data in the data analysis, in order to further grade the discussion of the results.

**ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS:** To CNPq for the Productivity Grant 2 for Professor Doctor Daniela Ribeiro Schneider.

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#### How to refer to this article

SOEIRO, A. G.; GARCIA, D.; SCHNEIDER, D. R. Relationship between the socioeconomic status and the pattern use of alcohol and marijuana of students from Youth and Adult Education (EJA). **Doxa: Rev. Bras. Psico. e Educ.**, Araraquara, v. 23, n. 00, e022009, 2022. e-ISSN: 2594-8385. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.30715/doxa.v23i00.16214>

**Submitted:** 21/05/2022

**Revisions required:** 13/07/2022

**Approved:** 08/09/2022

**Published:** 30/11/2022

**Processing and publication by the Editora Ibero-Americana de Educação.**  
Correction, formatting, standardization and translation.

