

WHETHER, WHEN AND WHY THE POPULATION OF THE PELAGONIA REGION USED ARTIFICIAL SWEETENERS AND HOW THEY KNOW THEM?

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Abstract

Artificial sweeteners are generally sweeter than sucrose, but apart from it their calories number is minimal and they have a lot of negative effects.

A survey of 120 respondents at different age and different education level, was conducted to evaluate the population awareness in Pelagonia, Republic of Macedonia. The questions were divided into four groups. The first set of questions was whether and how often they have used artificial sweeteners, while the second was why and when have they used them. The third set of questions was to explain sweeteners' influence on human health and for the fourth set of questions were related to answers how familiar with them were them. The number of questions is different for each group. Correlation between respondents with secondary and higher education was performed by Pearson's correlation coefficient, for the major issues of each group.

The correlation of the first group was $r = 0.9897433$, the correlation of the second group was $r = 0.9878291$, for the third group it was $r = 0.8788561$ and the correlation for the fourth group was $r = 0.99915$.

This survey showed that the respondents who obtained secondary and higher education were not sufficiently informed about artificial sweeteners, which indicates the need for additional training about the usage and the properties of artificial sweeteners.

Key words: *Artificial sweeteners, Survey, Respondents.*