

IS YOUTH SUBCULTURE MEMBERSHIP ASSOCIATED WITH ADOLESCENT SUBSTANCE USE?

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Daniela Bobakova MSc^{1,2}, Assoc. Prof. Andrea Madarasova Geckova PhD^{1,2}, Prof. Sijmen A. Reijneveld MD PhD⁴, Assoc. Prof. Jitse P. van Dijk MD PhD^{1,3}

¹ Graduate School Kosice Institute for Society and Health, P.J. Šafárik University Košice, Slovakia
² Institute for Public Health – Dept. Health Psychology, Medical Faculty, P.J. Šafárik University Košice, Slovak Republic
³ Department of Social Medicine, University Medical Center Groningen, University of Groningen, The Netherlands

BACKGROUND AND AIM

Youth subcultures (Hip-hop, Punk, Skinheads, Techno-scene, Metal) are known for specific lifestyle, music preference, shared values and behaviours of their members.¹ The aim of this study was to assess the association between youth subculture membership and substance use (tobacco, alcohol and cannabis), and whether gender, family affluence and substance use by peers explain this association.

METHODS

Sample

Health Behaviour in School aged Children 2009/2010 study
 15-year-old elementary school pupils (N=1605; mean age=15.47, 49.7% boys)

Measures

* Subcultures vs. Mainstream

(Hip – hop, Punk, Skinheads, Techno scene, Metal vs. Church community, Other, Any subculture)

* Smoking cigarettes

(at least once a week)

* Drinking alcohol

(at least one type of alcoholic drink every week)

* Drunkenness

(being drunk at least once in the previous 30 days)

* Cannabis use

(used cannabis at least once in the previous 30 days)

* Gender

* Family affluence²

(low affluence, middle affluence, high affluence)

* Peers

(at least most of their friends 1. smoke, 2. drink, 3. get drunk, 4. use cannabis)

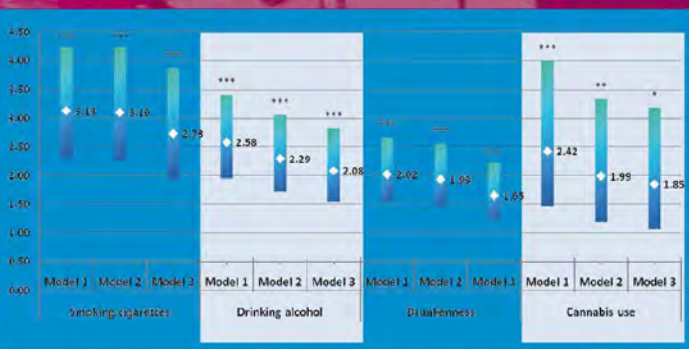
Analysis

Multivariable logistic regression models were run separately for smoking cigarettes, drinking alcohol, drunkenness and cannabis use. **Model 1** tested the crude association of belonging to a subculture with substance use. **Model 2** was adjusted for gender and family affluence (FAS). **Model 3** was additionally adjusted for peers' smoking, drinking, drunkenness and cannabis use, respectively, in order to explore whether these explain the associations with the subcultures.

RESULTS

Almost 50% of Slovak adolescents was involved in youth subcultures. Youth subculture membership was strongly and significantly associated with substance use, and adjustment for gender and family affluence decreased the strength of this association. Adjustment for substance use by peers reduced the associations of youth subculture membership with substance use by 19 to 40%, but this association remained rather strong and statistically significant (Figure 1).

Figure 1: Associations of youth subcultures membership with smoking cigarettes, drinking at least one type of alcoholic drink at least every week, being drunk in the past month, and cannabis use in the past month.



*** p<0.001; ** p<0.01; * p<0.05

CONCLUSION

Youth subculture membership appears to be an important risk factor with regard to adolescents' substance use. Only a part of this risk runs via gender, family affluence and peer substance use. Prevention programmes should target youth subcultures by highlighting and promoting healthy lifestyle and socially accepted leisure-time activities popular for adolescents within a particular subculture.

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Daniela Bobakova MSc

Graduate School Kosice Institute for Society and Health
 Institute of Public Health – Dept. of Health Psychology
 Medical Faculty, P.J. Šafárik University
 Trieba Street 1
 040 01 Košice
 Slovak Republic
 Email: Daniela.Bobakova@ukos.sk

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Adolescents' oral health: What do you know? What to do? What is observed?

Bica Isabel, Cunha Madalena, Rodrigues Vitor, Costa Jose, Costa Patricia, Madureira António, Andre Suzana, Andrade Ana and Albuquerque Carlos

Objectives: Describe the knowledge and identify the practices of oral hygiene in adolescents.

Methods: A cross-sectional descriptive study. A non-probability sample of 323 adolescents in the third cycle of basic education. Questionnaire on knowledge and practices related to oral health. 77.40% of teenagers have reasonable knowledge about oral health, especially the females with 87.50%; 53.56% of teenagers consider it necessary to brush their teeth twice a day; 38.39% of respondents indicated that one should use dental floss once a day; 42.11% of the adolescents did not answer about the concept of plaque. Most teens brush their teeth once a day (50.46%); 44.27% report never using dental floss; 13.96% have caries; 54.35% shows accumulation of plaque visible to the naked eye; The DMFT of the sample is from 2734 participants. **Conclusions:** Adolescents have better knowledge of oral hygiene practices and therefore a high DMFT index.

How strongly is youth subculture membership associated with adolescent substance use?

Bobakova Daniela, Kolarcik Peter, Madarasova Geckova Andrea, Reijneveld Sijmen A. and van Dijk Jitse P.

Background: Youth subculture membership (HipHop, Punk, Skinheads, Technoscene, Metal) is a possible predictor of adolescent substance use. The aim of this study was to explore the strength of the association between youth subcultures and substance use considering possible confounders. **Methods:** We used data from 15-year-old elementary school pupils ($N = 1504$; mean age = 15.48) who participated in the Health Behaviour in School-aged Children 2009/2010 study. The effect of belonging to a youth subculture on substance use (smoking, drinking alcohol, drunkenness and cannabis use) was adjusted for gender, socioeconomic position and peers' influence. **Findings:** Belonging to a youth subculture was significantly associated with substance use (OR/CI: smoking: 3.10/2.27–4.24 drinking 2.33/1.74–3.10) drunkenness 2.39/1.90–3.01) and cannabis use 2.09/1.24–3.52). Gender and socioeconomic position hardly affected this association. Substance use by peers explained from 13% to 37% of this association. **Discussion:** Interventions should focus on adolescents belonging to subcultures – they are at higher risk of substance use.

Communication skills workshop: How to deliver bad news in paediatric settings

Bogdanic Ana, Grubic Marina, Gregurincic Ivanka, Filipovic-Grcic Boris and Kniewald Hrvoje

In order to provide optimal care for young patients, and support their parents, health professionals need adequate communication skills. **Aim:** Improve health professionals' knowledge and skills in communication with parents of sick children. **Participants:** 140 Health professionals from neonatology and gynaecology departments in all main Croatian hospitals. **Description:** Two-day workshop consisted of lectures in which health professionals were introduced with particularities of communication in paediatric settings and workshops in which they had the opportunity to practice their communication skills. Participants also watched short movie with parental testimonies. **Evaluation:** All of the participants found this education very helpful for their future work and rated it as excellent (average grade 4.8 on a scale from 1 to 5). Most of the participants felt more competent in communication after this workshop. They stressed the need for more such workshops due to inadequate education in communication skills during their studies.