

Is antisocial behaviour among Roma and non-Roma adolescents in Slovakia related to accidents and injuries prevalence?



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BACKGROUND AND AIM

Roma adolescents were found to report more accidents and injuries during the past year compared with non-Roma adolescents. Roma adolescents were also frequently mentioned in the public opinion as behaving delinquently and aggressively. Delinquency and aggression might influence the prevalence of accidents and injuries. The aim of our study is to assess whether the excess occurrence of accidents and injuries among Roma adolescents is associated with more self-reported delinquent behaviour and aggression than among non-Roma.

METHODS

Sample

* Roma: 324 adolescents (48.5% boys; 14.50±1.03 yrs); interview
 * Non-Roma: 513 adolescents (53.2% boys; 14.85±0.59 yrs); questionnaire

Measures

* **Gender** (Boy (1), Girl (0))

* **Age**

* **Ethnicity** (Roma (1), non-Roma (0))

* **Accidents and Injuries** (Bolland, 2003)

Burns: Have you burnt yourself so badly that you had to see a doctor during the last year? Answers: Yes (1), No (0)

Cuts: Have you cut yourself by accident so badly you had to see a doctor during the last year? Answers: Yes (1), No (0)

Fractures: Have you broken a bone during the last year? Answers: Yes (1), No (0)

* **Delinquent behaviour** (Zhang, Benson 2000)

10 items from ISRD study (damage, stealing, threaten somebody, weapon carrying, fighting, beating somebody, ...)

Answers: from never (1) to 3 and more times (5)

* **Aggressive behaviour** (The Aggression Questionnaire, Buss, Perry 1992)

We used 2 subscales:

Physical aggression – 9 items (hurting or harming another, representing the instrumental or motor component of the behaviour)

Hostility – 8 items (feelings of ill will and injustice, representing the cognitive component of the behaviour)

Answers: from extremely uncharacteristic for me (1) to extremely characteristic for me (5)

ANALYSIS

Multivariable logistic regression analyses were used to assess the effect of perceived social support on risky behaviours (smoking, drinking, experience with drug use), adjusted in 3 steps for the effect of respondents' ethnicity, gender and age. First crude OR of independent variable was calculated. Then combined effects of antisocial behaviours on each accident or injury were calculated in Model 1. In Model 2 the effect of antisocial behaviours was adjusted for gender and in Model 3 it was adjusted for ethnicity. All analyses were performed using the statistical software SPSS 16.0 for Windows.

RESULTS

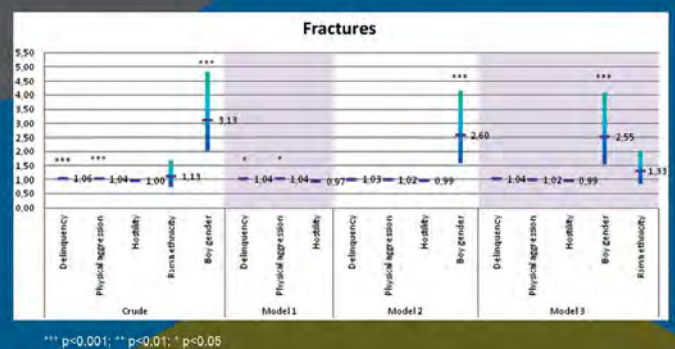
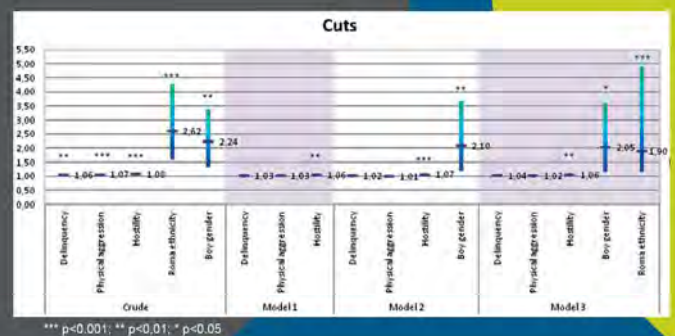
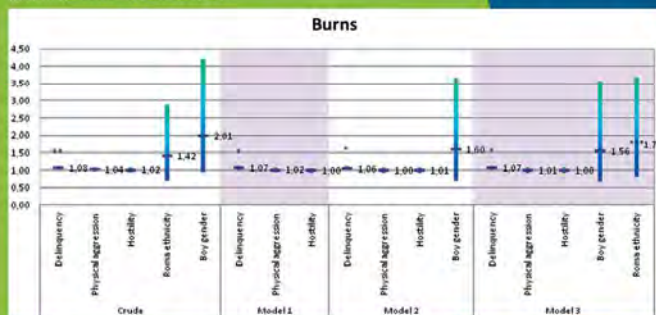
Roma did not differ in burns and fractures, reported less delinquent and aggressive behaviour but they reported more cuts and hostility compared with non-Roma adolescents. Crude odds ratios revealed that delinquency was associated with burns, cuts and fractures (odds ratio (OR) from 1.06 to 1.08, $p < 0.01$), physical aggression with cuts and fractures (OR=2.71, from 1.04 to 1.07, $p < 0.001$) and hostility with cuts only (OR=1.08, 95% CI=1.04-1.12, $p < 0.001$). Adjustment for gender, ethnicity and other antisocial behaviours showed that burns were associated with delinquency (OR=1.08, 95% CI=1.04-1.12, $p < 0.001$) and cuts with hostility, gender and Roma ethnicity. Fractures were not associated with antisocial behaviours but with male gender.

Table 1: Prevalence of accidents and injuries during last year and mean score of delinquency, physical aggression and hostility among Roma and non-Roma adolescents (percentage, mean (SD)).

Categorical variables	Roma		non-Roma		p value
	%	Mean (SD)	%	Mean (SD)	
Burns	4,6	11,4 (3,0)	3,1	12,9 (5,3)	ns.
Cuts	13,6	22,7 (7,8)	5,7	24,1 (7,4)	$p < 0.001^*$
Fractures	14,8	23,0 (7,1)	13,3	21,7 (6,7)	ns.
Continual variables					
Delinquency					0,001*
Physical aggression					0,01*
Hostility					0,01*

* Chi square
 * t-test

Figure 1-3: Effect of antisocial behaviours adjusted in 3 models on accidents and injuries during last year (graph represents OR and 95% CI).



CONCLUSION

The occurrence of burns and cuts among adolescents is to a certain degree predicted by delinquent behaviours even after adjustment for gender and ethnicity. Roma do not differ from non-Roma in the association of injuries with antisocial behaviours. We recommend exploring other variables with the potential to explain a larger part of the variance.

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Background

Roma adolescents were found to report more accidents and injuries during the past year compared with non-Roma adolescents. Roma adolescents were also frequently mentioned in the public opinion as behaving delinquently and aggressively. Delinquency and aggression might influence the prevalence of accidents and injuries. The aim of our study is to assess whether the excess occurrence of accidents and injuries among Roma adolescents is associated with more self-reported delinquent behaviour and aggression than among non-Roma.

Method

In a cross-sectional study among Roma (N=324; mean age = 14.50, SD = 1.03; interview) and non-Roma adolescents (N=513; mean age = 14.85, SD = 0.59; questionnaire) we obtained data on injuries (burns, cuts, fractures) during the previous 12 months, delinquent behaviour, physical aggression and hostility. The effect of delinquency and aggressive behaviours on occurrence of injuries was assessed using multivariate logistic regression, adjusted for gender and ethnicity on the total sample because of the not-significant interactions of ethnicity with antisocial behaviours.

Findings

Roma did not differ in burns and fractures, reported less delinquent and aggressive behaviour but they reported more cuts and hostility compared with non-Roma adolescents. Crude odds ratios revealed that delinquency was associated with burns, cuts and fractures (odds ratio (OR) from 1.06 to 1.08, $p < 0.01$), physical aggression with cuts and fractures (OR = 2.71, from 1.04 to 1.07, $p < 0.001$) and hostility with cuts only (OR = 1.08, 95% CI = 1.04–1.12, $p < 0.001$). Adjustment for gender, ethnicity and other antisocial behaviours showed that burns were associated with delinquency (OR = 1.08, 95% CI = 1.04–1.12, $p < 0.001$) and cuts with hostility, gender and Roma ethnicity. Fractures were not associated with antisocial behaviours but with male gender.

Conclusion

The occurrence of burns and cuts among adolescents is to a certain degree predicted by delinquent behaviours even after adjustment for gender and ethnicity. Roma do not differ from non-Roma in the association of injuries with antisocial behaviours. We recommend exploring other variables with the potential to explain a larger part of the variance.

Lifestyle health behaviour surveyed in Polish teenagers and parental perception (2011)

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Background

A healthy lifestyle when young is vital to ensure adequate public health in adulthood. This large survey identifies problem areas for both youngsters and their parents thus providing a target for remedial action.

Methods

A major questionnaire study was recently performed throughout Poland on 9320 teenage middle-high school pupils, (aged 12–17 years), and 6950 parents concerning health behaviour based on the USA equivalent 'Youth Behavioural Risk Factor Surveillance System', (YBRFSS), carried out by trained SANEPID staff. The survey was anonymous and voluntary with full backing from parents, schools and education authorities including bioethical approval.

Results

9% of pupils admitted to smoking of which 18% did so at school. Main reasons being; peer acceptance (56.5%), spending free time (32%), reaction to stress (31.5%) and spiting parents (11.4%). Also 23% pupils admitted to drinking alcohol, beer being most popular, where girls often matched boys. Parental awareness of their sibling's drinking was apparently feeble with only 2% admitting that their offspring drank. A direct relationship was nonetheless found between excessive parental drinking and that of their children as well as with lowered teenager self-assessment linked to risky behaviour. Answers regarding physical activity between teenagers and parents however agreed. Only 3% of pupils admitted to taking drugs; with parents being totally unaware. Teenage diets were also found to be high in processed carbohydrates and animal fats but low in fish, vegetables, fruit and dairy products; often being a reflection of traditional family habits of food consumption. Eating away from home was minimal.

Conclusions

Recommendations thus made were; more parental awareness of how offspring free time is spent and more time devoted to upbringing is necessary, child education should include raising self-esteem/confidence and families require educating in healthier lifestyles and diet.

Socioeconomic differences in adolescents' breakfast eating, fruit and vegetable consumption and physical activity in Ghana

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Background

Few studies have investigated the association between adolescents' socioeconomic status (SES) and health behaviours in developing countries. We investigated socioeconomic differences in breakfast eating, fruit and vegetable consumption and physical activity among Ghanaian adolescents.

Methods

A school-based cross-sectional survey of a representative sample of 12–18-year-old adolescents (N = 1,195) was conducted in 2008 in southern Ghana, West Africa. Logistic regression analysis was applied to study the associations between food choices, physical activity and the socioeconomic indicators.

Setting

Three administrative regions in southern Ghana, West Africa.

Results

Of all adolescents, 31% took breakfast less than four days in a week, over half (56%) and 48%, respectively rarely ate fruit and vegetables. Younger adolescents (12–15 year olds) consumed more fruits and vegetables than older ones (16–18 year-olds). Boys were more likely to participate in physical activity than girls. Father's higher educational level and greater material affluence were associated with more physical activity. Compared with low school performance, higher school performance was the most statistically significant predictor of frequent fruit and vegetable intake. Parental education was the statistically most significant predictor of breakfast eating so that those with higher parental educational level ate breakfast more frequently compared to adolescents with lower parental educational levels.