SOCIOECONOMIC GRADIENT SHIFTS IN HEALTH-RELATED BEHAVIOUR AMONG SLOVAK ADOLESCENTS BETWEEN 1998 AND 2006

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BACKGROUND AND AIM

We aimed to assess whether a shift in socio-economic (SE) gradients of health-related behaviours has occurred in Slovak adolescents in recent years.

METHODS

Data were collected in 1998 (N=2616; 14.9±0.6 yrs) and in 2006 (N=1081; 14.3±0.6 yrs). Odds ratios of SE differences (measured by parental education) in smoking, alcohol consumption and physical inactivity in each cohort and their interactions were calculated for each gender separately.

RESULTS

Higher odds of smoking in the low SE group compared to the high SE group in 1998 diminished among boys (odds ratio for interaction time x group 0.54) in 2006 but became apparent among girls (interaction odds ratio 1.96). SE differences in alcohol consumption remained insignificant among boys and lower odds in the low SE group compared to the high SE group disappeared among girls. Physical inactivity decreased among both genders and in all SE groups.

CONCLUSION

During the same period, SE differences in health-related behaviour have developed in a different way among boys and among girls. Data from low SE group should be targeted by specific prevention programs because of the increase in substance use among them.

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assess the impact of onychomycosis on patient’s quality of life. **Methods:** A literature review was conducted to generate the initial item pool. An expert panel, made up by dermatologists and psychologists, examined the content validity. Three focus group with patients and 7 individual patient interview were conducted to refine the questionnaire. **Results:** The final 53-item scale covered four areas of health-related quality of life: symptoms, social functioning, emotional well-being and treatment. **Conclusion:** The application value of this scale remains to be investigated by a large quantitative research, including patients coming from different regions and cultural backgrounds.

**Assessing psychological distress in patients with skin diseases: A confirmatory factor analysis of the Italian version of Hospital Anxiety Depression Scale**

Pisanti Renato, Filograna Stefania, Cantoresi Franca and Sorgi Paola

**Background:** The Hospital Anxiety and Depression Scale (HADS) is a widely used screening instrument for detecting anxiety or depression in the medical out-patient clinic for non-psychiatric patients. There is evidence in the literature supporting unidimensional, two-factor and three-factor conceptualisations of the HADS. **Methods:** We assess the adequacy of the factor structure of the HADS for one-factor, two-factor and three-factor solutions using structural equations modelling, in a sample of 321 dermatological patients (Female = 55%; Mean age = 43; ds = 17.2). **Findings:** The original two-factor solution was the best explanation of the sample data ($\chi^2$/d.f. = 2.82; CFI = 0.91; RMSEA = 0.075). However, as in previous studies, item 7 loaded better on depression component than anxiety. **Discussion:** The results are discussed from both clinical and theoretical points of view.

**Socio-economic gradient shifts in health-related behaviour among Slovak adolescents between 1998 and 2006**

Pitel Lukas, Madarasova Geckova Andrea, van Dijk Jitse P. and Reijneveld Sijmen A.

**Background:** We aimed to assess whether a shift in socio-economic gradients of health-related behaviours has occurred in Slovak adolescents in recent years. **Methods:** Data were collected in 1998 ($N = 2616; 14.9 \pm 0.6$ years) and in 2006 ($N = 1081; 14.3 \pm 0.6$ years). Odds ratios of socio-economic differences in smoking, alcohol consumption and physical inactivity in each cohort and their interactions were calculated for each gender separately. **Findings:** Higher odds of smoking in the low socio-economic group compared to the high socio-economic group in 1998 diminished among boys (odds ratio for interaction time x group 0.54) in 2006 but became apparent among girls (interaction odds ratio 1.96). Physical inactivity decreased among both genders and in all socio-economic groups. **Conclusion:** During the same period, socio-economic differences in health-related behaviour have developed in a different way among boys and among girls. Girls from low socio-economic group should be targeted by specific prevention programs because of the increase in substance use among them.

**‘Express nothing’ as a tendency of emotion regulation in a group of diseased adults**

Polackova Solcova Iva, Solcova Iva, Stuchlikova Iva, Mazehoova Yvona, Vinokhodova Alla and Sery Michal

Emotions are cardinal psychics and psychological phenomena closely connected with health. According to the recent research, expression of emotions is connected with health while its suppression is often viewed as an unhealthy strategy of emotion regulation. Our study deals