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Social Normative Beliefs Regarding Smoking among Vietnamese Adolescents

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Objective: This study investigates social normative factors regarding smoking in a school-based sample of Vietnamese adolescents

Methods: Subjects consisted of 2,000 Vietnamese high school students who completed a survey in 2008 about normative beliefs (perceptions the prevalence of smoking, disapproval by parents/peers, smoking among the successful/elite) regarding smoking. Iterative principle components factor analysis determined the underlying factor structure of the normative belief items and logistic regression identified specific normative beliefs associated with smoking behavior and susceptibility to smoking separately in the two populations.

Results: As hypothesized, the adolescents highly overestimated smoking prevalence among their peers. Of the three measures of normative beliefs, only parent/peer disapproval was independently associated with current smoking, ever tried smoking, and susceptibility to future smoking. Perceived prevalence of smoking was independently associated with current smoking and susceptibility to smoking only in the Vietnamese students, but perceived prevalence among successful/elite members of society was associated not associated with current smoking or susceptibility to future smoking.

Conclusion: The results among Vietnamese students are consistent with previous research showing that adolescents highly overestimate smoking prevalence. Youth smoking prevention program planners working with Vietnamese adolescents should consider assessing and taking into account normative beliefs and develop strategies that provide accurate information about the actual prevalence of smoking, the types of individuals who smoke, and approval/disapproval of smoking by parents and peers.

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The Impact of School Characteristics on Adolescent Smoking in South Korea

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Background: The smoking rate among Korean adolescent is increasing. Since adolescents spend most of their days in school, it is imperative that their health-related value and behaviors are largely influenced by school environment. While individual, family and peer factors have been widely studied by a number of previous studies on adolescent smoking, little attention has been paid to school environment factors.

Objectives: The aim of this study is to examine the environmental characteristics of schools as a determining risk factor of adolescent smoking in Korea.

Contents and Methods: Data are gained from the 3rd Korea Youth Risk Behavior Web-based Survey (KYRBWS) conducted by the Korea Center for Disease Control and Prevention (KCDC) in 2007. Student smoking is dichotomized to measure non-smoking versus ever smoking. School environmental characteristics include culture and organizational structures of the school. Multi-level logistic regression analysis is used to identify school environmental factors, with simultaneous adjustment of individual, family, and peer factors. **Contribution:** When the school level risk factors are identified as an independent risk factor of adolescent smoking, this finding will be a useful resource for school smoking policies in Korea. The study will be able to suggest that individual- and school-level characteristics should be simultaneously considered in understanding adolescent smoking and other unhealthy behaviors

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A Study of Tobacco Hazard Investigation and the Effect of Health Educational Intervention among Elementary School Students of Aboriginal Countries in Nantou County

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The purposes of this study were to explore prevalence of smoking, source of cigarettes smoking behavior of their families and friends, and effects of a tobacco educational intervention on the knowledge of tobacco hazards, attitudes toward smoking, and self-efficacy among elementary school students in aboriginal area. The subjects were 796 fifth- to sixth-grade students from 32 schools in aboriginal area in Nantou as the population of this study. The data was collected via a self-administrated questionnaire in 2007. According to the result, the smoking rate among the students was 34.7%. There were 40.8% and 23.7% of them whose father and both parents smoked, and the major sources of cigarettes were from classmates or friends approximately 36.4%. Additionally, the tools of tobacco control educational intervention were developed by Bureau of Health Promotion. Total number of valid subject of the intervention was 228 and distributed the students into experimental groups and control group. In order to compare the effectiveness of the intervention, pre-test was administrated in one month after the program. In conclusion, smoking behavior of parents and peers and knowledge of tobacco hazards were the important factors which influence smoking behavior among the students; however, the intervention could significantly increase the knowledge and attitudes toward smoking among the experimental groups compared with the control groups in terms of immediate effect which result in reduction of smoking. Therefore, the intervention obviously increased the effectiveness of health education.