

Relationships between roles of bullying and smoking intention in high school students in Taiwan

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Background:

Previous cross-sectional studies had found that current smokers were more likely to be bullies and all forms of bullying were associated with smoking behavior in adolescent. Longitudinal study also found bully-victims were more likely to initiate smoking in students. Few study investigated the relationship between bullying and intention to smoke among non-smoking adolescents.

Purposes:

The purposes of this study were to describe the relationship between role of bullying and future smoking intention in high school students in Taiwan.

Methods:

Data was derived from Health Behavior Survey of Students in Healthy School in Taiwan. Subjects were 12,037 non-smokers students in 90 high schools. Main outcome was future smoking intention (yes /no). Roles of bullying were defined as bullying, victims, both, and not involved during past 30 days. Control variables included sex, single parental family, parental highest education, self-perceived academic achievement, perceived parental expectation for academic achievement, past smoking experience, alcohol drinking, seeing others smoking at schoolyard, family smoking, friend smoking, excessive television watching, play PC games, and using face book. All variables were collected by questionnaire which administrated by students at class. Multi-level Logistic regression model was used for analyses.

Results:

After adjusted for control variables, multi-level logistic regression found that roles of bullying were significant associated with intention to smoke in the future. Compare with not involved in bullying, those who bullying others, victims, and both were more likely with intention to smoke in the future six months, odds ratios were 1.28, 1.33, and 1.32 respectively. But there were insignificance among bullying others, victims, and both.

Conclusion:

Involved in bullying which included bullying others, victims, or both, were different situation. But all of them associated with intention to smoke in the future as

the same. It needs more intensive researches to understand the mechanism of these relationships.