ii

Abstract

The present study examined the prevalence, frequencies and predictors of substance use among Chinese adolescents in Hong Kong. A community sample of 2878 adolescents from seven different secondary schools was surveyed. All participants completed self-report questionnaires assessing familial and personal substance use behaviors, and Borderline Personality traits namely negative affectivity, anger control problem, behavioral impulsivity, fear of abandonment, unstable self-image and interpersonal Relationship, and self-destructive tendency. Overall, 52% of males and 42% of females reported having tried alcohol in their lifetime; 24% of males and 20.3% of females tried smoking, and 1.5% of males and 0.6% of females had used marijuana before. An individual's self-destructive tendency was found to be the strongest predictor of adolescents' substance use, irrespective of gender and type of substance used. Some underlying borderline personality traits and familial substance uses predicted adolescents' substance use. Contrary to the self-medication hypothesis, negative affectivity did not predict adolescents' substance use in our sample. Implications of our findings for clinical intervention were discussed.