

Abstract

A feasibility study on psychiatric epidemiology was conducted in a community sample of Hong Kong adolescents. A random sample of 549 F.1 to 3 students was drawn and the Diagnostic Interview Schedules for Children Version IV (DISC-IV) were administered to the parent-adolescent pairs. The response rate of the sample was only 29.7%. Despite a low response rate, our prevalence findings with Chinese adolescents were comparable to those of past studies with Caucasian children. This gives some initial support on the universality of some features of adolescent psychiatric epidemiology. However, the above statement is only tentative and replication with a sample that has a better compliance rate is needed. Some suggestions regarding ways to improve the response rate are made.