

Abstract

The primary objective of this study was to examine parent-youth agreement on psychiatric diagnoses and symptoms with a community sample of Hong Kong adolescents. The youth participants aged 12 to 17 years old and Cantonese speaking. 541 parent-youth dyads were randomly selected from local secondary schools and interviewed individually by using Diagnostic Interview Schedules for Children Version IV (DISC IV). Factors that were presumed to mediate parent-youth agreement such as individual characteristics, family status, socioeconomic status and type of diagnoses were also investigated. The results showed that parent-youth agreement was poor across all diagnostic types, at both diagnostic level and symptomatic levels. The addition of impairment criteria and formation of broader diagnostic groupings did not improve the outcome. The study also failed to identify factors that could account for variations in the magnitude of parent-youth agreement. A cultural explanation was offered to account for the pervasive and poor parent-youth agreement.