NON-SUICIDAL SELF-INJURY, SUICIDAL IDEATION AND SUICIDE ATTEMPTS AMONG CHINESE ADOLESCENTS IN HONG KONG

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The present study investigated the associations of non-suicidal self-injury (NSSI) with suicidal ideation (SI) and suicide attempts (SA) in a community sample of 1,610 (59.1% females) Chinese adolescents in Hong Kong over a 12-month period. Participants' frequencies of NSSI, SI, and SA in the previous six months were assessed at baseline and one year later using a standardized questionnaire. Results of sequential multiple regression analyses revealed that SI significantly predicted NSSI over time but not vice versa, after controlling for demographic variables and baseline NSSI; and NSSI significantly predicted SA over time but not vice versa, after accounting for demographic variables and baseline SA. These findings suggest that these phenomena may exist along a continuum of self-injurious thoughts and behaviors. The potential temporal links from SI to NSSI, and from NSSI to SA were discussed.

Keywords: non-suicidal self-injury, suicidal ideation, suicide attempts, self-injurious thoughts and behaviors, adolescents