

# Adolescent Medicine

## SUICIDE ATTEMPTS IN CHILDHOOD AND ADOLESCENCE DURING A PERIOD OF 6 MONTHS

Submitted by Eleana Gioka

Eleana Gioka, Athina Tsamadou, Angeliki Kalostou, Vassiliki Papathanassiou, Vassiliki Touloupaki, Polyxene Neou

Poison Information Center, Panagiotis and Aglaia Kyriakou Children's Hospital, Athens, Greece

**INTRODUCTION:** Suicide attempts in childhood and adolescence are a crucial issue that society should make every possible effort to solve.

**OBJECTIVE:** The goal was to correlate the problem of suicide attempts by children and adolescents with epidemiologic data concerning the kind of toxic substance used, the gender of the patient, and the timing of the suicide attempts.

**METHODS:** In a period of 6 months (May through October 2006), 3060 suicide attempts from all over the country were reported to the Poison Information Center at Panagiotis and Aglaia Kyriakou Children's Hospital, 513 (16.76%) of which concerned children. The epidemiologic data, the patient's clinical state, the amount of the toxic substance used, and the outcome were evaluated.

**RESULTS:** Five hundred thirteen incidents were studied (89.1% girls, 10.9% boys). The children's ages ranged between 10 and 18 years. Two percent of the incidents concerned children aged 10 to 12, 32.8% concerned children aged 13 to 15, and 65.2% concerned children aged 16 to 18. The majority of the drugs consumed were those with no need for a doctor's prescription (paracetamol: 38.6%; nonsteroidal antiinflammatory drugs: 21.2%; salicylates: 19.1%), whereas psychotropic drugs were involved in 18.9% of the intentional intoxications. Of the 513 patients, 8.6% were under treatment with psychotropic medicines. In addition, 6.6% had at least 1 previous suicide attempt. Of the patients, 20.6% had taken a highly toxic dose of substances. No deaths were reported.

**CONCLUSIONS:** Suicide attempts during childhood and adolescence remain a great problem. Immediate steps should be taken to decrease this number of attempts. Society, families, and the medical community should also make every possible effort to face this serious problem, which has an important social cost.

## HEALTH RISK BEHAVIORS OF STUDENTS IN AN ANATOLIAN UNIVERSITY

Submitted by Selda Fatma Hizel Bulbul

Selda Fatma Hizel Bulbul<sup>a</sup>, Cihat Sanli<sup>a</sup>, Serdar Fidan<sup>a</sup>, Ayca Agar<sup>a</sup>, Gulsen Ceyhun<sup>b</sup>

<sup>a</sup>Department of Pediatrics, Kirikkale University School of Medicine, Ankara, Turkey; <sup>b</sup>Department of Family Physicians, Ankara University School of Medicine, Ankara, Turkey

**INTRODUCTION:** Adolescence is a period of rapid personal development in which health risk behaviors that contribute to the leading causes of social problems, morbidity, and mortality among youth and adults are often established.

**OBJECTIVE:** The purpose of this cross-sectional study was to investigate the health risk behaviors of Anatolian university students.

**METHODS:** Differences according to gender and socioeconomic status in risk behaviors regarding use of tobacco, alcohol, and illegal substances; sexual activity; and physical activity were analyzed. Students from Kirikkale University (1060) were enrolled. The students' privacy was protected by allowing for anonymous and voluntary participation.

**RESULTS:** Mean age of the 684 male (64.5%) and 376 female (35.5%) students was 20.3 years (minimum: 17; maximum: 30 years). Of all the students, 876 (82.9%) had some kind of information about sexuality; however, this number dropped to 546 students (51.5%) within the context of adequacy. Also, 25.3% of all the students had had some kind of sexual intercourse, and only 53.9% used protection during intercourse. Tobacco usage was 35.1% among those in the group, and 8.7% of the male and 3.6% of the female students were using illegal substances. Thirty percent of all the students reported having weight problems. The majority of students had witnessed violence (eg, 32.7% from parents, 77.2% from their friends, and 76.2% at school).

**CONCLUSIONS:** Risk-taking behaviors are considerably common among Turkish university students, and family characteristics have significant effects.

## INTERNET USE AND ABUSE IN AN ADOLESCENT POPULATION IN ATHENS: ASSOCIATIONS WITH PSYCHOLOGICAL PROFILE AND LIFESTYLE OF USERS

Submitted by Eleftheria Konstantoulaki

Elli Tripodaki, Georgios Kormas, Eleftheria Konstantoulaki, Elisabeth Andrie, Georgios Nassis, Aliko Freskou, Maria Sfiri, Helen Georgouli, Artemis Tsitsika, Andreas Constantopoulos  
Adolescent Health Unit, Second Department of Pediatrics, Panagiotis and Aglaia Kyriakou Children's Hospital, University of Athens, Athens, Greece

**INTRODUCTION:** Use of the Internet has become very popular among youth, but phenomena of Web abuse

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