

Migration Intentions and health risk behaviour among university students in Slovakia.

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1. Introduction

- emigration tendencies and HRB may be driven by general personality traits as: sensation seeking, extroversion or achievement motivation
- migration personality: set of specific traits which differs from those who prefer stay in home country despite same conditions, (Boneva, 2006)
- migrants or future migrants were found to behave more risky than general population
 - higher rates of smoking, (Silventoinen, 2007; Jorgensen, 2005)
 - higher rates of alcohol use, (Silventoinen, 2007)
 - higher rates of sexual risk behaviour, (Ayers et al., 2012)
- studies regarding migration tendencies and HRB are rare, mostly focused on adult population and not from European region

2. Aim

- **to explore the link between intention to migrate and three types of risk behaviour (alcohol use, smoking, sexual behaviour) among university students.**

3. Methods

Sample: 489 (76% girls, M.age = 22.8 years) college students from 18 universities in Slovakia

Measures: attitudes towards migrations, AUDIT test, and set of questions regarding smoking and sexual risk behaviour

Statistic: Regression models were used to explore the associations among intentions to migrate and three types of risk behaviour.

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4. Results

Almost 25% of students has an intention to leave home country for a longer time period (more than one year). Those intentions were significantly associated with high tobacco consumption ($\beta = .205$; S.E. = .155; $p = .0003$); with higher number of sexual partners ($\beta = .141$; S.E. = .057; $p = .007$) and with early age of first sexual intercourse ($\beta = .112$; S.E. = .307; $p = .04$). No associations were found regarding alcohol use and intentions to migrate.

Table 1. By gender moderated mediation of resilience on the association between authenticity and alcohol use

Variables	Boys n = 115			Girls n = 374		
	β	t	p	β	t	p
	Intentions to migrate ($R^2 = .084$)			Intentions to migrate ($R^2 = .039$)		
Alcohol use	-.189	-2.051	.051	.009	.174	.862
Smoking	-.101	-1.080	.282	.141	2.750	.006
Number of partners	.050	.534	.594	.176	3.430	.001
Age of sex	-.165	-1.639	.104	-.050	-.913	.362
Having sex under alcohol influence with unknown partner	-.016	-.168	.867	-.057	-1.092	.276
Having sex without condom with unknown partner	.025	.261	.794	-.055	-1.056	.291

5. Conclusions

The study examined three types of health risk behaviour of university students prior to migration. Knowledge about such behaviour prior to departure is vital for policy makers and researchers as they seek to design and implement interventions aimed at quelling this growing public health concern.