



Psychosocial determinants of risky behaviour among Slovak and Czech adolescents

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Background: Adolescents’ risky health and social behaviour might be seen as a way of coping with stressful events that is more prevalent among subjects with particular personalities and in particular social environments. Our aim was to test this model in different cultural settings.

Methods: A cross-sectional, questionnaire based survey was done in Slovakia and the Czech Republic (n=501, mean age 14.5, STD=1.0). We assessed the effect of hopelessness, affectivity (PANAS), and social support from mother and father on adolescents’ risky behaviours (smoking, binge drinking, lack of exercise, delinquency) using logistic regression adjusted for age, gender, and highest education of parents.

Scoring:

Hopelessness: Score varies from 5 to 10. The higher is the score the lower is hopelessness, Cronbach α =0.74, number of items: 5, MIIC=0.36.

Affectivity score varies from 10 to 50. The higher is the score the higher is affectivity.

Positive affectivity: Cronbach α =0.84, number of items: 10, MIIC=0.35.

Negative affectivity: Cronbach α =0.80, number of items: 10, MIIC=0.28.

Social support score varies from 6-24. The higher social support score the lower is the social support. Social support from mother Cronbach α =0.82, number of items: 6, MIIC=0.44, Social support from father Cronbach α =0.91, number of items: 6, MIIC=0.62.

Findings: Higher scoring in negative affectivity (binge drinking and lack of exercise in Slovakia), and lower scoring in positive affectivity (lack of exercise in both countries), and social support from father (smoking in the Czech Republic and lack of exercise in Slovakia) increased the probability of risky behaviour among adolescents.

Figure 1: Effect of psychosocial determinants on risky behaviour among Slovak adolescents

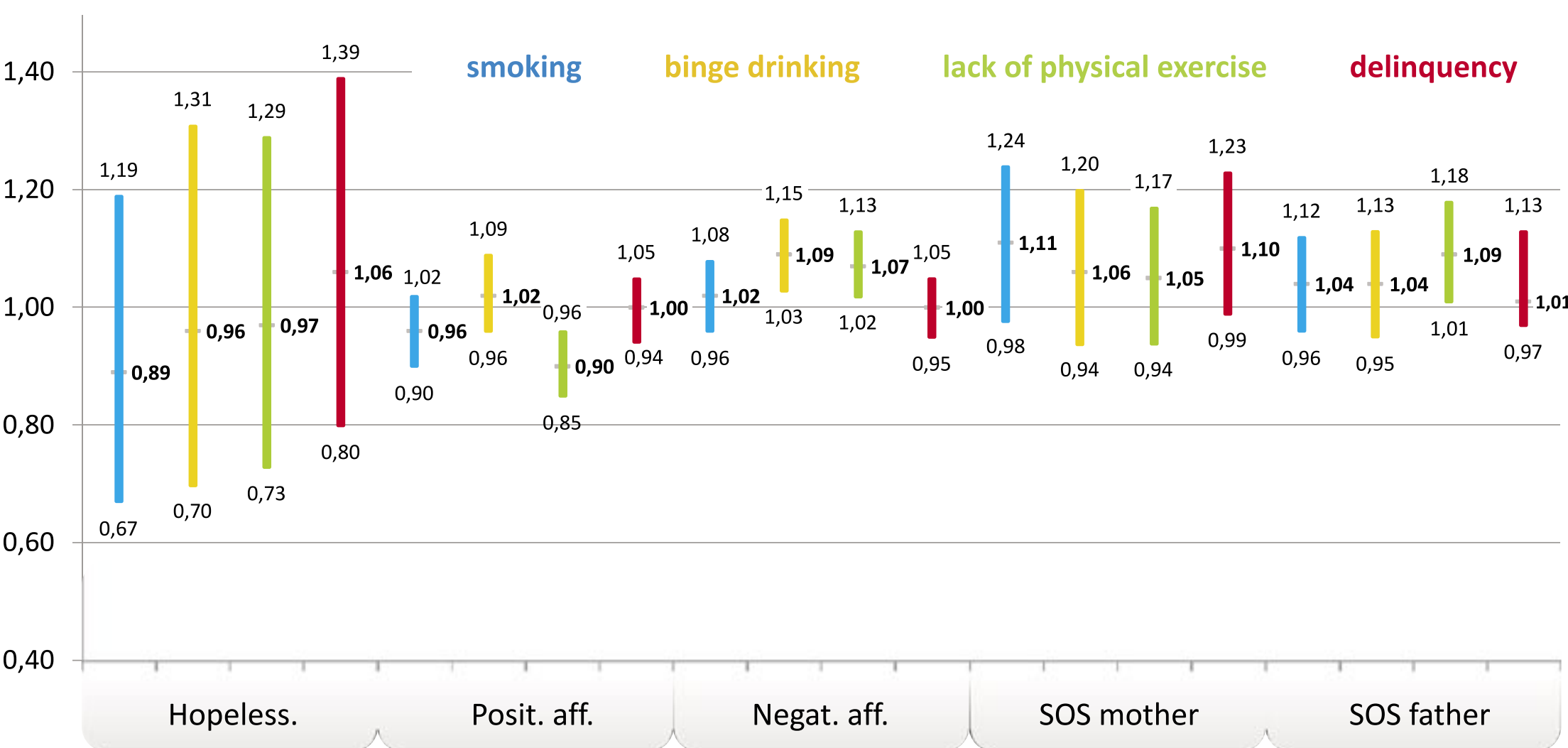
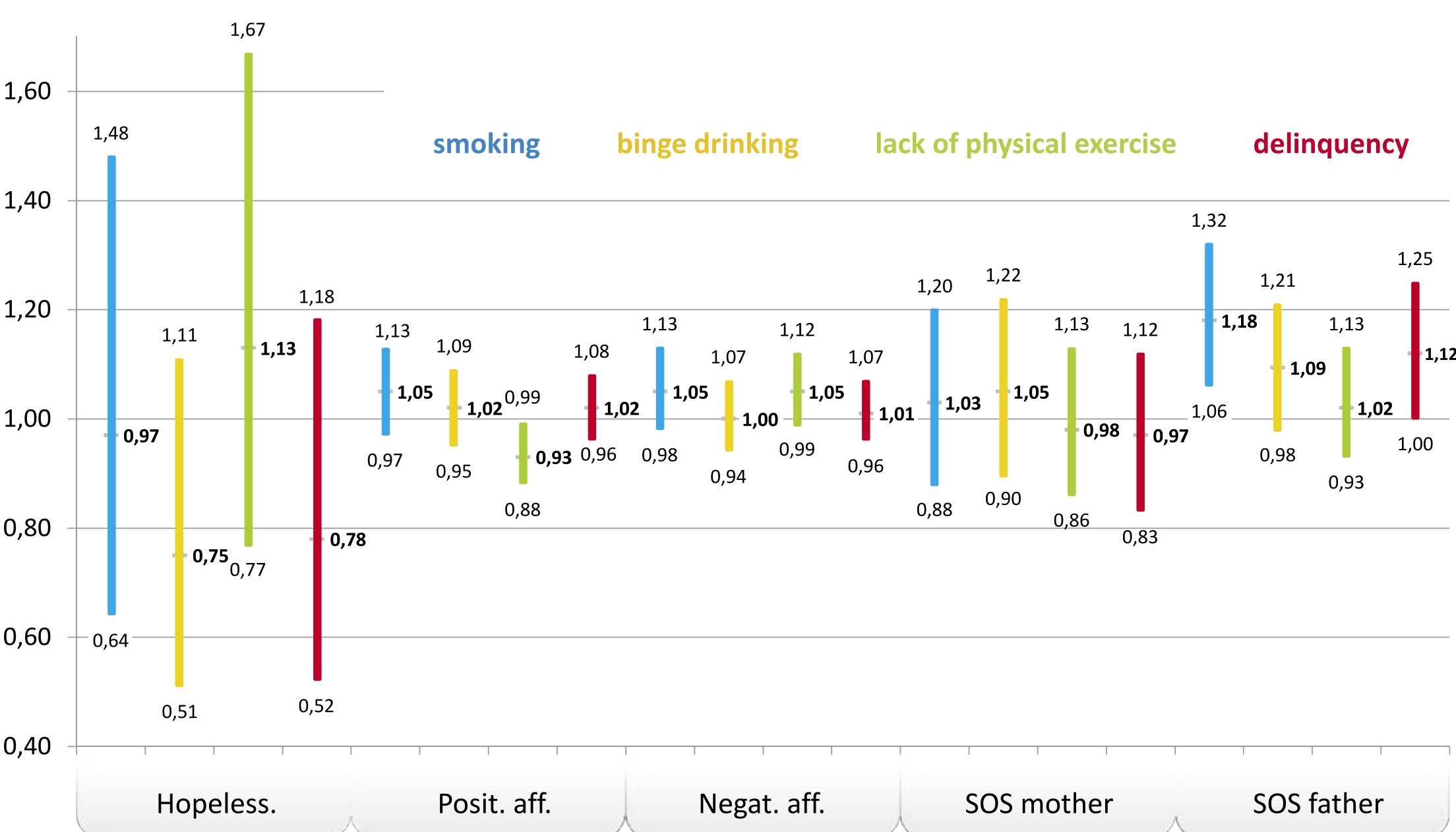


Figure 2: Effect of psychosocial determinants on risky behaviour among Czech adolescents



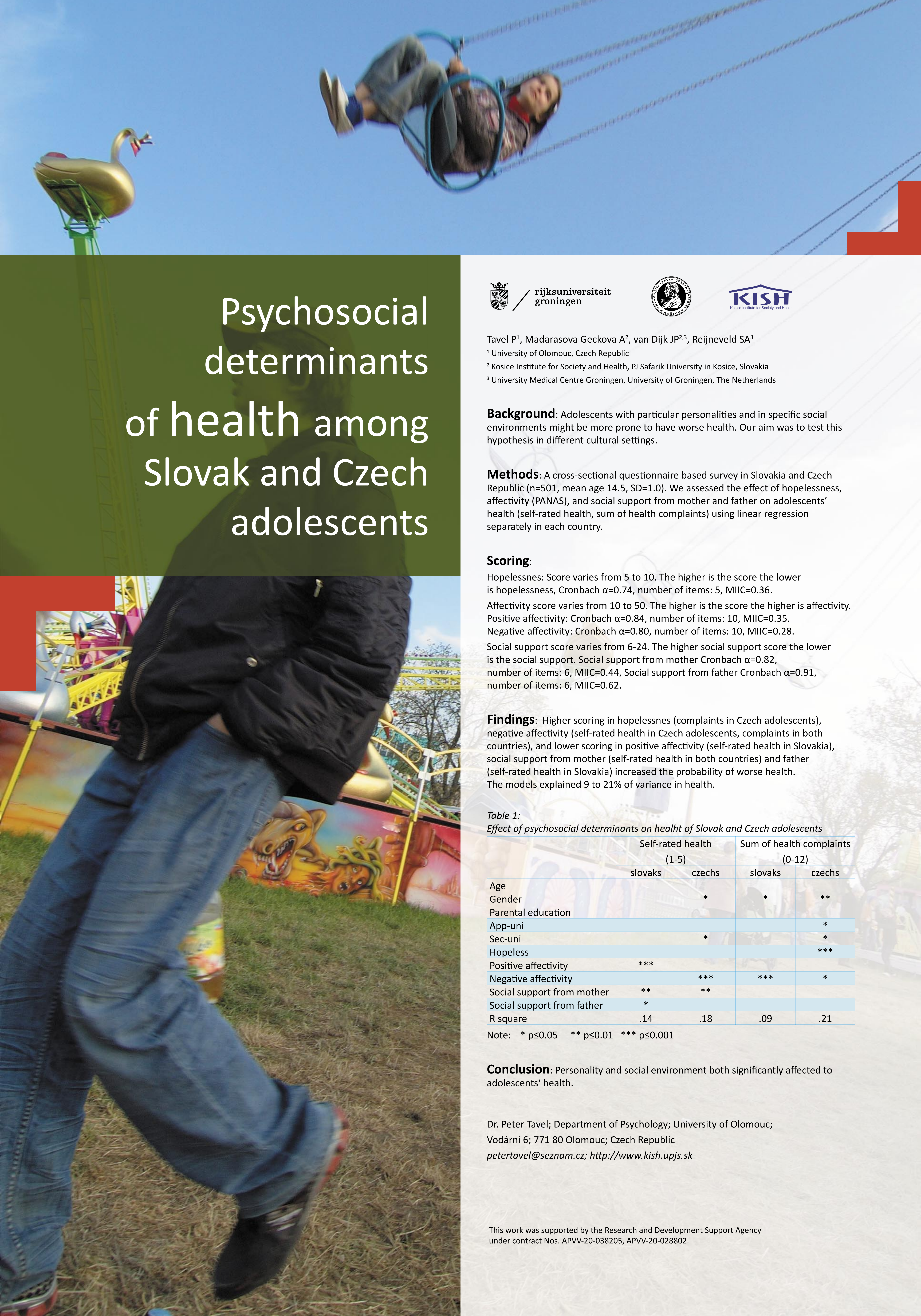
Conclusion: Personality and social environment both significantly contributed to adolescents’ risky behaviour.



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Psychosocial determinants of health among Slovak and Czech adolescents



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Background: Adolescents with particular personalities and in specific social environments might be more prone to have worse health. Our aim was to test this hypothesis in different cultural settings.

Methods: A cross-sectional questionnaire based survey in Slovakia and Czech Republic (n=501, mean age 14.5, SD=1.0). We assessed the effect of hopelessness, affectivity (PANAS), and social support from mother and father on adolescents' health (self-rated health, sum of health complaints) using linear regression separately in each country.

Scoring:
Hopelessness: Score varies from 5 to 10. The higher is the score the lower is hopelessness, Cronbach α =0.74, number of items: 5, MIIC=0.36.
Affectivity score varies from 10 to 50. The higher is the score the higher is affectivity.
Positive affectivity: Cronbach α =0.84, number of items: 10, MIIC=0.35.
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Social support score varies from 6-24. The higher social support score the lower is the social support. Social support from mother Cronbach α =0.82, number of items: 6, MIIC=0.44, Social support from father Cronbach α =0.91, number of items: 6, MIIC=0.62.

Findings: Higher scoring in hopelessness (complaints in Czech adolescents), negative affectivity (self-rated health in Czech adolescents, complaints in both countries), and lower scoring in positive affectivity (self-rated health in Slovakia), social support from mother (self-rated health in both countries) and father (self-rated health in Slovakia) increased the probability of worse health. The models explained 9 to 21% of variance in health.

Table 1:
Effect of psychosocial determinants on health of Slovak and Czech adolescents

	Self-rated health (1-5)		Sum of health complaints (0-12)	
	slovaks	czechs	slovaks	czechs
Age				
Gender		*	*	**
Parental education				
App-uni				*
Sec-uni		*		*
Hopeless				***
Positive affectivity	***			
Negative affectivity		***	***	*
Social support from mother	**	**		
Social support from father	*			
R square	.14	.18	.09	.21

Note: * p \leq 0.05 ** p \leq 0.01 *** p \leq 0.001

Conclusion: Personality and social environment both significantly affected to adolescents' health.

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