



Factors associated with self - and other-directed aggression in Slovak adolescents

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Aim: to investigate differences in intrapersonal factors:

- self-esteem (SE)

- self-control (SC)

and interpersonal factors:

- prosocial peers

- supportive relationships at home

- supportive relationships at school

of adolescents with and without reported aggressive behaviours (AB):

- self-directed aggressive behaviours (self-destructive thoughts, self-destructive behaviour)

- other-directed aggressive behaviours (using vulgar words, fighting, physical harm, intimidation, mockery of classmates)

A representative **sample**- 1101 adolescents (50.1 % female; mean age of 13.5 years) from primary schools in Slovakia

Methods: SE Scale, SC Scale, Resilience and Youth Development scale; frequency of AB.

- two groups were created: those who reported some AB and those who did not report any AB

Results:

- Almost 75% of the adolescents reported some AB towards others

- 41% reported self-harming thoughts or behaviour

- Statistically significant differences were observed for both self-directed AB and other-directed AB

- In all cases adolescents who reported AB typically had a lower level of intrapersonal and interpersonal variables compared to those who did not report AB.

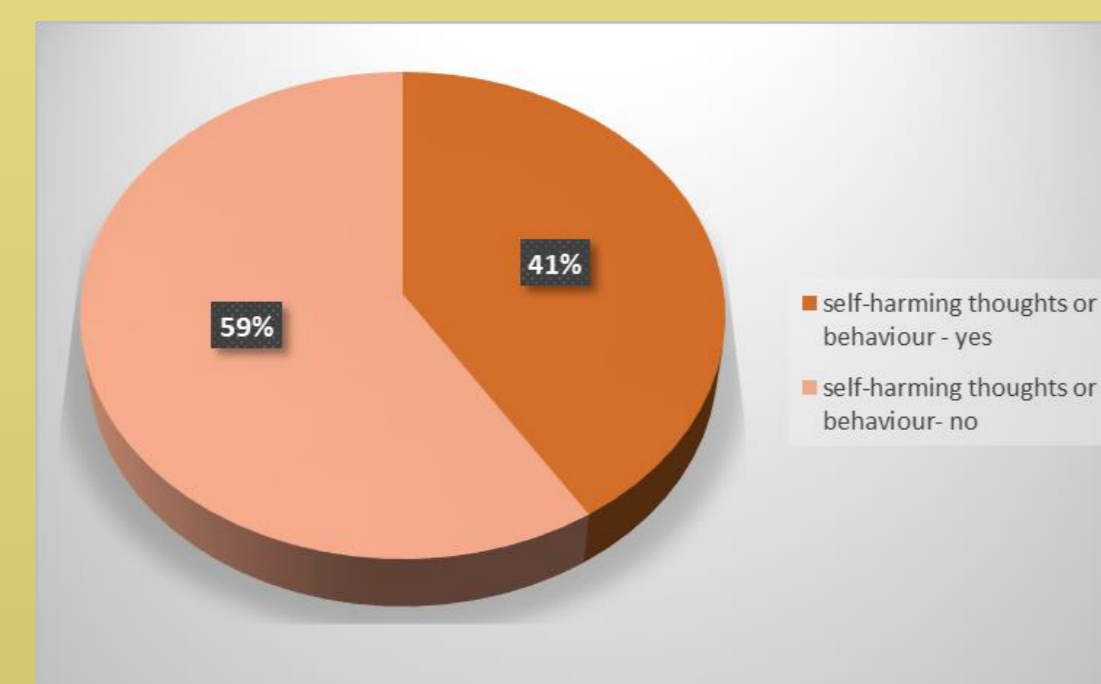
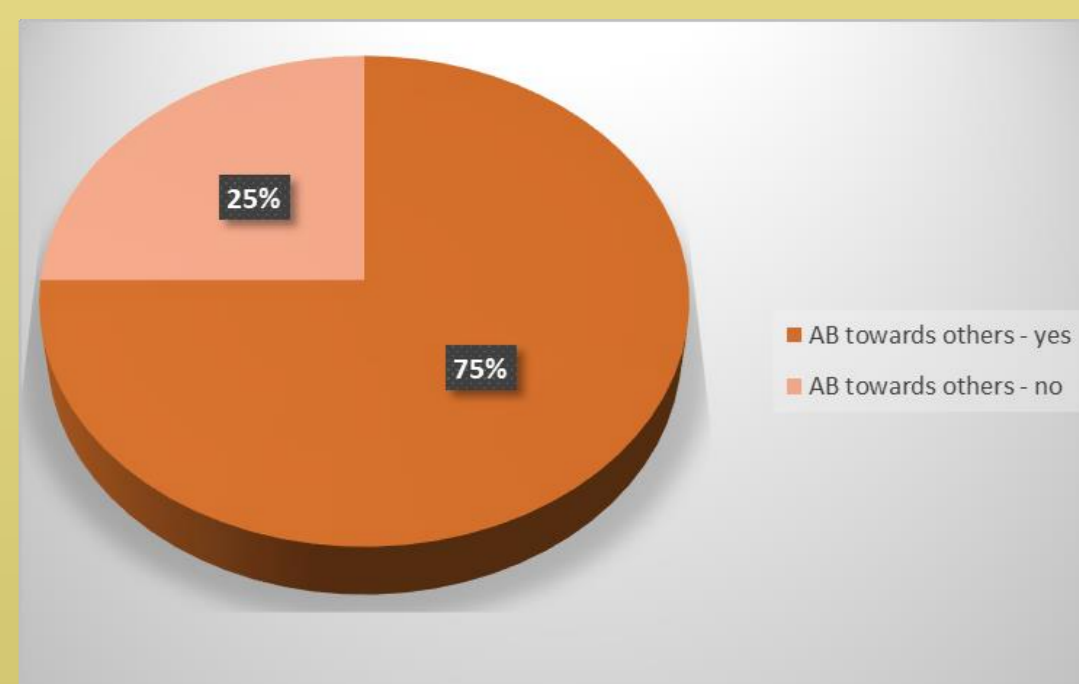
self-directed AB	median 1	median 2	significance
self-esteem	28	27	p<.001
self-control	38	36	p<.001
prosocial peers	9	8.5	p<.001
supp.rel. home	11	10.5	p=.013
supp.rel. school	9	8	p<.001
other-directed AB	median 1	median 2	significance
self-esteem	28	27	p=.034
self-control	38	35	p<.001
prosocial peers	10	9	p<.001
supp.rel. home	11	10	p=.039
supp.rel. school	9	8	p=.016

Conclusions: The study contributed to the understanding of factors linked to aggressive behaviour of adolescents and confirmed the associations with self-esteem, self-control, supportive relationships at home and at school and having prosocial peers.

Main messages:

- Aggressive behaviour of adolescents can be linked to interpersonal and intrapersonal relationships.

- The above holds for both self- and other-directed aggression.



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