

Parents and their role in adolescents' risk behaviour



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Parents have an important role in preventing risk behaviour (RB) of their early adolescent children. Nevertheless, most children have tried alcohol in their home environment in the presence of their parents. There is the need to explore what possibilities in preventing HB parents have.

The aim

is to explore the role of parental own RB, parental RB specific communication and adolescents' beliefs about parental approval of their RB in smoking and alcohol use experience.

Methods

- representative sample
- **580 early adolescents, mean age 12.5**, SD 0.59;
- 51.1% of boys
- ever tried smoking cigarettes (21%)
- ever tried drinking alcohol (56.6%)
- Parental nonsmoking and less than once a week alcohol consumption
- Smoking/alcohol specific communication
- Perceived parental disapproval of risk behaviour

Table: The effect parental RB, RB specific communication and perceived disapproval of RB on smoking and alcohol experience

	smoking exp	alcohol exp
	OR (95% CI)	OR (95% CI)
gender	0.92 (0.60 - 1.40)	0.76 (0.44 -1.30)
lack of parental RB (smoking/alc consump)	0.47 (0.31 – 0.72)	0.62 (0.36-1.07)
smoking/ alcohol specific communic	1.07 (0.88 – 1.30)	0.71 (0.54 – 0.92)
perceived parental disapproval of RB	0.67 (0.48 – 0.95)	0.43 (0.26 – 0.69)

Main messages

- Parental smoking, but not smoking specific communication, is associated with early adolescents' smoking experience
- Alcohol specific communication, but not parental alcohol use, is associated with adolescents' alcohol use experience