

Protective and risk factors of early sexual initiation in youth subcultures

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BACKGROUND AND AIM

Youth subcultures (Hip-hop, Punk, Skinheads, Techno-scene, Metal) are known for specific lifestyle, music preference, shared values and behaviours of their members.¹ This study aimed to assess the association between subculture affiliation and early sexual initiation considering possible confounders.

METHODS

Sample

Health Behaviour in School aged Children 2009/2010 study
15-year-old elementary school pupils (N=1605; mean age=15.47, 49.7% boys)

Measures

- **Subcultures vs. Others**
(Hip – hop, Punk, Skinheads, Techno scene, Metal vs. Church community, Other, Any subculture)
- **Sexual intercourse** (yes, no)
- **Gender**
- **Family affluence²** (low affluence, middle affluence, high affluence)
- **Peers** (at least most of their friends have sex)
- **Parental bonding^{3, 4}**
(Factor analysis was used to create two latent variables: mother's and father's bonding)
- **Parental monitoring^{3, 5}**
(Factor analysis was used to create two latent variables: mother's and father's monitoring)

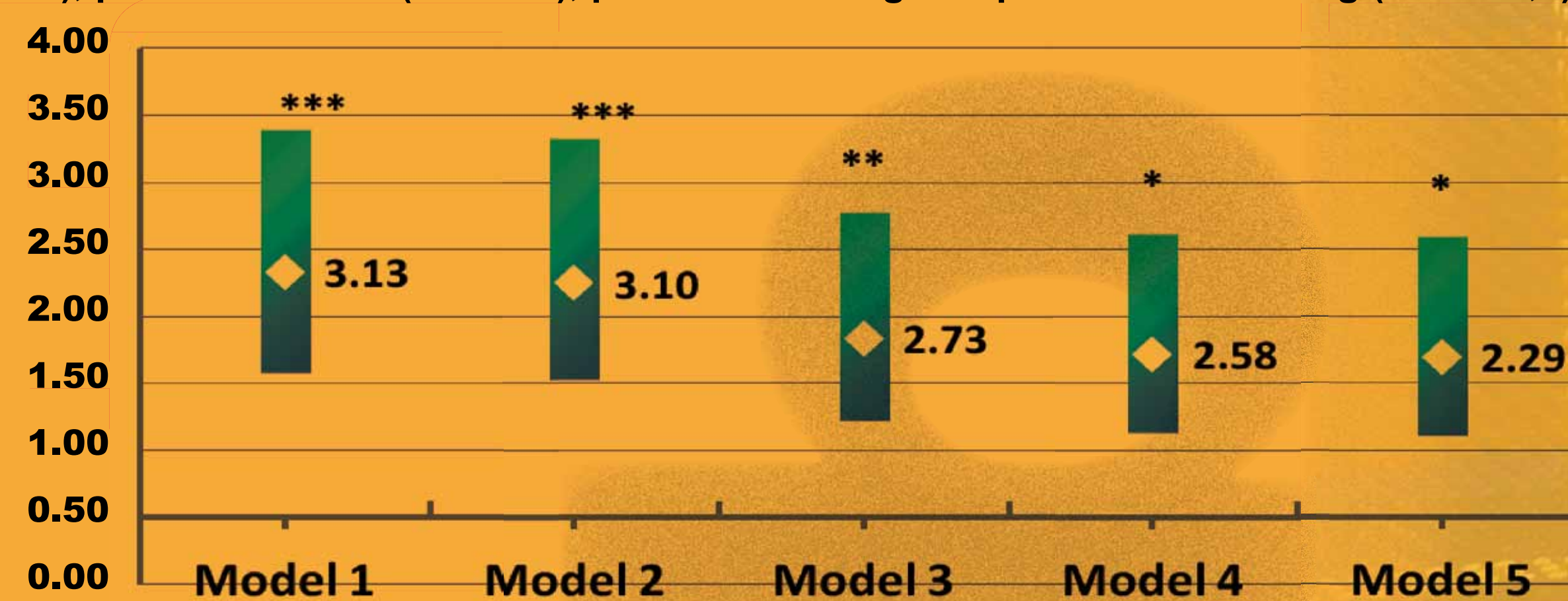
Analysis

We performed multivariate logistic regression analyses. In **Model 1** we tested the crude association of subculture affiliation and early sexual initiation. **Model 2** was adjusted for gender and family affluence (FAS). **Model 3** was further adjusted for peers' influence. **Models 4, 5** were adjusted for a lack of parental bonding and parental monitoring, separately and jointly.

RESULTS

Almost 50% of Slovak adolescents reported to be affiliated with one of the selected youth subcultures. Youth subculture affiliation was strongly and significantly associated with early sexual initiation, and adjustment for gender and family affluence did not affect the strength of this association. Adding peer influence explained 49% of the association of subculture affiliation with sexual intercourse (Figure 1). Adding parental bonding to the model further weakened this association (by another 17%), but it still remained statistically significant. Adding parental monitoring to the model led to a trivial change in the association of subculture affiliation with sexual intercourse (Figure 1).

FIGURE 1: Associations of youth subculture affiliation with early sexual intercourse initiation (Model 1) subsequently adjusted for gender and family affluence (Model 2), peers' influence (Model 3), parental bonding and parental monitoring (Model 4,5).



*** P<0.001; ** P<0,01; * P<0.05

CONCLUSION

Youth subculture affiliation is strongly associated with early sexual initiation. A big part of this association is mediated by peer influence and a lack of protective factors such as parental monitoring and bonding. Sexual education in context of other risky and deviant behaviours accumulated in youth subcultures is necessary and should be adapted and targeted on youth subcultures to secure their future sexual health and healthy behaviour.

References

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