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# Anais

**DRUG USE, SELF-CONCEPT, PSYCHIATRIC SYMPTOMATOLOGY AND ITS ASSOCIATION WITH HIV STATUS IN A SAMPLE OF BRAZILIAN ADOLESCENTS.** Bassols AMS , Pechansky F , Santos RAPS , DeBoni R . Serviço de Psiquiatria- Grupo de Pesquisa em Álcool e Drogas . HCPA.

Fundamentação: Adolescence is by definition a period of turmoil, which can reflect on exposure to a myriad of risky behaviors, among them unprotected sex via drug experimentation and abuse, with direct consequences on the psychological and social aspects of functioning at this age. Objetivos: This study aims at understanding the association between these risk exposures, psychiatric symptomatology, a measure of self-concept, and its impact on seropositivity among southern Brazilian adolescents. Causística: 388 adolescents from a low socioeconomic background, ages ranging from 13 to 20, from both genders, answered to the Brazilian version of the Risk Assessment Battery (Metzger, 1993), the Symptom Checklist-90 (Derogatis; Holi, Sarnallahi, Aalberg, 1998), and the Multifactor Scale of Self-concept (Tamayo, 1981) in a cross-sectional design. Data were analyzed using a range of statistical processes aiming at finding bivariate associations between drug use, self-concept, psychiatric symptomatology and HIV serostatus. Resultados: The overall seropositivity of the sample was 6.2%. Most (66.5%) of the sample was comprised of females, the mean age was 17.7 (+/-2), 47% were single, and 53% had no work activity. Half (51%) of the sample had less than 8 years of schooling, and 72% had a monthly family minimum wage of less than U\$200. Their previous month experience with alcohol and marijuana was frequent (71% and 24.7%, respectively), with reports of multiple drug use. Higher odds ratios between drug use and seropositivity were found with marijuana (OR=2.8 (1.1-6.9), amphetamines (OR=12.9 (2.1-74.5), inhalants (OR=7.5(2.7-20.4), and being present in drug using places (OR=2.6 (1.0-6.6). With regard to self-concept, there were no differences between seronegatives and positives in the sample in all dimensions analyzed. On the other hand, all dimensions of the SCL-90 scale, as well as its global score, showed higher means and significantly higher effect sizes among the group of seropositive subjects. Conclusões: This is the first Brazilian study of the association between drug use, self-concept, psychiatric symptomatology and seropositivity, and besides showing a high overall prevalence of seropositives among this young age group, confirms the findings from other studies that drug use is associated to a higher prevalence of seropositivity, as well as with psychiatric symptomatology. The nule association of dimensions of self-concept with serostatus either suggests that the instrumentation was not capable of discriminating cases, or that the subjects do not perceive their own situation of being at risk. More powerful, multivariate analysis are needed to further understand the association between these variables, as well as confounding variables that were not analyzed in this preliminary study