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Trends in sexual behaviour in 15-year-old adolescents in Slovakia between 2006-2014

Martina Baskova, Cifriková R and Baška T
Comenius University in Bratislava, Slovak Republic

Statement of the Problem: Adolescent romantic relationships are a space for the initial discovery of one's own sexuality that can lead to the first sexual intercourse and further sexual activity. The sexual activity in adolescents is associated with riskier sexual behavior, higher risk to acquire sexually transmitted diseases or unplanned pregnancy.

Aim: The aim of the study is to find out the frequency of sexual initiation in relation to family background in 15-year-old adolescents in Slovakia between 2006 and 2014.

Material & Methods: The study analyzes data from the samples of 15-year-old adolescents in Slovakia obtained in 2006 (n=550), 2010 (n=807) and 2014 (n=736) in the Health Behavior in School Aged Children (HBSC) survey employing internationally standard method of sampling, data collection and the uniform questionnaire. The results are representative and allow international comparisons.

Results: In 2014, 14.1% of girls reported lifetime sexual experience, statistically more than the previous surveys (10.9% in 2006 and 10.0% in 2010). The sexual experiences were more frequently reported by respondents from incomplete families (missing either mother or father), as well as families with a higher socio-economic status. The experiences were less frequent if the respondents lived together with grandmothers or grandfathers.

Conclusions: Despite the increase during recent years, the occurrence of premature sexual experiences among girls in Slovakia remains relatively low if compared with most of European countries. The results suggest that growth in the complete family, or in a three-generation household, reduces the risk of premature sexual experience.

Biography

Martina Bašková graduated at the Jessenius Faculty of Medicine, Comenius University (JFM CU) in Martin, Slovakia in 1995 (Master of Nursing). In 2001, she successfully finished her PhD study in Nursing (dissertation thesis: Prevention of cardiovascular disease in prenatal care). In 2008, she became an Associate Professor in Nursing after the defence at the Faculty of Health and Social Studies, University of South Bohemia, České Budejovice in Czech Republic. Since 2008, she has been Head of the Department of Midwifery at the JFM CU in Martin. In 2009, she initiated an accreditation process of the Master degree study in Midwifery at the JFM CU as the first one in Slovakia. As a result of her effort, in academic year 2011/2012, the second master degree level of university education in midwifery has been opened at the JFM CU. Her primary concerns include life-style related risk factors regarding prenatal care and nutrition during pregnancy. She has published numerous scholar papers in Nursing and Midwifery cited more than 500 times in Slovakia and abroad (Hirsch index – 5).

baskova@jfm.uniba.sk

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