C5S2 - Makale 1

BAŞLIK:  
EN: Epidemiology of Unintentional injuries in the Elementary Schools of Istanbul

Abstract

Background: This study aims to determine the epidemiology of unintentional injuries in the elementary schools of Istanbul.

Methods: This descriptive research has been done during the spring-autumn terms of 2003 and spring term of 2004 and universe of this study has been all of the private and state schools in Istanbul subordinate to the Ministry of Education (School N=1540 and student N=1.623.693). Data have been collected on-line through the “Student Injuries Form”.

Results: During the research process, 3302 school injuries have been reported. The School injuries have been seen mostly among first, second and sixth grade students. The number of boys involving in school injuries have been twice the number of girls and the leading reasons for the school injuries have been fallings, hitting into something, and bumping into someone. It has been determined that the students have got injured mostly on their heads and extremities. Research has shown that the school injuries have resulted mostly in swelling, sensitivities, abrasion, bleedings, cuts, bruises, fractures, and twists. Because of the injuries, 24% of the injured students have retreated from the school activities for less than a day. The injured students have received first aid at school just after the injury, 15% of them have been sent to a medical institution.

Conclusions: Unintentional injuries among elementary school students should be recognized as a significant public health concern in Turkey. This study provided useful baseline information on school injuries in Istanbul and identified important risk factors that would be important in planning prevention strategies. Preventing injuries requires using a multisectoral approach and structuring safe interactions among people, objects and school environment. When every school employes a nurse, there will be fewer restricted activities of students and similarly, a fewer students will need to be transferred to hospital. In addition, injured students will be receiving first aid just after the injury. It is the nurses’ responsibility to determine possible hazards and take necessary precautions by the environmental factors and personality of children. In that sense, preventing injuries is an important role of the public health nurses.

Key words: school injuries, epidemiology of injuries, school nursing

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C5S2 - Makale 2

BAŞLIK:  
EN: Knowledge and perceptions of young adolescents’ about pubertal changes

Abstract

Objectives: Rapid psychosocial, physical and emotional changes observed during puberty are not always easy for adolescents, their families or their doctors to respond. The aim of this study is to explore adolescents’ knowledge and beliefs about the physical changes during puberty.

Material and Methods: Nine statements about the most generalized definitions related to puberty found in literature, are included in this descriptive study. Three of them were mainly focused on physiological changes, and the others on perceptions and myths. A 0-9 point scale was used to assess the total number of correct answers. A total of 374 students in two (public and private) schools in Kadikoy, Istanbul responded to the statements.

Results: The mean age of the study population was 11.38 years and 47.3% was female. Female adolescents’ knowledge about the physical changes during puberty were found to be more than male adolescents’, whereas the truth in the statement, “Growth of breasts signals the onset of adolescence in girls” is known better by males. Five of the 9 statements were answered correctly by at least 75% of the study population. When we allocated 1 point to each correct answer of nine statements, we had a scale from 0-9 points to evaluate the total score of the given correct answers to the statements. The study group’s overall level of the knowledge in terms of mean value and standart deviaton was 5.88±1.27 points. Considering the age groups, the only statistically significant difference was observed between 11 and 12 years (p=0.009) regarding the total correct answer score.

Discussion: It seemed beneficial to start education programs at 10-11 years of age with a focus on the physiological changes. Our results might be reference points for the curriculum design of sex-education programs.

Key Words: puberty, adolescence, perceptions and beliefs, knowledge, sexual development

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C5S2 - Makale 3

BAŞLIK:  
EN: Prevalence of Smoking in Secondary Schools and Associated Factors in Mersin, Turkey: A School-Based Cross-Sectional Study

Abstract

This study aims to present the prevalence of smoking among adolescents attending secondary schools in Mersin city center and associated factors. This school-based, cross-sectional study was performed in 2002. Eighteen schools were included in the study after multi-stage stratified cluster sampling method (12 junior high schools and 6 senior high schools). A total of 4143 students underwent evaluation. Possible risk factors leading to increased rate of smoking were analyzed with Binary Logistic Regression. Of the students, 9.8% were regular smokers and 25.5% had experienced smoking at least once previously. The smoking rate was increased with grade (chi-square for trend p=0.001). Alcohol abuse, substance addiction, domestic punishments within the household, parental problems, man sex, older age, were found to be associated with increased rate of smoking among students attending junior high schools. On the other hand, for those attending senior high schools, alcohol abuse, parental problems, older age, being subject to humiliation at school, absenteeism, and higher CBDI scores were found as possible risk associated factors. As a result, the secondary school period is important since smoking addiction starts at these ages. Smoking rates increase with school grade. Our children should be taught about the harms of smoking in their pre-school ages.

Key words: schoolchildren; smoking; risk factors; risk behaviors

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C5S2 - Makale 4

BAŞLIK:  
EN: Assessment of Mental Health of Earthquake Victims with GHQ-28 Just After the Earthquake

Abstract

Turkey has experienced a powerful earthquake with a magnitude of 7.4 on 17 August 1999 with severe damage and losses. In this descriptive research, two newly formed temporary field settlements, composed of tents, which have similar characteristics with respect to numbers of tents, numbers of people living in those areas, and location of the settlements, were determined as the research area. One person older than 18 years of age, whom could be easily communicated with, was selected from each tent, interviewed, and was administered the 28-item GHQ (GHQ-28). Out of 202 tents, residents of 164 tents (%81.2), that could be reached and accepted to participate in the study were all included. Only one person, older than 18 years of age whom could be easily communicated with, was selected from each tent. The mean GHQ-28 score was 12.75 ± 7.36. The variables “sex” and “education status” were determining factors for being included into the “high risk” group in our research group. Scores of 5 or more on the GHQ were 8.77 (3.27-23.48) times higher in females and 2.63 (1.10-6.33) times higher in the illiterate/literate/primary school graduate group The GHQ-28 is a powerful tool identifying those in need of psychological support and application of such screening tests should be integrated into the basic “primary health care services” package provided after catastrophes.

Key words; 28-item GHQ, earthquake, mental health, Turkey

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C5S2 - Makale 5

BAŞLIK:  
EN: What is advocacy according to Public Health?

Abstract

Advocacy is explained as pleading in support (of a cause or somebody) and advocate means a person who speaks in favour of somebody or something. It is not very easy to make people participate in the decision making process. It needs a planned, disciplinary and long term effort. During this time, it is necessary to obey the principles and rules. A message is a form of expressed information which is disseminated for a specific purpose. A wellformulated message can be the basis for a successful advocacy campaign. One of the most important tools that are used in advocacy is media. Another tool is website planning that should be established by the professionals. Also lobbying is one of the methods which are used by advocates. Lobbying is a group of methods and techniques which will be able to influence public opinion and decision making mechanisms through the lobbyist’s or organization’s gains. Consequently, both in general and in advocate actions, resources are limited so, they are used carefully. The purpose of this paper is to elaborate on the details of advocacy according to public health perspective.

Key words: Advocacy, Public Health, Coalition, Message, Media, Lobbing

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C5S2 - Makale 6 \*notes from the field\*

BAŞLIK:  
EN: How to manage a European Union Project: from the perspective of a project coordinator

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