

Abstract

The present study examined the relationship between Borderline Personality Disorder (BPD) features and substance use behaviors. A sample of 2893 Chinese secondary school students in Hong Kong was studied by using a self-reported questionnaire. Adolescents with more BPD features were more likely to have substance use experience, higher frequency of substance use, more adverse consequences caused by substance use, greater probability of future use, and more familial substance use. The close relationship between impulsive self-harm acts, the defining feature of BPD, and substance use behaviors was confirmed. Current findings suggested the use of the existence of self-harm behaviors as a screening device for the diagnosis of BPD. Other implications of the present study on social policy and intervention were discussed.