

Abstract

Objective: Non-suicidal self-injury (NSSI) among adolescents has been an issue receiving increasing attention. The present study aimed at examining the phenomenology and gender differences in NSSI patterns, with a specific focus on parental criticism, emotional reactivity and how they interact in predicting NSSI frequency. **Method:** A total of 5422 Chinese adolescents (53% girls, aged between 12 and 20) were tested. Participants completed measures assessing NSSI, emotional reactivity, parental criticism and other psychological variables in class. **Results:** The general phenomenology and gender differences in NSSI patterns discussed by previous research findings were largely confirmed in the present study. NSSI frequency was found to be associated with parental criticism and emotional reactivity. Interaction between parental criticism and emotional reactivity in predicting NSSI was confirmed. **Discussion:** Implications for mental health professionals in preventing and intervening NSSI were discussed.