

## **Abstract**

**Objective:** Non-suicidal self-injury (NSSI) among adolescents has become one of the leading public health concerns in recent years. The developmental pathways to NSSI, however, are still unclear. The present study examined the prevalence and the mediating role of self-criticism in the relationship between parental criticism and NSSI frequency among Chinese adolescents in Hong Kong. **Method:** Subjects, 5,423 Chinese adolescents (52.8% girls, aged between 12 and 20 years), were tested. Participants completed self-report measures assessing perceived parental criticism, self-criticism and frequencies of NSSI. **Results:** Findings revealed that 30.5% of participants had engaged in NSSI within the past years. Among different NSSI behaviors, self-carving, cutting, pulling hair were the most prevalent and eroding skin is the least. The mediation model of self-criticism in the relationship between parental criticism and NSSI was supported. **Discussion:** Implications for intervention programs in treatment strategies were discussed.