

Abstract

The present study investigated the effects of adverse childhood upbringing, emotion dysregulation and negative self-cognitions on non-suicidal self-injury (NSSI) among Chinese adolescents in Hong Kong. Participants from secondary schools, 662 girls and 507 boys, completed measures assessing childhood abuses, parent-child relationship, negative self-cognition, emotion dysregulation, and NSSI. Results revealed gender differences on the indirect effects of childhood abuse on NSSI through negative self-cognitions and emotion dysregulation, which were all significant for girls but not so for boys. Secondly, indirect effects of parent-child relationship on NSSI through negative self-cognitions and emotion dysregulation were significant only among male participants. Further, it was found that parents' marital conflicts were most important predictors of parent-child relationship among self-injurers, but the pattern also differed according to gender. The implications of the results on emotion and cognitive regulation skills training and family-based interventions for NSSI were discussed.