past twelve months. A two-stage cluster sample design was adopted for the GSHS-Jordan to produce nationally representative estimates for all students in grade 8-10. Using SUDAAN, Ordered logistic regression to identify factors associated with serious injuries among students and adjusted Odds Ratios (aOR) were computed.

The percentage of grade 8-10 students reporting no serious injury in the past twelve months was 64.94% and Standard Error (SE) was 1.66 (n=2406), while 28.30% (SE 1.39) reported unintentional injuries and 6.76% (SE 0.79) reported intentional injuries. Adjusting for other variables present in the model, students who seriously considered attempting suicide were less likely to have sustained serious injury in the past twelve months (aOR = 0.59; 95% CI: 0.42, 0.81) compared to students who did not report such consideration. Odds of having sustained serious injury were lower in male students (aOR 0.42; 95% CI: 0.34, 0.52.) compared to female. Similarly students who did not report having ever felt so sad or hopeless almost every day for two weeks or more in a row that they stopped doing some usual activities in the preceding twelve months were also less likely to have sustained serious injury (aOR=0.56; 95% CI: 0.45, 0.70) compared to students who answered this question affirmatively. While students who were not bullied on one or more days during the past thirty days were more likely to have sustained serious injury (aOR 2.61; 95% CI: 1.78, 3.81) compared to those who did report being bullied.

However, results indicate that parent's understanding of a student's problems/worries, or the number of close friends a student has, were not statistically significant predictors of self reported serious injuries in the past twelve months.

The results demonstrate that 8-10th grade students in Jordan, were more likely to report having sustained serious unintentional as well as intentional injuries in the past twelve months, if they were not bullied in the past thirty days. Additionally being male, having seriously considered attempting suicide in the past twelve months, or students who did not report having ever felt so sad or hopeless almost every day for two weeks or more in a row that they stopped doing some usual activities in the preceding twelve months bestowed protection from having sustained serious injury in the past twelve months.

Irshad Ali Shaikh1, Masood Ali Shaikh2, Zulfiqar Siddiqui3
Apartment No. 32, Building No. 3, Group No. 71, Al Rehab, Cairo, Egypt1,2, 268-B, Kamal Road, Cantt. Rawalpindi3.

References

Letter to the Editor

Carcinoembryonic Antigen (CEA) levels in Hookah smokers, cigarette smokers and non-smokers - A comment

Madam, I read with interest the recent article by Sajid and colleagues (J Pak Med Assoc, Dec 2007) about exposure to CEA among different types of smokers and non-smokers. The authors report in the abstract that levels of CEA were significantly higher in cigarette smokers than in non-smokers and hookah smokers and they report a p value of <0.0067. This p level according to the authors’ Table 1 (page 597) belongs to the comparison between cigarette smokers and non-smokers, but not for cigarette and hookah (p=0.61), or the three groups. Yet the authors conclude in the abstract that the mean levels of CEA among waterpipe smokers are lower than cigarettes smokers (see conclusions, Abstract, page 595). In addition, levels of CEA are age-related, so the comparison between CEA levels should be adjusted for age to be valid. Given these facts, I do not think that the comparative conclusions made in the abstract about exposures associated with cigarette and hookah smoking are substantiated.

Wasim Maziak
University of Memphis, Director, Syrian Center for Tobacco Studies, 633 Normal Street, Memphis, TN 38152

References