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PSYCHOLOGICAL APPROACH OF ANTISOCIAL BEHAVIOURS AND ASSOCIATED RISK-TAKING BEHAVIOURS

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Associated with antisocial behaviours, new dangerous practices seem to emerge among adolescents in France (asphyxial games, binge drinking). Several researches considered individual factors leading adolescents to seek risky situations. However, few of them came to distinguish profiles of risk-taking depending on the type of declared dangerous practices.

Objective Distinguish different risk-taking profiles among adolescents and specify involved individual features (personality, perceived stress, coping strategies,) in each profile.

Method 276 middle and high school students, aged between 12 and 16. Self-assessment: Exploratory Questionnaire on risk-taking behaviours, Junior Temperament and Character Inventory (Luby, 1999), Coping Across Situation Questionnaire (Seiffge-Krenke et al, 2008), Children Depression Inventory for Children (Kovack & Beck, 1977), State Trait Anxiety Inventory for Children (Spielberger, 1983). Preliminary results underline three profiles of risk-taking. 26.1% of the adolescents reported antisocial behaviours, 31.2% declared antisocial and substance use behaviours and 10.5% reported antisocial behaviours associated with substance use behaviours and dangerous games. High depressive and anxious symptomatology, high novelty-seeking, use of avoidant coping strategies as well as low individual and social maturity were associated to adolescents engaging several forms of risk-taking behaviours. Likewise Jessors general syndrome of deviance according, this study shows that selected individual factors might be indicators of a general syndrome of risk-taking. Adolescents presenting this kind of psychological functioning would be more likely to seek risky situations in several fields in their life. These results would help to define well-focused preventive strategies.