



Individual and local socioeconomic status: associations in adolescents' health (Barcelona province)



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INTRODUCTION

- Individual-level and local socioeconomic status (SES) are both significant social determinants of adolescents' health
- But usually their distinct effects are not properly disentangled, specially in adolescents' health
- There is a need to determine which is more dominant: Individual or local SES?

METHODS

- A validated health survey of 76 items was conducted among last compulsory education course students (15/16 years old) in 59 municipalities from Barcelona province, Spain (N=7351). Individual SES was defined by the Family Affluence Scale and municipal SES by its Gross Disposable Household Income. Both were dichotomized and crossed
- Bivariate analyses were performed for all variables, comparing Low (L) and High (H) Individual (i) SES, L and H Municipal (m) SES and then the 4 groups: LiLm, LiHm, HiLm, HiHm. Chi square tests were performed with SAS. The significance level was set to 0.05

KEY MESSAGE

- Individual SES have stronger association with most of adolescents' health items than Municipal SES. The latter reinforces, except on gender and sexual health information demands where association is opposed

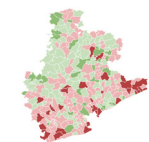
CONCLUSION

- The different effect of individual and municipal SES and their interactions on various aspects of adolescents' health should be taken into account in health promotion

RESULTS



- Most of the items (self-perceived health, general mood, night leisure, excessive use of internet, and unsafe sex, among others) were only related to individual SES (in the direction usually described in literature) without municipal influence
- Only for sexual harassment was found a significant association with the municipal SES (more on Lm) but no differences between individual SES groups
- No association with neither individual nor municipal SES were found on: high-risk drug use, weekend alcohol consumption, and information interest on bullying and toxic substances



Different patterns emerged when individual and municipal significant associations were detected. In a LiLm–LiHm–HiLm–HiHm order (SES gradient):



- A **healthy gradient** was observed in **frequency of sport and physical activity** and neighbourhood assessment on environment quality and safety



- Adherence to Mediterranean Diet showed also a healthy gradient but with both Li categories equivalent



- On the contrary, a **risk gradient** appeared on **tobacco**, cannabis and discotheque alcohol consumption



- General alcohol consumption showed a risk gradient but with LiLm and LiHm equivalent



- An **opposite SES effect** was found on **sexism and gender violence information demand** and on sexual health information demand: Individual SES was positively associated with demand while Municipal SES was negatively associated

