

# ADOLESCENTS' SUBJECTIVE HEALTH COMPLAINTS IN THEIR SOCIAL CONTEXTS

D. Petanidou<sup>1</sup>, E. Daskagianni<sup>2</sup>, C. Dimitrakaki,<sup>1</sup> G. Kolaitis<sup>3</sup>, Y. Tountas<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Centre for Health Services Research, Department of Hygiene, Epidemiology and Medical Statistics, Athens University Medical School, Athens, Greece, <sup>2</sup> Institute of Social & Preventive Medicine & <sup>3</sup> Department of Child Psychiatry, Athens University Medical School, "Aghia Sophia" Children's Hospital, Athens, Greece

**Background & Aims:** The aim of the study was to investigate the extent to which Greek adolescents' perceived wellbeing in their family, school and peer context predicted Subjective Health Complaints (SHC).

**Methods:** Questionnaires were administered to a Greek nation-wide, random, school-based sample of children aged 11-18 years in 2003. Data from 1087 adolescents were analyzed. A hierarchical regression model with SHC as the outcome variable was employed in order to i) control for the effects of demographic factors (gender, age and subjective socio-economic status (SES)) and ii) to identify the unique proportion of variance attributed to each context.

**Results:** Adolescents' perceived wellbeing in each of the three social contexts contributed accumulated and unique proportions of variance in SHC, after controlling for the effects of gender, age and subjective SES.

Variables	SHC				Model Summary			
	$\beta$ Step 1	$\beta$ Step 2	$\beta$ Step 3	$\beta$ Step 4	$\Delta F$ $R^2$	$\Delta R^2$	df	
Step 1: Background variables					42.98*	3, 1083	.106	.106
Gender†								
Age†	-.19*	-.16*	-.17*	-.17*				
Subjective SES	.14*	.09**	.06***	.05***				
	-.20*	-.09**	-.07***	-.05				
Step 2: Perceived Family Wellbeing		-.33*	-.26*	-.23*	126.39*	1, 1082	.200	.093
Step 3: Perceived School Wellbeing			-.19*	-.19*	37.17*	1, 1081	.226	.027
Step 4: Perceived Wellbeing among Peers				-.12*	18.50*	1, 1080	.236	.013

**Conclusions:** Adolescents' experiences in their social worlds could reveal possible sources of stress or discomfort with a potential effect on their psychosomatic health.



European Union  
European Social Fund



MINISTRY OF EDUCATION & RELIGIOUS AFFAIRS, CULTURE & SPORTS  
MANAGING AUTHORITY

Co-financed by Greece and the European Union



EUROPEAN SOCIAL FUND