



Perceived benefits and harms of alcohol drinking and their association with parental drinking and pro-drinking practices in Hong Kong adolescent

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Background

- Parental drinking and parental pro-drinking practices (PPDPs) predict adolescent drinking
- However, their effects on adolescent alcohol related attitudes are unclear

Objective

We investigated the perceived benefits and harms of alcohol in Hong Kong adolescents and their associations with parental drinking and PPDPs.

Methods

Study Design

- 4 secondary schools
- 1757 students (mean age 14.7, SD 2.0; 68.0% boys)
- Anonymous questionnaires

Measurements

- Alcohol perceptions
- 11 statements of benefits and 9 statements of harms of alcohol each with options of “agree”, “don’t know” and “disagree” (agreement score 1, 0, -1, respectively).

- Parental drinking in the past 30 days
“How often did your father/mother drink alcohol in the past 30 days?” in two separated items
Non-current drinkers: “Never”
Drinkers: “seldom”, “sometimes” and “always”

- Exposure to each of 9 PPDPs (e.g. seeing parents drink; helping parents to buy alcohol)
Total exposure 0-9

Covariates

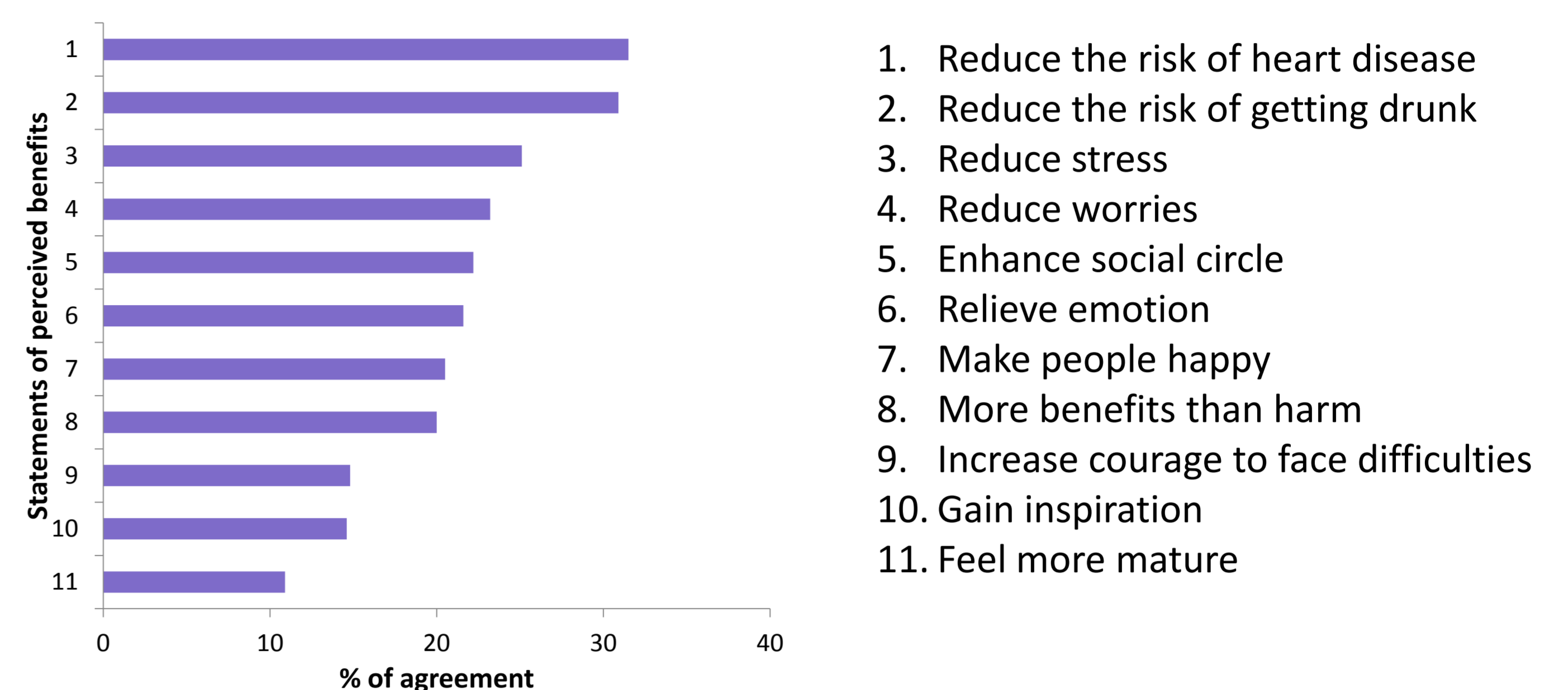
- Age
- Sex
- Place of birth
- Perceived family affluence
- Family structure
- Highest parental education

Analysis

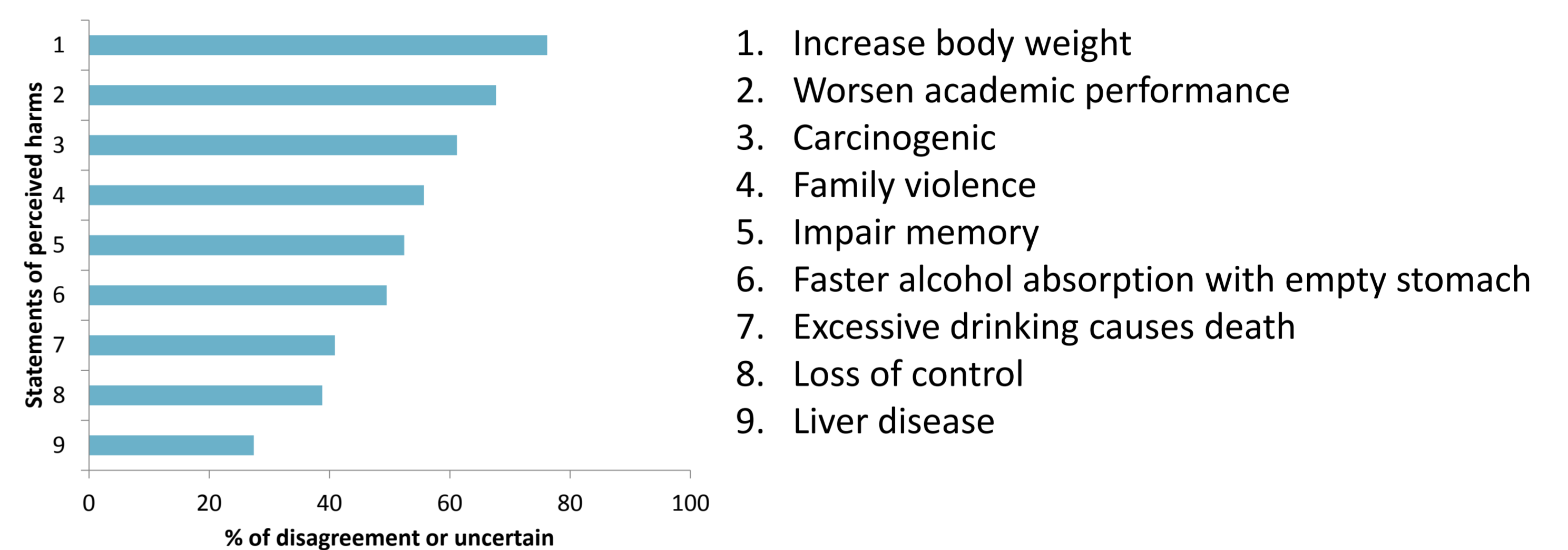
- Linear regression
- compute the beta coefficient
- adjusting for parental drinking and PPDPs mutually, socio-demographic factors and school clustering.

Results

Substantial proportion of students agree on benefits of alcohol



Substantial proportion of students disagree or uncertain about the harms of alcohol



Parental drinking predicted 2 items of perceived benefits

Parental pro-drinking practices predicted 9 items of perceived benefits

Examples	Parental drinking (0-2) (β-coefficient, 95% CI)	Parental pro-drinking practices (0-9) (β-coefficient, 95% CI)
Make people happy	0.06*(0.01, 0.11)	0.07*(0.01, 0.12)
Reduce the risk of getting drunk	0.07**(0.02, 0.13)	0.12*** (0.07, 0.18)
More benefits than harm	0.03 (-0.02, 0.08)	-0.04 (-0.09, 0.01)

Parental drinking predicted 4 items of perceived harm

Parental pro-drinking practices predicted 5 items of perceived harms

Examples	Parental drinking (0-2) (β-coefficient, 95% CI)	Parental pro-drinking practices (0-9) (β-coefficient, 95% CI)
Worsen academic performance	-0.06*(-0.12, -0.01)	-0.12***(-0.17, -0.06)
Family violence	-0.06*(-0.12, -0.01)	0.00 (-0.05, 0.06)
Excessive drinking	-0.07**(-0.11, -0.03)	0.09*** (0.04, 0.13)

Conclusions

Substantial proportions of Hong Kong adolescents perceived the benefits and neglected the harms of alcohol drinking. Such perceived benefits were associated more strongly with PPDPs than parental drinking. Parental drinking was associated with lower perception of harms, but PPDPs were associated with both higher and lower perception of harms. These results may help dissuade parents from drinking and PPDPs.