

PW01-210 - THE EFFECTS OF MACRO- AND MICRO-LEVEL FACTORS ON THE PSYCHOLOGICAL WELL-BEING OF RUSSIAN AND UKRAINIAN ADOLESCENTS IN THE POST-PERESTROIKA PERIOD

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Objectives: This study investigates how the changing socioeconomic conditions in Russia and Ukraine affected the psychological well-being of high-school adolescents in these countries. In addition, the effects of the micro-level factors, including the economic conditions of the adolescents' family and perceived social support were investigated.

Method: The study was conducted in twelve medium-size towns and large cities scattered across the entire territory of Russia and the Ukraine. Adolescents studying in public high schools filled out the questionnaires in 1999 (n=489) and in 2007 (n=740). Six indexes of psychological well-being were measured: emotional and behavioral problems, loneliness, self-esteem, body image, social competence, and school competence.

Results: Macro-level socioeconomic conditions in Russia and Ukraine substantially improved from 1999 to 2007; however, none of the six indexes of psychological well-being measured in this study changed significantly. The psychological well-being of Russian and Ukrainian adolescents remained much worse than that of their peers in developed countries. Russian adolescents consistently reported higher self-esteem and school competence than their Ukrainian peers. At the micro-level, perceived parental care and autonomy providing, as well as perceived social support from parents, peers, and teachers were the major contributors to the adolescents' psychological well-being.

Conclusions: Changes in adolescents' psychological well-being do not follow macro-level socioeconomic changes that occur in a country. This indicates that psychological well-being is more influenced by values and cultural norms, which are relatively stable in each country, rather than by changing socioeconomic conditions.