

## Social capital at school and health-risk behaviors among adolescents

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This study examined the individual and contextual effects of cognitive social capital at school on smoking and drinking in Japanese adolescents. Self-administered questionnaires were distributed to 3,248 students at 29 high schools across Okinawa. The individual-level social capital was generalized trust. Contextual-level social capital was measured by aggregated school-level individual responses.

Individual-level trust was negatively associated with smoking and drinking among boys and girls. School-level trust showed an inverse association with smoking for girls. School-level trust was not associated with drinking among boys or girls. After adjustment for individual-level trust and the covariates, these findings were in the same direction, but the school-level trust for girls no longer had a significant contextual effect on smoking. The findings suggest evidence of the individual effect of cognitive social capital on adolescents' smoking and drinking, and that the contextual effect of social capital on smoking was inconclusive.