Determinants of Knowledge, Attitudes, Perceptions and Behaviors Regarding Air Pollution in Schoolchildren in Pristina, Kosovo

Authors

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1 Background

Air pollution poses a significant health risk, especially in urban areas like Pristina, Kosovo. In Kosovo, approximately 760 people die prematurely each year due to air pollution levels exceeding both EU and WHO standards. This alarming statistic underscores the urgent need for comprehensive strategies to address air quality issues and protect public health.

Understanding how schoolchildren perceive and respond to this issue is crucial for effective interventions. By assessing their baseline knowledge, attitudes, perceptions, and behaviors related to air pollution, we can tailor educational programs to empower them as advocates for cleaner air and healthier communities.

Additionally, providing evidence-based insights to policymakers can inform the development of targeted policies aimed at mitigating the impacts of air pollution.

2 Objectives

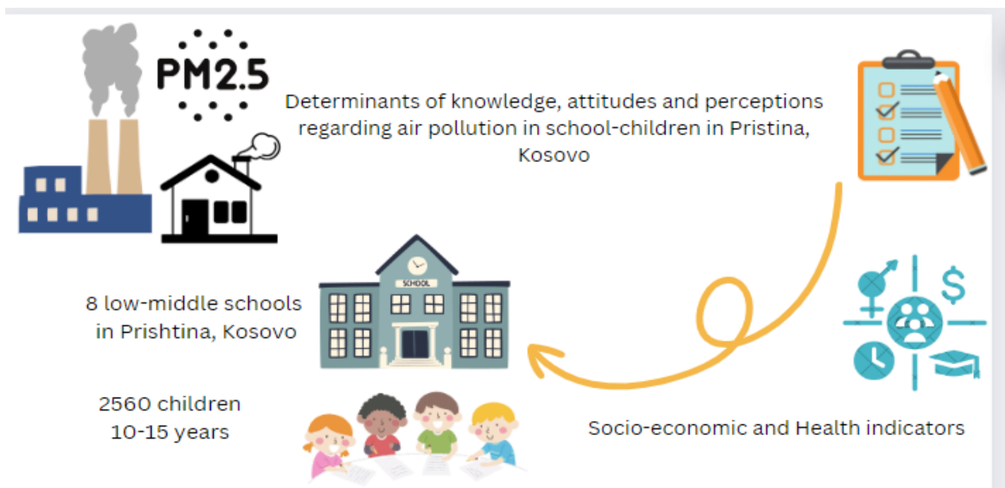
Our research aims to address significant gaps in the literature by examining the knowledge, attitudes, behaviors, and perceptions about air pollution of low-middle school children in Pristina, Kosovo, and their associations with socio-demographic factors.

This study serves as a crucial step in gathering baseline data for a broader environmental intervention initiative.

3 Methodology

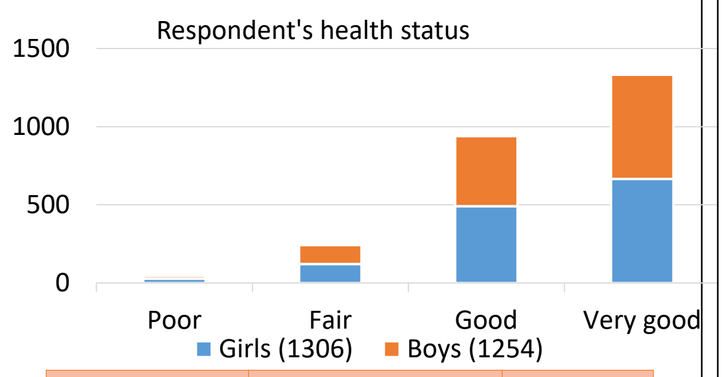
Our cross-sectional study collected data from 2560 participants in 8 low-middle schools in Pristina, Kosovo. We used a random sampling technique, selecting schools from a pool of 42 in the municipality. Focused on grades 6th through 9th, we adjusted for various factors, resulting in a final sample size of 2560 participants.

A comprehensive questionnaire encompassed five parts: socio-demographic information, knowledge, attitudes, risk perception and practical behavior. Linear and logistic regression analysis were used to shed light on the complex interplay between various factors and the scores related to knowledge, attitudes, (risk) perceptions, and behaviors among the study participants.

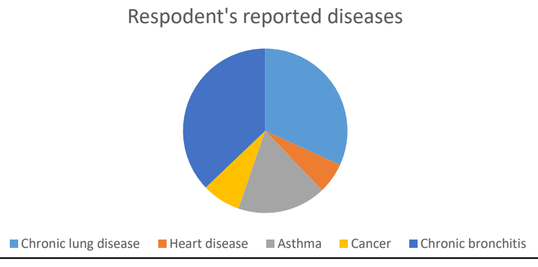


4 Results

Result 1: Socio-demographic characteristics



Grade	Girls (1306)	Boys (1254)
5th Grade	154	169
6th Grade	252	246
7th Grade	295	267
8th Grade	316	272
9th Grade	289	300



Result 2: Socio-demographic characteristics

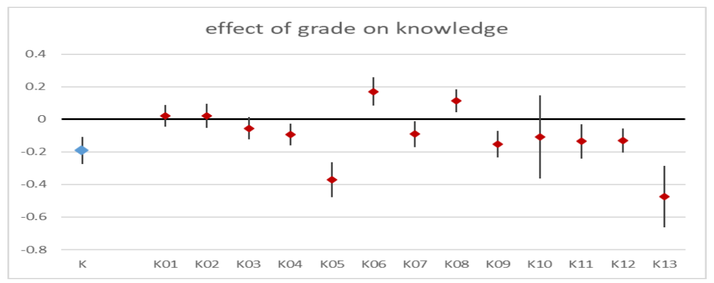
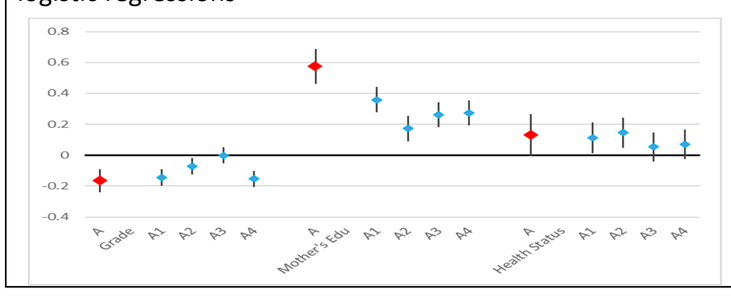


Fig 2. Linear regression on the attitudes score (A) and of ordered logistic regressions



Result 3: Socio-demographic characteristics

Fig 3. Results of linear regression on the perceptions score (P) and of ordered logistic regressions on the response to each perception question

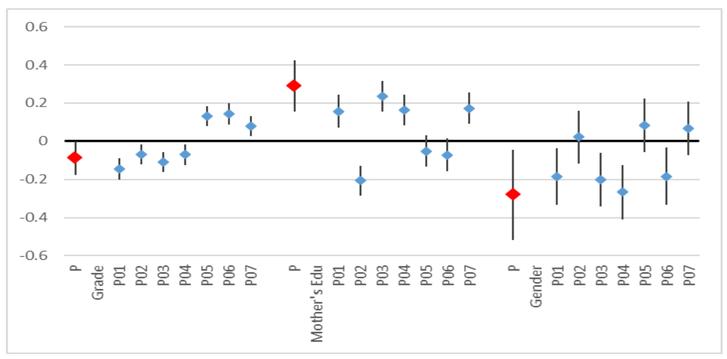
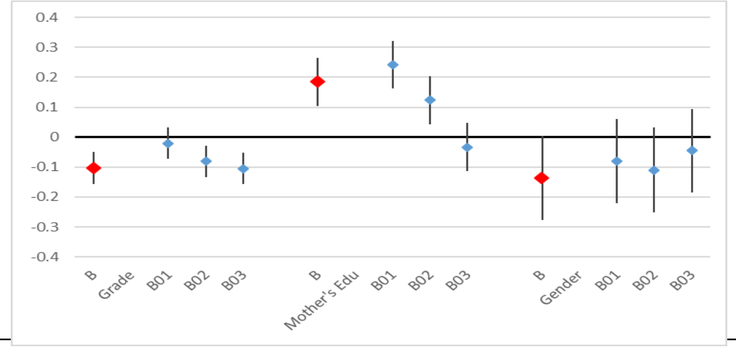


Fig 4. Results of linear regression on the behavior score (B) and of ordered logistic regressions on the response to each behavior question



5 Conclusion

- The findings of this study highlight the complex array of factors influencing knowledge, attitudes, perceptions, and behaviors concerning air pollution among schoolchildren. Understanding these relationships is crucial for devising targeted interventions and educational strategies aimed at fostering environmental awareness and promoting healthier behaviors among the younger population.
- Identified predictors of knowledge, attitudes, and behaviors related to air pollution provide valuable insights for intervention design and implementation. Additionally, an intervention has been initiated, with half of the schools receiving specific teaching packages on air pollution, while the remaining schools serve as controls.

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