

Contents

1	Introduction	15
1.1	Background.....	15
1.2	Aims of the study and research questions	18
1.3	Structure and content of the volume.....	22
2	Conceptual framework	25
2.1	What is risk behaviour?	25
2.2	Risk behaviour in adolescence: a general framework	26
2.2.1	Risk behaviour as reaction to developmental tasks ...	28
2.2.2	Functions of risk behaviour	30
2.2.3	Integrative model of risk behaviour.....	32
2.3	Determinants of adolescent risk behaviour	34
2.3.1	Age and gender	35
2.3.2	Socio-economic status	37
2.3.3	Peer and school context	39
2.4	Consequences of risk behaviour	42
3	Material and methods	45
3.1	Research context.....	45
3.2	The “Health Behaviour in School-aged Children” (HBSC) study	46

3.3	Data collection procedures and samples.....	47
3.3.1	International data	48
3.3.2	German data.....	50
3.3.3	Northrhine-Westphalian data.....	51
3.4	Instrument and Variables.....	52
3.4.1	Risk behaviour.....	53
3.4.2	Parental and 'own' socio-economic status.....	53
3.4.3	Peer and school factors	57
3.4.4	Health outcomes	58
3.5	Statistical analyses.....	60
4	Results of the empirical studies.....	63
4.1	Age and gender differences and patterns of risk behaviour in adolescence.....	63
4.2	Socio-economic determinants and patterns of adolescent risk behaviour	73
4.3	The role of social contexts for adolescent risk behaviour	85
4.4	Consequences of risk behaviour	88
5	Discussion and perspectives.....	95
5.1	Summary of the results.....	95
5.2	Implications and perspectives for research and practice	99
	References.....	107