Family-Based Predictors of Adolescent Substance Use
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This study examined family-based variables as predictors of adolescent substance use. Parental education level, ethnic background, religious affiliation, sibling substance use, family conflict, and family involvement were the specific family-based variables examined. Five thousand and five randomly sampled adolescents in the state of Utah participated in this study. Responses of 4,983 adolescents were included in the data analysis. Overall, this study supported prior research, indicating certain family variables as predictors of adolescent substance use. Sibling marijuana use, family involvement, and religious affiliation were predictors of adolescent tobacco use. Family involvement, sibling tobacco use, and religious affiliation were predictors of adolescent alcohol use. Family involvement, sibling alcohol use, and religious affiliation were predictors of marijuana use. Future implications for research and practice in relation to family-based risk and protective factors are discussed.

KEYWORDS. Family-based predictors, adolescent substance use, ethnic background, religious affiliation, parental education level
Development and Validation of a POSIT-Short Form: Screening for Problem Behaviors Among Adolescents at Risk for Substance Use
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The Problem-Oriented Screening Instrument for Teenagers (POSIT) screens for multiple problems among adolescents at risk for substance use. To provide cost-efficient intake procedures, a shortened version of the POSIT was developed, using factor analysis, correlational and reliability analyses, based on full version POSITs of youth entering the Kansas juvenile justice system (n = 3,464). A short form with 64 items across eight scales showed good reliability, and scales were consistent with the full-length POSIT. Moderate correlations with criterion measures were obtained for the POSIT-Short Form scales except the Vocational Status scale, using the original POSIT validation sample (n = 346). The POSIT-SF shows potential for a reliable and cost-efficient screen for youth with substance abuse behaviors.

KEYWORDS. Adolescence, assessment, screening test, substance abuse, problem behaviors

Testing a Longitudinal Model of the Relationships Among High Risk Youths’ Drug Sales, Drug Use and Participation in Index Crimes
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Baseline, one-year and two-year follow-up interviews were obtained from 164 arrested youths processed at a juvenile assessment center in a prospective longitudinal study. A structural equation model that included cross-sectional and longitudinal associations among drug (alcohol and marijuana), drug sales and index offenses was supported by the data. Research, theoretical, and policy implications of the results are drawn.

KEYWORDS. Adolescents, substance abuse, high risk youths

Teachers’ Perceptions of Tobacco Use Prevention Education (TUPE) Programs in Florida: Relations with Perceived Barriers and Other Contextual Factors
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Data were collected via brief telephone surveys from two statewide random samples of middle school teachers (n = 296) and high school teachers (n = 282) responsible for tobacco use prevention education (TUPE) in Florida. Cluster analysis was used to classify teachers based on their levels of support of, commitment to, and perceived effectiveness of TUPE programs. Between-cluster differences in teachers’ perceptions of TUPE were significantly associated with perceived barriers and features of school contexts, although these relationships were more consistent among middle school teachers than among high school teachers. The implications of these findings for the effective delivery of TUPE programming to adolescents at different developmental levels are discussed.

KEYWORDS. Adolescents, tobacco, smoking, prevention, education, teachers, schools, barriers