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Adolescent Conduct Disorder, Substance Use, and Traumatic Injury

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This study prospectively examines the relationship of two types of common behavioral problems of adolescence, substance involvement (SI) and Conduct Disorder Behavior (CDB), to traumatic injury related health problems (TRHP) during adolescence and young adulthood. We followed a sample of 212 youths over 6 years with assessments of SI, CDBs and symptoms, and TRHPs at 2, 4, and 6 years post baseline. We hypothesized that SI and CDB would be associated with an increased incidence of TRHPs and that males would exhibit more SI and CDB than females. We also examined both the independent and combined impact of SI and CDB on TRHP. We found that males reported more SI, CDB, and TRHP than females. Regression analyses suggest that early SI places females at risk for TRHP, while CDB is more related to TRHP for males. Specifically, CDB was directly associated with increased TRHPs in male adolescents and young adults. We suggest that SI impacts TRHPs through its association with CDB; however, the relationships between SI, CDB, and TRHPs appear to be complex. Injury prevention strategies
Cognitive Predictors of Children's Attitudes Toward Alcohol and Cocaine
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This study examined age differences in, and associations among, children's attitudes and intentions regarding alcohol and cocaine use and possible cognitive underpinnings of such orientations (basic familiarity with each substance, expectancies about short-term psychological and behavioral effects, beliefs about long-term health effects, and causal understanding of drug action). Among 217 first through sixth graders, attitudes and intentions were negative and became less negative with age for alcohol, but more negative with age for cocaine. The cognitive predictors contributed to the prediction of attitudes toward cocaine, but not alcohol. Negative attitudes toward cocaine were associated with being familiar with it, knowing its true long-term effects, and endorsing correct explanations of its behavioral effects. The cognitive predictors failed to significantly predict intentions to use alcohol or cocaine. Findings suggest that fostering accurate beliefs and understandings may promote stronger anti-drug orientations toward less familiar drugs such as cocaine.

KEYWORDS. Attitudes, drug knowledge, alcohol, cocaine

Gender Differences and Psychosocial Factors Associated with Alcohol Involvement and Dysphoria in Adolescence
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Correlations between Alcohol Involvement, Dysphoria, and their combined effects, with Social Conformity, Perceived Opportunity, Relationship Satisfaction, Parental Divorce, and Family Support/Bonding were examined with Structural Equation Modeling in a community sample of late adolescents (males = 290, females = 606). Results revealed gender differences between Alcohol Involvement and Dysphoria. Girls had an affectively-involved style of alcohol use that was reflected in a second-order construct, while Alcohol Involvement and Dysphoria were unrelated for teenage boys. Boys had a stronger association between Alcohol
Involvement and less Family Support/Bonding than girls. Less satisfaction with opposite sex friends was related to more Alcohol Involvement for boys and more Dysphoria for girls.

KEYWORDS. Alcohol use, dysphoria, adolescence, psychosocial correlates, gender differences

Maintaining Addiction: Tobacco Cessation Policy and Substance Abuse Treatment for Youth

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This research project examines how institutions, which are part of the substance abuse treatment industry, address the connection between tobacco and other drugs in youth. A survey was sent to 628 substance abuse treatment programs. Results suggest that the majority of treatment programs are routinely assessing tobacco use of the youth in their care, but only a small proportion follow through with tobacco cessation as an integral part of treatment planning. Results suggest there is no consistent reason for including tobacco cessation in treatment planning, nor consistency in the methods used to treat tobacco addiction. Additionally, some outside policy forces appear to be related to whether or not tobacco cessation is assessed and treated.

KEYWORDS. Treatment policy, tobacco cessation, youth tobacco use