Why Adolescent Problem Gamblers Do Not Seek Treatment
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Prevalence studies indicate that approximately 40% of adolescents participate in regular gambling with rates of problem gambling up to four times greater than that found in adults populations. However, it appears that few adolescents actually seek treatment for such problems. The purpose of this study was to explore potential reasons why adolescents fail to seek treatment for gambling problems. A semi-structured interview that included diagnostic criteria for pathological gambling was administered to a sample of 305 adolescent school students. Only one of seven problem gamblers recognized his problem and none have sought help. From a youth perspective, it is clear that gambling does not constitute or is not perceived to represent a major problem in their daily routine. The reason that adolescents do not perceive gambling to be a problem may be linked to the absence of any major adverse consequences stemming from their gambling activities. These results indicate that efforts should be directed toward a primary prevention approach in reducing the impact of gambling problems.

KEYWORDS: Gambling, problem gambling, adolescence, prevalence, treatment
variance (ANOVA) showed the ADI children (n = 79) to have higher delinquency (p < .001) and aggressive behavior scores (p < .05) as compared to AD children (n = 1,650). Multivariate analysis of covariance (MANCOVA), with five socio-demographic characteristics as covariates, confirmed the presence of independent delinquency scores that were independent of aggressive behavior scores among children living with a parent with alcohol problems (F = 9.23, df = 1, 959, p < .01). The evidence of this study favors the hypothesis that adolescent children living with an alcoholic dependent parent have more delinquency problems than other adolescents. We did not find similar patterns of association for the internalizing symptoms, such as aggression, since delinquency was held constant.

KEYWORDS: Childre of alcoholics, adolescence, epidemiology, mental health, behavioral problems

ADDITIONUM

Relationship of Substance Use and Associated Predictors of Violence in Early, Middle, and Late Adolescence

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This study examined relationships among selected predictors of violence, including victimization, low conflict management efficacy, aggressive anger, and drug use in 6th, 9th, and 12th-grade adolescents. The study was a secondary analysis of data from a population-based, cross-sectional survey of health behaviors among adolescents (N = 2,921). For each cohort, it was hypothesized that victimization and low conflict management efficacy would predict low hostile anger control, which would predict gateway drug use, and the subsequent development of hard drug use and violence. Overall model fit and the magnitude of specific paths were expected to increase across grades. Using structural equation modeling (SEM), results indicate acceptable fit for 6th-grade (CFI = .98), 9th-grade (CFI = .89) and 12th-grade (CFI = .64) cohorts. Results suggest that the influence of relational victimization and conflict management efficacy on hard drug use may be mediated through low hostile anger control and gateway drug use.

KEYWORDS: Substance use, violence, adolescence