A Descriptive Longitudinal Study
of Perceived Family Stability and Substance Use
with Low Income African-American Adolescents
Chris Stewart, PhD

Despite extensive research surrounding the adolescent's family and substance use, there is little information in terms of family stability and the relationship with adolescent substance use. There is also little research of these particular issues with low-income African-American youth living in poverty. This project explored the relationship of perceived family stability and substance use with a sample of 233 adolescents (aged 9 to 19) living in public housing. The results imply that the quality or type of family relationship has greater impact upon adolescent substance use than the structure of the family or the stability of the family relationship. It also would seem that strengthening the existing relationship of parents and adolescents would bring greater treatment results than spending time attempting to promote and ensure stability of a particular type of relationship.

KEYWORDS. Protective factors, substance abuse, adolescent, African-American, family stability

Family Influences on Youth Alcohol Use:
A Multiple-Sample Analysis by Ethnicity and Gender
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This study examined the effects of demographic and family influences on alcohol use among White and African American youth. Data comprised 400 target youth.
An Examination of Multiple Substance Use Between African American and Caucasian Female College Students

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This study examined the use of alcohol, tobacco, marijuana, and cocaine among 445 African American and Caucasian female college students. Using the Core Alcohol and Drug Survey the authors explored: (1) the extent of substance use; and (2) whether or not African American female college students were more or less likely to engage in the use of these substances compared to their Caucasian counterparts. Results indicated that alcohol was the most frequently used substance, with more than 73% of the participants reporting alcohol use. The second most commonly used drug was tobacco followed by marijuana; however, only one-fourth of the participants reported using these substances. Cocaine was the least frequently used substance, with less than 2% of the participants reporting the use of this substance. Results also indicated that Caucasian female college students were more likely to engage in the use of alcohol and tobacco than are African American female college students.

KEYWORDS. Substance abuse, women, college drinking, racial differences

Ethnographic Lessons on Substance Use and Substance Abusers

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The primary purpose of this article is to introduce broadly comparative ethnographic studies on the role of psychoactive substance use. Examples are cited from case studies across Africa, Asia, Australia, Europe, North, and South America. These varied studies are synthesized to provide the basis for a brief analysis of meaning and function on the integration of use, including ritual and the public nature of use. There is also discussion on the cultural construction of intoxication and of the abuser, along with some thoughts regarding humanizing the drug user and avoiding stereotypes.

KEYWORDS. Ethnography, substance use, substance abuser

Identifying the Prevalence and Correlates of Ecstasy and Other Club Drug (EOCD) Use Among High School Seniors

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A plethora of anecdotal evidence has suggested that the use of "club drugs," such as lysergic acid diethylamide (LSD), Ketamine, Gamma hydroxybutyrate (GHB), and 3,4-methylenedioxy-methamphetamine (MDMA or "ecstasy"), is a serious problem among youth across the United States. Unfortunately, little scientific evidence exists to support this contention. In the current study we examine the ecstasy and other club drug (EOCD)-using behaviors of 1,651 high school seniors surveyed in 2000 through the Monitoring the Future (MTF) study. Prevalence estimates of EOCD use are generated and associations between EOCD use, demographic characteristics, and alcohol and other drug (AOD) use are explored. Twelve-month self-reports for ecstasy, LSD, Ketamine, and GHB were 8%, 6%, 2%, and 1%, respectively. Compared to students who reported no use of EOCD during the 12 months preceding the interview; 12-month EOCD users were significantly more likely to be white, to live in the suburbs, and to have used all other drugs of abuse during the 12 months preceding the interview. Logistic regression identified that the strongest predictors of 12-month EOCD use were the use of heroin and other psychedelic drugs during the 12 months preceding the interview. Implications for these findings are discussed.

KEYWORDS. Ecstasy, GHB, Ketamine, LSD

with a mean age of 11.04 years (SD = 1.68), 51.2% male, 49.8% African American and 50.2% White. Youth alcohol use was hypothesized to be influenced by the child's age, family income, parent status, parent alcohol use, sibling alcohol use, and family cohesion. A four-group multiple-sample structural equation model examined means and relations across ethnicities and genders. Parent and sibling use were significant predictors of target youth alcohol use. Parent status influenced sibling alcohol use, and family cohesion. Income was related to parent alcohol use. Despite a few structural and mean differences, the overall model was consistent across the four groups.