

The Role of Alcohol/drug Use and Psychosocial Well-being in Teenage Sexual Behavior: Findings from the 1994 NLSY Young Adult Survey

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Despite accounts of teenage pregnancy rates, the highest incidence of HIV and other concomitantly sexually transmitted diseases as reported by the Centers for Disease Control remains steadfast among teenagers and young adults. While youth may perceive themselves as invincible and impervious to the perils of health risk behavior, they remain ever vulnerable to the social pressures associated with sexual activity. Encompassed within the purview of social pressure is the co-occurrence of alcohol and drug use, emerging as co-risk factors for disease transmission. However, other behaviors as well as psychosocial and environmental pressures can contribute to the outcome. This exploratory study using factor analysis, discriminant analysis and multiple linear regression then will (1) aim to distinguish risk profiles among youth at risk for sexually transmitted diseases and (2) suggest targeted interventions which can be developed to mediate such behaviors.

Keywords: Teen Risk Behavior; Psychosocial Well-Being

Generalizing the alcohol outlet-assaultive violence link: Evidence from a midwestern city in the United States

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In the established link between alcohol consumption and crime, scant attention has focused on whether alcohol availability (density of outlets) influences assaultive violence. Our study extends the investigation of this critical public health question by asking whether the density of liquor outlets is a salient predictor of assaultive violence in a Midwestern urban city. This study assessed the geographic association between rates of assaultive violence and alcohol density in Kansas City, Missouri. Secondary data were examined for sociodemographic factors, alcohol outlet density and rates of assaultive violence across 89 inner city census tracts. Hierarchical regression analysis indicated that sociodemographic variables predicted 61% ($R^2=.61$) of the variance in assaultive violence, but that an additional 9% ($R^2=.09$) of the variability in assaultive violence was explained by the density of alcohol outlets. Alcohol outlet density contributed significantly to the explained variance of the regression model and was associated with higher rates of assaultive violence in this Midwestern urban city. Findings were further elucidated by a choropleth map, which provided a graphical representation of the areal dispersions for the rates of assaultive violence and the density of alcohol outlets. In accordance with the National Center for Health Statistics Healthy People 2010 Initiatives, the relationship between alcohol and violence has been identified as a public health priority. This study adds to the importance of making liquor outlet density in cities, at a geography approximating the census tract, a key feature in the public health policy domain.

Keywords: Alcohol, Violence