

RAP* Time



RURAL CENTER *for* AIDS/STD PREVENTION

A JOINT PROJECT OF
INDIANA UNIVERSITY, UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO,
AND UNIVERSITY OF KENTUCKY

*Rural AIDS/STD prevention. rap (rap) v. *Slang*. To talk freely and openly

Vol. 16, No. 1, January 6, 2012

Adolescent alcohol use indicators predicted adult STI and STI determinants

STI disproportionately impact youth aged 15 to 24 years with the highest rates being among young adults 20 to 24 years. Risk behaviors that may influence STI are often initiated during adolescence.

Alcohol use is the most common adolescent substance use in the U. S. reported by over one third of 8th-grade students and 71% of 12th-grade students. Adolescent alcohol use is often found associated with sexual risk behaviors and self-reported STI. Alcohol-related effects on developmental factors may lead to sexual risk behaviors in adulthood.

This study examined race differences in the longitudinal associations between adolescent alcohol use and adulthood STI risk in the United States.

Methodology

Data were analyzed from Wave I (1994-1995; adolescence) and Wave III (2001-2002; young adulthood) of the National Longitudinal Study of Adolescent Health (n=10783) to estimate associations and assess differences between White and African Americans. STI-related outcomes included multiple partnerships, inconsistent condom use, sex with an STI-infected

partner, and self-reported curable and viral STI and biologically confirmed curable STI.

Outcomes of the Study

Major findings include:

- Adolescent reports of any prior alcohol use, getting drunk, or consistent use of alcohol predicted greater adult STI and STI determinants such as multiple partnerships and inconsistent condom use.
- Adolescent alcohol indicators more strongly and consistently predicted high partnership levels among African Americans than among White.
- Among African Americans and not among Whites the indicator of lifetime history of any prior alcohol use was associated with a 40% increase in the odds of 2 or more partners and with the twice the odds of 6 or more partners in the past year in adulthood.
- Adolescent report of any prior use, past-year history of getting drunk, and past-year consistent drinking predicted increases in self-reported curable and viral STI in adulthood among African Americans but not Whites.
- Indicators of adolescent history of getting drunk and consistent

drinking were associated with biologically confirmed STI in adulthood in White, but not African Americans.

- High levels of biologically confirmed STI were observed not only among African Americans who had used alcohol in adolescence, but also among those having no history of adolescent alcohol use.

Implications for Prevention

This study found that adolescent alcohol use predicted adulthood inconsistent condom use for both races but were greater predictors of elevated partnership levels for African Americans than Whites.

African American and White adolescents are priority targets for STI prevention. Prevention of adolescent alcohol use may contribute to reductions in adulthood STI risk.

SOURCE:

Khan, M. R., et al. (2011). Longitudinal associations between adolescent alcohol use and sexual risk behavior in the United States: Assessment of differences by race. *American Journal of Public Health*, 27, December 15, 2011: e1-e10, doi: 10.2.2105/AJPH.2011.300373.

Risk behaviors found in Southeastern US rural/urban women

This study examined sexual risk behaviors and unrecognized HIV infection among heterosexually active African-American and Hispanic women. Women not previously diagnosed with HIV infection (N=1,527) were recruited in rural counties in North Carolina (African American) and Alabama (African American) and an urban county in southern Florida (Hispanic). They were tested for HIV.

Two women tested HIV-positive. In past 12 months, 19% had been diagnosed with STI other than HIV, 87% engaged in unprotected vaginal intercourse (UVI) and 26% engaged in unprotected anal intercourse (UAI).

UAI was more likely among those who reported ever being pregnant, binge drinking in past 30 days, ever exchanging sex for things needed or wanted, engaged in UVI, being Hispanic, and had a current or past relationship as opposed to casual partners.

SOURCE: McLellan-Lemal, E., et al. (2012). Sexual risk behaviors among African-American and Hispanic women in five counties in the Southeastern United States, 2008-2009. *Women's Health Issues*, 22 (1), e9-e18.

Positive well-being related to risky health behavior among youth

Few research studies have examined positive psychological characteristics among adolescents. Most prior research focused on negative mood states and cognitions on health. This study examined the prospective, longitudinal associations between positive well-being during adolescence and health concerns in young adulthood.

Data were analyzed from the first three waves of the National Longitudinal Study of Adolescent Health. The analysis sample was 10,147 adolescents.

Positive well-being during adolescence was significantly associated with reporting better perceived general health during young adulthood. Positive well-being was associated with fewer risky health behaviors.

The researchers concluded that this investigation demonstrates that positive well-being during the adolescent ages predicts better perceived general health and fewer risky health behaviors during young adulthood.

SOURCE: Hoyt, L., T. et al. (2011). Positive youth, healthy adults: Does positive well-being in adolescence predict better perceived health and fewer risky health behaviors in young adulthood? *Journal of Adolescent Health*, 50, 66-73.

Oral HPV found among 7% of US men and women

Data from the 2009-2010 National Health and Nutrition Examination Survey revealed that 6.9% of persons aged 14 to 69 years (10.1%, men; 3.6% women) were infected with oral HPV which is much lower than the prevalence of genital HPV infection. The data provide evidence that oral HPV is predominately sexually transmitted. Transmission by casual, nonsexual contact is likely to be unusual.

SOURCE: Gillison, M. L., et al. (2012). Prevalence of oral HPV infection in the United States, 2009-2010. *Journal of the American Medical Association*, 307(7): doi: 10.1001/jama.2012.101.

Half of rural HIV diagnoses were Blacks

CDC reports that one-half of the HIV diagnoses among adults and adolescents in nonmetropolitan/rural areas in 2009 were among Black/African Americans, 36% were among white, 10% among Hispanic/Latino and 2% among American Indian/Alaska Native.

SOURCE: CDC. (2011). Slide set: HIV surveillance in urban and nonurban areas. <http://www.cdc.gov/hiv/topics/surveillance/resources/slides/urban-nonurban/index.htm>.

RAP* Time is a monthly AIDS/STD prevention bulletin published by the Rural Center for AIDS/STD Prevention (RCAP) at Indiana University, Bloomington. RCAP is a joint project of Indiana University, University of Colorado, and University of Kentucky. The major focus of RCAP is the promotion of HIV/STD prevention in rural America, with the goal of reducing HIV/STD incidence.

The opinions expressed here do not necessarily represent those of the cooperating universities.

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