ARTICLES:

Attitudes and Descriptive Norms of Alcohol-Related Problems as Predictors of Alcohol Use among College Students

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ABSTRACT

Background: The purpose of this study is to identify predictors of alcohol use based on personal values and several constructs from the Integrated Behavioral Model (i.e., attitudes, injunctive norms and descriptive norms) among undergraduate college students. Methods: A cross sectional study design was used with a convenience sample of college students. Researchers administered a self-reported instrument to students who were enrolled at a large, public university in the Southeastern United States (US) in fall 2010 (n=910). Backward stepwise multiple regression analysis was used to examine which of the independent variables (i.e., personal values, attitudes, perceived norms related to alcohol use and alcohol-related problems) and demographic variables were predictive of alcohol use. Results: The overall model explained 45.6% of the variance of average drinks per week and included the following significant predictors: Greek involvement, gender, attitudes, and descriptive norms of alcohol-related problems. Conclusions: Understanding predictors of alcohol use can help health educators and other health professionals tailor interventions to college-aged students. Keywords: Predictors of alcohol use, college alcohol, descriptive norms of alcohol-related problems, attitudes towards alcohol

Do Emergency Physicians Educate Patients About the Dangers of Drinking and Driving After a Motor Vehicle Collision, and What are the Barriers or Motivators to Do So?

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ABSTRACT

Introduction: Impaired driving is the leading cause of criminal death in Canada and results in numerous emergency department (ED) visits each year. Methods: An online survey was distributed to 94 emergency physicians and emergency medicine residents at an academic tertiary care hospital in Southwestern Ontario. Descriptive statistics were calculated. Results: We received 76 responses (81% response rate). Physicians widely varied in the frequency with which they discussed the dangers of drinking and driving with patients. Only 13% had consulted the ED social worker and 32% had used an alcohol screening questionnaire in the past 12 months. The greatest barriers to addressing drinking and driving with motor vehicle collision (MVC) patients were severity of injury, lack of time and intoxication. The great motivators were a sense of personal responsibility, concern for patients’ health and safety and having the time. Conclusion: The information from this survey brings awareness to the longstanding problem of drinking and driving, explores the barriers and motivators to addressing this topic in the ED, and can be used to develop new strategies to educate trauma patients on the dangers of impaired driving.

Prescription Stimulant Misuse, Alcohol Abuse, and Disordered Eating Among College Students

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ABSTRACT

The misuse of prescription stimulants (MPS), risky drinking, and drunkorexia are current public health concerns. The present study assessed the prevalence of MPS and drunkorexia using an online survey. Specifically, we examined alcohol consumption, the Rutgers Alcohol Problem Index, Compensatory Eating and Behaviors in Response to Alcohol Consumption Scale and prescription stimulant use among college students (n=379, 273 female). Additionally, a structural equation modeling framework was used to assess the relationship between measures. MPS was significantly correlated with alcohol use, alcohol problems, and drunkorexia behaviors. MPS and aspects of drunkorexia predicted problems with alcohol. There is a need to emphasize the overlap between drunkorexia and MPS in substance use education and prevention efforts. Keywords: Amphetamine; Adderall©, drunkorexia, eating disorders, methylphenidate (Ritalin©), RAPI, CEBRACs