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Lifetime Alcohol Abuse Prevalence: Role of Childhood and Adult Religion

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Background
- Alcohol abuse disorder has a lifetime prevalence rate of 13.2% (Nestler, et al., 2015)
- Over half of these cases are diagnosed by the early 20s, and the remainder by age 30 (Kessler, et al., 2005)
- Male gender, SES factors, childhood adversity and parental factors against LAA
- Childhood and adult religiosity/spirituality will be protective variables, and lifetime prevalence of alcohol abuse among diverse groups

Childhood & Adult Influences
However, little is known about:
- the relationship among stressors, childhood and adult religious variables, and lifetime prevalence of alcohol abuse among diverse groups
- the role among childhood and adult religiosity/spirituality and lifetime alcohol abuse (LAA)

Hypotheses
1. Childhood and adult religiosity/spirituality will be protective factors against LAA
2. Male gender, SES factors, childhood adversity and parental substance abuse will be risk factors for LAA

Theoretical Model

Data & Sample
- National Comorbidity Survey Replication (NCS-R) – Kessler et al., 2004
- It is a probability sample of the U.S. Alternative based on the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual - IV (Zubin, 1994)
- All respondents with complete alcohol and religion data were included from the NCS-R

Measures
- Outcome: Any lifetime diagnosis of alcohol abuse as defined by the NCS-R/DSM criteria
- Childhood Religion
- Adult Religiosity/Spirituality
- Childhood adversity (maltreatment, peer, family)
- Childhood support
- Demographic factors

Results
- Higher level of religiosity/spirituality and adolescent health attitudes and behaviors
- Table 1. Series of Weighted Logistic Regressions of Any Lifetime Alcohol Abuse

Discussion
- Child and adolescent religiosity/spirituality and religiosity/spirituality and adolescent health attitudes and behaviors
- Specific developmental periods (i.e., adolescence) and age targeted interventions/other interventions
- Religiousness/spirituality also affects alcohol-use in college and should be targeted by age

Next Steps:
- Identify the NCS-R data from the 2001 sweep or later and target the LAA study
- Identify the problem on which different aspects of religiosity/spirituality (e.g., religion as a child/habits, at home, or very important)

References