Lifetime Alcohol Abuse Prevalence: Role of Childhood and Adult Religion

Amy B. Wachholtz
University of Massachusetts Medical School

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Lifetime Alcohol Abuse Prevalence: Role of Childhood and Adult Religion

Amy Wachholtz PhD1, Lisa Fortuna MD2, Michelle Porche EdD3, Rosalie Torres Stone PhD1
1 Dept of Psychiatry, UMass Medical School, 2 Wellesley Centers for Women, Wellesley College

Background

- Alcohol abuse disorder has a lifetime prevalence rate of 13.2% (Kessler et al., 2015)
- Over half of these cases are diagnosed by the early 20s, and three-quarters by age 30 (Kessler et al., 2015)
- Early influences on ETOH consumption have long lasting impact on later ETOH consumption, health status, and SES (Delucchi, Mrazek, & Weinberger, 2015)
- Religion is protective against ETOH abuse (Mischel, Trock, & Brand, 2015)
- Religious/spiritual beliefs and practices may protect against or mitigate the impact of alcohol abuse among diverse ethnic groups

Childhood & Adult Influences

- However, little is known about:
  1. The relationship among stressors, childhood and adult religious variables, and lifetime prevalence of alcohol abuse among diverse ethnic groups
  2. 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

- Religion Guides Decisions
- Religion as a Child Rated as "Somewhat" or "Very Important"
- Adult religion/spirituality increased odds for LAA

Measures

- Outcome: Any lifetime diagnosis of alcohol abuse or alcohol dependence by the NCS-R/DSM criteria
- Childhood Religiosity
- Childhood adversity (dichotomous yes/no)
- Adult Religiosity/Spirituality
- Adult religiosity/spirituality lowered risk
- Childhood support (dichotomous yes/no)
- Demographic Factors

Data & Sample

- National Comorbidity Survey Replication (NCS-R), National Institute of Mental Health, 1994-1995
- NCS-R is a probability sample of the US population (Kessler et al., 2004) is a probability sample of the US. Assessments based on the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual - IV (DSM-IV), 1994
- 4505 respondents with complete alcohol and religion data were included from the NCS-R

Results

- Male gender, married/cohabiting, higher education level, lower income level, and lower race/ethnicity (Asian and Latino) was associated with higher LAA
- Education level, marital status, poverty, and substance use related to increased odds for LAA
- Childhood religiosity/spirituality lowered risk

Discussion

- Alcohol and other drug use- prevent the progression of alcohol abuse/dependence, especially among high-risk adolescents
- Childhood religiosity/spirituality lowered risk
- Religious/spiritual factors also change across the course and should be considered as a protective factor targeted to children

Next Steps

- Initiate the NSAL and NSI to confirm the NCS-R findings
- Conduct a longitudinal study to further examine the impact of childhood religiosity/spirituality on LAA
- Apply the approach on White middle-aged samples to confirm findings

Table 1: Series of Weighted Logistic Regressions of Any Lifetime Alcohol Abuse

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Predictor</th>
<th>Coefficient</th>
<th>Standard Error</th>
<th>Wald</th>
<th>df</th>
<th>Sig.</th>
<th>O.R.</th>
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<td>32.13</td>
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<td>10.55</td>
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<td>&lt;.01</td>
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References