Lifetime Alcohol Abuse Prevalence: Role of Childhood and Adult Religion

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Comments
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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% (Kessler, et al., 2013)
- Over half of these cases are identified by the early 20s, and three-quarters by age 30 (Kessler, et al., 2005)
- Early influences on ETOH consumption have long lasting impact on later ETOH consumption, health status, and SES (DetUbuntu, Katzer, & Weisner, 2001)
- Religion is protective against ETOH abuse (Michalak, Trocki, & Broid, 2007)
- Religious/spiritual variables positively impact health behaviors and alcohol use in 84% of studies (Row & Wang, 2006)

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 ethnic 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 use will be risk factors for LAA

Theoretical Model
- Childhood & Adult Influences
- Child/family factors, adolescent factors, environmental factors, developmental factors.

Results
- Lifetime Alcohol Abuse Prevalence in the US:
  - 12-month prevalence of alcohol abuse (LAA)
  - Childhood factors: Income Level, Education Level, and Mental Health
  - Adult factors: Income Level, Education Level, and Mental Health

Data & Sample
- The National Comorbidity Survey Replication (NCS-R; Kessler et al., 2005) is a probability sample of the US adolescent based on the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual - IV (DSM-IV; 1994)
- 4320 respondents with complete data & sample included from the NCS-R

Measures
- Outcome: Any lifetime diagnosis of alcohol abuse or alcohol dependence by the NCS-R/DSM criteria
- Childhood Religion/Spirituality
- Adult Religion/Spirituality
- Childhood adversity (maltreatment, poverty, neglect, mental illness, abuse, economic disadvantage)
- Demographic factors

Discussion
- Childhood and religious/spiritual variables are significant predictors of alcohol abuse diagnosis (LAA), and protective factors for LAA
- Specific developmental periods have different risk and protective factors
- Religious/spiritual variables also interact with specific courses of the LAA course and should be explored in future research.

Next Steps
- Include the NSAL and NSAL data into the NCS-R
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- Identify the extent to which different aspects of religion/spirituality impact LAA
- Continue to identify critical variables in the LAA model

References