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Examining the relationship between high school deviant behavior and substance use in college students



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BACKGROUND & INTRODUCTION

- As seen in many societies alcohol dependence/abuse has been shown to lead to many issues in lives of individuals and those surrounding them (Hoffman and Tobakoff, 1996).
- Current studies are giving more insight on the matter with a focus on factors leading up to the issue.
- Several studies argue for significant correlation between early manifestations of deviant behavior and substance abuse (Caspi, Lahey & Moffitt, 2003; Horne & Sayger 1990)
- This study investigates deviant behaviour specific to high school and the transition into university
- Study focuses on deviant behavior as defined by symptoms of Conduct disorder (CD).

Question:

Is there a correlation between early displays of deviant behaviour and substance abuse?

METHODS

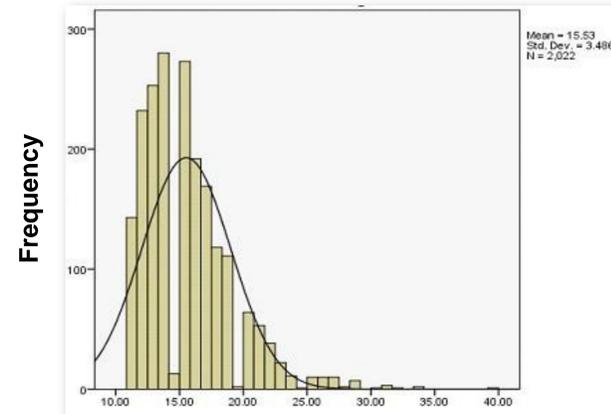
- Spit for science used a sample population of university students, ascertained through campus recruitment
- Total sample size used 2056
- Deviant behavior was analyzed using defined scored categories for each symptom and a total score was determined for each student.
- Substance use was defined by alcohol and cigarette use within the past 30 days.
- Alcohol frequency was based on a weekly or monthly basis of use
- A correlation test was used in order to analyze the distributed variables.

Deviant Behavior Items

- The frequency of each behavior was rated from never (0), 1-2 times, 3-5 times, 6 or more times.
 - skipped school
 - ran away from home overnight
 - Theft
 - fire setting
 - destruction of property
 - physically hurt animals (other than when hunting or fishing)
 - used a weapon in a fight
 - physically hurt other people
 - robbed or mugged someone
 - started physical fight
 - deceitful

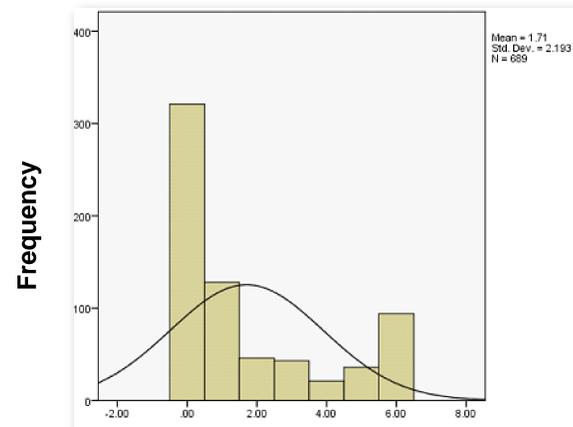
RESULTS

Figure 1. Prevalence of High school deviant behavior



High school behavior sum score

Figure 2. Prevalence of cigarette use

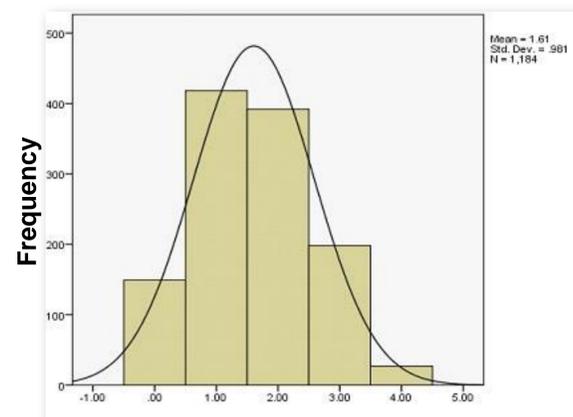


Categories of cigarette use

0, I didn't smoke any cigarettes in the last month

- Once or twice
- A few days (3 to 4 days a month)
- A couple of days a week (5 to 11 days a month)
- Three times a week (12 to 14 days a month)
- Most days of the week (15 to 25 days a month)
- Daily or almost daily (26 to 30 days a month)

Figure 3. Prevalence of alcohol use



Categories of alcohol use

- Never
- Monthly or less
- 2 to 4 times a month
- 2 to 3 times a week
- 4 or more times a week

Table 1. Correlations between variables

	Frequency of Alcohol Use	Frequency of Cigarette Use	Daily Alcohol Use	Daily Cigarette Use
Deviant High School Behavior	+ R=0.231	+ R=0.219	+ R=0.197	+ R=0.175

Positive correlation ($r=0.231$) between deviant high school behavior and alcohol consumption; Statistically significant ($p<0.05$)

Positive correlation ($r=0.219$) between deviant high school behavior and frequency of cigarette use; statistically significant ($p<0.05$)

CONCLUSIONS

- ❖ Correlations mentioned in results reveal a significant pattern between symptoms of deviant behavior in high school and alcohol and cigarette use in collegiate life.
- ❖ Supports current theories and gives some insight on the question asked in introduction.
- ❖ Limitations: Response accuracy, explanations behind behaviors
- ❖ Further research
 - Try to understand the behaviors drawn from conduct Disorder

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