Effect of Depression on Adolescent Alcohol Use

Tawnya Mayo
tawnyamayo@yahoo.com

Thomas Bibber

Bert Burraston

Follow this and additional works at: https://scholarsarchive.byu.edu/fhssconference_studentpub

Part of the Sociology Commons

The Annual Mary Lou Fulton Mentored Research Conference showcases some of the best student research from the College of Family, Home, and Social Sciences. The mentored learning program encourages undergraduate students to participate in hands-on and practical research under the direction of a faculty member. Students create these posters as an aide in presenting the results of their research to the public, faculty, and their peers.

BYU ScholarsArchive Citation

Mayo, Tawnya; Bibber, Thomas; and Burraston, Bert, "Effect of Depression on Adolescent Alcohol Use" (2010). FHSS Mentored Research Conference 42.

https://scholarsarchive.byu.edu/fhssconference_studentpub/42

This is brought to you for free and open access by the Family, Home, and Social Sciences at BYU ScholarsArchive. It has been accepted for inclusion in FHSS Mentored Research Conference by an authorized administrator of BYU ScholarsArchive. For more information, please contact scholarsarchive@byu.edu, ellen_amatangelo@byu.edu.
Effect of Depression on Adolescent Alcohol Use

Thomas Bibber and Tawnya Mayo
Brigham Young University

Introduction: Adolescents who drink tend to continue to drink as adults. Research has pointed to depression as a factor in alcohol and substance abuse by adolescents (Deykin, Levy, and Wells, 1987). Yet, research is lacking in describing the specific effects of depression on adolescent alcohol use. Additionally religiosity has not been taken into account in past research. Other studies have specified gender as a moderating factor on the relationship between depression and substance abuse (Rohde, Lewinsohn, and Seeley, 1996).

Methods: Data was drawn from the second wave of the National Longitudinal Study of Adolescent Health. The severity of alcohol abuse was measured by a composite of frequency of alcohol consumption, frequency of drinking five drinks or more, and frequency of getting drunk or high on alcohol. The depression indicator was a composite of nineteen variables measuring the respondent’s level of depression. This indicator is based on the Children’s Depression Inventory as developed by Kovacs in 1985. Religiosity was measured by a composite of church attendance, participation in youth groups, and prayer. The regression was run using the log of each of the previous indicators and gender.

Results: Depression does have a significant relationship with alcohol use in adolescents. Those adolescents who scored higher on the Children’s Depression Inventory are more likely to abuse alcohol. Female respondents reported less alcohol usage than males. Contrary to past research we found gender does not moderate the effect of depression on alcohol consumption. Religiosity has a significant negative effect on adolescent alcohol consumption. These results are significant but the model only predicts seven percent of the variation in adolescent alcohol consumption.

Conclusions: Individuals working with depressed youth or youth with an alcohol abuse problem should take into account this relationship. Religiously involved adolescents use less alcohol than those who are not religiously involved. This lends support to Durkheimian social cohesion theory. Further research needs to be done to establish causality. Further research might also be conducted on whether specific religions have greater or lesser effect on alcohol consumption.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Model 1</th>
<th>Model 2</th>
<th>Model 3</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Constant</td>
<td>1.982</td>
<td>2.016</td>
<td>2.116</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Depression Scale</td>
<td>.075**</td>
<td>.097**</td>
<td>.094**</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gender</td>
<td></td>
<td>-.163*</td>
<td>-.150*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Depression/Gender Interaction</td>
<td>-.00002051</td>
<td>0</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Religiosity</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>-.001**</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Significant at p<.05
**Significant at p<.01