

**Teens, alcohol, and breaking norms – when should we worry?
Longitudinal research on adolescents' and parents' alcohol
consumption, attitudes, and parenting**



Chair: Karin Boson, Department of Psychology, Inland Norway University of Applied Sciences in Lillehammer, Norway

Discussant: Maria Bacikova-Sleskova, University in Košice, Slovakia



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The symposium is based on prospective longitudinal data

- Ongoing Swedish research program: Longitudinal Research on Development In Adolescence (**LoRDIA**)
- Extension of the program into Longitudinal Research on Development to Young Adults (**LoRDYA**).

The symposium is based on prospective longitudinal data

- In sum, LoRDIA and LoRDYA study individuals from two age cohorts in four municipalities (n=1884) over the course of early- and mid-adolescence into their emerging adulthood.
- The same adolescents partake in the three submitted studies, but from multiple perspectives on risk development and using different methodological approaches.



Presentations

1. **Teenage kicks? When to worry about teenage alcohol/drug use and crime**

Russell Turner, Department of Social Work, University of Gothenburg, Gothenburg, Sweden

2. **Impacts of parental alcohol consumption and monitoring, adolescent disclosure and novelty-seeking on adolescents' alcohol use – should we worry?**

Karin Boson, Department of Psychology, University of Gothenburg, Sweden and Department of Psychology, Inland Norway University of Applied Sciences in Lillehammer, Norway

3. **Criminal behaviour, substance misuse and other socially destructive behaviour – did someone worry?**

Torbjörn Kalin, Department of Social Work, School of Health and Welfare, Jönköping, Sweden



Impacts of parental alcohol consumption and monitoring, adolescent disclosure and novelty-seeking on adolescents' alcohol use - should we worry?

Imitation game?

Aim

Examine how:

- 1) alcohol consumption by mothers and fathers
- 2) parental monitoring (knowledge, control and solicitation),
- 3) adolescent disclosure and novelty seeking

.... were associated with the likelihood of:

- 1) alcohol use and inebriation among adolescents
- 2) at three time points from 14 to 17 yrs.

LoRDIA – data and analyses

- Mother-adolescent dyads (n = 280-404)
- Father-adolescent dyads (n = 220-307)

- Baseline data (T1) on parental alcohol consumption, parental monitoring, adolescent disclosure and novelty seeking (T2).
- Adolescent alcohol use and inebriation at 14–15 yrs (T2), 15–16 yrs (T3), and 17 yrs (T4)

- Bivariate associations and logistic regressions.

Five data sets

- 1) parental survey ($n = 546$) from T1 (baseline)
- 2) adolescent surveys from T1 ($n = 1515$)
- 3) T2 ($n = 1459$)
- 4) T3 ($n = 1321$)
- 5) T4 ($n = 948$)

This resulted in:

mother-adolescent dyads T2: $n = 404$, T3: $n = 358$, T4: $n = 280$
father-adolescent dyads T2 $n = 307$, T3: $n = 273$, T4: $n = 220$.

No systematic drop-out concerning alcohol use and inebriation from T1-T4

Outcome variables

Adolescents were asked the following questions annually about their behavior concerning alcohol consumption and inebriation (T1-T4):

- 1) “Did you drink more than just a mere sip of an alcoholic beverage within the last year (excluding light beer or light cider)?”
- 2) “Have you been inebriated within the last year?”

“Yes” for all responses other than a “No,” due to limited variability.

Predicting alcohol use at T2-T4

Models on mother-adolescent dyads

14–15 yrs (T2): for every unit increase in novelty seeking, there was a 15% increase in the likelihood of alcohol use.

15–16 yrs (T3): for every unit increase in novelty seeking, there was a 16% increase in the likelihood of alcohol use.

17 yrs (T4):

- every unit increase in maternal alcohol consumption there was a 47% increase in the likelihood of alcohol use.
- every unit increase in parental solicitation increased the likelihood of alcohol use by more than 50%.

Predicting alcohol use at T2-T4 father-adolescent dyads

14–15 yrs (T2): no significant predictors

15–16 yrs (T3): for every unit increase in novelty seeking, there was a 31% increase in the likelihood of alcohol use.

17 yrs (T4):

- every unit increase in paternal alcohol consumption there was a 33% increase in the likelihood of alcohol use.
- for every unit increase in novelty seeking, there was a 19% increase in the likelihood of alcohol use.

Predicting alcohol inebriation at T2-T4

Models on mother-adolescent dyads

14–15 yrs (T2): for every unit increase in novelty seeking, there was a 39% increase in the likelihood of alcohol inebriation.

15–16 yrs (T3): for every unit increase in novelty seeking, there was a 18% increase in the likelihood of alcohol inebriation.

17 yrs (T4):

- every unit increase in maternal alcohol consumption there was a 31% increase in the likelihood of alcohol inebriation.
- every unit increase in parental solicitation increased the likelihood of alcohol inebriation approximately five times (477%)!!!
- every unit increase in adolescent disclosure resulted in a 73% decrease in the likelihood of alcohol inebriation.
- for every unit increase in novelty seeking, there was a 20% increase in the likelihood of alcohol inebriation.

Predicting alcohol inebriation at T2-T4

Models on father-adolescent dyads

14–15 yrs (T2): for every unit increase in novelty seeking, there was a 50% increase in the likelihood of alcohol inebriation.

15–16 yrs (T3):

- for every unit increase in novelty seeking, there was a 53% increase in the likelihood of alcohol inebriation.
- every unit increase in paternal alcohol consumption there was a 70% increase in the likelihood of alcohol inebriation.

17 yrs (T4): no significant predictors



Short conclusion

- Parental alcohol consumption affects adolescent drinking behavior, especially in the late teenage years, and that the most likely explanation for this association stems from social cognitive theory, in which parents serve as important role models (Bandura, 1986).
- In early adolescents, other factors are more relevant, especially curiosity, impulsivity and novelty seeking.





Take home message

Parents of children with a high level of novelty seeking should pay extra attention to their children's activities and generally reflect on their own alcohol consumption from their perspective as role models.



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