

DOCUMENT RESUME

ED 456 379

CG 031 158

AUTHOR Harrison, Murelle G.; Carreiro, Paula
TITLE Predictors of Substance Use in African American Youths.
PUB DATE 2000-03-30
NOTE 10p.; Paper presented at the Annual Meeting of the Southeastern Psychological Association (46th, New Orleans, LA, March 30, 2000).
PUB TYPE Reports - Research (143) -- Speeches/Meeting Papers (150)
EDRS PRICE MF01/PC01 Plus Postage.
DESCRIPTORS *At Risk Persons; *Blacks; Churches; *Drug Rehabilitation; Ethnic Groups; Illegal Drug Use; Prevention; Racial Differences; Religion; Resilience (Personality); State Programs; *Substance Abuse
IDENTIFIERS *African Americans

ABSTRACT

Identifying risk and protective factors that serve as predictors of substance use is essential for developing effective prevention programs. Inconsistency in the data about the role of religion and spirituality as a protective factor for African Americans continues to exist. In this study, data were collected from 511 African American youth, ages 12 to 18, who attended a state-funded drug prevention program. Participants completed several questionnaires designed to identify risk and protective characteristics as well as the prevalence of their substance use prior to interventions. Overall, protective factors were more likely to predict substance use than risk factors, and church attendance was the only variable that consistently negatively predicted substance use. Suggestions are included for further research. (Contains 10 references and 5 tables.) (JDM)

Running head: Alcohol, tobacco, and other drug predictors, African American adolescents, urban and rural youths.

Predictors of Substance Use in African American Youths

Murelle G. Harrison
Paula Carreiro

Department of Psychology
Southern University and A & M University
Baton Rouge, Louisiana

46th Annual Meeting, Southeastern Psychological Association
New Orleans, Louisiana
March 30, 2000

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
Office of Educational Research and Improvement
EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES INFORMATION
CENTER (ERIC)

This document has been reproduced as received from the person or organization originating it.

Minor changes have been made to improve reproduction quality.

• Points of view or opinions stated in this document do not necessarily represent official OERI position or policy.

PERMISSION TO REPRODUCE AND DISSEMINATE THIS MATERIAL HAS BEEN GRANTED BY

M. Harrison

TO THE EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES INFORMATION CENTER (ERIC)

ABSTRACT

Identifying risk and protective factors that serve as predictors of substance use is essential for developing effective prevention programs. Data indicate differential substance use between African American youths and other ethnic groups. Also, risk and protective factors differentially predict substance use of African American youths and youths from other ethnic groups. Inconsistency in the data about the role of religion or spirituality as a protective factor for African Americans continues to exist. Data were collected from 511 African American youths, 12 to 18 years old, who attended a state-funded drug prevention program. Before programmatic intervention occurred, participants completed several questionnaires designed to identify risk and protective characteristics of the participants as well as the incidence and prevalence of their substance use. Overall, protective factors were more likely to predict substance use than risk factors and church attendance was the only variable to consistently negatively predict substance use. These findings point to the need for further exploration.

Drug use among adolescents continues to pose a serious health problem in the United States. Recent data from the Monitoring the Future Study indicate that over half (53%) of 8th graders reported using alcohol in their lifetimes, one in four (25%) reported having been drunk, and 14% reported having five or more drinks in the past 2 weeks (Johnston, O'Malley, & Bachman, 1999). Data consistently show lower rates of substance use among African American adolescents compared to White non-Hispanic and other ethnic groups. Monitoring the Future Survey show that alcohol use in the past 30 days for youths 12 to 17 years old was higher for Whites (20.9%) compared to that for Hispanics (18.9%) and African Americans (13.1%). Despite the lower rates of use during adolescence, studies also show that African Americans suffer more long-term effects than other youth do from using alcohol and illicit drugs (Dawkins, 1996). African Americans were significantly more likely to exhibit a 12-month dependence than Whites. Overall, these data provide evidence that African American youth are more likely than other ethnic groups to experience negative social and health consequences after starting a pattern of use despite the relatively low rates of initiation substance use. Subsequently, prevention programs are needed to change the trajectory of their lives in a more positive direction.

The identification of risk and protective factors associated with substance use provides useful information for developing drug prevention programs. Hawkins, Catalano, Miller's (1992) social development model is based upon the premise that prevention requires the identification of factors that increase the risk of problems developing while enhancing protective or resiliency factors to reduce these risks. Hawkins, Catalano, & Miller (1992) have identified several risk categories including community, family, school, and individual/peer. Protective categories include

individual characteristics, bonding, and healthy beliefs and clear standards.

While Hawkins, Catalano, & Miller (1993) use the category, healthy beliefs and clear standards; African Americans are more likely to refer to religion or spirituality. Researchers have found that spirituality and religion play pivotal roles in the lives of many African Americans. Taylor, Chatters, Jakody, and Levin (1996) found that African Americans attend more religious services, read more religious material, and seek comfort through religion and spiritual activities more often than Whites. Although the research shows that religion and spirituality are important sources of strength and aid for African Americans in times of distress (Boyd-Franklin, 1989; Gibson, 1982; Neighbors, Jackson, Bowman, & Gurin, 1983), inconsistency exist.

It appears reasonable that the differential emphasis placed on religion by African Americans support the need for culturally sensitive prevention programs that focus on the risk and protective factors reported by African American youths. Thus, the current data focus on predictors of substance use among African American adolescents to provide databased information for developing prevention programs.

Participants

Participants were recruited from area schools, churches, or community organizations to participate in a state sponsored substance abuse prevention program. Usable responses were collected from 511 African American, ages 13-18 years with an average age of 16 years.

Before programmatic intervention occurred, participants completed several questionnaires designed to identify risk factors (e.g., low socioeconomic level, child of an alcoholic, neighborhood with drug use) and protective factors (leadership, church attendance), characteristics of the participants, and the incidence and prevalence of substance use.

Results

Analyses indicated variations among the significant predictors for each substance. Table 1 presents the significant predictors for cigarettes. The predictors for cigarette use included socioeconomic level, being the child of an alcoholic, attending church, leadership, friends caring about the use of cigarettes and other drugs. Table 2 presents the significant predictors for beer use. Gender, church attendance, leadership, and family and friends caring about the use of beer and liquor were significant predictors for the use of beer. Table 3 presents the significant predictors for wine coolers. Gender, neighborhood with large use and sales of substances, other risk factors, church attendance, leadership, family and friends caring about the use of wine coolers. Table 4 presents the significant predictors for use of liquor. Child of an alcoholic, pregnancy, member of a gang, church attendance, leadership, family caring about the use of wine coolers and liquor, and friends caring about the use of cigarettes, beer, and other drugs significantly predicted the use of liquor. Table 5 presents the significant predictors for marijuana use. School drop out, having been involved in the juvenile judicial system, neighborhood with large use and sales of substances, church attendance, and friends caring about the use of marijuana and other drugs significantly predicted the use of marijuana.

Table 1: Regression Analysis of Risk and Protective Predictors of Cigarette Use

| Variables | β | p |
|---------------------------|---------------------------|----------|
| Low Socioeconomic | .1458 | .0008 |
| COA | .1315 | .0031 |
| Church Attendance | -.1437 | .0008 |
| Leadership | .0942 | .0378 |
| Family/Friends care about | -.1825 | .0282 |
| Cigarette use | | |

Table 2: Regression Analysis of Risk and Protective Predictors of Beer

| Variables | β | p |
|---------------------------|---------------------------|----------|
| Gender | -.1030 | .0362 |
| Church Attendance | -.1206 | .0054 |
| Leadership | .1592 | .0005 |
| Family/Friends care about | | |
| Beer use | -.5664 | .0019 |
| Liquor use | .2981 | .0295 |

Table 3: Regression Analysis of Risk and Protective Predictors of Wine Cooler

| Variables | β | p |
|---------------------------|---------------------------|----------|
| Gender | .0875 | .0554 |
| High Risk Neighborhood | .1105 | .0099 |
| Other Risk Factors | -.0797 | .0437 |
| Church Attendance | -.0875 | .0296 |
| Leadership | .1071 | .0118 |
| Family/Friends care about | | |
| Wine Cooler | -.3626 | .0000 |
| Marijuana | .2013 | .0134 |

Table 4: Regression Analysis of Risk and Protective Predictors of Liquor Use

| Variables | β | p |
|--------------------|---------------------------|----------|
| COA | .0825 | .0554 |
| Pregnancy | -.1603 | .0027 |
| Member of a Gang | .2724 | .0000 |
| Church Attendance | -.0935 | .0247 |
| Leadership | .1117 | .0111 |
| Family care about | | |
| Wine cooler | -.1796 | .0148 |
| Liquors | .2517 | .0557 |
| Friends care about | | |
| Cigarettes | .1795 | .0260 |
| Beer | -.2992 | .0294 |
| Other Drugs | -.1405 | .0527 |

Table 5: Regression Analysis of Risk and Protective Predictors of Marijuana Use

| Variables | β | p |
|---------------------------|---------------------------|----------|
| School Dropout | -.1100 | .0299 |
| Involved in Juvenile | -.1275 | .0120 |
| High Risk Neighborhood | .0873 | .0559 |
| Church Attendance | -.1590 | .0002 |
| Family/Friends care about | | |
| Marijuana | -.4457 | .0000 |
| Other drugs | .2889 | .0001 |

Discussion

The central premise of this study was that identification of predictive and protective factors is important for the development of prevention programs. This is especially important for African American adolescents who show differential substance use from other ethnic groups. Also, previous research shows inconsistency in the data about the differential influence of risk and protective factors for African American youths. The results of this study yielded some interesting findings.

Protective factors had greater predictive value than risk factors and church attendance consistently predicted substance use more than any of the other predictors. The significant negative relationship indicates that adolescents who attend church are less likely to use cigarettes, beer, wine coolers, liquor and marijuana. This finding underscores the importance of incorporating a spiritual component in prevention programming for African American youths.

Church involvement was negatively related to substance use while leadership was positively related to the use of cigarettes, beer, wine coolers, and liquor. This finding is not supported by other evidence and difficult to explain. It is possible that leadership is associated with risk behaviors and, thus, related to substance use. This finding points to the need for additional research.

The finding of mixed results for the negative or positive predictor value of family and friends caring about substance use is confusing. In some instances, when friends cared about cigarette and beer use, they were less likely to use cigarettes and beer. On the other hand, when family and friend cared about liquor, respondents were more likely to use liquor. These contradictory findings need further exploration.

Bibliography

- Belgrave, F.Z., Brome, D.R., & Hampton, C. (2000) The contribution of Africentric values and racial identity to the prediction of drug knowledge, attitudes, and use among African American youth, *Journal of Black Psychology*, 26, 386-401
- Boyd-Franklin, N. (1989) *Black families in therapy: A multi-systems approach*. New York: Guilford.
- Chipungu, S.S., Hermann, J. Sambrano, S. Nistler, N., Sale, E., & Springer, J.F. (2000) Prevention programming for African American Youth: A review of strategies in CSAP's national cross-site evaluation of high-risk youth programs. *Journal of Black Psychology*, 26,360-385.
- Dawkins, M.P. (1996). The social context of substance use among African American youth: Rural, urban and suburban comparisons. *Journal of Alcohol and Drug Education*, 41(3), 68-85
- Gibson, R. (1982). Blacks at middle and late life: Resources and coping. *Annals of the American Academy of Political and Social Science*, 464, 79-90.
- Hawkins, D., & Catalano, R.F., & Miller, J.Y. (1992). Risk and protective factors for alcohol and other drug problems in adolescence and early adulthood. *Psychological Bulletin*, 112, 64-105.
- Johnston, L.D., O'Malley, P.M., & Bachman, J.G. (1999). *National survey results on drug use from the Monitoring the Future Study, 1975-1998, Vol. I: Secondary school students*. Rockville, MD: National Institute on Drug Abuse.
- Neighbors, H., Jackson, J., Bowman, P., & Gurin, G. (1983). Stress, coping and Black mental health: Preliminary findings from a national study. *Prevention in Human Services*, 2, 1-25.
- Pickett, J. (1993). Spirituality in the African American community. In L. Goddard (Ed.), *An African centered model of prevention for African American youth at high risk*. Rockville, MD: Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration.
- Taylor, R., Chatters, L., Jakody, R., Levin, J. (1996). Black and White differences in religious participation: A multisample comparison. *Journal for the Scientific Study of Religion*, 35, 403-410.



U.S. Department of Education
Office of Educational Research and Improvement
(OERI)
National Library of Education (NLE)
Educational Resources Information Center (ERIC)



Reproduction Release

(Specific Document)







I. DOCUMENT IDENTIFICATION:

| | |
|--|---------------------------|
| Title: Predictors of Substance Use In African American Adolescents | |
| Author(s): Murrelle G. Harrison & Paula Carneiro | |
| Corporate Source: Southern University | Publication Date: 10/4/01 |

II. REPRODUCTION RELEASE:

In order to disseminate as widely as possible timely and significant materials of interest to the educational community, documents announced in the monthly abstract journal of the ERIC system, Resources in Education (RIE), are usually made available to users in microfiche, reproduced paper copy, and electronic media, and sold through the ERIC Document Reproduction Service (EDRS). Credit is given to the source of each document, and, if reproduction release is granted, one of the following notices is affixed to the document.

If permission is granted to reproduce and disseminate the identified document, please CHECK ONE of the following three options and sign in the indicated space following.

| The sample sticker shown below will be affixed to all Level 1 documents | The sample sticker shown below will be affixed to all Level 2A documents | The sample sticker shown below will be affixed to all Level 2B documents |
|--|---|---|
| PERMISSION TO REPRODUCE AND DISSEMINATE THIS MATERIAL HAS BEEN GRANTED BY  TO THE EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES INFORMATION CENTER (ERIC) | PERMISSION TO REPRODUCE AND DISSEMINATE THIS MATERIAL IN MICROFICHE AND IN ELECTRONIC MEDIA FOR ERIC COLLECTION SUBSCRIBERS ONLY HAS BEEN GRANTED BY  TO THE EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES INFORMATION CENTER (ERIC) | PERMISSION TO REPRODUCE AND DISSEMINATE THIS MATERIAL IN MICROFICHE ONLY HAS BEEN GRANTED BY  TO THE EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES INFORMATION CENTER (ERIC) |
| Level 1 | Level 2A | Level 2B |
|  <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |  <input type="checkbox"/> |  <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Check here for Level 1 release, permitting reproduction and dissemination in microfiche or other ERIC archival media (e.g. electronic) and paper copy. | Check here for Level 2A release, permitting reproduction and dissemination in microfiche and in electronic media for ERIC archival collection subscribers only | Check here for Level 2B release, permitting reproduction and dissemination in microfiche only |
| Documents will be processed as indicated provided reproduction quality permits. If permission to reproduce is granted, but no box is checked, documents will be processed at Level 1. | | |

I hereby grant to the Educational Resources Information Center (ERIC) nonexclusive permission to reproduce and disseminate this document as indicated above. Reproduction from the ERIC microfiche, or electronic media by persons other than ERIC employees and its system contractors requires permission from the copyright holder. Exception is made

for non-profit reproduction by libraries and other service agencies to satisfy information needs of educators in response to discrete inquiries.

| | | | |
|---|---|-------------------|--|
| Signature: <i>Murrelle G. Harrison</i> | Printed Name/Position/Title: Murrelle G. Harrison, Assoc. Prof. | | |
| Organization/Address: Department of Psychology Southern University Baton Rouge, LA 70813 | Telephone: 225-771-2990 | Fax: 225-771-2082 | |
| | E-mail Address: mcharrispj | Date: 10/4/01 | |

III. DOCUMENT AVAILABILITY INFORMATION (FROM NON-ERIC SOURCE):

If permission to reproduce is not granted to ERIC, or, if you wish ERIC to cite the availability of the document from another source, please provide the following information regarding the availability of the document. (ERIC will not announce a document unless it is publicly available, and a dependable source can be specified. Contributors should also be aware that ERIC selection criteria are significantly more stringent for documents that cannot be made available through EDRS.)

| |
|------------------------|
| Publisher/Distributor: |
| Address: |
| Price: |

IV. REFERRAL OF ERIC TO COPYRIGHT/REPRODUCTION RIGHTS HOLDER:

If the right to grant this reproduction release is held by someone other than the addressee, please provide the appropriate name and address:

| |
|----------|
| Name: |
| Address: |

V. WHERE TO SEND THIS FORM:

| |
|--|
| <p>Send this form to the following ERIC Clearinghouse:</p> <p style="text-align: center;"> ERIC Counseling and Student Services Clearinghouse P.O. Box 6171 201 Ferguson Building University of North Carolina at Greensboro Greensboro, NC 27403-6171 ATTN: Processing Coordinator </p> |
|--|