Factors associated with drunkenness episodes among adolescents: the role of parents, peers, attitudes and skills

Emina Mehanovic (1,2), Romeo Brambilla (1,2), Federica Mathis (2), Federica Vigna-Taglianti (1,2)

1. Department of Clinical and Biological Sciences, University of Torino, 2. Piedmont Centre for Drug Addiction Epidemiology (OED), ASL TO3

INTRODUCTION

Alcohol is the most widely available and most commonly used psychoactive substance among adolescents. Early onset of alcohol use contributes to the development of drinking outcomes, alcohol abuse and dependence. Heavy drinking is strongly influenced by family factors, friends' influences and individual factors such as knowledge, attitudes, beliefs and skills.

OBJECTIVES

The purpose of this study is to investigate risk factors for adolescent lifetime drunkenness and to evaluate differences by gender and socio-economic status.

METHODS

This is a secondary analysis of the baseline survey of the EU-Dap (European Drug Addition Prevention) trial. The analytical sample included 12-14 years old students from seven European countries who participated in the baseline survey and answered the questions investigating drunkenness episodes. Socio-demographic characteristics, friends' use, knowledge, attitudes and beliefs, risk perceptions, refusal and decision making skills, self-esteem, parental behaviors and permissiveness were studied as risk factors for drunkenness episodes through a forward multivariate logistic regression model.

Factors associated with lifetime drunkenness, by gender and SES: multivariate logistic regression model (Adjusted ORs)

Characteristics	Overall sample (n=6,220)	Boys (n=3,226)	Girls (n=2,994)	High SES schools (n=2,149)	Middle SES schools (n=1,975)	Low SES schools (n=2,092)
Boys	**1.20 (1.03-1.40)**	-	-	**1.33 (1.01-1.77)**	1.08 (0.82-1.41)	1.18 (0.90-1.54)
Age 13 vs <=12	1.20 (0.95-1.51)	1.21 (0.89-1.63)	1.16 (0.81-1.66)	**1.87 (1.19-2.95)**	1.03 (0.71-1.50)	1.05 (0.70-1.58)
Age >=14 vs <=12	**1.61 (1.30-2.00)**	**1.65 (1.24-2.20)**	**1.52 (1.08-2.14)**	**2.20 (1.41-3.41)**	**1.47 (1.04-2.07)**	**1.50 (1.03-2.19)**
Middle school area SES	**1.24 (1.03-1.50)**	1.17 (0.90-1.52)	**1.31 (1.00-1.72)**	-	-	-
Low school area SES	**1.42 (1.18-1.70)**	**1.39 (1.09-1.78)**	**1.40 (1.05-1.87)**	-	-	-
At least one parent smoking	**1.37 (1.17-1.59)**	**1.41 (1.15-1.73)**	1.27 (0.99-1.60)	1.11 (0.85-1.46)	**1.38 (1.05-1.81)**	**1.61 (1.24-2.10)**
Family conflicts	**1.27 (1.09-1.48)**	**1.35 (1.10-1.65)**	1.17 (0.92-1.49)	**1.55 (1.16-2.09)**	1.30 (0.99-1.70)	1.11 (0.87-1.43)
Parents wouldn't allow to drink at home	**1.74 (1.40-2.17)**	**1.52 (1.14-2.02)**	**2.23 (1.58-3.14)**	**1.73 (1.17-2.57)**	**1.63 (1.11-2.41)**	**1.91 (1.31-2.78)**
Parents would allow to drink	**1.65 (1.31-2.08)**	**1.92 (1.42-2.59)**	1.35 (0.94-1.94)	1.46 (0.97-2.20)	1.37 (0.90-2.08)	**2.20 (1.51-3.21)**
Friends get drunk						
Less than half/about half vs none	**3.60 (3.01-4.29)**	**3.13 (2.47-3.96)**	**4.19 (3.19-5.49)**	**3.64 (2.64-5.01)**	**3.12 (2.28-4.25)**	**4.06 (3.01-5.49)**
More than half/all of them vs none	**5.81 (4.39-7.70)**	**5.73 (3.92-8.38)**	**5.93 (3.87-9.09)**	**7.89 (4.61-13.49)**	**4.73 (2.81-7.94)**	**5.38 (3.47-8.34)**
Low respect for teacher	**1.22 (1.02-1.46)**	1.13 (0.89-1.43)	**1.36 (1.04-1.79)**	1.14 (0.81-1.61)	1.17 (0.86-1.60)	**1.41 (1.05-1.89)**
High positive attitudes toward drugs	**1.47 (1.23-1.75)**	**1.49 (1.19-1.88)**	**1.39 (1.05-1.83)**	1.31 (0.94-1.83)	**1.51 (1.11-2.05)**	**1.55 (1.16-2.07)**
Low negative beliefs vs alcohol	**1.73 (1.46-2.04)**	**1.76 (1.41-2.21)**	**1.66 (1.29-2.13)**	**2.29 (1.65-3.18)**	**1.68 (1.25-2.24)**	**1.47 (1.12-1.92)**
High positive beliefs vs alcohol	**1.21 (1.04-1.42)**	1.18 (0.96-1.45)	1.23 (0.97-1.56)	0.98 (0.73-1.30)	**1.46 (1.11-1.92)**	1.17 (0.90-1.51)
Low risk perception on drinking one or two drinks each week	1.03 (0.87-1.21)	1.15 (0.93-1.43)	0.88 (0.67-1.14)	0.78 (0.57-1.06)	1.31 (0.99-1.74)	1.08 (0.82-1.42)
Low tobacco refusal skills	**2.24 (1.87-2.67)**	**1.86 (1.45-2.39)**	**2.71 (2.10-3.50)**	**2.82 (2.04-3.90)**	**1.95 (1.40-2.70)**	**2.08 (1.57-2.77)**
Low alcohol refusal skills	**2.26 (1.90-2.69)**	**2.17 (1.73-2.73)**	**2.40 (1.82-3.16)**	**2.36 (1.72-3.22)**	**2.37 (1.73-3.25)**	**2.14 (1.61-2.86)**
Low cannabis refusal skills	**1.41 (1.14-1.74)**	**1.39 (1.05-1.85)**	**1.55 (1.11-2.15)**	**1.47 (1.00-2.14)**	1.46 (0.99-2.16)	1.41 (0.99-2.02)
Knowledge about alcohol 1 vs 0 correct answers	**1.34 (1.14-1.56)**	**1.56 (1.26-1.93)**	1.11 (0.87-1.42)	**1.44 (1.08-1.92)**	1.31 (0.99-1.74)	**1.32 (1.01-1.71)**
Knowledge about alcohol 2 vs 0 correct answers	**1.41 (1.11-1.80)**	**1.50 (1.10-2.04)**	1.36 (0.92-2.02)	1.43 (0.91-2.25)	1.44 (0.96-2.18)	1.33 (0.88-2.00)
Knowledge about cannabis 1 vs 0 correct answer	1.07 (0.91-1.26)	1.07 (0.86-1.32)	1.10 (0.86-1.41)	1.02 (0.76-1.37)	1.07 (0.81-1.42)	1.09 (0.83-1.42)
Knowledge about cannabis 2 vs 0 correct answers	**1.36 (1.09-1.71)**	1.20 (0.90-1.61)	**1.69 (1.17-2.44)**	1.33 (0.88-2.00)	1.38 (0.93-2.05)	1.34 (0.90-1.98)

RESULTS

Having friends who get drunk was the strongest risk factor for lifetime drunkenness followed by low refusal skills toward alcohol and tobacco use. Family conflicts, parental smoking and parental permissiveness to drink, as well as positive attitudes toward drugs, low negative beliefs, high positive beliefs, low refusal skills, knowledge about substances and low respect for teacher were also associated with the risk of lifetime drunkenness. Differences by gender and socio-economic status were observed.

CONCLUSIONS

Prevention programs should address the identified factors to prevent early excessive drinking.

www.eudap.net