

The Influence of Alcohol and Drug Use on Delinquency Behavior Among Youth with SED

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- CMHS-funded SOC grants obtained by NC DMH/DD/SAS have provided services to 22 of the state's 100 counties since 1994 (PEN-PAL, FACES, SOC-Net)
- We use data obtained from the last two sites for our analyses

Objective:

To assess the influence of drug use on delinquency behavior among youth with serious emotional disorders

Self Reported Delinquency from the Delinquency Survey (DS)

- Member of a gang
- Set fire
- Rowdy in public and asked to leave
- Vandalized Property
- Bought / Sold stolen goods
- Sex for money
- Carried a weapon

Self Reported Delinquency (cont'd)

- Deliberately set fire to destroy property or hurt someone
- Gone joyriding
- Stolen a car
- Sold drugs
- Threatened someone with a weapon
- Used threats to get money

Self Reported Delinquency (cont'd)

- Robbed or beat up someone
- Committed purse snatching
- Hurt someone for sex
- Fired a gun
- Engaged in breaking and entering

Independent Variable

- Use of alcohol and any illicit substance in the past 6 months based on the Substance Use Survey completed by youth 11 years of age and older
- Illicit substances include a list of 12 drugs ranging from marijuana to non-prescription drugs

Control Variables

- Demographic and family variables
 - Gender
 - Race
 - Household income below \$15K
 - Mother Having Sole Custody
 - Youth Having a History of Physical Abuse
 - Parental Felony
 - Family History of Substance Abuse

Regression Analysis

- Binary logistic regression analysis in three models
 - Demographic variables (Model 1)
 - Family variables (Model 2)
 - Drug use (Model 3)

Summary Statistics for Analysis Variables

	Delinquent	Non-delinquent
% Male	69.8	65.0
% White	56.2	61.6
Mean age of Youth	13.9	13.7*
% with HH income below \$15,000/yr	48.0	53.9
% Youth with history of physical abuse	24.1	31.0

Summary Statistics for Analysis Variables (cont'd)

	Delinquent	Non-delinquent
% History of parental felony	52.7	50.2
% Family history of SA Youth in sole custody of mother	66.8	67.7
% Alcohol/Drug use past 6 months	44.1	38.7
	67.8	31.2***

Logistic Regression for Delinquency Behavior

	Model 1	Model 2	Model 3
	B	B	B
Constant	-.461	-.714	1.255
Age	-.068	-.047	-.228*
Male	.110	.173	.210
White	-.967*	-1.093**	-1.006*
HH Income below \$15K	.685*	.743*	.728*
Physical Abuse of Youth		.362	.404
Parent with Felony History		.260	.459
Family History of SA		.343	.170
Mother has sole custody		-.044	-.304
Drug use in past 6 months			1.946***
-2 Log Likelihood	223.365	219.863	191.487

Regression Analysis Results

- Being white lowered the likelihood of delinquency in all three models
- Household income below \$15K increased the likelihood of delinquency in all three models
- The major predictor of delinquency was alcohol and drug use in the last six months

Summary and Implications

- The major predictor of delinquency behavior was drug use in the past six months.
- Youth enrolled in system of care need screening for substance use.
- There is a need for adolescent substance use treatment coordination