

BACKGROUND

- Adolescent alcohol use has been associated with a range of negative outcomes (Green, et al., 2016; Griffin, Bang, & Botvin, 2010)
- Research has shown that the peer context is a robust predictor of adolescent alcohol use (Leung, Toumbourou, & Hemphill, 2014)
- Low levels of parental monitoring are positively associated with adolescent alcohol use (Ryan, Jorm, & Lubman, 2010)
- There is evidence that low parental monitoring and peer association interact to influence adolescent alcohol and marijuana use (Rodgers-Farmer, 2001)
- Most of this research has not been conducted on a diverse populations or explored gender differences within minority groups
- **The purpose of this study was to explore whether time spent with friends and parental limit setting predict later adolescent alcohol use for African American girls and boys**

METHOD

Procedures

The sample for this study was drawn from a larger longitudinal study about adolescent substance use (Ohannessian, 2009). Adolescents were recruited from high schools in Delaware, Maryland, and Pennsylvania during the spring of 2008 (T1) and 2009 (T2). All participants provided assent and had parental consent. The survey took approximately 40 minutes to completed. Participants were assured that their responses would be kept confidential, were given a movie pass as compensation for their time, and were invited to participate the following spring.

Participants

N = 228 African American adolescents
54% female; Mean Age T1 = 16.15(.79)

METHOD

Measures

Alcohol Use (T2)

- A self-report *quantity X frequency* score was calculated to assess how much and how often adolescents drank beer, wine, or liquor in the past six months
- The number of times adolescents drank six or more drinks was used to assess *binge drinking*

Time Spent with Friends (T1)

- Adolescents reported how often they spent time with friends outside of school on a scale ranging from 1 (*no involvement*) to 6 (*every day*).

Parental Limit Setting (T1)

- The 16 item ($\alpha = .78$) Parental Limit Setting Measure (PLSM; Turner, Irwin, & Millstein, 1991) assessed how much freedom parents/guardians gave adolescents across various activities. Response options included 1 (Yes) and 0 (No)

RESULTS

- Multiple regression analyses indicated girls reported significantly lower levels of alcohol use in comparison to boys (Table 1)
- More freedom from parents predicted greater alcohol use
- A three-way interaction demonstrated that that boys were more likely to use alcohol than girls, especially boys who were highly involved with friends and who had low levels of parental limit setting (Figure 1)
- The model was also run using binge-drinking, but was not significant

Table 1.

Term	<i>b</i> (<i>SE</i>)	β
Adolescent Gender	-1.09(.36)	-0.31**
Time Spent with Friends	0.11(.13)	0.10
Parental Limit Setting	0.20(.07)	0.34**
Adolescent Gender*PLS	-0.10(.18)	-0.06
Adolescent Gender*Time Spent with Friends	-0.28(.26)	-0.12
Time Spent with Friends*PLS	0.00(.03)	0.01
Adolescent Gender*Time Spent with Friends*PLS	0.24(.12)	0.22*
Intercept	-1.10(.19)***	

Note. PLS = parental limit setting; *N* = 99; $F(7, 91) = 3.04, p < .01, \text{adj}R^2 = .13.$

* $p < .05$, ** $p < .01$

RESULTS

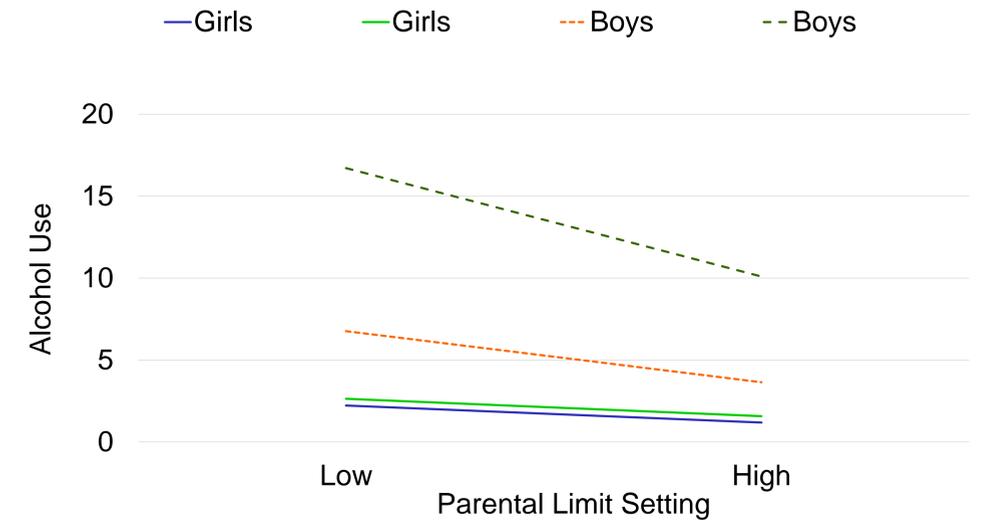


Figure 1. Alcohol use by gender, friend involvement, and parental limit setting.

DISCUSSION

- Findings indicated that African American boys were more likely to use alcohol than girls
- Low parental limit setting and high friend involvement were contextual risks for boys drinking
- This information is important for future research attempting to identify effective populations for intervention
- Studies have suggested that African America parents may have different expectations for males than females given beliefs about the impact of racism on their futures (Varner & Mandara, 2013), the impact of differential parenting on alcohol use should be investigated among adolescents
- Future work should investigate what factors are protecting African America adolescent girls from alcohol use



This project was supported by NIAAA K01AA015059.

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