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 (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 population 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

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

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 (α = .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

Table 1.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Term</th>
<th>Intercept (SE)</th>
<th>β</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Adolescent Gender</td>
<td>-1.09 (.36)</td>
<td>-0.31**</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Time Spent with Friends</td>
<td>0.11 (.13)</td>
<td>0.10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Parental Limit Setting</td>
<td>0.20 (.07)</td>
<td>0.34**</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Adolescent Gender*PLS</td>
<td>-0.10 (.18)</td>
<td>-0.06</td>
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<tr>
<td>Adolescent Gender*Time Spent with Friends</td>
<td>0.20 (.03)</td>
<td>0.10</td>
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<tr>
<td>Adolescent Gender<em>Time Spent with Friends</em>PLS</td>
<td>-0.10 (.12)</td>
<td>0.22**</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Intercept</td>
<td>-1.10 (.19)</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Note. PLS = parental limit setting; N = 99; P(7, 91) = 3.04, p < .01, adjR² = .13.

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 American 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

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