

ABSTRACT

- There is a high correlation between violence and substance leading to treatment of multiple injuries in the ED setting.
- The Flint Youth Injury (FYI) study aimed to address the societal problems of youth who reported to the emergency department (ED) for violent or non-violent injuries associated with substance use.
- The present study aimed to examine if there is a relationship between substance use and violent behaviors among African American youth reporting to the ED for treatment.
- There were a total of 1,448 participants in the original study, only 537 were sampled to focus on African American youth between the ages of 18 to 24.
- The study found a statistical significant relationship between marijuana use and violent behavior injuries among African American youth.
- Future research studies recommend for researchers to have more concise and valid survey questionnaires for youth.

INTRODUCTION

Significance of study

- Homicide rates are the leading cause of death among African-American adolescents (WISQARS, 2014).
- Violent behavior injuries are a higher prevalence among youth reported in the ED.
- There is an association between violence and substance use behaviors in urban and socioeconomically disadvantaged areas (Bohnert et al., 2015; Dorfman et al., 2010).

Purpose of the Research

- The purpose of this evaluation is to identify if there is a relationship between substance use and violent behaviors among youth reporting to the ED for treatment.

Research question

- Is substance use a prediction of violent behavior injuries among African American youth reporting to the Emergency room for treatment?

Hypothesis

- African American youth have higher rates of abusing substance use when reporting to the ED to treat violent behavior injuries.

LITERATURE

Review of Past Literature

- Substance abuse disorders continue to increase in the African-American community population (Minority Nurse Magazine, 2013).
- Youth exposed to violence within their family, peer, and community are disproportionally linked to increase aggressive behaviors during the adolescence stage (Goodnight et al., 2017; Lereya et al., 2015).
- Nearly half of all youth who visited the ED in the U.S. are diagnosed as substance use disorders and violent behaviors (Hawk & D'Onofrio, 2018).

METHODS

Research Design

- The FYI study used primary data.
- Participants selected were part of the longitudinal study.
- The evaluation design was quantitative and quasi-experimental that consisted of nonequivalent comparison group designs.
- A cross-sectional design was used to compare and identify the relationship of high-risk youth presenting to the inner-city ED with multiple risk behaviors and drug use.
- The current study used data from the FYI study and utilized self-administered computerized screening from ASSIST survey.

Sample

- The original study's inclusion criteria required:
 - ✓ Participants who are high-risk male and female youths
 - ✓ Ages of 14 to 24
 - ✓ Seek the ED for violent and non-violent injuries presented with substance use.
- The study utilized a nonprobability sampling to recruit youth who met the eligibility criteria to participate.
- A total of 537 cases, 299 presented with drug use and violent injury, and 212 reported non-violent injury and were part of the comparison group.
- The current study criteria included:
 - ✓ African American youth
 - ✓ Ages 18 to 24
 - ✓ Report substance use and violent behavior injuries

Measures

Independent variable: Substance use

Dependent variable: Violent behavior injuries in African American youths

Data collection:

- Between December 19, 2009, and September 7, 2011
- At the Hurley Medical Center (HMC) urban emergency care in Flint, Michigan.

Demographic Variables:

- Gender - Males and females
- Racial ethnicity - African Americans

RESULTS

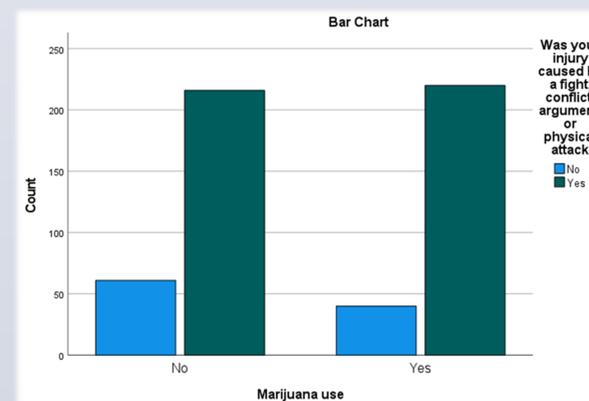
Descriptive Analysis

- ❖ Demographic information:
 - ❖ Age group range: 14 to 17, 18 to 20 and 21 to 24
 - ❖ Gender included 266 females and 271 males
 - ❖ Ethnicity: African Americans
- ❖ 81.2% of the experimental group reported violent injuries caused by a fight, conflict, argument, or physical attack.
- ❖ 48.4% of the experimental group participants' consumed marijuana use.

Inferential Analysis

Chi-Square Test

- There was a **statistical significance** for marijuana use and violent injuries ($\chi^2(1) = 3.87, p < 0.05$).
- 15.4% of participants reported yes to marijuana use and no to injuries.
- 84.6% of participants reported yes to marijuana use and yes to injuries.
- There were **no statistical significance** for alcohol and drug use associated with violent injuries.



Marijuana Use*	Was your injury caused by a fight, conflict, argument or physical attack		
	% (f)		
	No	Yes	Total
No	22.0 (61)	78.0 (216)	100.0 (277)
Yes	15.4 (40)	84.6 (220)	100.0 (260)

Note * $p < 0.05$.

DISCUSSION

Interpretation of Findings

- The FYI study found a significant relationship among African American youth using marijuana before the violent behavior injury was caused.
- Increased rates of youth visiting the ED for violent injuries is related to having drug use disorders (Cunningham et al., 2015).

Implication

- Substance use screenings should be used in all EDs and have social workers further evaluate substance use disorders that impact youth behavior.
- ED can train social workers as follow:
 - ✓ Assess and enforce more screening tools.
 - ✓ Simplify intervention methods to identify substance use disorders and violent behaviors.

Strength and limitation

- The FYI study had a large sample of youth who participated in the study.
 - The baseline surveys response rate were at 85.4%.
- Limitations consisted of screening tools and surveys were lengthy and time-consuming for youth to complete.
- Focused on only one hospital setting.

Future direction

- Future research should address more hospital settings within the same community to help identify similar data collected.
- Future research should utilize more concise and reliable survey questions with youth participants.

Conclusion

- The current study evaluated the relationship between substance use and violent behavior injuries in the ED.
- ED can be a good medical setting to identify high risk youth and provide brief interventions.
- In this study, marijuana use is more frequently used among youth.
- There needs to be better screening and assessment in the ED to educate youth on substance use and provide brief intervention referrals.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

I want to thank my family, significant other, coworkers, professors and classmates for all the support I received these three years in my Master's program. Everyone's motivation thrived me to keep going. I learned to trust my full potential, and I want to thank myself for remaining resilient even when obstacles came my way.

I am truly blessed to have met my supportive cohort!