

ABSTRACT

- As one of the most vulnerable groups in the entire world, adolescents often experiment in risky behaviors particularly with either alcohol or tobacco, or both.
- There are other factors that play a role in youth substance abuse such as culture, environmental factors, race, education level, socioeconomic status, family size, and more.
- Experimenting with substances may put the adolescent at risk for poor academic outcomes.
- The current study is a secondary data analysis of data collected by the California Health Interview Survey (CHIS).
- The goal of the current study was to examine the relationship of school outcomes and risky behaviors among Latino and White adolescent females.
- The sample consisted of 387 respondents, aged 12-17 who resided in the state of California.
- A chi-square test examined the relationship between risky behaviors and school outcomes.
- Overall, the findings revealed that there is clinical significance of race in regards to school outcomes and risky behaviors.

INTRODUCTION

Significance of Study

- In 2017, 13% of high school students reported drinking a significant amount of alcohol.
- Rates for tobacco use were similar as 4 in 10 high school students reported cigarette use.

Purpose

- To examine the relationship between school outcomes and risky behaviors in regard to racial background.

Research Question

- Do White adolescent females have better academic outcomes and engage in lower risky behaviors compared to their Hispanic peers?

Hypothesis

- Hispanic females engage in higher risk behaviors and have poorer academic outcomes compared to their white adolescent female peers.

LITERATURE REVIEW

- Many research studies have revealed that there is an association between substance abuse and poor school outcomes.
- As the adolescent period is a significant time in the developmental timeline, initiation of substance use can have serious implications on many factors, school specifically.
- However, there has been little research conducted examining there being a difference between races regarding risky behaviors and school outcomes.
- The results of the research suggest that factors, such as race, play a role in the adolescent life.
- Alcohol is the most used substance in the adolescent population, although rates may vary among minority groups.
- Evidence supports the association between alcohol and drug use with adverse outcomes.
- Substance use is known to decrease intellectual functioning in adolescents which more than likely affects their academic outcomes.
- Relationships with peers and caregivers also play a role in an adolescent's involvement with risky behaviors and positive or negative school outcomes.
- Adolescents are influenced by their peers and environmental outcomes influences the outcomes of an individual.

METHODS

RESEARCH DESIGN

- The current study is a secondary data analysis of data collected by the California Health Interview Survey (CHIS) by the University of California at Los Angeles (UCLA) Center for Healthy Policy Research.
- This is a data bank in which it collects its data bi-annually from a random sample.
- This specific data was collected between May 2015 and February 2016 and CHIS 2016 COLLECTED FROM January and December 2016, all collected as a part of a two-year cycle.
- Data represents a yearly cross-section of California's population.
- CHIS was developed by researchers for the purpose of targeting specific age groups to service plan for vulnerable and at-risk populations.
- It include residents of all ages and ethnicities in California who are part of the non-institutionalized population.
- The sample size of the current study was determined by age group and includes all complete responses to questions associated with academic outcomes, ethnicity, and substance abuse.
- Out of all the participants in the 2016 CHIS study, the researcher narrowed down to a specific sample size.
- The researcher of this study aimed to utilize the data provided by CHIS 2016 in a secondary data analysis study that focuses on the behaviors of Hispanic and White females.

SAMPLE

- The researcher utilized the data provided by CHIS 2016 in a secondary data analysis study that focused on the behaviors of Hispanic/Latino and Caucasian/White adolescent females.
- The sample size was selected by extracting data from the adolescent category in which there were a sample size of 387 participants.
- Participants ranged in the age group of 12-17.
- The mean age of participants was 14 years of age where 169 reported as Latino and 129 identified as White.

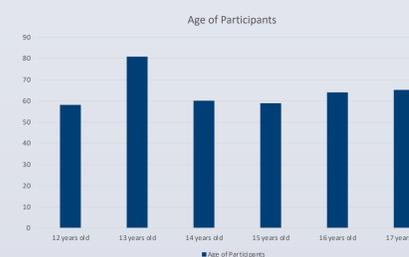
MEASURES

Independent Variable: Race/Ethnicity

- Latino
- White

Dependent Variable: Risky Behaviors

- Alcohol consumption
- Cigarette use
- School Outcomes
- Number of missed school days
- Number of school changes



RESULTS

The sample for the current study was collected from the 2016 California Health Interview Survey (CHIS). The study consisted of 387 female adolescents residing in the state of California. The average age of participants was 14.48 years (SD=1.707). The majority of the participants reported as Latino (43.7%), followed by White (33.3%), and Asian (10.6%). Although there was a greater percentage of Latino participants (43.7%), more than half of participants 53.2% spoke mainly English at home, compared to 31% of participants speaking both Spanish and English. Over half of these participants (64.6%) reported a family size of three or more. In addition, the majority 86.3% or 334 of participants attended public schools.

The sample included 129 adolescent females who identified as white and 169 adolescent females who identified as Latino. The sample shows there is a statistical relationship between race/ethnicity and the consumption of alcohol, $X^2(1, N=129) = 4.79, p = 0.03$. There was no significant relationship regarding race and the usage of cigarettes. The percentage of participants that smoked cigarettes or had cigarette use did not differ by race/ethnicity, $X^2(1, N=169) = 3.516, p = 0.06$. This can be seen in the table which includes risky behaviors and race/ethnicity on the following page.

Variables	n	%
Race		
Latino	169	43.7
Asian	41	10.6
White	129	33.3
Language Spoken at Home		
English	206	53.2
Spanish or Other One language	27	7
English & Spanish	120	31
English & One Other Language	33	8.5
Other Languages	1	0.3
Poverty Level		
0-99% FPL	94	24.3
100-199% FPL	86	22.2
200-299% FPL	42	10.9
300 FPL AND ABOVE	165	42.6
Family Size		
Two (2)	33	8.5
Three (3)	126	32.6
Four (4)	124	32
Five (5)	62	16
Six (6)	23	5.9
Seven (7)	15	3.9
Eight (8)	4	1
Type of School		
Don't Know	2	0.5
Refused	4	1
Inapplicable	5	1.3
Public School	334	86.3
Private School	35	9
Other	7	1.8

Risky Behaviors	Race/Ethnicity		Chi	df	p
	Latino (n=169)	White (n=129)			
			3.516	1	0.06
Cigarette Use					
Yes	3.00%	7.80%			
No	97.00%	92.20%			
Alcohol Use			4.79	1	0.03*
Yes	15.40%	25.60%			
No	84.60%	74.40%			

Note *p < .05

In comparison to the significant relationship between race and risky behaviors, specifically with alcohol use; there is no significant relationship between race/ethnicity and school outcomes. The times an individual attended school within the last week and the type of school they attended, did not play a key factor in the data.

CONCLUSIONS

The researcher hypothesized that Latino adolescent females were more likely to engage in risky behaviors and have lower academic outcomes. The major findings learned from the study conducted were that race/ethnicity among female adolescents living in California did not have major implications on their academics or participation in risky behaviors. However, there was one significant relationship regarding race/ethnicity and partaking in alcohol use. The study results showed white adolescent females experimented with alcohol at a much higher rate compared to their Latino peers. Both Latino and White female adolescents had similar and acute percentages of cigarette use. Hence, it can be summarized that even though both White and Latino adolescents consume alcohol, there aren't many students who are choosing to smoke and/or try one or more puffs.

As mental health plays a major role in adolescent development, developing school policies requiring psychoeducation for adolescents and choices would be beneficial not only to the individuals, but for the entire family. When there is knowledge about the effects of substance use and academic outcomes, then a family and individual is better equipped to be able to overcome obstacles once they arrive. It would be beneficial to implement policies regarding educating adolescents and their families about diversities and cultural differences. Overall, it is pivotal to implement policies so that adolescents can get support and services in school settings, so they are successful in all they accomplish.

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