

Parental Drinking Problems and Adolescent Offspring Substance Use: Moderating Effects of Demographic and Familial Factors

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The present study examined the moderating effects of background and demographic factors and current family situation on the relationship between parental drinking problems and adolescent offspring substance use. Face-to-face interviews were conducted with a random sample of 818 Black and White adolescents, and telephone interviews were completed with I primary caregiver. Results revealed that neither paternal nor maternal drinking problems consistently predicted substance use among adolescent offspring; however, chaotic and unsupportive family situations were strongly predictive. Hypothesized moderating effects also were found for gender, age, co-occurring parental psychiatric problem extended family history of drinking problems, current family structure, and caregiver support. These results underscore the importance of current family situation as a potential cause of adolescent substance use and the need to consider more complex, interactive models in future research on the effects of parental and familial alcohol abuse.

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