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Amy B. Wachholtz

University of Massachusetts Medical School

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Lifetime Alcohol Abuse Prevalence: Role of Childhood and Adult Religion

Amy Wachholtz PhD¹, Lisa Fortuna MD¹, Michelle Porche EdD², Rosalie Torres Stone PhD¹
¹ Dept of Psychiatry, UMass Medical School, ² Wellesley Centers for Women, Wellesley College

Background

- ▶ Alcohol abuse disorder has a lifetime prevalence rate of 13.2% (Kessler, et al., 2005)
- ▶ Over half of these cases are diagnosed by the early 20s, and three-quarters by age 30 (Kessler, et al., 2005)
- ▶ Early influences on ETOH consumption have long lasting impact on later ETOH consumption, health status, and SES (Delucchi, Matzger, & Weisner, 2008)
- ▶ Religion is protective against ETOH abuse (Michalak, Trocki, & Bond, 2007)
- ▶ Religiosity/Spirituality is protective against alcohol use among emerging adults from multiple racial/ethnic backgrounds (Mahoney, Pargament, Carels, Wachholtz, Edwards, et al., 2005)
- ▶ Religion/Spiritual variables positively impact health behaviors and alcohol use in 84% of studies (Rew & Wong, 2006)

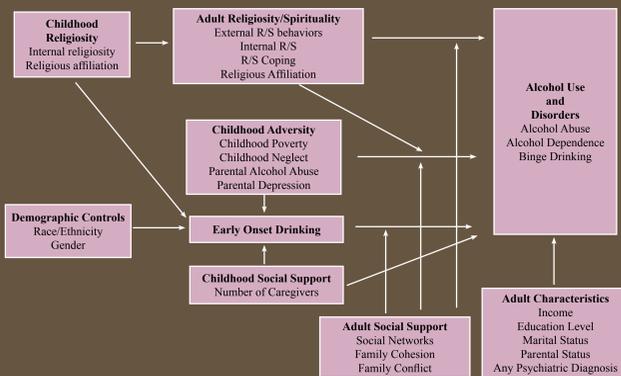
Childhood & Adult Influences

- ▶ However, little is known about:
 - the relationship among stressors, childhood and adult religious variables, and lifetime prevalence of alcohol abuse among diverse ethnic groups
 - the link among childhood and adult religiousness and lifetime alcohol abuse (LAA)

Hypotheses

1. Childhood and adult religiosity/spirituality will be protective factors against LAA
2. Male gender, SES factors, childhood adversity and parental substance abuse will be risk factors for LAA

Theoretical Model



Corresponding Author – Amy Wachholtz
 Email: amy.wachholtz@umassmemorial.org

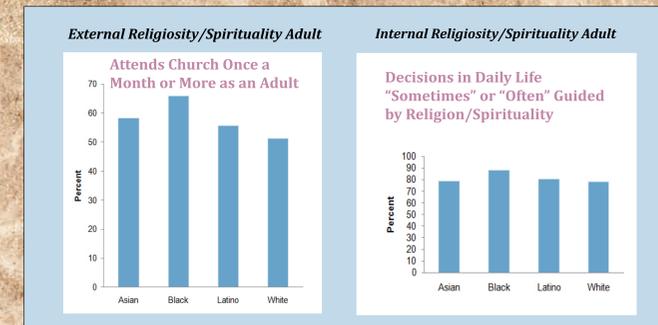
Data & Sample

The National Comorbidity Survey Replication (NCS-R; Kessler et al., 2004) is a probability sample of the US. Assessments based on the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual - IV (DSM-IV), 1994. 4153 respondents with complete alcohol and religion data were included from the NCS-R.

Measures

- Outcome: Any lifetime diagnosis of alcohol abuse as determined by the NCS -R/DSM criteria
- Childhood Religiosity
- Adult Religiosity/Spirituality
- Childhood adversity (dichotomous yes/no)
- Childhood support
- Demographic factors

Religiosity/Spirituality



Results

- Overall the prevalence for LAA was 13.2%
- Religiosity/Spirituality as Protective
 - Frequent of church attendees have decreased odds
 - Childhood religiosity as moderated by adult internal religion/spirituality lowered risk
- Childhood Adversity as Risk
 - Intergenerational risk: maternal substance abuse and paternal substance use related to increased odds for LAA
 - Under supervised when young increased risk
- Demographic Influences
 - Males greater likelihood of LAA than females
 - LAA diagnosis more likely in younger individuals (relative to seniors aged 65 and older), greatest risk group are established adults ages 35 to 49
 - Controlling for all other factors, there were no associations by race/ethnicity or education level.
 - Middle income levels (\$35-75,000) greater likelihood of LAA compared to higher income level.
 - Married/Cohabiting was a protective factor

Discussion

- Adult and childhood religious variables impact prevalence of alcohol abuse even after adjusting for demographics and childhood adversity.
- Specific developmental periods have increased risk; age targeted treatment interventions are needed.
- Religiousness/spirituality also change across the life course and should be integrated accordingly into age targeted interventions.

Next Steps:

- Include the NSAL and NLAAS data from the CPES to continue to identify critical variables in the LAA model
- Identify the extent to which different aspects of religion/spirituality impact LAA among diverse ethnic groups

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Independent Variables	Model 1
	Lifetime Alcohol Abuse
Male	4.18***
Age Categorical	
18-34	2.34**
35-49	3.14***
50-64	2.40***
65+	1
Race/Ethnicity	
Asian	0.69
Black	0.79
Latino	1.08
White	1
Education Level	
Less than High School Diploma	1.30
High School Diploma	1.15
College	1.03
Graduate School	1
Income Level	
Less than \$15,000	1.39
\$15,000 – \$34,999	1.23
\$35,000 - \$74,999	1.54**
\$75,000+	1
Married/Cohabiting (versus Divorced/Separated/Never Married)	.57***
Grew up with Both Parents	1.04
Family on Welfare when Growing Up	1.32
Maternal Substance Abuse	3.10***
Paternal Substance Abuse	2.19***
Maternal Depression	1.17
Unsupervised at too Early Age	1.79***
Hungry, Parents didn't Fix Meals	1.24
Importance of Religion as a Child	0.93
Frequency Church Attendance	.56***
Religion Guides Decisions	1.55*
Importance of Religion as a Child x Religion Guides Decisions	.58**

*p<.05 **p<.01 *** p<.001

