

Effects of Parent Relationships on Cigarette and Marijuana Use in Adolescence

Research Questions

- How does the quality of one's relationship with their parents associate with their use of drugs?
- Does the association between relationships with parents and drug use vary by gender?

Hypotheses

- Having a poor relationship with your parents will lead to higher levels of drug use.
- Parental relationships will have a greater impact on females.

Background

- Adolescents are especially susceptible to drug use and addiction (Gomez et al., 2018).
- Drug usage rates among adolescents have been declining (Vidourek et al., 2018).
- Positive attitudes toward marijuana have been increasing in the past several years (Stephens, 2019).
- Recent increase in vaping among adolescents (Vaping Rises Among Teens 2019).
- Negative interactions with parents increase risk of delinquent behavior (Hoeve et al., 2009).

Data

- National Longitudinal Study of Adolescent to Adult Health (AddHealth)
- Wave 1 (1994-1995)
- Nationally representative of middle and high school students

Dependent Measures

During the past 30 days, on how many days did you smoke cigarettes?

- No days – 74.5%
- 1-5 days – 8.5%
- 6-15 days – 4.3%
- 16-30 days – 12.7%

During the past 30 days, how many times did you use marijuana?

- None – 87%
- 1-5 times – 8.1%
- 6-15 times – 2.2%
- 16+ times – 2.8%

Independent Measure

How much do you feel your parents care about you?

- Very much – 85%
- Somewhat or quite a bit – 14%
- Not at all or very little – 1%

Control Measure

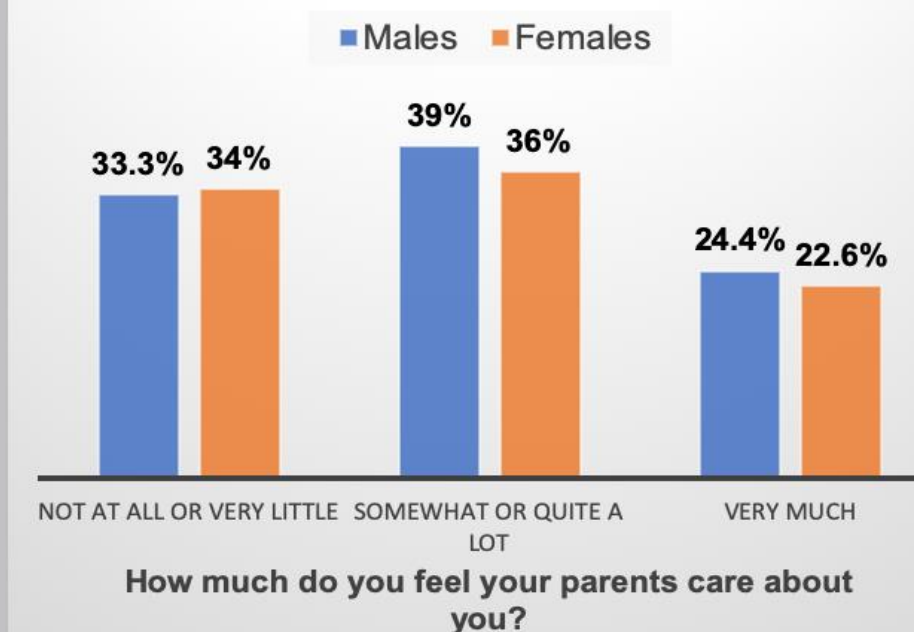
- Respondent's Sex
- 52% female
 - 48% male

Analysis

- Cross tabulation and Chi-square test using SPSS.
- All results statistically significant at $p < .05$.

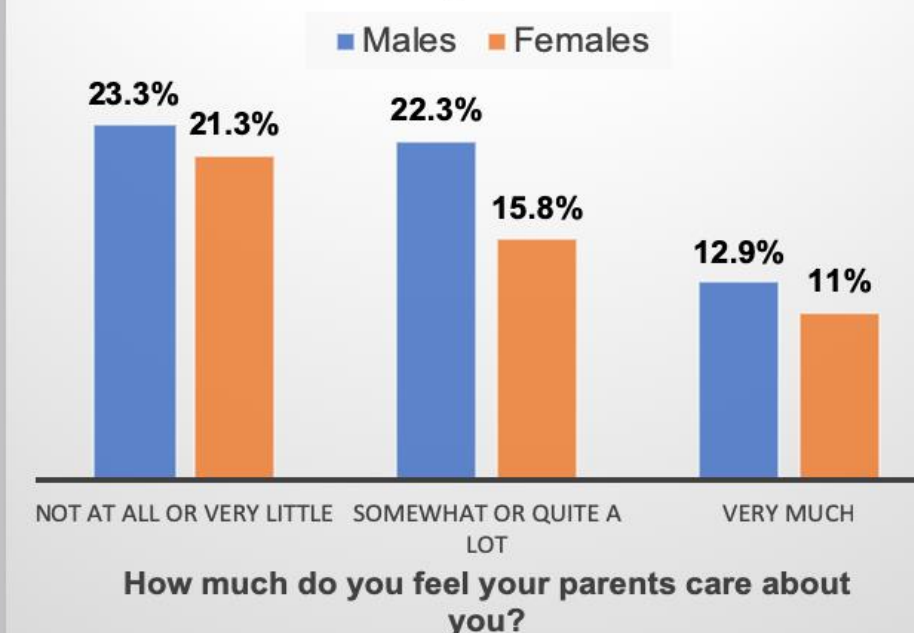
Results

Any Cigarette Use by Relationship with Parents



- 73.4% of males and 75.4% of females reported no use

Any Marijuana Use by Relationship with Parents



- 85.7% of males and 88.2% of females reported no use

Results are statistically significant at $p < .05$

Key Findings

- Most adolescents do not use drugs at high levels.
- Having a poor relationship with parents is associated with higher levels of drug use.
- Quality of parent relationship had greater influence on female drug usage.
- Adolescents are more likely to smoke cigarettes than use marijuana.
- A greater percentage of males use drugs (and with higher frequency) than females.

Limitations and Future Research

- Other variables could be predictors of parent-child relationships.
- Adolescents could be engaging in other risky behavior instead of drug usage.
- School based survey – could be missing individuals most likely to use drugs.
- Future study of vape, marijuana, and alcohol use.

References

- Gomez, Brenda, et al. "Adverse Childhood Experiences and Illicit Drug Use in Adolescents: Findings from a National Addictions Treatment Population in Singapore." *Journal of Substance Use*, 23(1). Jan. 2018, pp. 86-91. EBSCOhost, doi:10.1080/14659891.2017.1348558.
- Hoeve, Machteld, et al. "The Relationship between Parenting and Delinquency: a Meta-Analysis." *Journal of Abnormal Child Psychology*, Springer US, Aug. 2009, www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC2708328/.
- Stephens, Susan. "Changing Attitudes Toward Cannabis." *NPR Illinois*, www.nprillinois.org/post/changing-attitudes-toward-cannabis#stream/0.
- "Vaping Rises Among Teens." *National Institutes of Health*, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, 8 Mar. 2019, newsinhealth.nih.gov/2019/02/vaping-rises-among-teens.
- Vidourek, Rebecca A., et al. "Predictors of Illicit Drug Use among a National Sample of Adolescents." *Journal of Substance Use*, 23(1). Jan. 2018, pp. 1-6. EBSCOhost, doi:10.1080/14659891.2017.1316782.