## Substance use, risky sexual behavior, and employment among young people

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Publication info: The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, ProQuest, UMI Dissertations Publishing, 2012.

3509275.

## ProQuest document link

Abstract: Using data from the National Longitudinal Study of Adolescent Health, this work examines the impact of individual substance use, peer substance use, and depression on risky sexual behaviors, rape victimization among women, and labor market outcomes. The data are nationally representative of American youth. Although Fagan (1993) hypothesized that substance use not only increases the probability of perpetrating violent crimes but also the probability of becoming a victim of violent crime, the impact of substance use and depression on rape victimization remains largely uninvestigated. Previous research often neglects the concurrent impact of depression and the role of peer substance use in shaping the outcomes of interest. I fill these gaps by controlling for individual and peer substance use as well as depression. I use zero-inflated negative binomial, linear probability, and two-part models to investigate these relationships. Given the endogeneity of depression and substance use, analyses incorporate instrumental variable approaches. The results suggest that neither substance use nor depression have a causal impact on the risky sexual behavior, rape, or labor market outcomes. The analyses do indicate, however, that peer substance use influences the observed health and employment outcomes. As a result, health providers may want to consider a patient's social environment when devising prevention and treatment plans.

Links: Linking Service

Subject: Behavioral psychology; Economics; Public health; Developmental psychology;

Classification: 0384: Behavioral psychology; 0501: Economics; 0573: Public health; 0620: Developmental

psychology

Identifier / keyword: Social sciences, Psychology, Health and environmental sciences, Risky sexual behaviors,

Adolescents, Depression, Employment, Peer effects, Substance use, Young adults

Number of pages: 167

Publication year: 2012

Degree date: 2012

School code: 0153

Source: DAI-B 73/09(E), Mar 2013

Place of publication: Ann Arbor

Country of publication: United States

ISBN: 9781267356017

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University/institution: The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

**Department:** Health Policy And Management

University location: United States -- North Carolina

Degree: Ph.D.

Source type: Dissertations & Theses

Language: English

**Document type:** Dissertation/Thesis

Dissertation/thesis number: 3509275

ProQuest document ID: 1019237125

**Document URL:** 

http://libproxy.lib.unc.edu/login?url=http://search.proquest.com/docview/1019237125?accountid=14244

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Database: ProQuest Dissertations & Theses Full Text

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