



Short Communication

Alcohol use and alcohol/marijuana use during the most recent sexual experience differentially predict characteristics of the sexual experience among sexually active young adult drinkers



Anne M. Fairlie^{a,*}, Tracey A. Garcia^a, Christine M. Lee^a, Melissa A. Lewis^b

^a Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences, Box 354944, University of Washington, Seattle, WA 98195, USA

^b Department of Health Behavior and Health Systems, University of North Texas Health Science Center, USA

HIGHLIGHTS

- We studied alcohol and marijuana use versus non-use for a recent sexual experience.
- Alcohol and marijuana use related to being with a casual acquaintance.
- Alcohol and marijuana use related to self-reported loss of respect for oneself.
- Alcohol use was related to a sexual partner they had just met and embarrassment.
- No associations were found for condom use or emotional difficulties.

ARTICLE INFO

Keywords:
Alcohol
Marijuana
Sexual behavior
Young adults

ABSTRACT

Introduction: Few studies have examined associations between using alcohol only and using both alcohol and marijuana with sexual behavior on specific occasions. The current study examined alcohol and marijuana use during the most recent sexual experience in association with relationship characteristics, psychological issues, and condom use.

Methods: Young adult drinkers aged 18–25 who reported not using a condom during sex in the past month were recruited nationally. An analytic subsample (N = 378) was identified based on substance use during the most recent sexual experience [53% female, 70% Caucasian; mean age = 22.42 years (SD = 1.90)]. Using logistic regression, two dummy codes compared the alcohol use only group (n = 197) and the both alcohol and marijuana group (n = 95) to the group who used neither substance (n = 86). Participant sex, drinking frequency, and number of sexual partners were included as covariates.

Results: The alcohol only group and the both alcohol and marijuana group had greater odds of being with a casual acquaintance and loss of respect compared to the group who used neither substance. The alcohol only group had greater odds of being with someone they just met and embarrassment compared to the group who used neither substance. No associations were found for condom use or emotional difficulties.

Conclusions: Preventative interventions may need to address both alcohol and marijuana to more effectively reduce risky behaviors.

1. Introduction

National estimates indicate that 58.3% of young adults (YAs; 18–25 years) used alcohol and 19.8% used marijuana in the past month (Center for Behavioral Health Statistics and Quality, 2016). Adolescents and YAs have reported using alcohol and marijuana at the same time or during the same event (Barrett, Darredeau, & Pihl, 2006; Brière, Fallu, Descheneaux, & Janosz, 2011; Pape, Rossow, & Storr, 2009) as well

as simultaneous use (i.e., so that their effects overlapped; Terry-McElrath, O'Malley, & Johnston, 2013). National estimates show individuals aged 18–29 are more likely than older adults to use alcohol and marijuana at the same time (Midanik, Tam, & Weisner, 2007). Rates of casual sex encounters among YAs are around 50% (Lewis, Granato, Blayney, Lostutter, & Kilmer, 2012; Owen, Rhoades, Stanley, & Fincham, 2010), and the number of casual sex partners peaks around age 21 (Lyons, Manning, Longmore, & Giordano, 2015). YAs have the

* Corresponding author.

E-mail address: afairlie@uw.edu (A.M. Fairlie).

<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.addbeh.2018.02.027>

Received 12 September 2017; Received in revised form 21 February 2018; Accepted 21 February 2018

Available online 21 March 2018

0306-4603/© 2018 Elsevier Ltd. All rights reserved.

highest rates of chlamydia, gonorrhea, and undiagnosed HIV (Center for Disease Control and Prevention, 2014, 2017). It is important to examine whether alcohol and marijuana use among YAs may increase the likelihood of risky sexual behavior (RSB), defined as unprotected sexual activity and multiple or casual partners.

Survey and experimental studies show a link between alcohol and RSB; however, findings vary by study methodology and situational factors (e.g., partner type; consumption rate) (Howells & Orcutt, 2014; Kiene, Barta, Tennen, & Armeli, 2009; Parks, Hsieh, Collins, & Levonyan-Radloff, 2011; Patrick & Maggs, 2009; Patrick, O'Malley, Johnston, Terry-McElrath, & Schulenberg, 2012; Scott-Sheldon et al., 2016). YA marijuana use has been associated with sexual behaviors and sexually transmitted infections (Hendershot, Magnan, & Bryan, 2010; Metrik, Caswell, Magill, Monti, & Kahler, 2016). Using timeline follow back, Anderson and Stein (2011) found that marijuana use was associated with higher levels of unprotected sex with casual partners and with main partners among YA women. Brodbeck, Matter, and Moggi (2006) examined the most recent sexual experience and found that marijuana use was associated with more RSB. Cross-sectionally, marijuana use has been positively associated with inconsistent condom use among sexually active YA women (Adefuye, Abiona, Balogun, & Lukobo-Durrell, 2009). Other studies have not found an association between marijuana and condom use (Kerr, Washburn, Morris, Lewis, & Tiberio, 2015; Walsh, Fielder, Carey, & Carey, 2014).

Few studies have examined links between alcohol and marijuana use and sexual behavior. Among weekly marijuana users, Metrik et al. (2016) found that same-day heavy drinking and marijuana use decreased the likelihood of using a condom with a main partner; however, same-day alcohol and marijuana use was not predictive for casual partners. Simons, Maisto, and Wray (2010) and Anderson and Stein (2011) demonstrated a positive relation between marijuana use and an increased likelihood of having unprotected sex; neither study found associations between using both marijuana and alcohol with condom use. Using 12-weeks of daily reports, Parks, Collins, and Derrick (2012) found that YA women were more likely to not use a condom on days when they used both alcohol and marijuana compared to days they used neither substance; however, this finding became non-significant when sexual assertiveness was included.

1.1. The current study

By examining substance use for the most recent sexual experience, we could determine whether the likelihood of reporting various characteristics of the experience (e.g., condom use) varied by whether individuals only used alcohol or used both alcohol and marijuana on that occasion (compared to neither substance). Cross-sectional research typically tests whether individuals who use substances are more likely to engage in RSB without considering the extent to which substance use and RSB co-occur. Intervention efforts often do not focus on multiple substances or overlapping use of substances in relation to sexual risk-taking, but it is necessary to determine if there is unique sexual risk-taking when YAs use both alcohol and marijuana and how this information can inform intervention efforts. Using a sample of YA drinkers who also reported not using a condom during vaginal or anal sex after drinking, the current study examined whether or not alcohol use only or alcohol and marijuana use (compared to use of neither substance) during the most recent sexual experience (using retrospective reports) were associated with partner characteristics (e.g., someone just met), psychological issues (e.g., embarrassment), and condom use during the most recent sexual experience. Participants who reported alcohol use only and those who reported both alcohol and marijuana use were compared to those who used neither substance.

2. Methods

2.1. Participants and procedure

Participants were part of a larger intervention study (N = 402) focusing on alcohol use and RSB among YAs and were recruited nationally using various methods (e.g., Facebook, Craigslist, flyers). Participants completed a brief online screening survey then, if inclusion criteria were met, participants were contacted by phone to verify eligibility. Eligibility criteria included: (a) age 18–25; (b) not be in a monogamous relationship; (c) not used a condom during vaginal or anal sex after drinking in past month; (d) consumed an alcoholic drink at least once a week on average over past 3 months; and (e) one episode of heavy episodic drinking (4+ /5+ drinks for women/men in one sitting) in past month. Participants who met these criteria after screening and phone verification were invited to complete an online baseline survey. A subsample [n = 378; 53% female, 70% Caucasian; mean age = 22.42 years (SD = 1.90)] was identified for the current analyses based on reports of alcohol and marijuana use during their most recent sexual experience. Four participants with missing data were excluded as were 20 participants who reported only marijuana use.

2.2. Measures

2.2.1. Characteristics of most recent sexual experience

Participants were asked questions regarding their most recent sexual experience. Items were adapted from Cooper, Peirce, and Huselid (1994), Goldstein, Barnett, Pedlow, and Murphy (2007), Lewis, Kaysen, Rees, and Woods (2010), and Temple and Leigh (1992). Participants reported the number of alcoholic beverages consumed directly prior to or during the sexual experience (open-ended response format). Participants reported whether or not they used marijuana or hashish prior to or during the sexual experience. For partner characteristics, participants were asked to describe their relationship with their most recent sexual partner: “someone who is a casual acquaintance” and “someone just met” (0 = no, 1 = yes). For psychological issues, participants reported if they experienced the following problems associated with this sexual experience: “loss of respect for yourself,” “embarrassment,” and “emotional difficulties” (0 = no, 1 = yes). Participants reported if they or their partner “used a condom” (0 = no, 1 = yes, don't know = missing).

2.2.2. Covariates

Sex (0 = female, 1 = male) was a covariate. For drinking frequency, participants indicated how often they had consumed alcohol in the past month (0 = never to 11 = every day). For number of sexual partners, participants reported the total number of partners they had oral, vaginal, or anal sex with in the past month.

2.3. Analysis plan

Participants were categorized into the following three groups based on retrospective reports of substance use during their most recent sexual experience: alcohol only, both alcohol and marijuana, and neither alcohol nor marijuana. In logistic regression, two dummy codes were used to compare the alcohol only group and the alcohol and marijuana group to a comparison group comprised of those who used neither substance. All six outcomes were binary (endorsed versus not endorsed): casual acquaintance, someone just met, loss of respect for self, embarrassment, emotional difficulties, and condom use.

3. Results

3.1. Descriptive information

Half (52.12%, n = 197) of the participants reported only using

Download English Version:

<https://daneshyari.com/en/article/7259306>

Download Persian Version:

<https://daneshyari.com/article/7259306>

[Daneshyari.com](https://daneshyari.com)