



## Parental monitoring and family relations: Associations with drinking patterns among male and female Mexican students



Lee Strunin<sup>a,\*</sup>, L. Rosa Díaz-Martínez<sup>b</sup>, Alejandro Díaz-Martínez<sup>c</sup>, Timothy Heeren<sup>d</sup>, Michael Winter<sup>e</sup>, Seth Kuranz<sup>a</sup>, Carlos A. Hernández-Ávila<sup>f</sup>, Héctor Fernández-Varela<sup>g</sup>, Cuauhtémoc Solís-Torres<sup>g</sup>

<sup>a</sup> Department of Community Health Sciences, Boston University School of Public Health, 801 Massachusetts Ave., Boston, MA 02118, USA

<sup>b</sup> Department of Psychiatry and Mental Health, Faculty of Medicine, National Autonomous University of Mexico/National Institute on Psychiatry Ramón de la Fuente Muñiz, Calzada México-Xochimilco No. 101, Colonia San Lorenzo Huipulco, Delegación Tlalpan, México, D.F. 14570, Mexico

<sup>c</sup> Department of Psychiatry and Mental Health, Faculty of Medicine, National Autonomous University of Mexico, Edificio "F" Primer Piso. Circuito Escolar S/N. Ciudad Universitaria, Delegación Coyoacán, México, D.F. 04510, Mexico

<sup>d</sup> Department of Biostatistics, Boston University School of Public Health, 801 Massachusetts Ave., Boston, MA 02118, USA

<sup>e</sup> Data Coordinating Center, Boston University School of Public Health, 801 Massachusetts Ave., Boston, MA 02118, USA

<sup>f</sup> Department of Psychiatry and Alcohol Research Center, University of Connecticut School of Medicine, 263 Farmington Ave., Farmington, CT 06030, USA

<sup>g</sup> General Medical Services, National Autonomous University of Mexico, Circuito Escolar S-N Ciudad Universitaria, Delegación Coyoacán, México, D.F. 04510, Mexico

### HIGHLIGHTS

- First study to examine parental monitoring, family relations, drinking in Mexico
- More females reported high parental monitoring and strong overall family relations.
- Associations with drinking profiles were stronger among females.
- Lower perceived parental monitoring was associated with heavier drinking profiles.
- Weaker perceived family relations were associated with heavier drinking profiles.

### ARTICLE INFO

#### Article history:

Received 24 March 2015

Received in revised form 29 June 2015

Accepted 24 July 2015

Available online 26 July 2015

#### Keywords:

Alcohol use

Mexican youths

Parental monitoring

Family relations

Gender

Cultural factors

### ABSTRACT

**Introduction:** Parental monitoring and family relations are recognized as protective factors for youth alcohol use. The purpose of this study was to investigate perceived parental monitoring and family relations among subgroups of Mexican youths with different patterns of drinking behaviors and consequences.

**Methods:** A latent profile analysis (LPA) identified profiles of drinking behavior in a cross-sectional survey of entering first year university students. Multinomial regression examined associations between parental monitoring, family relations and drinking profiles among 22,224 students.

**Results:** Both lower perceived parental monitoring and weaker perceived family relations were associated with heavier drinking profiles among males and females, but more strongly associated with female than male heavier drinking profiles. Being older, having parents with lower education, and not living with parents were also associated with lower parental monitoring and weaker family relations. There was a general trend of lower parental monitoring and weaker family relations as the profiles increased from Non/Infrequent–No Consequences to Excessive–Many Consequences Drinkers. Lower perceived parental monitoring and weaker perceived family relations were more strongly associated with drinking profiles among females than among males. Both the parental monitoring and family relations scales had similar associations with drinking profiles.

**Conclusions:** Findings suggest that drinking norms and values may contribute to any protective influences of parental monitoring and family relations on Mexican youths' drinking. Research about changes in drinking norms, contextual factors, and youth–parent trust would inform the utility of parental monitoring or family relations as protective strategies against alcohol misuse among Mexican and Mexican American youths and also youths from other backgrounds.

© 2015 Elsevier Ltd. All rights reserved.

\* Corresponding author at: Department of Community Health Sciences, Boston University School of Public Health, Medical Campus, 801 Massachusetts Avenue, Rm 452, Boston, MA 02118, USA.

E-mail address: lstrunin@bu.edu (L. Strunin).

## 1. Introduction

The influence of parenting factors on youth alcohol use is well-documented in the literature with both parental monitoring and family relations recognized as protective factors for alcohol use among young people (Ryan, Jorm, & Lubman, 2010; Stone, Becker, Huber, et al., 2012). Parental monitoring is characterized as skills used by parents to remain informed and aware of a child's whereabouts, activities and associations (Dishion & McMahon, 1998; Kerr & Stattin, 2000). Family relations refers to family connectedness and functioning including familial bonding, cohesion, support, communication and conflict (Dillon, Pantin, Robbins, et al., 2008; Stone et al., 2012). Studies in many countries show decreased alcohol use among adolescents and young adults associated with either higher levels of parental monitoring (Abar, Fernandez, & Wood, 2011; Arria, Kuhn, Caldeira, et al., 2008; Boyd-Ball, Dishion, Myers, et al., 2011; Clark, Nguyen, Belgrave, et al., 2011; Ledoux, Miller, Choquet, et al., 2002; Moore, Rothwell, & Segrott, 2010; Nagoshi, Marsiglia, Parsai, et al., 2011; Ryan et al., 2010; Strunin, Díaz Martínez, Díaz-Martínez, et al., 2013; Tobler & Komro, 2010; Walls, Fairlie, & Wood, 2009; Yabiku, Marsiglia, Kulis, et al., 2010) or good family relations (Cable & Sacker, 2008; Clark et al., 2011; Kopak, Chen, Haas, et al., 2012; Kuendig & Kuntsche, 2006; Ledoux et al., 2002; Moore et al., 2010; Nash, McQueen, & Bray, 2005; Ryan et al., 2010; Stone et al., 2012; Strunin, A. Díaz-Martínez, L.R. Díaz-Martínez, et al., 2015). A few studies also show higher levels of parental monitoring or stronger family relations protective for alcohol-related consequences among young people (Jackson, Denny, Sheridan, et al., 2014; Varvil-Weld, Mallett, Turrisi, et al., 2013; Walls et al., 2009).

There is limited research, however, about parenting factors and youth alcohol use in Latin America, a region in which alcohol use is a serious public health problem (Monteiro, 2013; Rehm, Mathers, Popova, et al., 2009; Taylor, Rehm, Aburto, et al., 2007). In Mexico, more males aged 18–65 report harmful and hazardous drinking than in other countries in the region (Monteiro, 2013) and the proportions of females with abuse or dependence have increased substantially (Medina-Mora, 2007). Although a recent general population alcohol and drug use household survey in Mexico found 1% of the general population drank daily, over half (53.6%) of young adults aged 18–35 consumed 5+ drinks on a single occasion in the past year, and among the 42.9% of 12–17 year olds who ever used alcohol, 31.8% of males and 28.1% of females drank in the past year (Health Ministry, 2012). The few studies about parental monitoring or family relations and alcohol consumption among young people in Mexico show inconsistent results including parental monitoring not associated with adolescent alcohol use (Benjet, Borges, Méndez, et al., 2014), family unity and intimacy associated with adolescents being less likely to ever use alcohol or binge drink (Martyn, Loveland-Cherry, Villarruel, et al., 2009), and higher parental monitoring associated with less drinking among females but not males (Becerra & Castillo, 2011).

The present study is from a project investigating patterns of alcohol use including risk and protective factors among students entering first year university in Mexico City. The project used a mixed method approach in two phases. In Phase 1, ethnographic interviews explored the influence of the Mexican drinking culture with students identified from an ongoing general health survey prior to the start of the academic year. In Phase 2, an alcohol survey supplement to the general health survey was administered to incoming first year students to assess prevalence and correlates of alcohol use. This paper focuses on data from Phase 2. The purpose of the study was to investigate perceived parental monitoring and family relations among subgroups of Mexican youths with different patterns of drinking behaviors and consequences. In an earlier study of Mexican youths at the same university, we found lower perceived parental monitoring associated with an earlier age of onset, more frequent drinking, and more harmful and hazardous drinking. Further, females reported higher parental monitoring than males and older students reported lower parental monitoring than

younger students (Strunin et al., 2013). The data also indicated that other factors may play an important role in the relationship and we recommended future research consider the influence of gender norms and *familismo*, a fundamental value in Mexican culture (Strunin et al., 2013).

Based on our previous research, the literature on drinking among Mexican and Mexican American youths, and an earlier Latent Profile Analysis (LPA) that identified subgroups of drinkers from their patterns of alcohol use and consequences (Strunin, L.R. Díaz-Martínez, A. Díaz-Martínez, et al., 2015), we hypothesized that lower perceived parental monitoring and weaker perceived family relations would be associated with heavier drinking profiles, and the associations would be stronger in females than males. Based on other previous findings (Strunin, Díaz-Martínez, Díaz-Martínez, et al., 2014) and the literature (Borawski, Ievers-Landis, Lovegreen, et al., 2003; Cleveland, Reavy, Mallett, et al., 2014; Wilkinson, Shete, Spitz, et al., 2011; Wills, McNamara, & Vaccaro, 1995), we also expected student age, parental education, and living situation to be associated with parental monitoring and family relations. This is the first study to examine Mexican youths' perceptions of parental monitoring and family relations and their associations with membership in drinking subgroups experiencing alcohol-related consequences.

## 2. Materials and methods

### 2.1. Procedure

The study design is a cross-sectional survey of entering first year students at a large public university in Mexico City conducted during registration when the university medical services routinely administers a non-anonymous general health survey to all entering students. At the time of the survey, students are told that identifiable data is only accessible to the person responsible for the student's health care at UNAM's General Directorate of Medical Services. In 2012, an alcohol survey supplement to the general health survey was administered to collect detailed information about alcohol use. The alcohol survey supplement questions were developed from both the Phase 1 ethnographic interviews and our earlier research. The study was approved by the university IRB for the PI in the U.S. and the IRB in Mexico City.

### 2.2. Sample

In 2012, 29,677 of the 37,077 students enrolled in nine campuses of the university in the Mexico City metropolitan area completed the surveys. Of those who completed the surveys 13% had missing data on age and 3.5% had missing or inconsistent data on drinking status. This study focuses on 22,224 students ages 17–20 of whom 14,663 were current drinkers, 1727 former drinkers, and 5834 never drank.

### 2.3. Measures

The alcohol supplement included questions about frequency and quantity of alcohol use, alcohol-related consequences in the past year, and perceived parental monitoring. The general health survey queried frequency of drinking 5+ drinks in a single occasion, perceived family relations, and socio-demographics.

#### 2.3.1. Alcohol consumption

Questions assessed frequency of drinking, frequency of drinking 5+ in a single occasion, quantity of alcohol use and alcohol-related consequences in the past year. Students were shown a chart with picture equivalents for a single drink of different types of alcoholic beverages to assist with calculation of quantity of alcohol consumed; for example a 330 ml bottle or can of beer equaled one drink. Our primary measure of alcohol consumption and consequences was based on an LPA (Strunin, L.R. Díaz-Martínez, A. Díaz-Martínez, et al., 2015). LPA is a person-centered method (Salas-Wright, Hernandez, Maynard, et al.,

Download English Version:

<https://daneshyari.com/en/article/7260663>

Download Persian Version:

<https://daneshyari.com/article/7260663>

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