



Recent cannabis use among adolescent and young adult immigrants in the Netherlands – The roles of acculturation strategy and linguistic acculturation



Monique J. Delforterie^{a,b,*}, Hanneke E. Creemers^{a,b}, Anja C. Huizink^a

^a VU University, Department of Developmental Psychology and EMGO Institute for Health and Care Research, Amsterdam, Van der Boechorststraat 1, 1081 BT Amsterdam, The Netherlands

^b Research Institute of Child Development and Education, University of Amsterdam, Nieuwe Prinsengracht 130, 1018 VZ Amsterdam, The Netherlands

ARTICLE INFO

Article history:

Received 19 July 2013

Received in revised form 11 October 2013

Accepted 16 December 2013

Available online 3 January 2014

Keywords:

Cannabis use

Acculturation

Non-Western immigrant adolescents and young adults

The Netherlands

ABSTRACT

Background: The present study examined the relation between two different acculturation measures (i.e., linguistic acculturation and the acculturation strategies integration, separation and marginalization) and past year cannabis use. Additionally, we studied the mediating role of affiliation with cannabis-using peers.

Method: Data were utilized from i4culture, a Dutch study on immigrant adolescents and young adults aged 15–24 years. Participants belonged to the five largest immigrant populations in the Netherlands, living in or around the four major Dutch cities: Amsterdam, the Hague, Rotterdam, and Utrecht. In total, 771 adolescents and young adults (mean age 19.29, SD = 2.61, 53.8% female) from Surinamese ($n = 210$, 27.2%), Moroccan ($n = 209$, 27.1%), Turkish ($n = 110$, 14.3%), Antillean ($n = 109$, 14.1%), and Asian ($n = 133$, 17.3%) backgrounds participated. With questionnaires, past year cannabis use, acculturation strategy, linguistic acculturation, and affiliation with cannabis-using peers were assessed.

Results: Using logistic regression analyses, we found no relation between acculturation strategy and past year cannabis use (OR = 1.25, $p = 0.38$ for separation vs integration and OR = 0.86, $p = 0.50$ for marginalization vs integration). Linguistic acculturation was positively related to cannabis use (OR = 2.20, $p < 0.01$). Affiliation with cannabis-using peers partly mediated this relation (OR = 1.09, $p < 0.01$).

Conclusions: Non-Western immigrant youngsters who speak the host culture's language at home are more likely to use cannabis than youngsters who speak their native language at home. The former group is more likely to affiliate with cannabis-using peers, which partly explains their increased risk of cannabis use.

© 2013 Elsevier Ireland Ltd. All rights reserved.

1. Introduction

In Western society, cannabis is the most widely used illicit drug (Degenhardt et al., 2008), with onset of use peaking in middle and late adolescence (Vega et al., 2002). Because cannabis use (CU) has been negatively related to mental health and educational attainment (van Ours and Williams, 2009, 2011), elucidating the mechanisms underlying CU is an important step in developing interventions targeting cannabis (ab)use.

During adolescence, teenagers born of immigrant parents are likely to experience identity conflicts, stress and insecurity, which could enhance their risk for deviant behavior and substance use

(Unger et al., 2004). Acculturation, i.e., the degree of cultural maintenance and adaptation to the host culture, seems important for determining a person's risk in terms of mental health problems, well-being and substance use (Koneru et al., 2007). The cultural values paradigm (Unger et al., 2004) is a conceptual framework for understanding substance use in a cultural context. According to this paradigm, cultural values of the host country shape attitudes and behaviors toward substance use, thereby promoting or protecting against substance use. Consequently, becoming more acculturated to a culture with more positive values toward substance use will increase the risk of substance use (Unger et al., 2004).

However, empirical evidence for the association between acculturation to a country with substance-use-promoting values and CU is lacking, as previous studies have yielded inconsistent findings (e.g., Chédebois et al., 2009; Marsiglia et al., 2011). Differences between these studies in measures of acculturation and CU seem to – at least partially – explain these inconsistencies. When the focus is on multidimensional models of acculturation, encompassing both

* Corresponding author at: Faculty of Psychology and Education, Department of Developmental Psychology, Van der Boechorststraat 1, 1081 BT Amsterdam, The Netherlands. Tel.: +31 20 5982697; fax: +31 20 5988745.

E-mail address: m.j.delforterie@vu.nl (M.J. Delforterie).

maintenance of the cultural identity of the country of origin and adoption of the cultural identity of the host country, most studies have adopted the four acculturation strategies proposed by Berry (1997). Assimilation, i.e., replacing the native cultural orientation with the host culture orientation; and integration, i.e., combining aspects of the host culture with aspects of the native culture, are both characterized by relatively high levels of adoption of the cultural identity of the host country. Separation, i.e., retaining the native cultural orientation while rejecting the host culture orientation; and marginalization, i.e., rejecting both cultures, are both marked by low levels of adoption of the cultural identity of the host country. Studies focusing on these acculturation strategies and adolescent CU are scarce, and findings do not support the cultural values perspective. For instance, although Latino immigrants living in the United States (US) report higher rates of substance use than Latinos living in their country of origin (Cherpitel and Borges, 2001; Felix-Ortiz et al., 2001), and although their risk of substance use increases the longer they remain in the US (Epstein et al., 1996), more acculturation was not related to a greater risk of substance use (Fosados et al., 2007). In contrast, marginalization (rejecting both cultures) was associated with higher prevalences of lifetime drug use (including cannabis) in males and of current drug use in females (Fosados et al., 2007). Also, recent CU among immigrant adolescents living in France was not associated with any of the acculturation strategies, and frequency of CU was *negatively* associated with more acculturation (i.e., integration and assimilation; Chédebois et al., 2009).

In the study of Chédebois et al. (2009), language use was used to define acculturation strategy (i.e., linguistic acculturation). Linguistic acculturation, a strong indicator of acculturation (Rogler et al., 1991; Serrano and Anderson, 2003), has been studied in unidimensional models, defining acculturation as the adoption of values, attitudes and behaviors of the host country (Berry et al., 1986). Results from studies focusing on unidimensional linguistic acculturation are somewhat more consistent and supportive of the cultural values paradigm, indicating that strong acculturation (the host culture's language is the dominant language at home or with friends) was positively associated with lifetime CU among Asian adolescent immigrants in the US (Thai et al., 2010) and with frequency and quantity of CU among Hispanic/Latino adolescent immigrants in the US (Epstein et al., 2001; McQueen et al., 2003). However, not all studies have yielded consistent results: among Mexican youngsters living in the US, linguistic acculturation was only positively related to lifetime CU in boys (Marsiglia et al., 2011). It should be noted that, given the historical context of Mexicans living in the US (Telles and Ortiz, 2008), it is unclear if this finding can be generalized to other immigrant groups. In sum, results from previous research on the association between acculturation and adolescent CU are inconsistent. However, prior studies on unidimensional linguistic acculturation suggest that non-Western immigrants living in a Western host culture are at increased risk of CU.

For understanding the link between acculturation and substance use, the cultural values paradigm emphasizes the role of peers. As adolescents acculturate, they are more likely to spend time with more acculturated or native peers who have adopted a more tolerant attitude toward substance use (Unger et al., 2000). This increases the likelihood of exposure to peer substance use and to peer influences promoting substance use. Indeed, Thai et al. (2010) demonstrated in a sample of Asian immigrants living in the US that acculturation to a culture with positive values regarding substance use affects the likelihood to affiliate with substance-using peers, which is strongly associated with adolescent substance use, including cannabis (Bernburg et al., 2009; Creemers et al., 2010; Oetting and Beauvais, 1987; Pinchevsky et al., 2012). It is yet unclear if this finding can be generalized to other immigrant groups.

Because various components of acculturation (e.g., language use, maintenance of the cultural identity of the country of origin, adoption of the host country's cultural identity) seem important for adolescent CU, the current study focuses on the multidimensional acculturation strategies proposed by Berry (1997) and on unidimensional linguistic acculturation of adolescent and young adult immigrants moving from a non-Western culture to the Netherlands, in relation to past year CU. As even occasional use (i.e., less than weekly use in the past 6 months) in adolescence increases the risk of alcohol and nicotine dependence and educational problems at age 24 (Degenhardt et al., 2010), identifying risk factors of occasional CU is important. The aims of the current study are to (a) assess the association between acculturation strategies, linguistic acculturation and past year CU and (b) to understand the mediating role of affiliation with cannabis-using peers. To that end, a sample of Dutch adolescents and young adults from Surinamese, Moroccan, Turkish, Antillean and Asian backgrounds, the largest ethnic populations in the Netherlands (www.cbs.nl) will be examined. The Indonesia-Asian, Surinamese and Antillean immigrants originate from former Dutch colonies, and immigrated to the Netherlands in the nineteen-forties, nineteen-seventies and nineteen-nineties, respectively. Chinese-Asian, Moroccan and Turkish immigrants came to the Netherlands in the nineteen-thirties and -sixties, respectively. In Suriname and the Antilles, the native population also learned to speak Dutch, while maintaining their mother tongues.

It is particularly interesting to study the cultural values paradigm in the Netherlands, as the Dutch legal system has depenalized CU and possession for those aged 18 years and older, resulting in a relatively tolerant attitude toward CU. Prevalence rates have shown that immigrant Dutch adolescents use less cannabis than native Dutch adolescents (van Dorsselaer et al., 2010). In accordance with the cultural values paradigm, we expect that immigrants who are more attached to the Dutch culture and less to their culture of origin (those with an assimilated acculturation strategy or who speak Dutch) are more likely to report past year CU. Furthermore, we expect that these youngsters affiliate more with cannabis-using peers, mediating the association between acculturation and CU.

2. Method

2.1. Sample and respondents

The present study reports data from the *i4culture* project, conducted from October 2010 to March 2013. Participants are 771 Dutch adolescents and young adults (mean age 19.29, SD = 2.61, 53.8% female) from Surinamese ($n = 210$, 27.2%), Moroccan ($n = 209$, 27.1%), Turkish ($n = 110$, 14.3%), Antillean ($n = 109$, 14.1%), and Asian ($n = 133$, 17.3%) backgrounds, living in or around the four major cities in the Netherlands: Amsterdam, the Hague, Rotterdam, and Utrecht.

Participants were recruited via schools, on the streets or at other public areas like malls and subway or railway stations. Schools were selected based on high percentages of immigrant students. Two schools gave permission to administer questionnaires in the classroom. Another six schools gave permission to recruit respondents in the school building.

Participants were included in the sample if they met the following criteria: (a) age between 15 and 24 years, (b) resident in the urban part of the Netherlands, and (c) having a Surinamese, Moroccan, Turkish, Antillean, or Asian background. First, second and third generation immigrants were included in this study, and ethnic backgrounds were determined by country of birth of the participant, of (one of) the parents, or of both grandparents from one side

Download English Version:

<https://daneshyari.com/en/article/7506708>

Download Persian Version:

<https://daneshyari.com/article/7506708>

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