Relationship Between Family Relationship Quality and Community Engagement on Adolescent Substance Use

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Introduction

- Examine the influence quality of family relationships and the level of adolescent and parental community involvement has on adolescent substance use
- The **purpose** is to identity protective and risk factors of adolescent substance use, since it is a leading public health concern.

Hypotheses & Background

- **H1:** Adolescents with higher quality family relationships will less likely engage in substance use.
  - Galliher et al. (2007) found that stronger family bonds facilitated self-efficacy and refusal skills, which are essential in decreasing substance use in adolescents
- **H2:** The more an adolescent is involved and connected to a community, the lower their substance usage will be.
  - Higher levels of community participation reduced the probability of substance use in adolescents (Lardier et al., 2018).
- **H3:** The more involved and connected a family is to their community, the higher quality their family relationships will be.
  - Parents with low connectivity to their community report having lower family relationship quality (O'Neal et al.,2018)

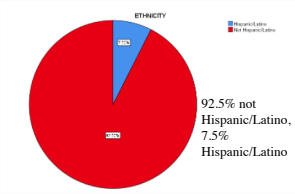
Measures

- Brief Family Relationship Scale
- Substance Use Measure
- Brief Scale of Sense of Community for Adolescents (SOC-A)

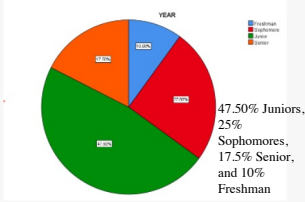
Procedure

1. Informed consent form
2. Brief Family Relationship Scale (BFRS)
3. Substance Use Measure
4. Brief Scale of Sense of Community for Adolescents (SOC-A)
5. Brief Scale of Sense of Community for Adolescents (SOC-A) for parents
6. Demographics questionnaire
7. Receive debriefing form, referral list, and research credit

Participants



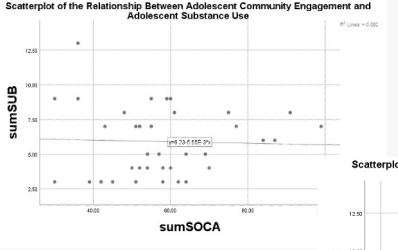
92.5% not Hispanic/Latino, 7.5% Hispanic/Latino



47.50% Juniors, 25% Sophomores, 17.5% Senior, and 10% Freshman

- 43 ECSU students
- Mean age = 21.53 yrs (SD= 2.93)
- 82.5% female
- 72.5% White, 15% Black, 2.5% Asian and Native American, 7.5% no response

Results



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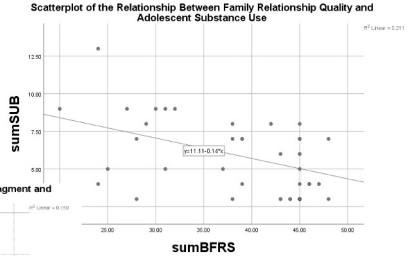
Adolescent community engagement was not significantly related to adolescent substance use, $r(39)=-0.40$, $p=0.80$.



As family relationship quality increased, adolescent substance use decreased, $\varrho(39)= -0.40$, $p=0.01$.

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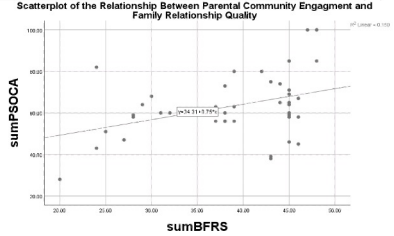

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As parental community engagement increased, family relationship quality increased, $\varrho(39)= 0.36$, $p=0.02$.

Discussion

- H1: Spearman's rho - **Supported**
  - Higher quality family relationships are a robust protective factor for adolescent substance use (McArdle et al., 2002).
- H2: Pearson's r correlation - **Not** Supported
  - Peers are part of one's community and peer--influence can influence adolescent substance use (Crawford & Novak, 2008).
- H3: Spearman's rho - **Supported**
  - Community engagement acts as a buffer to negative parental stress-related behaviors which increases family relationship quality (Zaidman-Zait et al., 2016).

Limitations

- Social desirability bias
- Lack of external validity
- Substance Use Measure had poor internal consistency

Implications & Future Research

- Increase diversity of participants
- Use a different measure for the variable substance use
- Promote activities that will increase family relationships
- Encourage parents to get involved in their community

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