



Low Other-Regard and Adolescent Addiction

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INTRODUCTION

- narcissism/addiction association (adults)
- egocentrism underlies addiction (theory)
- evidence limited among youth
- challenges to study link with youth:
 - egocentric thinking naturally elevated
 - 18+ years to assess narcissism disorder
 - randomization to addiction unethical
- **study aim:** explore low other-regard/AOD use dose-response relationship with youth

TABLE 1. BACKGROUND CHARACTERISTICS

	no use 195 (33%)	some Use 195 (33%)	addiction 195 (33%)
Age	15.8 (1.3)	16.0 (1.3)	16.2 (1.1)
Male	93 (48%)	93 (48%)	93 (48%)
Minority	59 (30%)	59 (30%)	59 (30%)
9 th -10 th grade	119 (61%)	119 (61%)	119 (61%)
11 th -12 th grade	76 (39%)	76 (39%)	76 (39%)
Single parent	80 (41%)	101 (52%)	98% (50%)
Parent BA+	86 (44%)	80 (41%)	53 (27%)
Overweight	55 (28%)	44 (23%)	34 (17%)
Poor health	21 (11%)	16 (8%)	11 (6%)
Asthma history	37 (19%)	35 (18%)	30 (15%)

Notes: BMI categories based on age and gender growth charts;

RESULTS

- Table 1: 52% female, 30% minority
- Table 2: alcohol, marijuana, PDM common
- Table 3: DUI rate: addicted (57%) vs. some use (8%) but similar #days drinking (past month)
- AOD/low volunteerism dose-response (boys)
- STD rate: AOD users (15%) vs. no use (8%)
- AOD use/risky sex dose-response magnified among youth with STD history

METHODS

Subjects:

- N=585 aged 14-18, 52% female, 30% minority, recruited in 2009 in Ohio
- Each youth with addiction (N=195) matched to a youth with some use (N=195) and a youth with no use history (N=195)

Measures:

2009 YRBS: background characteristics, AOD use history, low other-regard (low volunteerism, DUI, risky sex with STD)

Statistical Analysis:

3 logistic regressions, stratified by pair assignment, background covariates

TABLE 2. AOD USE HISTORY

	no use 195 (33%)	some Use 195 (33%)	addiction 195 (33%)
Past Month (10+ days)			
1+ drink	--	12 (6%)	12 (6%)
Binge drinking	--	0 (0%)	11 (6%)***
Marijuana	--	16 (9%)	83 (43%)***
Lifetime (20+ days)			
1+ drink	--	49 (25%)	159 (82%)***
Marijuana	--	28 (14%)	187 (96%)***
Cocaine	--	0 (0%)	68 (35%)***
Inhalants	--	11 (6%)	26 (13%)***
Heroin	--	11 (6%)	73 (37%)***
Methamph.	--	11 (6%)	59 (30%)***
Ecstasy	--	0 (0%)	71 (36%)***
PDM	--	11 (6%)	65 (33%)***

DISCUSSION

- as AOD ↑, ↑ odds of low volunteerism (boys)
- DUI, risky sex with STD
- alcoholics' blunted responsivity to others (1)
- yet social disconnected, need for external validation, hypersensitive to criticism (2).
- Future research: alcoholics less equipped with sensitivity cues on autism spectrum?

Clinical Implications

- attending Al-Anon may increase alcoholics' awareness of how their actions impact others

REFERENCES

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TABLE 3. LIKELIHOOD OF LOW-OTHER REGARD

	no use ^A 195 (33%)	some use ^B 195 (33%)	addiction ^C 195 (33%)	A vs. B RR	A vs. C RR	B vs. C RR
Low volunteerism (<5 hrs/mo)						
Males (214)	70 (69%)	64 (75%)	80 (86%)	1.06	1.19**	1.12*
Females (240)	81 (75%)	76 (79%)	83 (81%)	1.05	1.08	1.02
DUI	--	15 (8%)	111 (57%)	--	--	1.64***
Risky sex ^d	34 (38%)	85 (56%)	120 (62%)	1.19**	1.26***	1.06
Risky sex with STD	2 (13%)	18 (60%)	26 (90%)	1.59**	2.14***	1.33*

Notes: *p<.05, **p<.01, ***p<.0001; #149 virgins not included

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