

Drinking location and its association with alcohol use among adolescents in 14 European countries

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Introduction

Adolescent alcohol consumption is strongly related to social context of drinking. With whom, why, when and where adolescents drink strongly impacts quantity of drinking. Furthermore, it has been shown that adolescents' drinking behaviour varies between countries. With this study we aim to analyse the association between drinking location and drinking volume/perceived drunkenness by addressing three questions: (1) Does the association between drinking location and drinking volume/perceived drunkenness vary between countries?; (2) Are specific country factors associated with drinking volume/perceived drunkenness?; And (3) is the association between drinking location and drinking volume/perceived drunkenness moderated by country factors?

Methods

Analyses will be based on a subsample of the 2011 European School Survey Project on Alcohol and Other Drugs (ESPAD). The sample consists of n=38,228 15-16-year-old students from 14 countries. Multilevel regression analyses will be conducted to predict drinking volume and perceived drunkenness by drinking location. At individual level, covariates such as gender, socioeconomic status, drinking frequency, episodic heavy drinking (EHD) and beverage preference will be included in the model. At country level, predictors such as per capita consumption, EHD prevalence, legal drinking age and restrictions on public drinking will be included in the model.

Results

Results on main effects and cross-level interactions of individual and country level predictors will be presented.

Conclusion

Knowledge of the association between drinking location and drinking volume/perceived drunkenness and its possible moderation by country factors provides a useful starting point for the development and implementation of preventive measures and intervention at individual and environmental level.

Keywords: adolescence; social context; alcohol