

Common Predictors of Adolescent Intentions to Gamble, Drink, and Use Cannabis

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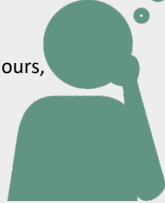
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Background and Methodology

Intentions to engage in risk behaviours has been suggested as a factor that contributes to the engagement in risk behaviours.

A number of variables have been associated with forming intentions to engage in risk behaviours such as: perceived behavioural control, previous behaviours, subjective norms, and attitudes regarding the behaviour.



This study was designed to determine what common variables are associated with the intention to gamble, consume alcohol, or use cannabis in the following 12 months among adolescents.

Sample: 1,237 (final sample 1,053) students in grades 8-10 from Vernon, BC, participating in long-term prevention programming.

Measures:

- **Behavioural Intentions:** "Do you intend to engage in ___ in the next 12 months?"
- **Word Association Task**
- **Open-Ended Outcome Expectancy Liking**
- **Alcohol Consumption**
- **Cannabis Use**
- **Gambling Involvement**
- **Injunctive Norms**
- **Descriptive Norms**

Results

Table 2. Logistic regression of variables associated with intention to consume alcohol or not in the following 12 months.

Variable	Regression Coefficients (B)	Wald Statistics	Odds Ratios
Frequency of Alcohol Consumption	1.421	47.674***	4.143
Frequency Cannabis Use	.265	2.937	1.303
Frequency of Gambling Engagement	-.060	.307	.942
Alcohol Word Associates	.220	6.216*	1.247
Alcohol Outcome Expectancy Liking	.284	6.780**	1.329
Injunctive Norms			
Mother	.401	3.139	1.493
Father	-.399	2.910	.671
Most students at my school	-.236	1.238	.790
Close friends	.294	1.473	1.342
Others like me	.256	.820	1.292
Role models	.192	.674	1.211
Descriptive Norms			
Mother	.064	.315	1.066
Father	-.090	.731	.914
Siblings	.083	.828	1.087
Most students at my school	.000	.007	1.000
Close friends	.004	.283	1.004
Others like me	.001	.017	1.001
Role models	.010	2.630	1.011
Constant	-3.954	59.171***	.019

*p<.05, **p<.01, ***p<.001

Table 3. Logistic regression of variables associated with intention to use cannabis or not in the following 12 months.

Variable	Regression Coefficients (B)	Wald Statistics	Odds Ratios
Frequency of Alcohol Consumption	.780	16.740***	2.182
Frequency Cannabis Use	1.020	18.137***	2.774
Frequency of Gambling Engagement	.034	.083	1.035
Cannabis Word Associates	.189	6.657*	1.208
Cannabis Outcome Expectancy Liking	.213	2.829	1.237
Injunctive Norms			
Mother	.198	.449	1.219
Father	-.209	.474	.812
Most students at my school	-.085	.143	.918
Close friends	-.344	.999	.709
Others like me	.015	.001	1.015
Role models	.580	2.998	1.787
Descriptive Norms			
Mother	-.079	.246	.924
Father	.209	2.261	1.232
Siblings	.016	.020	1.016
Most students at my school	.001	.026	1.001
Close friends	.000	.001	1.000
Others like me	.014	1.581	1.014
Role models	.005	.236	1.005
Constant	-4.140	56.357***	.016

*p<.05, **p<.01, ***p<.001

Results

Table 1. Logistic regression of variables associated with intention gamble or not in the following 12 months.

Variable	Regression Coefficients (B)	Wald Statistics	Odds Ratios
Frequency of Alcohol Consumption	.096	.261	1.101
Frequency Cannabis Use	-.127	.412	.881
Frequency of Gambling Engagement	.346	10.035**	1.414
Gambling Word Associates	.143	5.897*	1.153
Gambling Outcome Expectancy Liking	.358	7.458**	1.430
Injunctive Norms			
Mother	-.001	.000	.999
Father	.269	.368	1.309
Most students at my school	-.477	2.510	.621
Close friends	-.287	.430	.750
Others like me	.785	2.120	2.192
Role models	.002	.000	1.002
Descriptive Norms			
Mother	-.154	.663	.857
Father	.225	2.297	1.253
Siblings	.140	.441	1.151
Most students at my school	-.006	.395	.994
Close friends	-.014	.613	.986
Others like me	.043	6.931**	1.043
Role models	-.002	.011	.999
Constant	-4.088	77.020***	.017

*p<.05, **p<.01, ***p<.001

Conclusions

- * There are two variables that are common significant predictors of the intention to gamble, consume alcohol, or use cannabis among adolescents: *previous frequency of engagement* and *word associations score*.
- * Outcome Expectancy Liking was a significant predictor for intentions to

gamble or consume alcohol.

- * This study has implications for prevention, education, and treatment, in particular addressing previous and current behavioural engagement and memory associations (both measuring and potential interventions).