

Prevention Research Center
Pacific Institute for Research and Evaluation

A National Center for the Study of Environmental Approaches to Prevention of Alcohol-Related Problems

DRINKING CONTEXTS AND PROBLEMS ASSOCIATED WITH EARLY AGE OF FIRST INTOXICATION

Presentation created for PRC's
Resource Link for Community Action
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Highlights

- ❖ Early age of first intoxication ↑ the odds of drinking in outdoor settings.
- ❖ Early age of first intoxication ↑ number of problems associated with drinking in restaurants, outdoor settings, and homes.

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Objectives

- ❖ Drinking and intoxication at an early age has been identified as a primary risk for short- and long-term problems.
- ❖ We investigated:
 1. Contexts associated with first intoxication at an early age (under 15 years old); and
 2. Whether early age of first intoxication is associated with problems related to drinking in these contexts.

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Participants & Procedures

- ❖ 405 adolescent past-year drinkers.
- ❖ In 24 mid-sized California cities.
- ❖ Mean age 16.5 years.
- ❖ 45% female.
- ❖ Surveyed using Computer-Assisted Telephone Interview.



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Measures

- ❖ Being at and drinking in four contexts: Restaurants, Bars or nightclubs, Outdoor places, and Homes.
- ❖ Past year number of problems that occurred before, during, or after drinking in these contexts (e.g., getting into a verbal argument or a physical fight, risky sex, driving after drinking alcohol).
- ❖ Past year drinking frequency, heavier drinking, and age of first intoxication.
- ❖ Demographic characteristics (i.e., gender, age, race, parental education, and weekly spending money).



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Results

- ❖ About third adolescent drinkers reported experiencing first intoxication before 15 years of age.
- ❖ Controlling for the frequency of being in the contexts and demographic characteristics, early age of first intoxication was:
 - Highly associated with drinking at outdoor settings, but not at other contexts including in homes.
 - Associated with increased numbers of problems related to drinking in restaurants, outdoor settings, and homes.



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Conclusions

- ❖ The context in which early drinking occurs may contribute to risky drinking behaviors and problems.
- ❖ Identifying contexts related to early onset and problem use will enable enforcement agents, health practitioners, and parents to modify and control early-age opportunities for use.

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Credits

- ❖ **Presenter:** Sharon Lipperman-Kreda
- ❖ **Publication:** Lipperman-Kreda, S., & Grube, J. W. (2019). Associations of early age of first intoxication with past year drinking contexts and problems. *Substance use & misuse*, 1-8. <https://doi.org/10.1080/10826084.2018.1563187>

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