



# Teenage Dating Violence and Co-Use of Alcohol And Marijuana

## INTRODUCTION

- Students who report alcohol and marijuana use have higher odds of experiencing physical or verbal Teen Dating Violence (TDV)<sup>1</sup>
- Studies analyzing data from the national Youth Risk Behavior Surveillance System 1999–2011 suggest that Black and multiracial high school students are at higher risk of physical dating violence victimization<sup>2</sup>
- Few studies have investigated the association between TDV and the co-use of alcohol and marijuana

## OBJECTIVE

To examine differences between adolescents who do and do not report alcohol and marijuana use and co-use in the past 30 days in their reporting of physical dating violence victimization

## METHODS

### Survey data

- California Healthy Kids Survey (CHKS) for the school years 2014–15 to 2017–18 from 4 California counties
- Cross-sectional samples of 7<sup>th</sup>, 9<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> grade students (N = 694,512)

### Student level variables

- Any Past 30-Day Alcohol use:
  - “During the last 30 days, on how many days did you have at least one drink of alcohol?” with seven response options ranging from “0 days” to “All 30 days.” This variable was dichotomized to represent any past-30-day alcohol use.
- Any Past 30-Day Marijuana Use:
  - “During the past 30 days, on how many days did you use marijuana with six response options ranging from “0 days” to “20–30 days”. This variable was dichotomized to represent any past-30-day marijuana use.
- Any Past 30-Day Alcohol And Marijuana Co-Use:
  - Students who indicated that they had engaged in both alcohol and marijuana use at least once in the past 30 days were classified as alcohol and marijuana co-users.
- Physical Teenage dating violence
  - “Have you been hit, slapped, or physically hurt on purpose by your boyfriend or girlfriend?” (1 = yes, 0 = no)

### Statistical Analyses

- Multi-level logistic regression analyses assessed effects in Stata 15.1

**Table 1** Sample Characteristics

Variables	
7 <sup>th</sup> grade (%)	35.1
9 <sup>th</sup> grade (%)	34.1
11 <sup>th</sup> grade (%)	30.9
Female (%)	49.8
Hispanic (%)	57.8
White (%)	29.6
American Indian/Alaskan Native (%)	3.9
Asian (%)	9.4
Black or African American (%)	6.0
Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander (%)	1.9
Mixed (two or more) races (%)	49.2
Past-30-day Alcohol use (%)	13.3
Past-30-day Marijuana use (%)	9.8
Past-30-day Alcohol and Marijuana co-use (%)	6.4
Physical dating violence (%)	8.9

**Table 2** Results of Multi-Level Logistic Regression Analyses

Variables	Physical dating violence <sup>1</sup>	
<b>Grade</b>		(REF 7 <sup>th</sup> )
	9 <sup>th</sup>	1.02 (.72, 1.43)
	11 <sup>th</sup>	1.00 (.51, 1.97)
Female		.70 (.50, .96)*
Hispanic		.96 (.61, 1.51)
<b>Race</b>		REF (White)
	<i>American Indian/Alaskan Native</i>	1.61 (1.07, 2.41)*
	<i>Asian</i>	0.62 (.48, .81)**
	<i>Black or African American</i>	1.79 (1.17, 2.75)**
	<i>Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander</i>	1.29 (.67, 2.50)
	<i>Mixed</i>	1.25 (.91, 1.72)
Past-30-day Alcohol use		2.90 (2.70, 3.13)**
Past-30-day Marijuana use		3.30 (2.22, 4.91)**
Past-30-day Alcohol and Marijuana co-use		0.59 (0.43, .80)**

<sup>1</sup>Odds ratio (95% confidence interval)

\**p* < .05, \*\**p* < .01

## RESULTS

- Female students were less likely than male students to report physical dating violence victimization.
- Students who self-identified as Black/African American and American Indian/Alaskan Native are almost twice as likely to report physical dating violence victimization than their white peers.
- Students who reported only alcohol use and only marijuana use in the past 30 days were almost three times as likely to report physical dating violence victimization.
- Students who reported alcohol and marijuana co-use in the past 30 days were less likely to report physical dating violence victimization

## CONCLUSION

- There is a positive association between physical dating violence victimization and engagement in marijuana and alcohol use
- However, there is a negative association between physical dating violence victimization and alcohol and marijuana co-use.
- These unexpected results could suggest a protective effect of alcohol and marijuana co-use, which may reflect more moderate use of both substances.

## LIMITATIONS

- The sample may not be representative of all adolescents in California.
- Social desirability and recall error in the surveys.
- Because of the cross-sectional survey data, no causation can be determined
- Lack of information on simultaneous alcohol and marijuana use.

## FURTHER RESEARCH

- Consider other types of teenage dating victimization including verbal, psychological and sexual violence.
- Consider simultaneous alcohol and marijuana use.
- Longitudinal study to establish causation and understand better the relationship between substance use and teenage dating violence

### CONTACT INFORMATION:

Grisel M. García-Ramírez, PhD  
Postdoctoral Fellow  
Pacific Institute for Research and Evaluation, Prevention Research Center  
School of Public Health, University of California, Berkeley  
(510) 883-5723  
ggarcia-ramirez@prev.org

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### REFERENCES

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