Personality and Psychosocial Factors of College Drinking Amount and Frequency

Lindsay A. Vuchetich  
*University of Nebraska-Lincoln*

Tara K. Cossel  
*University of Nebraska-Lincoln*

Laura C. Herschl  
*University of Nebraska-Lincoln*

Dennis E. McChargue Ph.D.  
*University of Nebraska-Lincoln*, dmcchargue2@unl.edu

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Personality and Psychosocial Factors of College Drinking Amount and Frequency
Lindsay A. Vuchetich, Tara K. Cossel, Laura C. Herschl, & Dennis McCharigue, PhD.
University of Nebraska-Lincoln

Introduction

Despite laws in every State that make it illegal for anyone under the age of 21 to purchase, possess, or consume alcohol, young people report that alcohol is easy to obtain and that most high school and college students drink with one goal – to get drunk. Binge drinking is defined as consuming six or more drinks in one sitting for boys and five or more in one sitting for girls. In this exploratory research, several articles were gathered in order to integrate previous findings in the current study. One factor that was linked to the current study was age of first drink, but in previous research, college drinking amount and frequency, for a study by Grissom (2002), age when participants first drink and age of first transaction predicted the level of alcohol-related consequences. This research demonstrated on age of first drink decreases alcohol-related problems such as binge drinking incidents.

Rush, Scherer and Curry (2009) found elevated rates of comorbidity between binge drinking and alcohol-related problems. Alcoholic use disorders and problem drinkers have increased. Using the Five Factor Model, for example, excessive drinking is a personality dimension related to drinking competence (Rush, Becker and Curry, 2009). Results from a large-scale study has also been reported. The study showed that alcoholics who drink more than five drinks at a sitting believed other college students drank more than students who drank less. This finding supports the belief that excessive drinking is positively related to amount and frequency of binge drinking.

In a study by Jones, Oeltmann, Wilson, Brener and Hill (2001) the relationship between miscellaneous substance use and binge drinking was investigated. Results showed that students who binge drink more often were more likely to have used marijuana, cocaine, and other drugs. These students were also more likely to use alcohol. The current study examines binge drinking amount and frequency as they relate to proportion of friends who drink, substance use for coping and proportion of friends who drink alcohol.

Table 1: Descriptive statistics and results from regression analysis

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Variable</th>
<th>Mean</th>
<th>SD</th>
<th>Pearson Correlation with drinking amount &amp; frequency</th>
<th>Significant at *p &lt; .05</th>
<th>Beta Coefficient</th>
<th>R²</th>
<th>Simultaneous Multiple Regression Analysis</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Neuroticism</td>
<td>33.147</td>
<td>5.575</td>
<td>.648</td>
<td>.030</td>
<td>-.019</td>
<td>.097</td>
<td>Strengths of the present study include the fact that there are several significant results. Results are consistent with previous findings that age of first drink decreases college binge drinking amount and frequency.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Age of first drink</td>
<td>19.93</td>
<td>0.943</td>
<td>-.054</td>
<td>.244</td>
<td>.097</td>
<td>.097</td>
<td>The purpose of the present study was to explore predictors of college binge drinking amount and frequency among college students.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Results

The present study analyzes bivariate correlations among five factors and college drinking amount and frequency simultaneously. In order to examine the relationship between these variables, a multiple regression analysis was performed. The results showed that the relationship between neuroticism and binge drinking amount and frequency was significant. For males, neuroticism is positively related to binge drinking amount and frequency. For females, neuroticism is negatively related to binge drinking amount and frequency. The results also showed that neuroticism was negatively correlated to college binge drinking amount and frequency. This finding supports the belief that excessive drinking is positively related to amount and frequency of binge drinking.

Discussion

The purpose of the present study was to explore predictors of college binge drinking amount and frequency among college students. Results showed that neuroticism, proportion of friends who drink and substance use to cope were more significant predictors. For females, neuroticism, age of first drink and experimental drug use were significant predictors. For males, neuroticism, proportion of friends who drink and substance use to cope were more significant predictors. For males, neuroticism, age of first drink and experimental drug use were significant predictors. For females, neuroticism, proportion of friends who drink and substance use to cope were more significant predictors. For males, neuroticism, age of first drink and experimental drug use were significant predictors. Strengths of the present study include the fact that there are several significant results. Results are consistent with previous findings that age of first drink decreases college binge drinking amount and frequency.}

Method

Undergraduate psychology students volunteers to participate in the study via Experimetrix, a website that allows students to sign up for experiments that allows researchers and instructors to track participation. Criteria for participation were that students be under 21 years of age, have used alcohol in the past 12 months, and have used cigarettes, marijuana, cocaine, and other drugs. These students were also more likely to report current use of these substances. The proportion of friends who drink alcohol was assessed using the COPE, a modified version of the Canadian Campus Survey (CCS; Adlaf, Demers, & Gliksman, 2004) was used to assess amount and frequency of binge drinking. The CCS measures amount and frequency of binge drinking. The CCS measures amount and frequency of binge drinking.

The purpose of the present study was to explore predictors of college binge drinking amount and frequency among college students. Results showed that neuroticism, proportion of friends who drink and substance use to cope were more significant predictors. For males, neuroticism, proportion of friends who drink and substance use to cope were more significant predictors. For females, neuroticism, proportion of friends who drink and substance use to cope were more significant predictors. For males, neuroticism, proportion of friends who drink and substance use to cope were more significant predictors. For females, neuroticism, proportion of friends who drink and substance use to cope were more significant predictors. For males, neuroticism, proportion of friends who drink and substance use to cope were more significant predictors. For females, neuroticism, proportion of friends who drink and substance use to cope were more significant predictors.

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