

#259 Stephanie Chan

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The influence of alcohol consumption or drug use prior to sexual intercourse in adolescents

Adolescence is a time when individuals may begin to engage in risky sexual behavior and/or substance use. However, much is still unknown about the impacts of alcohol consumption or drug use immediately before sexual intercourse in this population, as most studies have focused on young adults, produced mixed findings, or have limited generalizability. As unprotected sex poses various health risks such as STIs and unintended pregnancies, having a deeper understanding of this association can help programs that target STI prevention or substance abuse treatment. This project will evaluate whether sexually active U.S adolescents who have consumed alcohol or used drugs prior to their last sexual intercourse are less likely to have used a condom then. Data was collected from 3,032 high school students across the U.S from the 2019 Youth Risk Behavior Surveillance System (YRBSS). Logistic regression was applied to find that sexually active adolescents who consumed alcohol or used drugs before their last sexual intercourse were significantly less likely to use a condom than adolescents who did not, after controlling for various demographic and lifestyle factors. These results help fill in gaps in the literature and provide new insights for interventions to reduce risky sexual behavior and the risk of STIs in sexually active adolescents in the U.S.