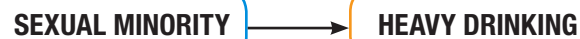


RESEARCH BRIEF:

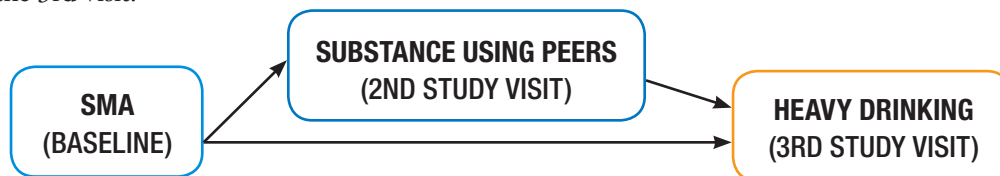
Alcohol Use Among Sexual Minority Teens

Heavy drinking has a negative impact on adolescent health and well-being. There is a direct link between being a sexual minority adolescent (SMA) and heavy drinking.

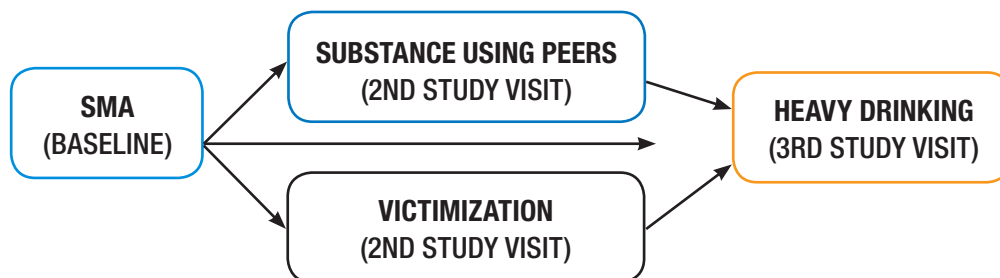


One factor that may explain this link is having friends who use substances. SMAs are likely to have higher rates of this. In turn, this could increase risk for heavy drinking. Our study tested whether this is true in a sample of teens.

Our study had 290 teens (ages 14– 19) from Columbus and Pittsburgh. They completed surveys at baseline and every six months for one year. Overall, 71% were female, 33% were White, and 34% were SMA. We found that SMAs had more substance using peers than non-SMAs at the 2nd study visit and this is related to more heavy drinking by the 3rd visit.



Then we tested whether this relationship holds when we add victimization due to SM status. We found that it did:



Having substance-using peers and facing victimization may help explain why SMAs are at risk for heavy drinking.

[continued]

For more information, visit www.NationwideChildrens.org/CPHER



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The Center for Population Health and Equity Research

Nationwide Children's Hospital's Center for Population Health and Equity Research (CPHER) is a network of researchers and clinicians dedicated to generating new knowledge about what works (and what doesn't) to improve health outcomes and health equity for populations of at-risk children and families.

Our research explores the impacts of health care delivery and funding models, community interventions, and health policies. We envision that our findings will drive improvements in quality, outcomes, disparities, and cost through innovative approaches to health care financing, resource integration, community engagement, and health care.



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Director



Millie Harris, PhD
Program Manager



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