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Introduction

Prescription drug misuse is a major health problem, especially among teens. With these numbers increasing dramatically one is eager to find an explanation to this problem which concerns many individuals. For instance researchers have found that one's socioeconomic status, gender, childhood trauma, anxiety levels, and feeling of depression may be responsible for the decisions some emerging adults make when engaging in these activities (Stewart Thomas D. & Reed Mark B., 2015). In a study, emerging adults were asked if they had experienced any one of nine types of childhood trauma and then looked at whether they had partaken in the use of marijuana or cocaine. The results showed that there was a significant relationship between the young adults who had experienced some sort of childhood trauma and their usage of marijuana or cocaine (Scheidell Joy D. et al., 2017). Our intention was to analyze traumatic incidents within emerging adults and how they relate to substance abuse and compare that to those who have not gone through traumatic experiences. We will also examine other factors associated with traumatic incidents such as depression, anxiety and their social economic status.

Hypotheses

The hypothesize of this study is that if an individual endured a traumatic incident in his or her childhood, then one would be more likely to abuse drugs as a result of incidents he or she endured. It is also believed that traumatic sexual experience, major upheaval between parents, victim of violence, experience death of family member and extremely ill or injured have a negative toll on an emerging adult. It is believed these will all account for an emerging adult to have a history with substance abuse.

Method

Participants

The participants included in this study were young adults. Most people who responded were those in their early and mid twenties. The sample size was N= 58. In choosing participants the study surveys those within the same community college.

Measures

The first questionnaire that was used in the study was a Childhood Trauma questionnaire. Next, a Depression/Anxiety questionnaire and Drug Usage questionnaire was used. These are the five variables used to review in the research study. These variables were used to see the correlation between drug usage among young adults (Dependent Variable) and traumatic sexual experience, major upheaval between parents, victim of violence, experience death of family member and extremely ill or injured (Independent Variables).

Procedure

In this study five variables were used that were being measured. Drug usage among young adults was the dependent variable. The independent variables were traumatic sexual experience, major upheaval between parents, victim of violence, experience death of family member and extremely ill or injured. One questionnaire was sent out that measured all five variables. Within the questionnaire it provided a description of the research, possible risk and discomforts, protection of confidentiality, voluntary participation, contact information and consent. It was made sure that the participants knew what they were signing up for and that they could back out at any moment. The surveys were provided via email. An invitation was sent out to take the questionnaire. Everyone got the same instructions and the same questionnaire.

Group #6

Results



Table 1 Correlations. Spearman's rho. Prior to the age of 17, was there a major upheaval between your parents (such as divorce, separation)?

Table 2 Correlations. Spearman's rho. Prior to the age of 17, did you experience a death of a very close friend or family member?

Table 3 Correlations. Spearman's rho. Prior to the age of 17, did you have a traumatic sexual experience (raped, molested, etc.)?

Table 4 Correlations. Spearman's rho. Prior to the age of 17, were you the victim of violence (child abuse, mugged or assaulted --other than sexual)?

Table 5 Correlations. Spearman's rho. Prior to the age of 17, were you extremely ill or injured?

Table 6 Correlations. Spearman's rho. If yes, how traumatic was this? (7 = extremely traumatic)

Discussion

When looking at the results, it seems that there is a significant relationship between traumatic sexual experience, major upheaval between parents, victim of violence, experience death of a family member and extremely ill or injured as it relates to substance abuse. The results show that the p values are less than the average 0.05. For death of a loved one, the p value = .000 < 0.05. For major upheaval between your parents, the p value = .004. For traumatic sexual experience, the p value = .000. For victims of violence, the p value = .000. For extremely ill or injured, the p value = .001. These values are statistically significant. Hence, we reject the null hypothesis and accept our hypothesis concluding that there is a correlation between all factors studied and substance abuse.

Limitations

A limitation of this study was that some answers could have been falsely categorized by the participants. Another limitation was that the sample size wasn't large enough.

Implications

This study is very important as it relates to the real world because there is some sort of correlation between these variables and substance abuse. Other researchers have proven this in previous studies, so we hoped our study was going to show the same for us (Mandavia, A et al.), (Negele, A et al.).

References

List of references including Scheidell, J. D., Quinn, K., McGorray, S. P., Frueh, B. C., Beharie, N. N., Cottler, L. B., & Khan, M. R. (2018). Childhood traumatic experiences and the association with marijuana and cocaine use in adolescence through adulthood. Addiction, 113(1), 44-56.