

Trajectories of parental and peer supply of alcohol across adolescence and associations with later alcohol drinking and harms: A prospective cohort study

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Introduction and Aims: Parental supply of alcohol to adolescents has been associated with increased alcohol consumption and alcohol-related harms. However, existing studies tend to treat parental supply as a discrete stable state, overlooking time-varying differences in quantity of supply, and ignoring supply from peers. We aimed to identify trajectories of alcohol supply from parents and peers across adolescence and examine supply trajectory as a predictor of subsequent alcohol-related consumption and harms.

Design and Methods: Australian longitudinal survey data (N=1813) were used to model latent trajectories of parent and peer supply to adolescents over five annual follow-ups (Waves 2-6; M_{age} 13.9 to 17.8 years). Regression models assessed associations between supply trajectories and the following at Wave 7 (M_{age} =18.8 years): binge drinking; alcohol-related harms; symptoms of alcohol abuse, dependence and alcohol use disorder (AUD).

Results: We identified a five-class solution of parent and peer supply: 1) no/limited supply (n=739, 40.8%); 2) late peer/parent whole drinks (n=419, 23.1%); 3) early parent sips, mid peer/parent whole drinks (n=293, 16.2%); 4) early parent sips, late peer/parent whole drinks (n=254, 14.0%); 5) early peer/parent whole drinks (n=108, 6.0%). Compared to no/limited supply, all other classes showed increased odds of binge drinking, alcohol-related harms and AUD symptoms at 19 years.

Discussion and Conclusions: Earlier supply of whole drinks, particularly from peers, increases risk of adverse alcohol outcomes in early adulthood. Supply of sips in early to mid-adolescence and delaying supply of full serves until late adolescence still represented a greater risk than no supply in adolescence.

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