

ARE AUSTRALIAN TEENS WITH PARENTAL PERMISSION TO DRINK AT HOME ENGAGING IN RISKIER ALCOHOL USE BEHAVIOURS? RESULTS FROM A NATIONAL SAMPLE

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Introduction and Aims: Parents might allow their underage teens to drink at home to promote responsible drinking practices. This study aimed to determine: 1) What proportion of Australian teens aged 16–17 years were allowed to drink at home in 2016; 2) Whether teens allowed to drink at home were engaging in different alcohol use behaviours and experiencing more related harm vs those without permission; 3) The individual and familial characteristics of teens allowed to drink at home.

Design and Methods: Data were from Wave 7 of the Longitudinal Study of Australian Children. A multivariable logistic regression model was developed to identify factors associated with teens having permission to drink at home.

Results: In 2016, 28% of teens aged 16–17 were allowed to drink alcohol at home; 18% were allowed to take alcohol to parties/social events. Around three-quarters (77%) of teens allowed to drink at home had drunk alcohol in the past month, compared to 63% of those without permission ($p < 0.05$); however, there was no difference in quantity of use between groups. Teens allowed to drink at home were significantly more likely to have experienced any alcohol-related harm compared to those without permission (23% vs 17%). More frequent alcohol consumption by parents was associated with an increased likelihood of allowing teens to drink at home.

Discussions and Conclusions: Young people should be encouraged to delay alcohol use initiation. Parents should avoid permitting alcohol use among adolescents even in environments or circumstances that might be considered 'low risk'.

Disclosure of Interest Statement:

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