

## **UNDERSTANDING THE DEVELOPMENTAL RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN ADOLESCENT ALCOHOL USE AND AGGRESSION.**

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**Introduction and Aims:** Research shows a clear relationship between substance use, particularly alcohol, and aggression however less is known about these factors develop and influence each other over time. Substance use and aggression peak during adolescence making this period a key time to understand the developmental relationship between these factors. The aim is to examine the developmental relationship between alcohol use and aggression and identify whether alcohol use is associated with time-specific elevations in aggression during adolescence.

**Design and Methods:** This study employs prospective data from the Climate and Preventure (CAP) study, a cluster randomized controlled trial conducted between 2012-2015 with 2190 Australian school students. Frequency of alcohol use and aggression were measured in subset of students (n = 1500) repeatedly from baseline (age 13) across four time points. Parallel latent growth modelling was employed to determine the longitudinal relationship between these factors in the sample. Advances in structural equation modelling allow for modelling individual-specific trajectories in aggressive behaviour over time, and explore the time-specific impact of alcohol use on these trajectories.

**Key Findings:** Preliminary results suggest that increasing alcohol use is related to increasing aggression during adolescence. Further, higher levels of alcohol use were associated with time-specific elevations in aggression among adolescents in the sample, over and above what we would expect based on general patterns of aggression among young people.

**Discussions and Conclusions:** This study contributes to the literature by identifying developmental windows of greatest importance in the relationship between alcohol and aggression, with the potential to inform the timing and nature of intervention approaches.