

Personality traits as predictors of pre-drinking levels

DOMINIQUE DE ANDRADE^{1,2}, NICHOLAS TAYLOR¹, KERRI COOMBER¹, JASON FERRIS³, TAYLA LOWEN¹, PETER MILLER^{1,4,5}

¹Centre for Drug Use, Addictive and Anti-social behaviour Research, School of Psychology, Deakin University, Geelong, Australia, ²School of Psychology, The University of Queensland, Brisbane, Australia, ³Centre for Health Services Research, The University of Queensland, Brisbane, Australia, ⁴National Drug Research Institute, Curtin University, Perth, Australia, ⁵Menzies Research Institute, Darwin, Australia.

Presenter's email: <d.deandrade@deakin.edu.au>

Introduction and Aims: Pre-drinking refers to the consumption of alcohol prior to attending a night-time entertainment precinct (NEP); and is associated with experiencing harms in this drinking environment. This study aimed to examine whether pre-drinking behaviour is associated with facets of impulsivity (negative urgency (NU) and sensation seeking (SS)), and conformity to masculine norms (Playboy and Winning).

Design and Methods: Participants (N=509) were randomly recruited via street intercept in two Brisbane NEPs, Queensland. They were invited to complete a street survey and online follow-up survey on pre-drinking and pre-drinking motives, NU, SS, and conformity to masculine norms. Participants were 59% female, with a median age of 21 years (IQR=19-27). Negative binomial regression models examined the association between number of pre-drinks and masculine norms, as well as number of pre-drinks and 1) NU, and 2) SS. Separate mediation models were conducted to examine whether enhancement motives for pre-drinking mediated the relationship between number of pre-drinks and 1) NU and 2) SS. All models controlled for age and gender.

Results: Regression models indicated a significant positive association between number of pre-drinks consumed and SS (IRR=1.33 [95%CI:1.03-1.72], $p < .05$). No other regression models were statistically significant.

Discussions and Conclusions: This is the first known study to examine the relationship between SS and pre-drinking. Findings suggest that pre-drinking is driven by positive emotional arousal; and demonstrate the influence of personality traits on pre-drinking. These results support prior research that emphasises a significant relationship between SS and excessive drinking.

Disclosure of Interest Statement: This study is funded by an Australian Research Council (ARC) Linkage grant (LP160100067), the Queensland Government, Foundation for Alcohol Research and Education (FARE), Australian Rechabites Foundation, and Lives Lived Well. DD receives funding from Victorian Department of Health. NT receives funding from ARC and Australian National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC), the Northern Territory Government, and research grants from the Queensland Government. KC receives funding from ARC, Queensland Government, and Northern Territory Government. JF receives funding from ARC and NHMRC, funding from Queensland Government, Department of Health, Tasmanian Department of Health, FARE, Criminology Research Council, VicHealth, travel and related costs from Queensland Police Service. PM receives funding from ARC and NHMRC, grants from NSW Government, National Drug Law Enforcement Research Fund, FARE, Cancer Council Victoria, Central Australian Aboriginal Congress, Northern Territory government, Australian Rechabites Foundation, Northern Territory Primary Health Network, Lives Lived Well, Queensland Government and Australian Drug Foundation, travel and related costs from Queensland Police Service, Queensland Office of Liquor Gaming and Racing and the Australasian Drug Strategy Conference. He has acted as a paid expert witness on behalf of a licensed venue and a security firm.