

Examining the Effects of Sociodemographic Identity on Adolescent and Current Alcohol Misuse

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Identifying populations at risk of developing alcohol use disorders (AUDs) is essential for preventative medicine and education. Adolescents are likely to misuse alcohol; therefore, education is essential to avoid the widespread development of adolescent AU (Spear, 2018). It was hypothesized that Black and/or Native American participants and low socioeconomic individuals would have decreased risk of developing AUDs. Neurological connections between amygdala, insula, hippocampus, and medial prefrontal cortex were investigated as possible mediators of the relationship between adolescent and current misuse. This study explores the effects of race and socioeconomic status (SES) on the relationship between adolescent and current alcohol misuse. This study investigated a Prolific dataset collected from an online sample by the CAB Lab at UNC-Chapel Hill and the Human Connectome Project (Van Essen et al., 2013). Adolescent misuse significantly indicates the development of current misuse. Participants from lower SES who misuse alcohol as adolescents tend to have higher current misuse scores. Consistent with the literature, our results indicate that Black and Native American individuals do not engage in more adolescent or current misuse (Wade and Peralta, 2017). The association between adolescent misuse and current misuse is mediated by neurological functional connectivity between the insular-amygdala and medial prefrontal-hippocampus.