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LOCATION OF PRESENTING AUTHOR:  
America (North)

TIME ZONE OF PRESENTING AUTHOR: USA MST

TYPE OF SUBMISSION: Poster

MEMBER STATUS:  
Associate Member

ELIGIBLE FOR THOMPSON AWARD: No  
ELIGIBLE FOR ROWEWARD: Yes

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TITLE: Causal mechanisms underlying the associations between putative environmental influences and adolescent substance use

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KEYWORDS: adolescents, substance use, parenting, parent-adolescent relationships, adoption studies

ABSTRACT:

Adolescent substance use (SU) is a pressing public health issue that can lead to later SU disorders and other detrimental outcomes. Genetically informed research indicates a significant contribution of shared environmental influences on adolescent SU (Hopfer et al., 2003). Putative environmental influences on adolescent SU include parental SU, parenting, and parent-adolescent relationship quality. There is mixed evidence that parental SU moderates associations between parenting and adolescent SU and that parenting mediates associations between parental and adolescent SU.

The present study will examine the putative environmental predictors of adolescent SU, using data from the Colorado Adoption Project. Data from adoptive and non-adoptive families will be examined to distinguish whether the associations between

potential predictors and adolescent SU are due to environmental mediation and/or passive *r*GE. We will examine whether the magnitude of influence of parenting on adolescent SU is moderated by parental SU, and whether associations between adolescent and parental SU are mediated by parenting and parent–adolescent relationship quality.

Hopfer, C. J., Crowley, T. J., & Hewitt, J. K. (2003). Review of Twin and Adoption Studies of Adolescent Substance Use. *Journal of the American Academy of Child & Adolescent Psychiatry*, 42(6), 710–719.  
<https://doi.org/10.1097/01.CHI.0000046848.56865.54>

GRANT SUPPORT: DA011015, HD010333, AG046938, DA017637

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