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Liquor Legacies: The impact of parental psychopathology and young adult depression on alcohol use

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ABSTRACT:

Children of alcoholics have increased risks for developing alcohol abuse or dependence. Unhealthy relationships with alcohol may affect daily functioning and increase risks for other health and mental health related issues. These consequences affect subsequent generations (Chassin, et al. 1999). Therefore, we aim to understand whether parental alcohol abuse actually affects an individual's alcohol use or reflects between family effects (such as shared environment or genetics).

Using the National Longitudinal Survey of Youth 1979, we examined the impact of parental psychopathology and young adult depression on alcohol use at age 60. Results differed by whether we employed classic regression approaches versus when compared siblings using the discordant kinship model (Garrison & Rogers, 2016). The covariate approach suggested that all variables of interest were predictive of later alcohol use, whereas the sibling comparisons found that no such effect. In other words, the relationship between parental psychopathology and young adult depression on alcohol use appears to be a between family effect, suggesting that neither directly causes alcohol use at age 60.

References:

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