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TITLE: MAO-A as a candidate gene and childhood parental alcohol use predicting risky behaviors.

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ABSTRACT:

The MAO-A gene has had previous success in candidate gene studies linking maltreatment to antisocial behavior (Baum, 2003), including but not limited to conduct disorder in children (Caspl, 2002, Foley, 2004), aggression in psychiatric patients (Huang, 2004), and alcohol use disorders in a Native American population sample (Ducci, 2007). Each of these previous studies hypothesize that a childhood adversity, in the previous case maltreatment, leads to the antisocial behavior. In the present study, it is hypothesized that another adversity may be parent excessive alcohol use. Using The National Longitudinal Study of Adolescent to Adult Health dataset, five significant hierarchal regressions were completed on the following variables: 1) Participant Age to First Drink; 2) Participant Alcohol Use; 3) Participant Aggression; 4) Participant Cigarette Use; and 5) Participant Age to First Touched Sexually. The first step of the regression included the covariates of participant's birth year, sex, race, and IQ equivalent based on the grades received in high school. The second step included the number of MAO-A base pairs of each allele. The third and final step of each regression was Parent Alcohol Use. The Parent Alcohol Use only served as a predictor in Regression 1. The MAO-A gene did not predict any of the five regressions. However, differences between the steps of the covariates and between the regressions should be studied further,

including why gender no longer predicts Regressions 1,3-5 after the addition of the MAO-A gene to the hierarchal regressions.

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