

Introduction

- Research shows that adverse childhood experiences can lead to an abundance of health disparities and increase the risk for problematic substance use in adulthood, particularly problematic cannabis use.
- Individuals who have experienced four or more adverse childhood experiences (ACES) double their risk of problematic substance use, but research has shown that protective factors, such as social support, can buffer against this cumulative risk.
- Although past research has found that at higher levels social support can buffer against problematic alcohol use, there is a need to understand how the various levels of social support impacts the relation between ACEs and problematic cannabis use.

Goals

- To identify if perceived social support moderates the association between ACES and cannabis use.
- To determine if various domains of perceived social support (friends, family, and significant other support) differentially impacted the association between ACES and cannabis use.

Hypotheses

- Overall perceived social support will moderate the association between adverse childhood experiences and daily cannabis use, in that at low levels of social support will make the association stronger.
- The domains of MSPSS (friends, family, and significant other) will moderate the relation between adverse childhood experiences and daily cannabis use.

Methods

- Participants (N = 382) were recruited from a university subject pool
- Gender: 79.4% female, 20.6 % male
- Ethnicity: 75.9 % Caucasian, 8.1 % African American, 3.4% Latino/Hispanic, 1.3% Asian, .5% American Indian/ Alaskan Native, 1.3% Other, 9.5% multiple ethnicities chosen
- Participants completed a battery of measures
 - Perceived Social Support: Multidimensional Scale of Perceived Social Support (MSPSS)
 - ACES: Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACES) Scale,
 - M = 2.04 (SD = 2.27)
 - Cannabis Use: Drug Use Questionnaire
 - Average Days of Cannabis Use, M = 2.25 (SD = 6.18)

Data Analyses & Results

- Moderation analyses were used to analyze if overall perceived social support and the various domains of MSPSS (family, friend, and significant other) moderated the relation between ACES and cannabis use (CU).

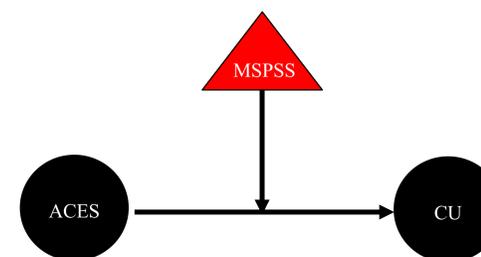
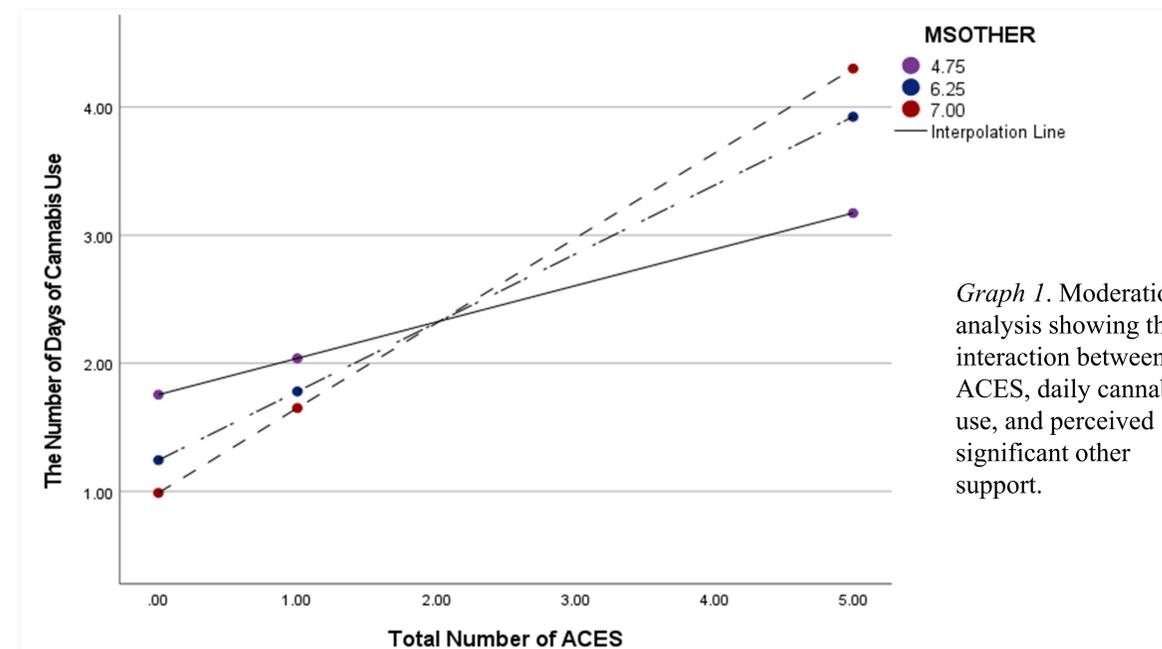


Figure 1. Moderation Analysis where X is ACES, Y is daily cannabis use, and M is perceived social support.

- Findings revealed that perceived support from a significant other significantly moderated the association between ACEs and cannabis use ($b = .17, p = .04$); at higher levels of significant other support, the association was strongest.



Graph 1. Moderation analysis showing the interaction between ACES, daily cannabis use, and perceived significant other support.

Conclusion

- These findings may suggest that the cannabis use of social support figures may impact the cannabis use of the trauma survivor.
- Future work is needed to examine factors like level of cannabis use within a trauma survivor's social network or significant other accommodation of symptoms, which may enhance perceptions of support but also encourage cannabis use.

For More Information

For any questions or concerns please feel free to contact me: Sterling.Hubbard816@topper.wku.edu