

Parental Rejection, Cannabis Craving, and Alcohol Craving among Sexual Minority Youth

Jamie E. Parnes¹, Ethan H. Mereish², Samuel N. Meisel¹, Hayley Treloar Padovano¹, & Robert Miranda Jr.¹

¹Brown University, Center for Alcohol and Addiction Studies, Providence, RI

²American University, Department of Health Studies, Washington, DC

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Introduction

- Parental rejection of their child’s sexual minority identity is related to increased substance use as adults among sexual minorities (Fish et al., 2020, Meyer, 2003).
 - Research has yet to examine if parental rejection relates to sexual minority youth (SMY) substance craving.
- Adolescent substance use is associated with greater drug, mental health, and related issues in adulthood (Haller et al., 2010; Trim et al., 2007).
- Cannabis and alcohol may be particularly important to study, as these are two of the most used substances among adolescents (SAMHSA, 2020).
- Since adolescent substance use is influenced by context, craving can be studied as a salient proxy for use (Ramirez & Miranda, 2014).
- Craving may also be important as sexual minority adults report heightened craving in response heterosexual stigma (Mereish & Miranda, 2019).

This ecological study tested how heterosexual parental rejection related to in-the-moment cannabis and alcohol craving among SMY.

Method

- The analytic sample included subsets of SMY who reported past-month cannabis (n = 37, M = 14 days, SD = 10.9) and alcohol (n = 32, M = 4 days, SD = 3.6) use from a parent study.
- Participants were 67-74% female, 83-84% White, Mage = 17-18 (range = 15-19).
- n = 3-5 participants identified as a gender minority.
- 58-61% were bisexual, 19-22% were gay/lesbian, and 19% were pansexual.
- SMY completed electronic diary records for 30 days. Data was extracted from random daily prompts (5 per day).

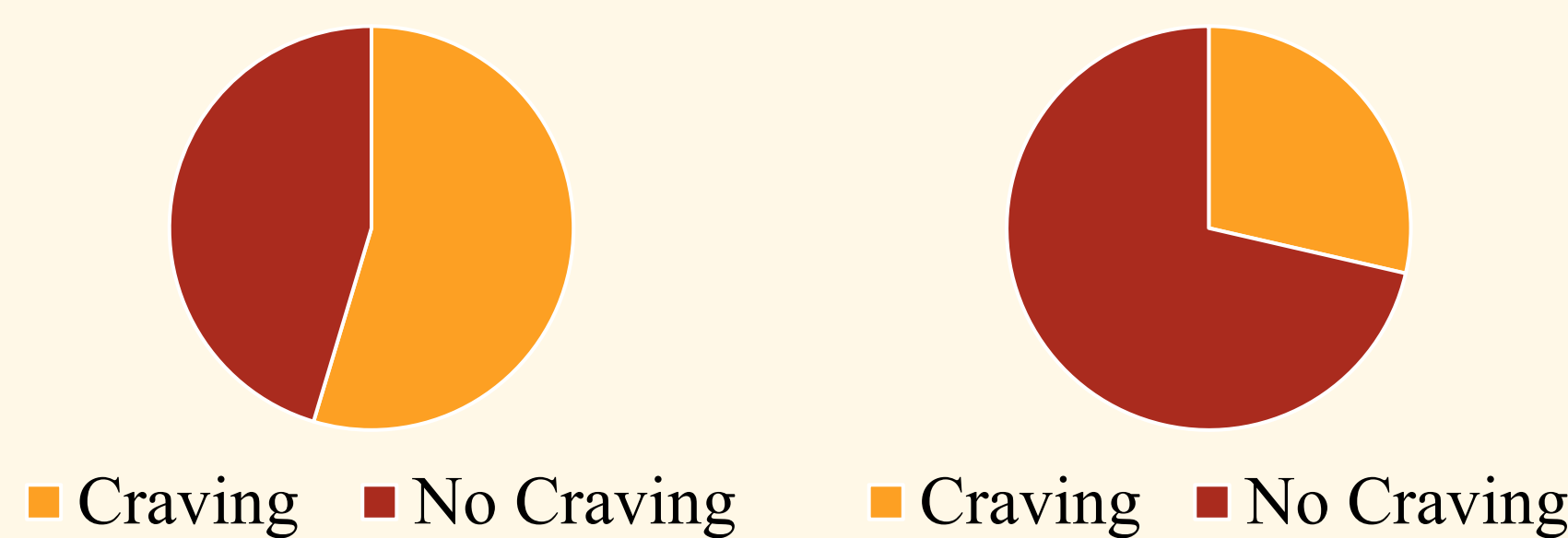
Measures

- Measured at baseline:
 - Sexual Minority Adolescent Stress Inventory: Family Rejection subscale (Schrager et al., 2018)
 - Demographics
 - 30-day Timeline Follow-back for alcohol and cannabis use
- Subjective effects measured in vivo:
 - Cannabis and alcohol craving (10-point visual analog scale), dichotomized to craving (1) or no craving (0)

Data & Analysis

N = 2,885 random reports from cannabis users

N = 2,640 random reports from alcohol users



- Two multilevel logistic regression models were conducted in SAS 9.4
- Family rejection tested as a predictor of momentary cannabis or alcohol craving
- Covariates tested for inclusion*
 - Age
 - Gender identity (cisgender, gender minority)
 - Sexual identity (gay/lesbian, bisexual, pansexual/queer)
 - Race (White, non-White)
 - Ethnicity (Hispanic, non-Hispanic)
 - Presence of peers
 - Baseline cannabis, alcohol, nicotine use
 - Time of day (6am-12pm, 12pm-6pm, 6pm-12am)
 - Weekend vs. weekday
 - Primary residence vs. other location

*only significant covariates were maintained in the final models

Results

Overall, greater parental identity rejection was related to greater odds of cannabis (OR = 5.57) and alcohol (OR = 12.17) craving.

- Controlling for age, peer presence, baseline substance use, weekend status, and time of day.

Multilevel Logistic Regression Odds Ratios (95% Confidence Intervals in Parenthesis)

	Cannabis Craving	Alcohol Craving
Intercept	0.72 (0.41, 1.29)	0.09 (0.04, 0.22)
Family Rejection	5.57 (1.0, 30.90)	12.17 (1.14, 130.32)
Age	0.51 (0.32, 0.81)	-
Peer Presence	1.38 (1.12, 1.71)	1.65 (1.28, 2.12)
Time of Day – 12pm-6pm	1.36 (1.04, 1.78)	1.78 (1.23, 2.57)
Time of Day – 6pm-12am	2.94 (2.25, 3.84)	4.97 (3.47, 7.12)
Baseline Cannabis Use	1.15 (1.09, 1.22)	-
Weekend	1.31 (1.08, 1.60)	1.75 (1.38, 2.21)

Note: Not with peers is the reference group for peer presence, morning is the reference group for time of day, weekdays are the reference group for weekend.

Discussion

- This study provides evidence that parental rejection of their SMY’s identity is associated with increased real-time cannabis and alcohol craving.
- SMY parental identity rejection may confer risk for later substance use by influencing SMY substance craving.
- Clinical implications support need for interventions to reduce parental identity rejection for SMY.
- Future research should examine how SMY identity rejection relates to substance use and related negative consequences.

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