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 to heterosexist stigma (Mereish & Miranda, 2019).

This ecological study tested how heterosexist 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

- 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.

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

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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