

Tobacco, Alcohol and Drugs
Grade 12 / Year 13
Fast Track Project Technical Report
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Citation

Instrument

Bureau of Labor Statistics, U.S. Department of Labor. National Longitudinal Survey of Youth 1997 cohort, 1997-2001. 2002. Produced by the National Opinion Research Center, the University of Chicago and distributed by the Center for Human Resource Research, The Ohio State University.

Elliot, D.S., Huizinga, D.& Ageton, S. S. 1985. Explaining delinquency and drug use. Beverly Hills, CA: Sage.

Report

Sandoval, J. M. (2010) Tobacco, Alcohol and Drugs (Fast Track Project Technical Report). Available from the Fast Track Project Web site, <http://www.fasttrackproject.org>

Data Sources

Raw: C13Z

Scored: TAD13

I. Survey Description

The Tobacco, Alcohol and Drugs survey is a 57-item instrument based on measures used in the National Longitudinal Study of Adolescent Health. This measure was first added to the Fast Track Protocol in study year 8. This measure assesses tobacco, alcohol and illegal drug use. Report of use of legal and illegal drugs prompts further questions about frequency of use and type of substances used. The response options vary based on the type of question asked (e.g., yes-no and open-ended responses).

II. Report Sample

These analyses were conducted on the first cohort on the high-risk Control sample (n = 102) and the Normative sample (n = 236) for the thirteenth year of the study. One-hundred and twenty five records were missing for the complete measure.

The distribution of respondents by site was as follows: for the Control sample, 31 were from Durham, 21 were from Nashville, 29 were from Pennsylvania and 21 were from Washington. For the Normative sample, 73 were from Durham, 42 were from Nashville, 68 were from Pennsylvania and 53 were from Washington.

Table 1 shows the number of participants who used tobacco, drug and alcohol. The most commonly used substance was tobacco (i.e., cigarettes). The second most commonly use substance was alcohol. Very few of the participants in the Control and Normative samples (i.e., 10 Control and 9 Normative) engaged in illegal drug use.

Table 1.

Frequency of Responses for Tobacco, Drugs and Alcohol Use

Question	Control (No)	Control (Yes)	Normative (No)	Normative (Yes)
Have you ever tried cigarette smoking?	28	74	95	140
Have you ever had a drink of alcohol?	9	46	25	105
Have you ever tried psychedelic drugs?*	2	6	5	6
Have you ever tried uppers?*	5	3	9	2
Have you ever tried heroin?*	6	2	9	2
Have you ever tried pills not prescribed by a doctor?*	0	8	1	10
Have you ever injected any illegal drug?*	7	1	10	1

* Note: These questions are subject of a logical step. Respondents are asked first at what age they attempted consumption. Only respondents with valid answers are included in this table.

Table 2 shows the age each member of the Control group first used tobacco, alcohol or drugs. First use is more prevalent from age 13 and older.

Table 2.

Control Sample Age Distribution of First Use of Tobacco, Drugs and Alcohol Use

Question	Age													
	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
Age first smoked cigarettes regularly?	0	0	1	0	0	2	2	3	7	7	10	12	7	6
Age you smoked your first cigar?	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	3	1	1	2	2	1
Age first used alcohol without a parent or adult?	1	1	0	1	1	0	2	0	10	1	7	13	8	1
Age when tried marijuana for first time?	0	0	1	2	1	0	3	4	9	6	9	6	3	4
Age when tried inhalants for the first time?	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	1	2	0	0
Age when first injected illegal drugs?	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	3	2	1

Table 3 shows the age each member of the Normative group first used tobacco, alcohol or drugs. As in the case of the Control sample, first use is more prevalent from age 13 and older.

Table 3.

Normative Sample Age Distribution of First Use of Tobacco, Drugs and Alcohol Use

Question	Age													
	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
Age first smoked cigarettes regularly?	1	0	0	0	0	0	2	5	7	7	10	21	8	5
Age you smoked your first cigar?	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	2	1	6	8	4	4
Age first used alcohol without a parent or adult?	0	0	0	1	1	0	3	3	8	16	23	21	23	6
Age when tried marijuana for first time?	0	0	0	0	0	2	3	7	11	13	18	30	6	8
Age when tried inhalants for the first time?	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Age when first injected illegal drugs?	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	2	30	2	3

III. Differences Between Groups

Tables 4 and 5 display measures of association between sample type and substance use. With regard to tobacco use members of the Control sample are more likely to have tried tobacco than those from the Normative sample. No significant association was found between sample type and trying alcohol two or three times.

Table 4

Association between Tobacco Use and Sample Type

N=337, $\chi^2 = 5.16$, $p < 0.023$			
Count Row Percentage	No	Yes	Total
Control	28 (27.45)	74 (72.55)	102
Normative	95 (40.43)	140 (59.57)	235
Total Cohort 1	123 (36.50)	214 (63.50)	337

Table 5

Association between Alcohol Use and Sample Type

N=337, $\chi^2 = 0.056$, $p < 0.812$			
Count Row Percentage	No	Yes	Total
Control	47 (46.08)	55 (53.92)	102
Normative	105 (44.68)	130 (53.32)	235
Total Cohort 1	152 (45.10)	185 (54.90)	337

IV. Recommendations for Use

The Tobacco, Alcohol and Drugs Survey allows for the standardization of data collection regarding the participant's substance and illegal drug use. The survey measures key factors related to the participant's Tobacco, Drug and Alcohol use. Group mean comparisons are available for the researcher to compare the frequency and onset of drug, tobacco, and alcohol use which might differ between the Normative samples and Control samples. The user is encouraged to examine the sizes of the cells. The high standard errors displayed below are indicative of very low counts.

V. Item Frequencies. Means and SDs

Tables 6 and 7 display frequencies for dichotomous items, means and standard deviations for each of the continuous items not previously discussed. The listed items do not show a significant difference between Control and Normative sample groups.

Table 6
Item Means and Standard Deviations for Answered Items

Question	Control	Control	Normative	Normative
	Mean	SD	Mean	SD
Age when smoked first full cigarette.	13.63	2.83	14.05	2.61
Age first smoked cigarette regularly	14.79	2.31	14.97	2.18
Number of days smoked cigarettes in the past month	18.10	13.10	12.32	13.47
Number of cigarettes smoked in your life time.	1098.44	2557.23	1098.47	2440.40
Number of cigarettes smoked per day in the past month	9.77	14.76	7.12	13.50
Number of days you smoked cigars in the past month.	1.16	4.93	0.75	3.86
Age you smoked your first cigar?	14.82	2.18	15.73	1.69
Number of days used chewing tobacco in the past month	0.42	3.12	0.85	4.72
Age you first used chewing tobacco/snuff	13.33	4.04	15.09	2.43
Age of first alcoholic drink without adult permission	14.46	2.88	15.23	1.92
Number of days you drink alcohol in past year	18.31	54.61	14.68	26.95
Number of drinks consumed each time in the past year	6.30	6.09	4.38	3.47
Number of days had 5+ drinks in a row in the past year	4.77	9.26	8.88	24.34
Number of days gotten drunk on alcohol	5.81	8.04	8.56	20.08
Age when tried marijuana for the first time	13.92	2.62	14.88	1.88
Number of time used marijuana in lifetime	84.87	137.31	53.76	97.26
Number of time used marijuana in past month	4.63	10.66	2.59	8.60
Age you first tried any cocaine	16.57	1.13	16.00	1.73
Number of time used cocaine in lifetime	30.14	47.74	1.33	0.58
Number of time used cocaine in past month	1.23	1.97	0.67	0.58
Age when tried inhalants for the first time	14.40	1.82	0	.
Number of times used inhalants in lifetime	18.40	21.03	0	.
Number of times used inhalants in past month	0	.	0	.
Age first used any illegal drug	16.00	1.51	16.27	1.56
Number of times used illegal drugs in lifetime	101.75	163.73	38.00	55.75
Number of times used illegal drugs in the past month	10.50	12.97	3.27	6.39

Table 7

Frequency of Responses for Drug and Alcohol Use

Question	Control n=102		Normative n=235	
	No	Yes	Yes	No
Have you tried cigarette smoking?	28	74	95	140
Ever smoked cigarette regularly?	13	57	47	66
Smoked 100+ cigarettes in your lifetime?	21	49	56	57
Tried to Quit Smoking in the Past 6 Months?	43	27	64	48
Had drink of alcohol more than 2-3 times?	47	55	105	130
Ever had a drink when not with parents or adults?	9	46	25	105
Ever tried psychedelic drugs?*	2	6	5	6
Ever tried pills not prescribed by a doctor?*	0	8	1	10
Have you ever injected illegal drugs?*	7	1	10	1
Own your own Needle or Syringe?*	1	0	1	0

* Note: These questions are subject of a logical step. Respondents are asked first at what age they attempted consumption. Only respondents with valid answers are included in this table.