Relationship between childhood abuse and substance misuse is mediated by substance use coping motives, in school attending South African adolescents (1)

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1. Introduction

In adult samples, the relationship between childhood abuse and substance misuse is mediated by the belief that substance use helps cope with negative affective states. In adolescent samples, it is unknown whether drug use coping motives play this same mediating role.

2. Methods

Secondary analysis of 1149 school attending adolescents in Cape Town South Africa (2). Average age = 16.24 years. 60% female.

Questionnaires: Childhood Trauma (CTQ); alcohol (AUDIT) and drug problems (DUDIT); Adolescent Coping Orientation (A-COPE), three items assessed drug use to cope.

3. Results

Childhood abuse (emotional, physical and sexual) were associated with alcohol/drug problems, and drug use coping motives.

4. Conclusion

Drug use coping motives mediated the relationships between all three childhood abuse types and alcohol/drug problems.

5. References
