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FACTORS AFFECTING HISPANIC ADOLESCENT

SUBSTANCE ABUSE

A Project

Presented to the

Faculty of

California State University,

San Bernardino

In Partial Fulfillment

of the Requirements for the Degree

Master of Social Work

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by

Patricia Joanne Williams

June 1996

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Approved by:

_____   5-26-96

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Dr. Teresa Morris, Chair of Research Sequence, Social Work

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Max Scott, Executive Director, Boys Republic

ABSTRACT

This paper examines factors affecting substance abuse amongst adolescent males and particularly amongst Hispanic adolescent males. The focus of the study was the association between the substance abuse by these adolescents and their ethnic background, parental substance abuse, and gang affiliation. The study was conducted at a treatment center for troubled youth, and all 59 respondents reported to having been involved in substance abuse to some degree. A positivist design was utilized, and the results pointed to a relationship between substance abuse and both ethnicity and gang affiliation. This particular piece of survey research indicated that even amongst troubled youth, those of Hispanic background appear more susceptible to greater involvement in substance abuse. For Hispanic adolescent males surveyed, gang affiliation was found to increase the likelihood of some types of substance abuse. Bivariate analyses demonstrate these relationships, and the information gained may serve as beneficial to current efforts at working with the target population in the residential treatment setting.

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INTRODUCTION

The search for knowledge about people and their surroundings is a fascinating yet never ending pursuit. It is a centuries old effort that has taken on many different forms and looked at countless subject areas over the years. One of these areas of study can be broadly characterized as social science, or the study of human behavior. It is within this field of social science that social work research has its roots. The purpose of social work research is to explore, describe, or explain some aspect of the human condition (Rubbin & Babbie, 1993).

A number of different approaches have been utilized by social work researchers. These approaches, or paradigms, consist of the specific theory brought to the project, in addition to the basic framework for the research being done. Four different distinct paradigms have been proposed for research: positivist, postpositivist, critical theory, and constructivist (Guba, 1990). The positivist approach is basically the same as the traditional "scientific method" in which the researcher sets out to examine a specific phenomenon and attempts to support her hypothesis about what is happening or why it is happening. The postpositivist paradigm consists largely of descriptive narrative; it is used to explore different events and describe them in detail. Critical theory can be used either to explore, describe, or explain a situation with the distinguishing feature being the ideology that the researcher brings to the project. Critical theorists base their research on the belief that the power relations that exist between two groups, and that the oppression of a certain group is the cause of some undesirable phenomenon that is being examined. The final paradigm, the constructivist approach, consists of gathering information from a

number of sources and sharing the information with the other sources in a circular fashion, with the goal of changing opinions and bringing all parties closer together for a common cause. All of these different paradigms have proven useful and often the paradigm to be utilized is determined by the type of research to be done.

The purpose of this paper is to describe a particular social work research project. The research focused upon the issue of substance abuse amongst adolescent Hispanic males and was designed to examine the relationship between this phenomenon and three distinct factors. Due to the goal of establishing a relationship between distinct factors or variables, a positivist approach was be utilized. The specific areas that are examined within this paper include a definition of the research problem being studied, the design of the research project, an explanation of the sampling and data collection methods, a summary of the analyses that were utilized and a discussion of the findings of the research.

THE PROBLEM

This research project examined the problem of adolescent substance abuse among Hispanic males. The working definition of substance abuse was the use of alcohol, drugs, or any other substances (paint, gasoline, nitrous oxide, etc.). The constructs of frequency of usage, quantity of substance used, and duration of substance abuse were utilized in describing an individual's level or rate of substance abuse. However, it has been stated that any usage of substances by adolescents can be harmful and may lead to serious problems. At minimum, even the one-time user faces the possibility of arrest or

serious health difficulties (Kraft, 1982).

Substance abuse has been a problem in the United States for many years. From the late 19th century when local government recognized drug abuse as a problem and began to regulate drug availability, to the Prohibition period of the late 1920s, to the Reefer Madness scare of the 1950s and into the Crack Wars of the last decade, a variety of public policies and treatment models have been developed to deal with this problem (Brecher, 1972). Alcoholism and drug addiction pose serious difficulties on both an individual and a societal level. The individual may face family conflict, health problems, and involvement in the legal system; substance abuse becomes more of a social problem when considering crime, unemployment, homelessness, and child abuse that have been linked to drug and alcohol dependence (Clark & Hilton, 1991).

In spite of century old efforts at controlling substance usage and numerous prevention and treatment programs to deal with this malady, it continues to be a significant problem in our society. It has been estimated that more than 15 million Americans require treatment for alcoholism or addiction (Peele, 1985). One fact that has become clear through the attempts at dealing with this issue, as well as other problems, is the need to "start where the client is" (Hepworth & Larsen, 1992). This approach involves considering age, culture, gender, ethnic background, and socioeconomic status. In order to develop appropriate prevention strategies and treatment models for substance abuse, the efforts should be specific to a given population. Factors to consider include those mentioned previously in addition to possible reasons for substance usage, norms surrounding drinking and drug taking and the negative consequences that result

(Hepworth & Larsen, 1992). By narrowing the focus of this research to adolescent

Hispanic males, the researcher will look at variables specific to this population and

provide information that will be useful in developing prevention strategies and treatment

models specific to this population.

LITERATURE REVIEW

A number of researchers have examined the phenomenon of substance abuse

amongst different groups. The review of literature pertaining to adolescent Hispanic

males will be examined in four broad categories: 1) The incidence and scope of

substance abuse amongst this group; 2) How the use of substances, and particularly

alcohol, is viewed by the population; 3) Possible causative factors or reasons that may

lead to substance usage and 4) Common problems that seem to result from substance

abuse. It should be noted that the information examined is not all pertaining specifically

to adolescent Hispanic males, but literature on characteristics common to this group,

such as being adolescent, Hispanic, and being male, are examined in order to provide a

general sense of substance usage within the more specific group.

Incidence

Adolescents' involvement with substances, although commonly believed to be

somewhat extensive, is difficult to pin down and consists of estimates obtained by

surveys and interviews of teenagers (Check, 1988). American adolescents report a higher

level of illicit drug use than those of any other industrialized nation. Approximately 60%

of high school students in the United States have tried an illegal drug such as marijuana,

amphetamines, heroin, cocaine, or barbituates by their senior year in high school. Alcohol is the most widely used substance, and over 90% of American adolescents have tried alcohol at least once by their senior year (Newman & Newman, 1991).

Hispanic males are among those with higher rates of heavy drinking and alcohol related problems. One study indicated that approximately 22% of Hispanic males abstained from alcohol usage, 32% were in the low to middle consumption category and the largest population, nearly 47% were in the middle to high consumption category (Caetano, 1989). It has also been reported that there is a probability of greater chronicity of heavy drinking and associated problems among Mexican-American males, particularly in urban areas (Gilbert, 1989).

Finally, adolescent substance abuse has also been compared and contrasted across ethnic groups. One longitudinal comparison found significant differences with the Hispanic group being the lowest in terms of nonusers. The Hispanic group was also one of the two highest users with regard to polysubstance and in terms of highest average frequency of alcohol use. Additionally, the Hispanic group was found to have the highest early alcohol use, as compared to the Black, Asian, and Caucasian groups (Maddahian, et al, not dated).

Attitude Toward Substance Usage

With regard to substance usage, some Hispanics seem to have a more liberal attitude toward the use of substances. Mexican-Americans tend to endorse the use of alcohol and to some extent heavier drinking, for the purpose of celebrating, socializing, or relaxation (Gilbert, 1989). As a result of the degree of acceptance of drinking, even to

the point of significant intoxication, members of the Hispanic culture may be more likely to consume alcohol themselves, and to minimize the drinking patterns of others.

It has been shown that drinking is quite acceptable and even expected amongst Mexican-American males and that the right to use alcohol appears linked with the male provider role. As such, a man is pronounced old enough to drink not on the basis of age, but because he is able to obtain employment (Gilbert, 1989). Additionally, for many adolescent Hispanic males, gang involvement is an integral part of their lives. The gang lifestyle itself has been found to increase the likelihood of involvement in substance abuse (Cervantes, 1992). Smoking a joint in the park and passing it around amongst the homeboys is a ritualistic part of membership in many gangs (Gibbs & Huang, 1989).

Possible Causative Factors

Although specific causation of substance abuse has not been determined, a number of variables have been linked with substance usage. Amongst the Hispanic population, studies have indicated that the use of one or more substances has been linked with lower education levels, lower socioeconomic status, and gender, with males being more likely to consume (Caetano, 1989). For adolescents in general, a clear association between unemployment, social deprivation, and substance use has been noted (Bachman et al, 1984). Additionally, substance abuse by both parents and peers has been hypothesized to have influence on adolescent substance use (Wodarski, 1990). Thus , all of these factors were considered when looking at the target group.

Common Problems

A number of problems have been linked with substance abuse. Hispanic males

have reported problems with spouse, job problems, impaired control, and health related difficulties due to alcohol consumption (Caetano, 1989). A larger number of alcohol related deaths have been found to occur at a younger age amongst the Mexican-American population as compared to other ethnic groups (Gilbert, 1989). Additionally, substance abuse has been linked with delinquent type behavior, traffic accidents, suicide, and school-related problems (Wodarski, 1990). Thus, the possible detrimental effects of substance abuse among adolescent Hispanic males are many and varied.

RESEARCH QUESTION

Numerous studies have been done on the topic of substance abuse, and this issue has been researched from a number of different angles. The information about the incidence of substance abuse by Hispanic males compared to other adolescent groups was seen as an area that could benefit from further study. A number of questions were generated by recent findings. First of all, was the difference in substance abuse between adolescent Hispanics and adolescents of other ethnic groups replicable? Secondly, based on the information about gang membership and substance usage, do Hispanic gang members have a greater rate of substance abuse than other Hispanic adolescents? Lastly, does parental substance abuse increase the likelihood of an adolescent's substance abuse? These three queries were addressed in this research project. The larger research question was the following: Are the factors of ethnicity, gang affiliation and parental substance abuse significantly related to Hispanic adolescent substance abuse?

PURPOSE

The purpose of this research project was to examine the phenomenon of substance abuse amongst Hispanic adolescent males in a court ordered residential facility. The study utilized a positivist design and is descriptive in nature. The use of a positivist design, which is basically the same as the traditional "scientific method" allowed for an in depth look at substance abuse amongst this population while minimizing researcher bias. The study was descriptive in that a number of variables were examined and hypotheses tested in order to describe the substance abuse that occurred amongst the population in question. The following research questions were the focus of the study:

1. Is the rate of adolescent male substance abuse amongst Hispanics related to their ethnicity?

2. Are adolescent Hispanic gang members more likely to be involved in substance abuse than non-gang members?

3. Does parents' abuse of substances increase the likelihood of substance abuse amongst adolescent Hispanic males?

Based on currently existing literature, the following hypotheses were expected to be supported:

1. Substance abuse is likely to occur at a higher rate amongst Hispanic adolescent males, thereby demonstrating a relationship to their ethnicity.

2. Hispanic gang members are more likely to be involved in substance abuse than non-gang members.

3. Parents' abuse of substances increases the likelihood of substance abuse amongst Hispanic adolescent males.

DESIGN

The design that was utilized for this research project is survey research. This method has been described as one of the best methods available to the researcher who is interested in collecting original data for describing a population too large to observe directly (Rubbin & Babbie, 1992). The survey was administered by the researcher to three separate groups and data was collected only once. The unit of analysis was individuals; the study surveyed adolescent males that were placed in a court ordered residential treatment facility.

Survey research has a number of strengths and weaknesses and has been said to be weak in the area of validity and strong with regard to reliability (Rubbin & Babbie, 1992). The strengths for this study include the following: 1) The characteristics of the larger Hispanic male placement population can be described; 2) A number of different variables, such as ethnicity, gang membership, substance abuse, and parental substance abuse could be analyzed simultaneously; 3) The data was collected in a manner which took relatively little time and was quite inexpensive; 4) The adolescents were afforded more anonymity than in interview or direct observation and hence were more likely to be honest in their responses. The use of a survey may also have resulted in the following weaknesses: 1) Due to the use of a standardized questionnaire, the information gathered was rather superficial; 2) The survey may have been somewhat artificial; for example,

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an individual who claimed affiliation in a gang may not actually be a hard core gang member; and finally, 3) The survey couldn't really measure the actual rate of substance abuse by an individual, only what the respondent reported it to be. The survey that was utilized was created by this researcher and was pretested on a few adolescent males who were not participants in the study. The pretest insured that the survey was worded in a manner that was clear and easy to understand (See Appendix 9).

SAMPLING

The study population for this project was approximately 75 adolescent males who had been court ordered to Boys Republic. Boys Republic is a treatment facility which utilizes individual, group, and family counseling in an attempt to reintegrate the adolescent back into his community. The adolescents have all committed crimes and are on probation. The ethnic make-up of the of the population includes Hispanics, Blacks, Caucasians and a smaller number of Asians. Subjects were only accepted on a voluntary basis and there was no consequence for choosing not to participate. A candy bar was offered to all participants upon completing the survey in order to encourage participation. One limitation that this study had was the use of a limited population, which means the results cannot be generalized to the larger population. The results are specific to youth in the aforementioned placement and cannot be generalized to the larger Hispanic adolescent male population.

The type of sampling utilized for this study was purposive sampling and is a type of non-probability sampling. Non-probability sampling does not allow for

generalizations from sample to the larger population but is often chosen for logistical reasons (Rubbin & Babbie, 1992). Purposive sampling is used when the researcher selects the sample based on her own knowledge of the population and the elements and nature of the research. The students at Boys Republic were a population that was well known to this researcher and particularly appropriate for this study. There was a good ethnic mix, most of the students had a history of substance abuse, and many had also been affiliated with a gang. Thus, by using purposive sampling, the adolescents fit the purpose of the study, were accessible, and were convenient and inexpensive to survey.

PROCEDURE AND METHODS

The data gathering methods for this research project were also relatively simple. The subjects were divided into three groups of 18-25 subjects. This researcher conducted the study using one group at a time. The subjects within each group were given a brief statement by this researcher explaining the study and its voluntary nature. Those who chose to participate were given a consent form and the researcher read the consent form to the group prior to their signing. Once collected, each subject was given a questionnaire and a plain envelope. This researcher was available to answer any questions the subjects had about the questionnaire. Upon completion, the subjects returned the questionnaires, sealed in the envelopes, to this researcher. The only identification on the questionnaire was an identification number assigned by the researcher prior to passing out the questionnaires.

As previously mentioned, the questionnaire was created and pre-tested by this

researcher. It was one page in length and consisted of questions focusing on demographics, including county of residence, ethnic background, and the student's age. The questionnaire also addressed whether the parents had a history of substance abuse, the respondent's history of substance abuse, and whether the respondent was affiliated with any gang. The answers to the questions were provided on the form and respondents checked appropriate answers. As such, the data for some of the variables is categorical. Additionally, the responses for some of the questions have names (Black, Caucasian, etc.) and others required affirmative or negative responses (Yes, No). This type of data is nominal data, thus the level of measurement was nominal for many variables, but ordinal for those variables representing frequency, quantity, and duration of substance abuse.

Protection of Human Subjects

The rights and welfare of the adolescents participating in this study were of utmost concern to this researcher. As previously stated, the survey was voluntary. Consent forms were signed by each participant and by their legal guardians. Since the participants were in residential treatment, their temporary legal guardians were the Unit Supervisors of their living units. The participants were living in three different units, and consent was obtained from each of the three Unit Supervisors (guardians). The privacy of the subjects will be safeguarded by protecting the confidentiality of information from the participants and by maintaining their anonymity. As previously stated, the questionnaires were identified only by a random, previously assigned identification number. These efforts protected the rights of the human subjects to be utilized in the

study.

Data Analysis

The level of measurement of variables in this project is nominal or ordinal,
depending upon the variable. However, in all of the various comparisons and cross
tabulations that were done, at least one of the variables was represented by nominal level
data. Thus, the analysis techniques that are appropriate for nominal data were utilized.

The major concept that was examined in this project was substance abuse. The
concept was broken down and defined in terms of quantity, frequency, and duration.
Type of substance used, age of onset, and whether the individual had been arrested while
intoxicated were also be examined as potentially pertinent information. Quantity,
frequency, and duration and type of substances used were the variables used to represent
an individual's rate or level of substance abuse. These constructs were represented by
ordinal level data, and were analyzed with a number of variables to determine whether a
relationship is present. The other variables to be considered were ethnicity (nominal),
gang affiliation (nominal), and parental abuse of substances, which was represented by
frequency that the respondent saw the parent(s) drunk or high (ordinal).

The quantitative procedures that were used to test for a relationship between the
variables is bivariate analysis. The project utilizes crosstabulation tables to display the
relationships between variables. For example, for frequency of substance abuse by
ethnicity, the table indicates various frequency rates of substance abuse for each ethnic
group sampled. This gives a general picture of how frequency of substance abuse relates
to ethnic background. In this case, the independent variable was ethnicity and the

dependent variable was frequency of substance abuse. Crosstabulation tables were also created to compare quantity and duration and type of substance abuse by ethnicity. For the Hispanic population in particular, crosstabulation tables were utilized to compare quantity, frequency, duration, and type of substance abuse by whether the individual was affiliated with a gang and with his parents' frequency of substance abuse, with gang affiliation and parental substance abuse being the independent variables.

In order to test the hypotheses, the Chi square test was utilized. As stated previously, the researcher expected to reject the null hypothesis thereby supporting the research hypothesis in all three situations, as indicated by a significant relationship reflected in the Chi square value. The Lambda statistic was also utilized in order to determine the strength of the relationship in each case. It was expected that quantity, frequency, duration, and type of substance abuse would be related with Hispanic ethnic background. It was expected that the Lambda value would indicate a strong positive association. Furthermore, for the Hispanic respondents, it was expected that the Chi square test would establish a significant relationship between quantity, frequency, duration, and type of substance abuse and the independent variables of gang membership and parental abuse of substances. The Lambda statistic was utilized in these crosstabulations as well, and a moderate to strong positive association was the expected outcome.

RESULTS

The results of the study are broken down into several areas of interest. The first

area to be examined are the demographics of the sample that was surveyed. Secondly, all respondents are depicted in terms of their ethnicity and substance abuse patterns, such as frequency, quantity, duration, and type of substance used. Next, the respondents' parent's substance abuse is reviewed with regard to any effect it may have had upon the respondent's own drug use. Lastly, the individual's drug abuse pattern is examined when controlling for gang affiliation.

<u>Demographics of Study Sample</u>

The age, ethnicity, gang affiliation status, duration of substance abuse, and parental frequency of substance abuse of all respondents surveyed are displayed in Appendix 1 and 2. All of these variables are displayed as nominal or ordinal data, thus the measure of central tendency that is utilized is the mode, or most frequently represented response. As previously stated, the gender of all individuals is male, and all have reported at least some level of substance abuse. Of the 59 respondents, most are in the 15-16 year old category. The majority of the study sample are of Hispanic ethnic background, 22% Caucasian, 22% Black, and about 10% Asian. With regard to reported affiliation with a gang, 54% responded in the affirmative, with almost 46% indicating they were not affiliated with any gang. (See Appendix 1 and 2).

The variables of duration of substance abuse and frequency of parental substance abuse are not typically viewed as demographical data. However, these frequency tables are very pertinent to the results of this study and hence are shown (Appendix 2). With regard to duration of substance abuse, the mode is 2, which indicates that the greatest number of respondents have abused substances for "3-4 years." Representation in this

category accounts for almost half of all respondents. For frequency of parental substance abuse, the mode is 1, indicating the most frequently represented response was "Never." The overwhelming majority (61%) indicated they had never or rarely seen their parents intoxicated.

Substance Abuse Rates When Controlling for Ethnicity

Substance abuse patterns amongst the study sample are compared with regard to ethnicity of the respondents. These comparisons include frequency (1. Less than 1 time per week, 2. 1-2 times per week, 3. 3-4 times per week, or 4. Every day or nearly every day), quantity (1. Slightly drunk or high, 2. Somewhat drunk or high, or 3. Very drunk or high), and duration (1. 1-2 years, 2. 3-4 years, or 3. 5 or more years) of substance abuse in addition to type of substances used (1. Alcohol, 2. Marijuana, 3. Alcohol and Marijuana, or 4. Multiple types, which includes alcohol, marijuana, and one or more of uppers, hallucinogens and "other" types). As seen in Appendix 3, 4, and 5, a relationship was found between the frequency, quantity, and type of substance used and the variable of ethnicity, when (p=.15).

The frequency of substance abuse is related to ethnicity at the .0001 significance level, using the Chi Square test for relationship. In other words, for this particular sample, the possibility of the relationship occurring by chance is less than one in ten thousand. The strength of the relationship, as measured by the Lambda statistic, is moderate at .23 with frequency dependent upon ethnicity (Appendix 3). These results indicate that for this study, the frequency of substance abuse is related to the ethnic background of the respondent. Additionally, members of the Hispanic ethnic background

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reported the greatest percentage (56%) of individuals in the "Every day or nearly every day" category.

The quantity of substance abuse (Appendix 4) is related to ethnicity at the .14 level, when using the Chi Square test for significance. This relationship may occur by chance fourteen times out of a hundred. Also, the Lambda statistic indicates a very weak relationship at only .03. However, when (p=.15), some extent of a relationship is demonstrated for the sample studied. In addition, the Hispanic respondents reported to the highest quantity level ("Very drunk or high") at the highest percentage (48%) of all ethnic groups.

Type of substances used, based on ethnicity of respondent, is depicted in Appendix 5. A slight relationship between these variables is demonstrated, indicated by the significance of .15. The Lambda statistic shows less than moderate strength of relationship at .16 with type of substances used being dependent upon ethnicity. For type of substances used, there were no remarkable trends in the numbers for the Hispanic group of respondents. For duration of substance abuse based upon ethnicity, the Chi Square test showed no significant relationship. The Pearson Value was 8.97 with 8 degrees of freedom and a significance level of .34.

Hispanic Substance Abuse Based Upon Gang Affiliation

The next area that is profiled is the effect of gang affiliation, if any, on substance abuse patterns. The relationship between these variables is tested for the Hispanic sub-group of the study sample. Again, the variables that were tested with gang affiliation (1. Yes, 2. No) include frequency, quantity, and duration of substance abuse in addition to

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type of substances used. The results of the analyses are depicted in Appendices 6, 7, and 8.

The most significant relationships between Hispanic substance abuse and gang affiliation are in the areas of frequency and quantity. As seen in Appendix 6, the relationship between frequency of substance abuse and gang affiliation was found to be quite significant (p=.0004) based on the Chi Square Test. The Lambda Statistic shows a very strong relationship (.78) when gang affiliation is dependent upon frequency of substance abuse, and a moderate relationship (.36) when frequency is dependent upon gang affiliation. Appendix 7 shows that the relationship between quantity of substance abuse and gang affiliation is also significant at a Chi Square significance of .0009. When quantity is dependent upon gang affiliation, the Lambda statistic indicates a fairly strong relationship at .54, and when gang affiliation is dependent, the relationship is equally as strong at .55.

A relationship between type of substances used and gang affiliation was also demonstrated for the Hispanic subgroup of the study sample. As seen in Appendix 8, the significance shown in the Chi Square test is .04. The direction of the relationship is gang affiliation being based upon type of substance used, with a .44 Lambda statistic indicating solid, moderate strength. When type of substances is dependent upon gang affiliation, the Lambda is .000, indicating no strength at all.

The last variable examined for a relationship between substance abuse and gang affiliation was duration. The results are not depicted due to the lack of a significant relationship between duration of substance abuse and affiliation with a gang. For this

crosstabulation, the Pearson Value was 2.2 with 2 degrees of freedom and (p=.34).

Hispanic Substance Abuse Based Upon Parental Frequency

The final area examined in this study, parental frequency of substance abuse and

its effect on respondents' substance abuse was not found to be significant for any of the

variables examined. When paired with frequency of respondents' substance abuse, the

Chi Square test showed a Pearson Value of 11.56 with 9 degrees of freedom and (p=.24).

With regard to quantity based upon parental frequency, the Chi Square Pearson Value

was 8.6 with 6 degrees of freedom and (p=.20). For respondents' duration of substance

abuse based upon parental frequency, the crosstabulation showed a Chi Square Pearson

Value of 7.6 with 6 degrees of freedom and (p=.27). Lastly, for type of substances used

by parental frequency the Chi Square Pearson Value was 7.5 with 9 degrees of freedom

and (p=.58). In summary, when considering Hispanic adolescent males, the reported

frequency by which their parents abused substances was not significantly related to any

of the substance abuse variables for this sample.

DISCUSSION OF FINDINGS

Several significant findings of this research project are worthy of further

discussion. Before examining whether the hypotheses were supported, it is important to

note a possible reason for lack of significant findings with regard to duration. For

respondents' duration of substance abuse, there was no significant relationship found

with ethnicity, gang affiliation, or parental frequency of substance abuse. As previously

reported, almost half of all respondents' reported a duration of "3-4 years." The age

range of participants was 13-18 years old and all had been involved in substance abuse for at least one year. Due to the limited age range, the duration of substance abuse is also limited. It could also be assumed that for this population of troubled youth, an individual could only abuse substances for about three to four years before landing himself in a court ordered placement. Thus, both the age range of the study sample and the fact that they have a history of delinquency may have actually controlled for duration.

The next area to be examined is whether the hypotheses were supported by the results of the study. The first hypothesis was that substance abuse patterns amongst the study sample are significantly related to the ethnicity of respondents. This was supported by three of the four variables examined, with the frequency of substance abuse showing the strongest relationship, at a very high level of significance. The significance level that was acceptable for this set of tests was .15. Although larger than normally allowable, especially in the hard sciences, this was warranted due to the fact that the study sample consisted of troubled youth. As such, all respondents have been arrested and been involved in substance abuse to some degree.

When (p=.15) both quantity of substance abuse and type of substances used were also related to ethnicity. The final variable examined, duration of substance abuse, was not significantly related to ethnicity. For both frequency and quantity, the Hispanic ethnic group had the highest proportion of its respondents in the highest categories, as compared to other ethnic groups. This indicates a trend that Hispanics in this sample have abused substances more frequently and in greater quantities than the substance abuse that occurred amongst the other ethnic groups.

The findings with regard to Hispanic substance abuse and gang affiliation are even more significant. A clear relationship was demonstrated when (p=.05) for three out of the four variables examined. It was determined that higher frequency, greater quantities, and more types of substances were abused by the Hispanics that were affiliated with a gang. This certainly supports the hypothesis that Hispanic adolescent gang members are more likely to be involved in substance abuse than non-gang members.

The final area examined was the relationship of parental substance abuse to the substance abuse by Hispanic respondents. The hypothesis that parents' abuse of substances increases the likelihood of substance abuse amongst Hispanic adolescent males was not supported. There was no significant relationship between frequency of parental substance abuse and the frequency, quantity, duration, or type of substances abused by the study sample. A number of factors may have interfered with this portion of the study. One such factor is the tendency for members of the Hispanic culture to keep family information to themselves; the respondents may not have reported accurately on their parents' substance usage. Secondly, since the youth are in court-ordered placement, they may have feared that higher rates of parental substance abuse would prevent them from eventually being released home. Lastly, the Hispanic subjects view of their parents' substance abuse may have been skewed by cultural beliefs that drinking, and to some extent, drug use, is acceptable, thereby leading to underreporting of parental substance abuse.

Lastly, it is important to emphasize that the study sample utilized was a non-probability sample. Since it was not a random sample, generalizations cannot be made to

the larger Hispanic adolescent male population. The findings and support for hypotheses are applicable only to the Hispanic individuals in the court-ordered treatment center in which the respondents were placed. Overall, the research was fairly successful in that two of the three hypotheses were supported for the limited population studied.

CONCLUSION

In conclusion, this research project was developed after careful consideration of a number of different factors. First, a specific social problem was decided upon, which led to the determination of which paradigm should be utilized. A literature search provided more information on the topic area and some possible variables to consider. Next, the population, sampling, data gathering, and methods of analysis were determined.

As a result of this research project, additional information was provided about substance abuse patterns amongst Hispanic males in a court ordered placement. This information should be useful to individuals working with the particular study population, and trends may be examined for implication to the larger Hispanic adolescent male population. It also may prove helpful in the development of prevention and treatment programs. Lastly, the project shows trends that indicate the need for further research and may provide a guide for continued study in the area of substance abuse patterns.

APPENDIX 1: Frequency Tables Depicting Demographics for Age, Ethnicity, and Gang Affiliation Status

AGE   Age

Value Label	Value	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cum. Percent
13-14 years old	1.00	8	13.6	13.6	13.6
15-16 years old	2.00	28	47.5	47.5	61.0
17-18 years old	3.00	23	39.0	39.0	100.0
	Total	59	100.0	100.0	

Median	2.000	Mode	2.000	Minimum	1.000
Maximum	3.000			

Valid cases   59   Missing cases   0

ETHNIC   ethnicity

Value Label	Value	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cum Percent
caucasion	1.00	13	22.0	22.0	22.0
hispanic	2.00	25	42.4	42.4	64.4
black	3.00	13	22.0	22.0	86.4
asian	4.00	6	10.2	10.2	96.6
other	5.00	2	3.4	3.4	100.0
	Total	59	100.0	100.0	

Median	2.000	Mode	2.000	Minimum	1.000
Maximum	5.000			

Valid cases   59   Missing cases   0

GANG   Gang Affiliation

Value Label	Value	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cum Percent
Yes	1.00	32	54.2	54.2	54.2
No	2.00	27	45.8	45.8	100.0
	Total	59	100.0	100.0	

Median	1.000	Mode	1.000	Minimum	1.000
Maximum	2.000			

Valid cases   59   Missing cases   0

APPENDIX 2: Frequency Tables Depicting Duration of Substance Abuse and Frequency
of Parental Substance Abuse

DURSUB   Duration of Substance Abuse

Value Label	Value	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cum Percent
1-2 years	1.00	19	32.2	32.2	32.2
3-4 years	2.00	27	45.8	45.8	78.0
5 or more years	3.00	13	22.0	22.0	100.0
	Total	59	100.0	100.0	

Median	2.000	Mode	2.000	Minimum	1.000
Maximum	3.000				

Valid cases   59   Missing cases   0

PFREQ   Frequency of parental Sub. Ab.

Value Label	Value	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cum Percent
Never	1.00	23	39.0	39.0	39.0
Rarely	2.00	13	22.0	22.0	61.0
Occasionally	3.00	15	25.4	25.4	86.4
Frequently	4.00	8	13.6	13.6	100.0
	Total	59	100.0	100.0	

Median	2.000	Mode	1.000	Minimum	1.000
Maximum	4.000				

Valid cases   59   Missing cases   0

APPENDIX 3: Ethnicity of Respondent by Frequency of Substance Abuse

ETHNIC   ethnicity   by   FREQSA   Frequency of Substance Abuse

	Count	FREQSA				
		Less tha n 1 time 1.00	1-2 time s/week 2.00	3-4 time s/week 3.00	Every Da y 4.00	Row Total
ETHNIC						
caucasion	1.00		1	8	4	13 22.0
hispanic	2.00	1	5	5	14	25 42.4
black	3.00		2	4	7	13 22.0
asian	4.00	4		1	1	6 10.2
other	5.00				2	2 3.4
Column Total		5 8.5	8 13.6	18 30.5	28 47.5	59 100.0

Page 1 of 1

Chi-Square	Value	DF	Significance
Pearson	38.76641	12	.00011
Likelihood Ratio	27.94469	12	.00564
Linear-by-Linear Association	1.39967	1	.23678

Minimum Expected Frequency -   .169
Cells with Expected Frequency < 5 -   16 of   20 (80.0%)

Statistic	Value	ASE1	Val/ASE0	Approximate Significance
Lambda :				
symmetric	.20000	.10703	1.73510	.08272
with ETHNIC dependent	.17647	.11324	1.43881	.15020
with FREQSA dependent	.22581	.11703	1.74080	.08172

APPENDIX 4: Ethnicity of Respondent by Quantity of Substance Abuse

ETHNIC   ethnicity   by   QUANSA   Quantity of Substance Abuse

| | | QUANSA | | | Page 1 of 1 |
	Count	Slightly drunk o 1.00	Somewhat drunk o 2.00	Very dru nk or hi 3.00	Row Total
ETHNIC					
caucasion	1.00	1	8	4	13 22.0
hispanic	2.00	2	11	12	25 42.4
black	3.00	1	6	6	13 22.0
asian	4.00	3	3		6 10.2
other	5.00		1	1	2 3.4
	Column Total	7 11.9	29 49.2	23 39.0	59 100.0

Chi-Square	Value	DF	Significance
Pearson	12.17299	8	.14365
Likelihood Ratio	11.48696	8	.17560
Linear-by-Linear Association	1.25075	1	.26341

Minimum Expected Frequency -   .237
Cells with Expected Frequency < 5 -   9 of   15 (60.0%)

Statistic	Value	ASE1	Val/ASE0	Approximate Significance
Lambda :				
symmetric	.03125	.09746	.31650	.75163
with ETHNIC dependent	.02941	.06479	.44797	.65417
with QUANSA dependent	.03333	.17649	.18575	.85264

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APPENDIX 5: Ethnicity of Respondent by Type of Substances Used

ETHNIC ethnicity by TYPSUB Type(s) of Substances used

ETHNIC	Count	TYPSUB Alcohol 1.00	Marijuana 2.00	Alcohol and Mari 3.00	Multiple Types 4.00	Row Total
caucasion	1.00			1	12	13 22.0
hispanic	2.00	1	1	4	19	25 42.4
black	3.00			5	8	13 22.0
asian	4.00	1		4	1	6 10.2
other	5.00			1	1	2 3.4
Column Total		2 3.4	1 1.7	15 25.4	41 69.5	59 100.0

Page 1 of 1

Chi-Square	Value	DF	Significance
Pearson	17.05947	12	.14737
Likelihood Ratio	17.10015	12	.14587
Linear-by-Linear Association	6.47157	1	.01096

Minimum Expected Frequency -   .034
Cells with Expected Frequency < 5 -   16 of   20 (80.0%)

Statistic	Value	ASE1	Val/ASE0	Approximate Significance
Lambda :				
symmetric	.07692	.07271	1.00858	.31317
with ETHNIC dependent	.02941	.08693	.33365	.73865
with TYPSUB dependent	.16667	.13418	1.14645	.25161

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```
FREQSA  Frequency of Substance Abuse  by  GANG  Gang Affiliation
Controlling for..
ETHNIC  ethnicity  Value = 2.00  hispanic
```

```
                        GANG            Page 1 of 1
              Count
                      Yes       No
                      1.00|    2.00|   Row
                                       Total
FREQSA
              1.00              1        1
  Less than 1 time                      4.0

              2.00     1        4        5
  1-2 times/week                       20.0

              3.00     1        4        5
  3-4 times/week                       20.0

              4.00    14                14
  Every Day                            56.0

            Column     16        9       25
            Total    64.0     36.0    100.0
```

Chi-Square	Value	DF	Significance
Pearson	18.05556	3	.00043
Likelihood Ratio	22.66286	3	.00005
Linear-by-Linear Association	14.37548	1	.00015

```
Minimum Expected Frequency -      .360
Cells with Expected Frequency < 5 -      6 of    8 ( 75.0%)
```

Statistic		Value	ASE1	Val/ASE0	Approximate Significance
Lambda :					
symmetric		.55000	.14226	2.58128	.00984
with FREQSA	dependent	.36364	.14504	2.18218	.02910
with GANG	dependent	.77778	.17372	2.32817	.01990

```
QUANSA   Quantity of Substance Abuse   by   GANG   Gang Affiliation
Controlling for..
ETHNIC   ethnicity   Value = 2.00   hispanic
```

	GANG		Page 1 of 1
Count	Yes	No	
	1.00	2.00	Row Total
QUANSA			
1.00 Slightly drunk o		2	2 8.0
2.00 Somewhat drunk o	4	7	11 44.0
3.00 Very drunk or hi	12		12 48.0
Column Total	16 64.0	9 36.0	25 100.0

Chi-Square	Value	DF	Significance
Pearson	13.95202	2	.00093
Likelihood Ratio	18.25031	2	.00011
Linear-by-Linear Association	13.06667	1	.00030

```
Minimum Expected Frequency -      .720
Cells with Expected Frequency < 5 -      4 of      6 ( 66.7%)
```

Statistic		Value	ASE1	Val/ASE0	Approximate Significance
Lambda :					
symmetric		.54545	.17812	2.25813	.02394
with QUANSA	dependent	.53846	.13826	3.11805	.00182
with GANG	dependent	.55556	.26708	1.44338	.14891

```
TYPSUB  Type(s) of Substances used  by  GANG  Gang Affiliation
Controlling for..
ETHNIC  ethnicity  Value = 2.00  hispanic
```

	GANG		Page 1 of 1
Count	Yes	No	
	1.00	2.00	Row Total
TYPSUB			
1.00 Alcohol		1	1 4.0
2.00 Marijuana		1	1 4.0
3.00 Alcohol and Mari	1	3	4 16.0
4.00 Multiple Types	15	4	19 76.0
Column Total	16 64.0	9 36.0	25 100.0

Chi-Square	Value	DF	Significance
Pearson	8.03865	3	.04522
Likelihood Ratio	8.61541	3	.03487
Linear-by-Linear Association	6.86095	1	.00881

```
Minimum Expected Frequency -    .360
Cells with Expected Frequency < 5 -    6 of    8 ( 75.0%)
```

Statistic	Value	ASE1	Val/ASE0	Approximate Significance
Lambda :				
symmetric	.26667	.11504	1.72774	.08404
with TYPSUB dependent	.00000	.00000		
with GANG dependent	.44444	.20286	1.72774	.08404

APPENDIX 9: SUBSTANCE ABUSE SURVEY

Substance Abuse Survey   I.D. Number_____

    Please answer all questions to the best of your ability by either filling in the correct
answer or checking off the response that most closely fits your specific situation.

1. What is your gender?   Male_____   Female_____

2. What is your age in years? _____

3. What is your ethnic background?   Caucasian_____   Black_____   Hispanic_____
                                     Asian_____   Other_____

4. What county are you from? _____

5. Do you have any children?   Yes_____   No_____

6. How many times have you been arrested? _____

7. How old were you when you were first arrested? _____

8. Which category does your arrest most closely fit in?   Possession or sale of drugs_____
    Theft of some kind_____   Assault on person_____   Damage to property_____ Other_____

9. Have you tried alcohol or drugs?   Yes_____   No_____

10. Which of the following substances have you used?   Alcohol_____   Marijuana_____
    Uppers-speed, amphetamines, cocaine_____   Hallucinogens-LSD, mushrooms, PCP_____
    Other _____

11. How old were you when you started using substances? _____

12. How often in the past year would you say you got drunk or high?
    Less than 1 time a week_____   1 or 2 times a week_____
    3 or 4 times a week_____   Ever day or Nearly every day_____

13. When drinking or using drugs, do you usually feel:
    Slightly drunk/high_____   Somewhat drunk/high_____   Very drunk/high_____

14. How long have you been using substances?
    1-2 years_____   3-4 years_____   5 or more years_____

15. Have you ever been arrested while using substances or drunk/high from usage?
    Yes_____   No_____

16. Do your parent(s) use alcohol or drugs?   Yes_____   No_____

17. Have you seen your parent(s) drunk/high?   Yes_____   No_____

18. If yes, how often have you seen your parent(s) drunk/high?
    Rarely_____ Occasionally_____ Frequently_____

19. Are you affiliated with a gang? Yes_____ No_____

20. How many months have you been at Boys Republic? _____

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