



Effects of Feelings of Community Disorganization on the Relationship between Generalized Anxiety Disorder and Binge Drinking



Jessica Harrison¹, Keryn Pasch Ph.D., M.P.H²

¹Department of Psychology & ²Department of Kinesiology and Health Education, University of Texas at Austin

Background

- Greater symptoms of Generalized Anxiety Disorder (GAD) are associated with increased prevalence of binge drinking (Quigley & Marlatt, 1996).
- Disordered neighborhoods where feelings of unsafety and community disorganization are common are also associated with increased symptoms of GAD (Casciano & Massey, 2012).
- The role of community disorganization (also known as neighborhood unsafety) in the relationship between anxiety and binge drinking has not been examined.

Hypothesis:

Among those with greater levels of community disorganization, the relationship between symptoms of GAD and binge drinking rates will be exacerbated.

Variables:

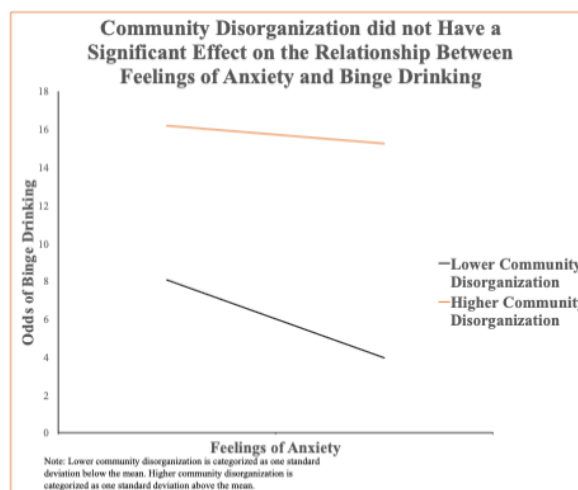
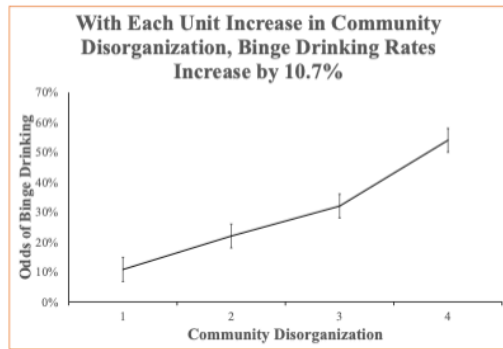
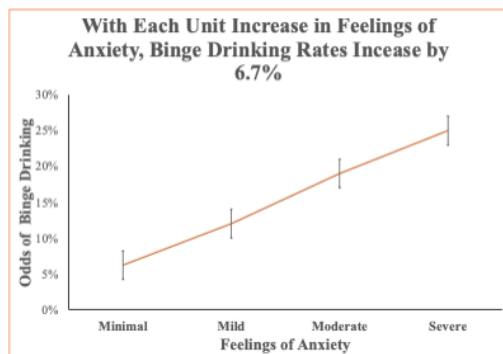
Independent: Binge drinking rates
Dependent: Symptoms of GAD
Dependent: Levels of Community Disorganization

Methods

Participants: 1,630 young adults, ages 18-25 from the Promoting Young Adult Health survey conducted in April 2022.

-Logistic regression analyses, controlling for sex, age, race/ethnicity, full-time student status, and Subjective Social Status, were used to examine the association between community disorganization and the relationship of anxiety and binge drinking.

Results



Summary

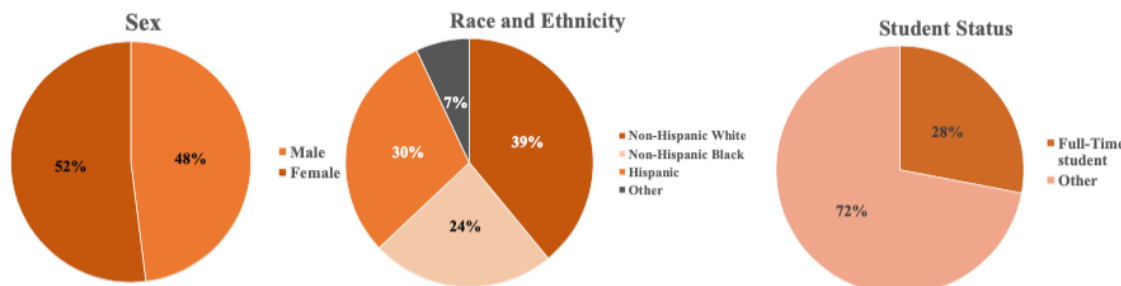
- For each additional unit increase in feelings of anxiety, the likelihood of binge drinking increased by 6.2%.
- For each additional unit increase in feelings of community disorganization, the likelihood of binge drinking increased by 10.7%.
- The relationship between community disorganization and the relationship between GAD and binge drinking was not significant.
- Individuals who were older, men, those who identified as Hispanic/LatinX, full-time students, and those of higher subjective social status had a higher likelihood to binge drink compared to other participants.
- Individuals with higher levels of SES were associated with higher levels of binge drinking.

Conclusions

- Community disorganization did not have a significant effect on the relationship between GAD and binge drinking.
- Community disorganization had a stronger association with binge drinking compared to anxiety.
- This research can improve the study of young adult risk behaviors by emphasizing the role of community disorganization on binge drinking rates.
- Deeper understanding of these factors can be utilized to improve future research on promoting healthier behaviors in young adult populations.

Demographics

Mean Age: 21.8 (SD=2.2)



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