



Behavioral determinants of risky alcohol use in a sample of 528 at-risk young people

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Introduction

Alcohol has a complex role in Portugal. Positive expectancies are found to be related to alcohol use. The underage drinking is forbidden but some parents still provide alcohol to their children. Its consumption by young people deserves special attention, particularly, in a country that has always registered high levels of alcohol consumption. One of the most important social contexts impacting adolescent decisions to use alcohol is the family. To date, there has been little attention paid to institutionalized adolescents substance use.

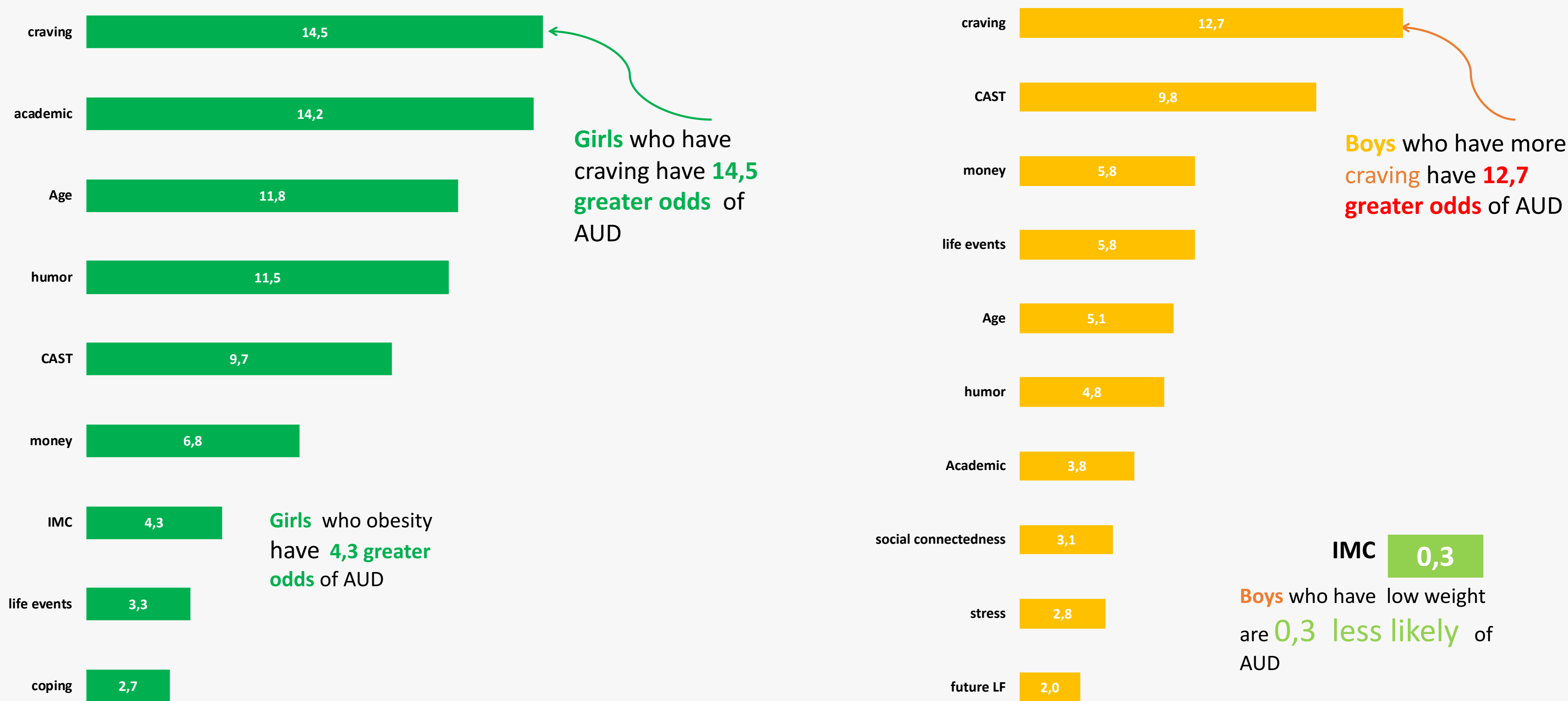
Aim

Evaluate the impact of cumulative risk factors for alcohol use disorders (AUD) in an at risk population. Research in PHD Epidemiology and Public Health under the orientation of Carlos Regueira Mendez

Subjects and methods

Young people, 12-24 years (327 boys and 201 girls), institutionalized in Residential Houses and therapeutic care. A self-reported questionnaire on socio-demographic (age, education, body mass index, weekly allowance) and behavioural characteristics was applied; alcohol consumption were assessed and Alcohol Screening (AUDIT)- Alcohol Use Disorders Identification Test, and Cannabis Abuse Screening Test (CAST) were applied covering the previous year. Scales of craving of alcohol and cannabis, future life satisfaction, life events, stress, social connectedness, negative affect, coping were used.

Odds ratios and 95% confidence intervals (OR; 95%CI) were computed using logistic regression models.



Results

These are some of the preliminary results. For both gender a positive association was found between Alcohol use disorders and craving, cannabis use disorders, age, academic failure, stressful life events, negative affect and week allowance. Some sex differences were evident. Among girls, coping and IMC were significantly associated with AUD. More stressed boys, with more social contacts and more satisfied with future life have more AUD. Among boys a negative association was found between IMC and AUD.

Conclusions

These results are important targets for intervention. The information could be used to adapt preventive interventions and bring more insight to preventive efforts. Family focused intervention programmes is needed.

- <https://doi.org/10.1093/eurpub/ckw>
- SinopseEstatistica17_alcool033- SICAD
- Survey on addictive behaviours in young offenders in custodial facilities (2015)-SICAD

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Author reports no conflict of interest