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Alcohol and Sexual Behavior

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It is known that alcohol and open sexual behavior are related. Does alcohol intake make young adults more receptive to engage in sexual activity? This is an amazing topic that is rather controversial and there are many opinions and debates about this topic. My goal is to find out by conducting this experiment whether there is a relationship between alcohol intake and sexual behavior among young adults. I plan to find that the intake of alcohol by young adults does make you more receptive to sexual behavior, because alcohol alters your thinking and allows you to act more freely. This research will hopefully make people aware of what is happening in the real world. I want to give people a general awareness about this topic. Santelli, Robin, Brener, and Lowry (2002) shows that the relationship between alcohol and other drug use and first sexual intercourse is well established. Santelli et al. (2000) says substance use and sexual risk-taking often occur in the same social venues. Coren (2003) shows specific patterns of substance use during adolescence can predict risky sexual behavior in young adulthood. Bonomo, Coffey, Wolfe, Lynskey, Bowes, and Patton (2001) shows physical injury and high-risk sexual behavior under the influence of alcohol are common in teenagers. These past findings that I mentioned all seem to support my hypothesis of the intake of alcohol by young adults does make you more receptive to sexual behavior.

Method

Participants

I will be using participants that are the age of 16-25 as of June 6th 2003 when the study will be conducted. I will recruit 50 male and 50 female participants by having them volunteer their time to the experiment through a research firm. There will be 25 males and 25 females in Group A which will consume two alcoholic drinks per hour for four hours when the study starts. The other 25 males and 25 females will be assigned to Group B which will not consume any alcohol at the start of the study, but instead will consume water at their own pace.

Materials

The materials that will be used to carry out this study include a credit card to purchase the alcohol at the bar. Participants will also be wearing a micro camera on their body that will record all of their actions. The tape that goes in the camera will also be used in this study. All of this will be provided to the participants when they participate in the study. Participants will also be provided with a pen so they can fill out their consent form and they will be given a feedback letter at the completion of the study.

Procedure

Upon arriving at the lab the participants will be randomly assigned to two groups of 50 (25 males and 25 females in group A and 25 males and 25 females in group B). All participants will be told to wear a micro camera somewhere on their body to record all of their actions while out at the bar. They would then turn their cameras in the next morning so our researchers could study the tapes they provided for us. This study will happen on two consecutive Saturday nights. The participants will be counterbalanced

meaning that the first Saturday night Group A will indulge in the alcohol while Group B will not. The following Saturday night Group B will indulge in alcohol while Group A will not. Once the study is completed and all the tapes have been turned in our researchers will then study the tapes to measure any sexual activity that has occurred. Sexual activity will be defined as little as kissing and all the way to sexual intercourse. After the completion of the study and all tapes has been analyzed the tapes will then be destroyed.

Implications

The results I would expect to find would be that the participants who consumed alcohol will engage in sexual activity more so than the participants that weren't consuming the alcohol, so if they are given a score of 1 when they engage in sexual activity I would expect the total score of the two groups that were drinking to be much higher than the two groups that weren't drinking. If my hypothesis weren't supported I would find no significant difference in either of the two conditions. To test and analyze the data I collect I would use a paired t-test. I would simply add up the score of one for engaging in sexual activity and 0 for not engaging in sexual behavior. Then I would have to determine whether the Null Hypothesis should be rejected by comparing calculated value of t to the critical value of t . If I reject the Null Hypothesis then my independent variable did have an effect, so drinking did have an effect on sexual behavior. If I fail to reject the Null Hypothesis I will conclude that there is no effect on drinking and sexual behavior. This study will be built on in future studies. Sexual activity and alcohol consumption is not a new concept and research will continue to grow in this area. By conducting this survey I hope to give general knowledge to the community so they will

be able to make their decisions after looking at this study. If all goes well I plan to travel to different high schools and universities to present my results so I can give the young adults a learning experience.

References

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