



Alcohol, gender and teenagers: Risk Consumption, beliefs, and peer consumption in Barcelona province



L Camprubi¹; A Oliver¹; J Oliván¹; O Valero²; C Frías¹; X Domènech¹; LC Arias¹; C Olmos¹

¹Department of Public Health, Barcelona Provincial Council, Spain ; ²Servei d'Estadística, Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona (UAB), Spain

INTRODUCTION

- Risk consumption (RC) of alcohol among teenagers is a public health challenge.
- Perceptions regarding alcohol consumption as well as number of friends who have gotten drunk in the peer groups are two of the most relevant determinants. These may affect differently according to gender.
- Surveying teenagers allows us to understand health-related habits, helping us to improve the design of health promotion interventions.

METHODS

- A validated survey on health-related habits was conducted among last compulsory education course students (15/16 years old) in the province of Barcelona, Spain (N = 8078).
- In this research several questions regarding 'alcohol consumption' were addressed. In order to detect risk factors for RC, bivariate chi square tests were performed.
- Variables that presented statistically significant differences were included in a multivariate logistic regression model. Interactions with gender were also considered. The significance level was set to 0.05.

Variables definitions: RC is defined as students that had experienced drunkenness and/or binge-drinking in the past 12 months. Risk perception is an aggregate variable of different questions regarding opinions on effects of alcohol consumption) and is constructed with 3 categories, being "positive" underestimating risks (positive attitude towards alcohol), and "negative" understanding the hazard.

RESULTS

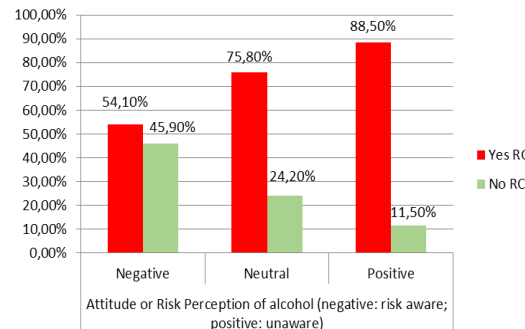
*Regarding RC, among teenagers who have at least once consumed alcohol, no statistically significant differences were found between genders (boys 77%; girls 76%).

Bivariate analysis with RC

*Both, drunkenness among peers and Risk Perception showed statistically significant differences regarding RC (figures below).

Sex	Risk Consumption	Yes	Friends who got drunk at least once				Total
			All or almost all	Some	None	Do not know	
Male	Risk Consumption	Yes	37,1%	25,6%	0,6%	1,5%	64,7%
		No	6,0%	24,2%	2,3%	2,9%	35,3%
	Total		43,1%	49,8%	2,8%	4,4%	100,0%
Female	Risk Consumption	Yes	43,8%	22,1%	0,7%	0,7%	67,3%
		No	9,3%	20,3%	1,5%	1,7%	32,7%
	Total		53,1%	42,3%	2,2%	2,4%	100,0%
Total	Risk Consumption	Yes	40,7%	23,7%	0,6%	1,1%	66,1%
		No	7,7%	22,1%	1,9%	2,2%	33,9%
	Total		48,4%	45,8%	2,5%	3,3%	100,0%

RC according to Risk Perception



Model and interactions

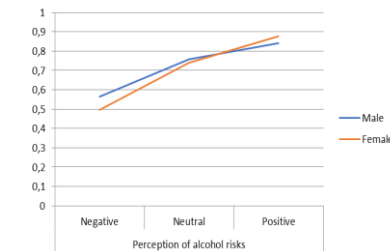
*The multivariate model for RC confirmed that both perception and number of friends who got drunk among peers were relevant.

*Two interactions were found (figures):

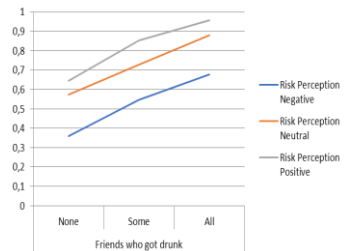
1) Gender with Risk Perception: Risk Perception in girls had more influence on RC than in boys (steeper slope)

2) Risk Perception with drunkenness in the peer group: Risk Perception had more effect on RC among teenagers whose friends never got drunk, compared to teenagers with a peer group where some or all have gotten drunk

RC model: interaction Risk Perception and gender



RC model: interaction friends' consumption and Risk Perception



CONCLUSIONS

- ✓ Drunkenness among friends and risk perception are related to RC. The interaction between RC and risk perception with gender shows that the association is more intense in girls.
- ✓ Health promotion activities should be adapted taking into account these results and interactions.
- ✓ Further research is needed in the causal pathways between these variables.