Abstract

This secondary analysis presents the influence of gender, peers, and social connectedness on drinking behaviors in rural adolescents. Participants in this study were from three rural Texas school districts. They were all in the 12th grade, and more than half were Hispanic. There were 63 males and 77 females. This population has not been studied in depth, and the purpose of this paper is to examine risk and protective factors in rural adolescents in order to find a way to create effective alcohol use prevention techniques. Peer influence was the only variable that was statistically significant related to alcohol use in this sample ($r = 0.671$, $p < 0.001$). It is beneficial to know that peer influence should be targeted when creating alcohol use preventive strategies in rural, older adolescents.