Abstract

The purpose of this cross-sectional correlational study was to examine the influence of religious commitment and parental monitoring on substance use in adolescents.

Participants in this study were all first year freshmen at the University of Texas at Austin in the Fall of 2014. There were a total of 96 females and 60 males who participated in this study with the majority of individuals being of either White or Asian race. The data were collected online by survey and later analyzed using IBM SPSS Statistics version 23.

A total of six research questions were answered through various testing including frequencies, Chi-square, and Pearson $r$ correlations. The correlations between religious commitment and alcohol usage ($r = -0.240, p = 0.003$), religious commitment and marijuana usage ($r = -0.158, p = 0.049$), and parental monitoring and cigarette usage ($r = -0.171, p = 0.003$) were all statistically significant. The most common age at which college freshmen began using substances was 17 years or older. The majority of college freshmen had never used cocaine, sniffed products, heroin, methamphetamines, ecstasy, steroids, or prescription drugs not prescribed for them. There was not a statistically significant difference in substance usage between male and female college freshmen.

Around 21.2% of college freshman surveyed had engaged in binge drinking (>5 drinks of...
alcohol in a row). Lastly, there was a statistically significant difference in cigarette ($\chi^2 = 6.371, p = 0.041$) and marijuana usage ($\chi^2 = 9.998, p = 0.007$) among White, Asian and other races). Other races had the largest amount of reported cigarette (29.4%) and marijuana (41.2%) usage while the Asian race had the least amount of cigarette (5.9%) and marijuana (12%) usage.