SEXUAL ACTIVITY, MARIJUANA USE & ALCOHOL USE IN RELATION TO GENDER FOR NON ADOLESCENT STUDENTS

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Abstract: Despite the vast research by Americans on alcohol use, marijuana use, and sexual activity in relationship to adolescents students little is known about these measurable variables in relationship to gender and individuals who are not considered adolescents but are classified as students in an undergraduate, graduate, or post graduate program. This study examined gender in its relationship to alcohol, marijuana use, and sexual activity. Thirty subjects (n = 15 males, 15 females) participated in this intervention study. Participants were surveyed to collect data that related to alcohol use, marijuana use, and sexual activity. The Harvard School of Public Health conducted three surveys between 1993 and 1999, examining the drug and alcohol use of 44,265 college student’s nationwide. The study found that 9 out of 10 students (91 percent) who use marijuana participate in other high-risk active. College students have more opportunities to have different sex partners and may use drugs and alcohol more often before sex (Butcher et al., 1991), it is likely that college students are at greater risk than adolescents. With increased sexual opportunities and alcohol or drug exposure, students who are not adolescents and attending college will engage in heavier alcohol or marijuana use as well as riskier sexual behaviors. This study examined one hypothesis which was that females would have a higher involvement in the marijuana use, sexual activity, and alcohol consumption. The trend toward increased use of marijuana by college students, as well as teenagers, should be recognized as problematic and addressed by institutions of higher education.