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Marital Status and Religious Commitment Predict Prenatal Tobacco, Alcohol, and Illicit Substance Use in Southern Appalachia

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The Longitudinal Study

- 336 rural, pregnant women in Southern Appalachia
  - Primarily low SES
  - Some high-risk middle/upper SES

- Pregnancy smoking cessation study
  - Smokers who participated in cessation
  - Smokers who did not participate in cessation
  - Non-smokers
The Predictors - Relationships

- Marital Status
  - Married
  - Unmarried

- Cohabitation Status
  - Living with significant other
  - Not living with significant other
The Predictors - Religiosity

- Church Attendance
  - Attends church once/week or more
  - Attends church less than once/week

- Surrender to God
  - High on *Surrender to God Scale*
  - Not high on *Surrender to God Scale*
What is Surrender to God?

- Surrender describes coping through self-relinquishment and submission to God when one’s will is in conflict with God’s will.

- My larger line of research relates to the investigation of surrender as it relates to many health correlates such as stress, social relationships, exhibiting healthy behaviors, and avoidance of risk.
Substance Use Variables

- Cigarettes
- Marijuana
- Alcohol
- Sedative (No Prescription)
- Opiates (No Prescription)
- Cocaine/Crack
- Amphetamine (No Prescription)
- Methadone/Suboxone
- Hallucinogen
- Inhalants
Hypotheses

- Married pregnant women use fewer substances than unmarried pregnant women
- Cohabiting pregnant women use fewer substances than pregnant women living alone
- Frequent church attending pregnant women use fewer substances than pregnant women who infrequently or never attend church
- Pregnant women high on surrender to God use fewer substances than pregnant women who are not high on surrender to God
Substance Use by Marital/Cohabitation Status

- % Not Cohabiting with Partner or Spouse N=121
- % Cohabiting with a Partner or Married N=215
- % Unmarried With or Without Cohabiting N=185
- % Married N=151

Legend:
- Cigarettes
- Marijuana
- Alcohol
- Sedative (No Rx)
- Opiates (No Rx)
- Cocaine/Crack
- Amphetamine (No Rx)
- Methadone/Suboxone
- Hallucinogen
- Inhalants
Substance Use by Church Attendance

- % Not High Church Attendance: N=271
- % High on Church Attendance: N=65

- Cigarettes
- Marijuana
- Alcohol
- Sedative (No Rx)
- Opiates (No Rx)
- Cocaine/Crack
- Amphetamine (No Rx)
- Methadone/Suboxone
- Hallucinogen
- Inhalants
Substance Use by Surrender to God

- Cigarettes
- Marijuana
- Alcohol
- Sedative (No Rx)
- Opiates (No Rx)
- Cocaine/Crack
- Amphetamine (No Rx)
- Methadone/Suboxone
- Hallucinogen
- Inhalants

% Not High on Surrender: N=243
% High on Surrender: N=93
Substance Use by Combined Attendance and Surrender

- Cigarettes
- Marijuana
- Alcohol
- Sedative (No Rx)
- Opiates (No Rx)
- Cocaine/Crack
- Amphetamine (No Rx)
- Methadone/Suboxone
- Hallucinogen
- Inhalants

% Not High on Surrender and Church Attendance N=295
% High on Surrender and Church Attendance N=41
Most Extreme Groups

- % Not Cohabiting with Partner or Spouse N=121
- % Unmarried With or Without Cohabiting N=185
- % High on Surrender and Church Attendance N=41
- % Married AND High on Religious Commitment N=31

Drugs:
- Cigarettes
- Marijuana
- Alcohol
- Sedative (No Rx)
- Opiates (No Rx)
- Cocaine/Crack
- Amphetamine (No Rx)
- Methadone/Suboxone
- Hallucinogen
- Inhalants
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