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## ARTICLES:

- Assessing the Relationship between Marijuana Availability and Marijuana Use: A Legal and Sociological Comparison between the United States and the Netherlands ..... 17-34  
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### ABSTRACT

*The United States and the Netherlands have antithetical marijuana control policies. The United States' laws criminalize the possession of even small amounts of marijuana, while the Netherlands have maintained, over the past several decades, two relatively liberal marijuana policies implemented during the 1970s and 1980s. According to the literature on environmental drug prevention strategies, the Dutch policy should result in increased marijuana use because of the drug's amplified availability, while the United States' policy should result in reduced marijuana use. The empirical evidence addressing these hypotheses, however, is sparse.*

*The stark approaches to marijuana control in the United States and the Netherlands offer the opportunity for an intricate legal and social science analysis. An examination of these divergent policies is important because it implicates, first, the extent to which marijuana, a relatively non-serious drug of abuse, is controlled, and second, the extent to which environmental drug prevention strategies are realized by policymakers in the United States and in the Netherlands. Part I of this essay examines the short- and long-term physical and psychological effects of marijuana use. Part II, first, summarizes the marijuana control philosophy in the United States, and second, examines the prevalence of marijuana use in the United States. Part III first, summarizes the Dutch philosophy on marijuana control, and second, reviews the prevalence of marijuana use in the Netherlands. Part IV discusses the implications of the American and Dutch marijuana control policies in relation to environmental drug prevention strategies.*

- Latent Model Analysis of Substance Use and HIV Risk Behaviors Among High-risk Minority Adults ..... 35-62  
Min Qi Wang, Resa F. Matthew, Yu-Wen Chiu, Fang Yan, & Nikki D. Bellamy, PhD

### ABSTRACT

*Objectives: This study evaluated substance use and HIV risk profile using a latent model analysis based on ecological theory, inclusive of a risk and protective factor framework, in sexually active minority adults (N=1,056) who participated in a federally funded substance abuse and HIV prevention health initiative from 2002 to 2006.*

*Methods: Data were collected locally from community-based organizations using a common baseline instrument that was administered within 30 days of program entry. The latent variables included were social support; neighborhood attachment; family cohesion; intimate abuse; alcohol, tobacco/other drugs (ATOD) use; and HIV risk behaviors.*

*Results: The model-fit indices met acceptable standards for African Americans (CFI = 0.962, TLI = 0.956, RMSEA = 0.033) and for Hispanic/Latinos (CFI = 0.927, TLI = 0.917, RMSEA = 0.047). For African Americans, neighborhood attachment was significantly related to intimate abuse (coefficient = .126,  $p < .01$ ) and family cohesion (coefficient = .281,  $p < .01$ ). Social support was not significantly related to either family cohesion or intimate abuse. Family cohesion was negatively related to ATOD use, which was also related to sex with risk partners and drug-related sex. For Hispanics, neighborhood attachment was significantly related to intimate abuse (coefficient = .209,  $p < .01$ ) and family cohesion (coefficient = .209,  $p < .01$ ). Social support was significantly related to family cohesion (coefficient = .274,  $p < .01$ ), but not related to intimate abuse. Intimate abuse was negatively related to ATOD use.*

*Conclusions: The results support the inclusion of protective factors as a standard implementation approach for prevention programs targeted to the reduction of ATOD use and HIV risk among sexually active minority adults.*

**ABSTRACT**

*Evidence indicates GLB individuals may be at greater risk for high rates of alcohol consumption; however, few studies have identified specific factors explaining why differences exist. Using data from the 2001 College Alcohol Study, we examined the ability of drinking motives and social norms to explain the relationship between sexual orientation and binge drinking among over 7,000 students. Findings suggest drinking motives and norms are important for all college students and may be more relevant than demographic characteristics such as sexual orientation. Prevention efforts focused on motivations for drinking, therefore, may be effective for all students regardless of sexual orientation.*

*Key Words: Alcohol Use, Sexual Orientation, Drinking Motives, Social Norms*