

# Relationship between childhood abuse and substance misuse is mediated by substance use coping motives, in school attending South African adolescents (1)

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## 1. Introduction

In adult samples, the relationship between childhood abuse and substance misuse is mediated by the belief that substance use helps cope with negative affective states.

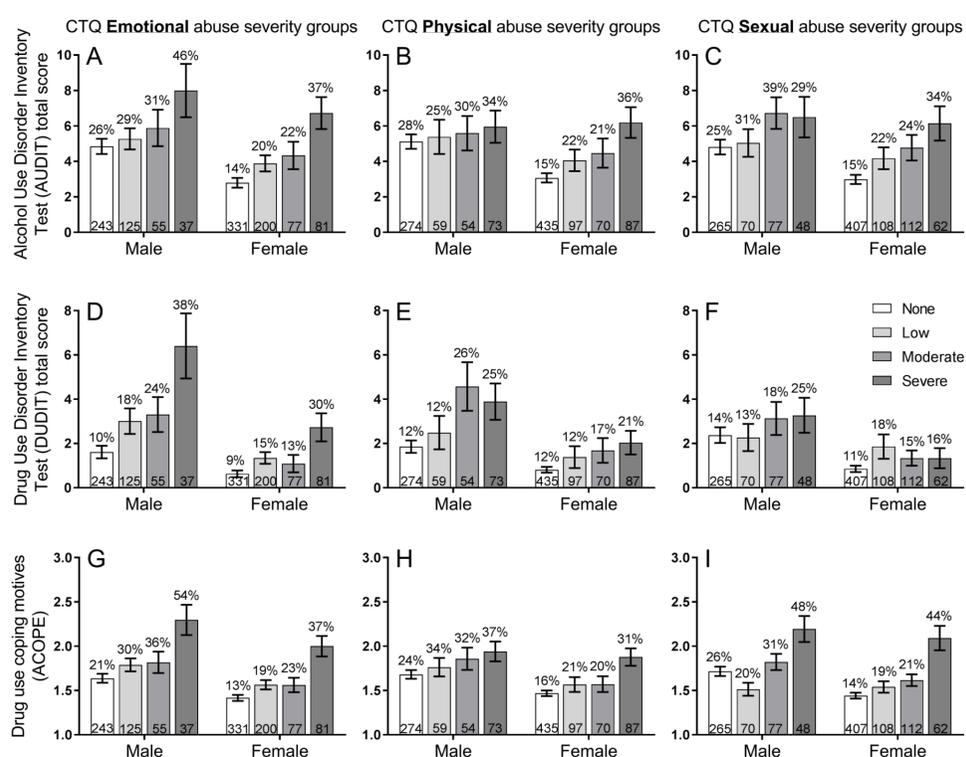
In adolescent samples, it is unknown whether drug use coping motives play this same mediating role.

## 2. Methods

Secondary analysis of 1149 school attending adolescents in Cape Town South Africa(2). Average age = 16.24 years. 60% female.

Questionnaires: Childhood Trauma (CTQ); alcohol (AUDIT) and drug problems (DUDIT); Adolescent Coping Orientation (A-COPE), three items assessed drug use to cope.

## 3. Results



Childhood abuse (emotional, physical and sexual) were associated with alcohol/drug problems, and drug use coping motives.

## 4. Conclusion

This is the first study to demonstration that drug use to cope with negative affect mediates the relationship between childhood abuse and alcohol/drug problems in school attending adolescents. Alcohol/drug prevention programs for high risk adolescents should seek to target drug use coping motives.

A. Mediation models			Component paths			Mediation	
X (predictor)	M (mediator)	Y (outcome)	a path: X→M	b path: M→Y controlling for X	c path: total effect X→Y	c' path: direct effect X→Y controlling for the indirect mediational path	Indirect mediational path: X→M→Y
CTQ Emotional abuse score	A-COPE drug use coping motives	AUDIT total	$\beta=.04$ , CI=.03-.05***	$\beta=4.09$ , CI=3.67-4.52***	$\beta=.26$ , CI=.17-.35***	$\beta=.09$ , CI=.02-.17*	$\beta=.17$ , CI=.12-.22***
			$\beta=.04$ , CI=.02-.05***	$\beta=4.12$ , CI=3.70-4.54***	$\beta=.24$ , CI=.15-.33***	$\beta=.10$ , CI=.02-.18*	$\beta=.14$ , CI=.09-.20***
			$\beta=.05$ , CI=.03-.06***	$\beta=4.17$ , CI=3.74-4.59***	$\beta=.24$ , CI=.13-.34***	$\beta=.04$ , CI=-.05-.13	$\beta=.19$ , CI=.13-.26***
CTQ Physical abuse score		DUDIT total	$\beta=.04$ , CI=.03-.05***	$\beta=2.56$ , CI=2.25-2.87***	$\beta=.19$ , CI=.13-.25***	$\beta=.09$ , CI=.03-.14*	$\beta=.10$ , CI=.07-.14***
			$\beta=.04$ , CI=.02-.05***	$\beta=2.58$ , CI=2.27-2.89***	$\beta=.18$ , CI=.11-.24***	$\beta=.09$ , CI=.03-.14**	$\beta=.09$ , CI=.06-.12***
			$\beta=.05$ , CI=.03-.06***	$\beta=2.72$ , CI=2.41-3.03***	$\beta=.06$ , CI=-.01-.14	$\beta=-.06$ , CI=-.13-.01	$\beta=.13$ , CI=.08-.18***
CTQ Sexual abuse score	AUDIT total	$\beta=.05$ , CI=.03-.06***	$\beta=4.17$ , CI=3.74-4.59***	$\beta=.24$ , CI=.13-.34***	$\beta=.04$ , CI=-.05-.13	$\beta=.19$ , CI=.13-.26***	
		$\beta=.04$ , CI=.02-.05***	$\beta=4.12$ , CI=3.70-4.54***	$\beta=.24$ , CI=.15-.33***	$\beta=.10$ , CI=.02-.18*	$\beta=.14$ , CI=.09-.20***	
		$\beta=.04$ , CI=.03-.05***	$\beta=4.09$ , CI=3.67-4.52***	$\beta=.26$ , CI=.17-.35***	$\beta=.09$ , CI=.02-.17*	$\beta=.17$ , CI=.12-.22***	

Drug use coping motives mediated the relationships between all three childhood abuse types and alcohol/drug problems.

## 5. References

- (1) Hogarth, Martin, Seedat, Drug Alcohol Depend. (In press).
- (2) Martin, Viljoen, Kidd, Seedat. Are childhood trauma exposures predictive of anxiety sensitivity in school attending youth?, J Affect Disord 2014; 168: 5-12.