



Relationships Among Gender, Impulsivity, Parental Monitoring, and Alcohol-Related Problems Among Latinx Adolescents: A Moderated Moderation Model

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INTRODUCTION

- In 2015, 63.2% of high school students reported lifetime alcohol use nationwide while 32.8% of adolescents drank alcohol in the past 30 days⁵.
- Latinx adolescents have among the highest levels of lifetime alcohol (65.9%) and marijuana (45.6%) use⁵. Females report higher rates of alcohol than males⁵, and equal rates of marijuana use as males⁵.
- Impulsivity has been shown to be associated with numerous alcohol outcomes, including: alcohol use frequency⁴. age of first drink⁸, binge drinking frequency², alcohol-related problems⁷, alcohol use disorders³, and marijuana use⁶.
- Higher levels of parental monitoring have been found to reduce the likelihood of alcohol and marijuana use in Latinx adolescents, with effects being more pronounced for Latinx females⁸.

STUDY AIM

- To examine intrapersonal (i.e. impulsivity) and interpersonal (i.e. parental monitoring) variables on substance use outcomes (i.e. alcohol use, alcohol-related problems, and marijuana use), while testing for the moderating role of gender.

METHOD

This is a secondary analysis of a health study of 129 Latinx high school adolescents in Southern California¹.

- Latinx participants a from local high school within the Los Angeles School District completed a series of self-report measures after school during the 2012-2013 academic year.

Table 1
Descriptive Information of the Sample (N = 129)

Variable	Total Sample n = 129 n (%)
Grade Level	
9 th	39 (30.2)
10 th	59 (45.7)
11 th	31 (24.0)
Gender	
Female	77 (59.7)
Male	52 (40.3)
Age	
14	20 (15.5)
15	46 (35.7)
16	50 (38.8)
17	13 (10.1)
Nationality	
U.S.	93 (72.1)
Mexico	23 (17.8)
Central America	10 (7.8)
South American	2 (1.6)
Caribbean	1 (0.8)
Generation status	
1 st /1.5 generation	35 (27.1)
2nd generation	94 (72.9)
Free/Reduced Lunch	
No	9 (7)
Yes	120 (93)

RESULTS

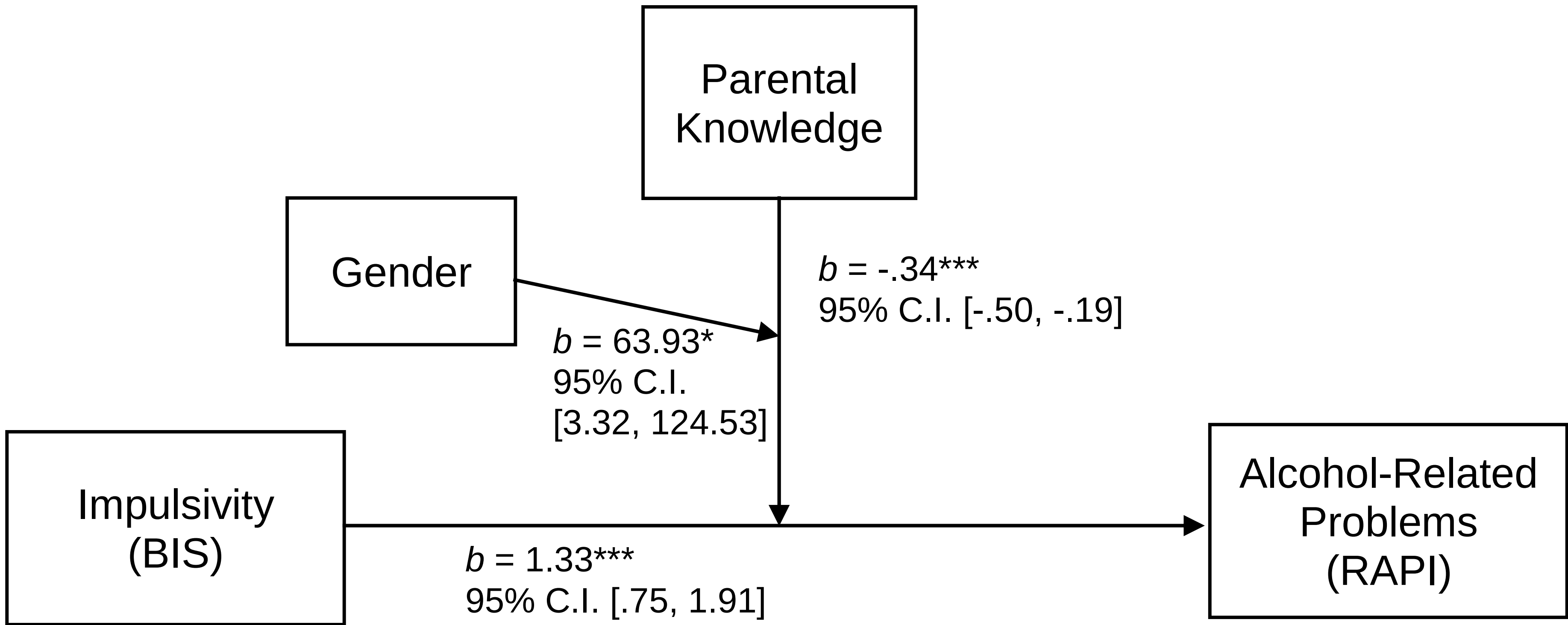


Figure 1. Gender moderates the moderating effects of parental knowledge on the association between impulsivity and alcohol-related problems.
Note. $*p < .05$, $**p < .01$, $***p < .001$.

Table 2
Correlations among All Variables of Interest

Variable	1	2	3	4	5
1. Alcohol use frequency	--				
2. Alcohol-related problems	.43***	--			
3. Marijuana use frequency	.47***	.39***	--		
4. BIS (impulsivity)	.27*	.22*	.31***	--	
5. Parental knowledge	-.259**	-.31***	-.29**	-.33***	--

Note. $*p < .05$, $**p < .01$, $***p < .001$.

Table 3
Means and Standard Deviations for Study Variables

Variables	Males		Females (n = 77)		Overall	
	Mean	SD	Mean	SD	Mean	SD
Alcohol use frequency	0.48 ¹	0.61	0.49	0.64	0.48	0.62 ³
Alcohol-related problems	1.62 ¹	3.51	3.09	6.71	2.50	5.67 ³
Marijuana use frequency	0.60 ²	0.69	0.49	0.71	0.53	0.70 ⁴
BIS (impulsivity)	61.02 ²	9.06	60.13	10.11	60.48	9.68 ⁴
Parental knowledge	3.47 ²	0.74	3.58	0.88	3.54	0.82 ⁴

Note. SD = standard deviation.
¹n = 52, ²n = 51, ³n = 129, ⁴n = 128.

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MEASURES

Barratt Impulsiveness Scale 11 (BIS-11). Uses 11 items to assess impulsiveness among adolescents, with higher scores indicating higher degrees of impulsiveness ($\alpha = 0.781$).

Parental Monitoring Scale (PMS). Assesses adolescents' perception of parental monitoring The PMS has 4 subscales. Parental knowledge ($\alpha = 0.799$) was selected for this analyses.

Alcohol and Marijuana Use. Adolescents self-reported the frequency with which they used alcohol and marijuana.

Rutgers Alcohol Problem Index (RAPI). The RAPI assesses the frequency of alcohol related consequences during the last 3 years ($\alpha = 0.904$).

DISCUSSION

Impulsivity was positively correlated with substance use outcomes

- As expected, higher impulsivity scores were correlated with higher rates of alcohol use frequency, alcohol-related problems, and marijuana use frequency.

Parental knowledge was negatively correlated with substance use outcomes

- As predicted, higher parental knowledge scores were correlated with lower levels of alcohol use frequency, alcohol-related problems, and marijuana use frequency.

Parental knowledge mediated the relationship between impulsivity and alcohol-related problems

- Adolescents with *high* levels of parental knowledge impulsivity had a negative effect on alcohol-related problems.
- Adolescents with *low* levels of parental knowledge impulsivity had a positive effect on alcohol-related problems.
- No significant results were found in regards to alcohol use frequency and marijuana use frequency.

Associations between parental knowledge, impulsivity, and alcohol-related problems differ by gender

- As seen on Figure 1, parental knowledge moderated the effects of impulsivity on alcohol-related problems for females only.

Limitations

- Relatively small sample of regular alcohol or marijuana users.
- The Latinx sample was predominantly of Mexican heritage, and from the Los Angeles area so the results may not generalize across other Latinx groups.

Implications

- Parental units should maintain high levels of parental knowledge on Latinx high school female adolescents to reduce the likelihood of alcohol-related problems.
- Interventions that take family structure into account.

Future Directions

- Investigate factors that reduce alcohol and marijuana use frequency.
- More diversity racially/ethnically and regionally, to be able to generalize results.