Autism and Substance Use

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Autism Spectrum Disorder

“Persistent deficit in social communication and social interaction” (DSM V)

“Restrictive, repetitive patterns of behavior, interests, or activities” (DSM V)

https://goo.gl/images/4isiSj
Past research has suggested that substance abuse could be rare in individuals with ASD. (Ramos et al. 2013; Santosh and Mijovic, 2006)

Recent research suggests that this may not be the case; as there has been an increase in evidence that suggests individuals with autism might have a higher risk for substance use. (Butwicka et al., 2017; De Alwis et al., 2008)
Gap

There is very little research on the relationship between ASD and Substance Use.
Research Questions & Hypotheses

Should there be a difference in the approach, prevention, and treatment of substance use disorders for adolescents with ASD?

- Because of the social deficits and restricted and repetitive behaviors seen in individuals, particularly adolescents, who have ASD; there should be a difference in the approach towards prevention and treatment of substance use in adolescents with ASD.

Are school prevention programs for substance use disorders sensitive towards the social deficits, and/or restrictive repetitive behaviors seen in adolescents with ASD?

- Because of the previous research suggesting that that it’s rare for individuals with ASD to suffer from a SUD, it’s likely that prevention programs are not sensitive towards the social deficits and or restrictive repetitive behaviors seen in individuals with ASD.
Data Collection & Analysis

IRB APPROVAL

Needs-Based Assessment emailed to 1912 certified CT Health teachers who are in the Educator Data System (EDS) for the 2017-2018 school year

Data specifically regarding substance use in Health Education will be analyzed using descriptive statistics

Results and Discussion to Follow
References


