

Parent drinking and adolescent drinking

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The Longitudinal Study of Australian Children (LSAC)

- Nationally representative
- Two cohorts, older and younger
- Older cohort aged 14-15 years old in 2014
- A lot of information about parents and children

Measures used in this study

- Adolescent drinking (at ages 14-15 years old)
- Parent drinking (when child was aged 12-13 years old)
- Controls (parents' age, parents' smoking, education, past alcohol problems, material disadvantage, non-English-speaking background, religiosity)
- Focusing on two-parent households only

Average number of drinks per week for parents

- Mothers – 3 (95% CI 2.9, 3.3)
- Fathers – 7 (6.7, 7.8)

Prevalence of heavy episodic drinking in parents

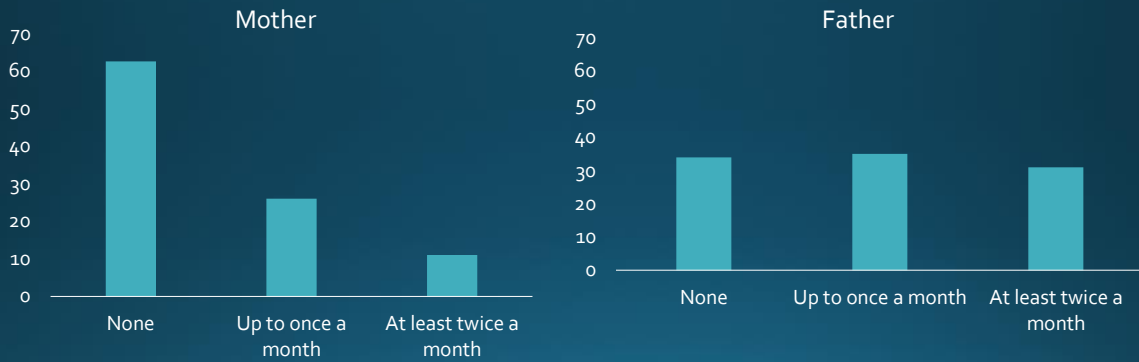


Figure 1

Parent heavy episodic drinking and adolescent drinking

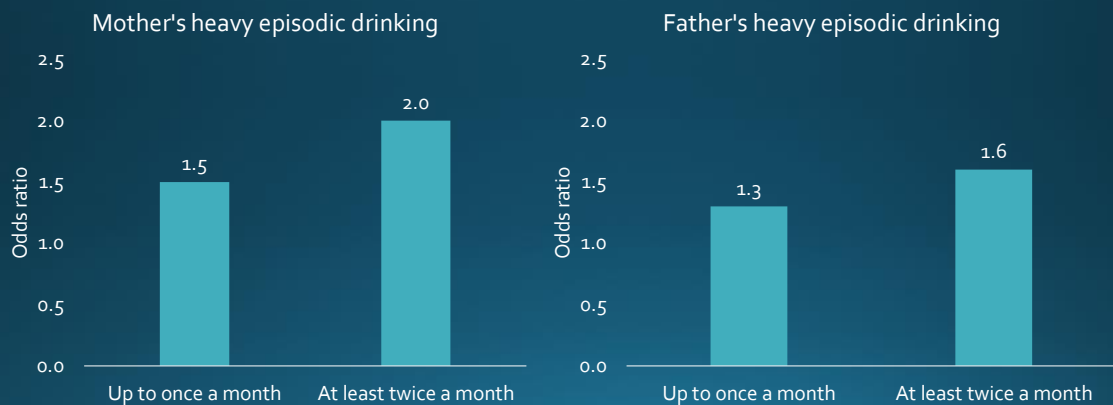


Figure 2

Are there differences for boys and girls?



Figure 3

Why is father drinking more risky for girls?

- Girls may be more vulnerable to family stress
- Poor relationships with fathers and earlier puberty, deviant peers
- Preliminary follow-up analysis shows that fathers' drinking predicts girls' involvement with friends who drink, and this subsequently predicts girls' drinking. The same is not true for boys (or mothers' drinking)

Conclusions

1. Heavy episodic drinking in parents increases the likelihood of adolescent drinking
2. Father drinking is important for girls
3. Father drinking may leads to girls having friends who drink

Need better integration of parental monitoring, peers, other measures of parenting, over time

Thank you!

- Questions?
- Disclosure of interest: we have no conflicts of interest to disclose