Factors associated with cannabis use among adolescents: the role of parents, peers, attitudes and skills

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INTRODUCTION
Cannabis is the most frequently used illicit drug among adolescents. In order to prevent initiation of use, risk factors should be identified.

OBJECTIVES
The purpose of this study is to investigate risk factors for adolescent lifetime cannabis use and to evaluate differences by gender and socio-economic status.

METHODS
This is a secondary analysis of the baseline survey of the EU-Dap (European Drug Addition Prevention) randomized controlled trial. The analytical sample included 12-14 years old students from seven European countries who participated in the baseline survey of the trial and answered the questions investigating lifetime cannabis use. Socio-demographic characteristics, friends' substance use, knowledge, attitudes and beliefs toward substances, risk perceptions, refusal and decision making skills, self-esteem, family factors, parental tobacco smoking, alcohol drinking and related permissiveness were studied as risk factors for lifetime cannabis use through a forward multivariate logistic regression model.

Factors associated with lifetime cannabis use, by gender and SES: multivariate logistic regression model (Adjusted ORs)

Characteristic	Overall sample (n=6,406)	Boys (n=3,336)	Girls (n=3,070)	High SES schools (n=2,209)	Middle SES schools (n=2,029)	Low SES schools (n=2,163)
Boys	**2.07 (1.59-2.70)**	-	-	**2.71 (1.68-4.36)**	**2.53 (1.45-4.41)**	1.28 (0.82-1.99)
Age 13 vs <=12	1.54 (0.81-2.93)	1.81 (0.82-4.00)	1.07 (0.35-3.29)	1.71 (0.52-5.60)	1.84 (0.60-5.60)	1.15 (0.36-3.71)
Age >=14 vs <=12	**4.57 (2.55-8.20)**	**4.38 (2.12-9.06)**	**4.79 (1.77-12.95)**	**5.60 (1.83-17.14)**	**4.57 (1.67-12.55)**	**4.25 (1.50-12.05)**
Living with one parent vs both parents	**1.61 (1.07-2.41)**	1.25 (0.68-2.29)	**2.11 (1.20-3.70)**	1.80 (0.87-3.70)	**2.65 (1.20-5.84)**	1.17 (0.60-2.29)
At least one parent smoking	**1.31 (1.00-1.72)**	1.12 (0.79-1.57)	**1.68 (1.07-2.63)**	1.27 (0.80-2.02)	1.36 (0.78-2.37)	1.34 (0.86-2.07)
Parental permissiveness to smoke						
Parents wouldn't allow to drink at home	**1.47 (1.06-2.05)**	**1.79 (1.15-2.80)**	1.19 (0.71-2.01)	0.84 (0.46-1.53)	**2.83 (1.48-5.42)**	1.66 (0.96-2.88)
Parents would allow to drink	**2.05 (1.39-3.03)**	**2.34 (1.39-3.94)**	1.64 (0.90-2.98)	1.18 (0.50-2.78)	1.71 (0.75-3.92)	**2.78 (1.61-4.81)**
Friends using cannabis						
Less than half/about half vs none	**4.28 (3.14-5.84)**	**4.61 (3.05-6.96)**	**4.03 (2.48-6.54)**	**4.42 (2.60-7.53)**	**3.48 (1.79-6.78)**	**4.76 (2.87-7.88)**
More than half/all of them vs none	**9.08 (5.93-13.89)**	**10.55 (6.00-18.54)**	**7.80 (3.99-15.25)**	**10.80 (4.33-26.97)**	**16.15 (7.07-36.92)**	**6.06 (3.20-11.48)**
High positive attitudes toward drugs	**1.94 (1.46-2.58)**	**2.48 (1.73-3.56)**	1.32 (0.81-2.17)	**1.72 (1,01-2.91)**	1.68 (0.94-3.02)	**2.50 (1.60-3.91)**
Low negative beliefs vs cannabis	**2.19 (1.69-2.85)**	**2.05 (1.46-2.88)**	**2.49 (1.63-3.80)**	**1.94 (1.20-3.12)**	**3.31 (1.93-5.68)**	**1.99 (1.32-3.02)**
Low risk risk perception on using marijuana once or twice	**3.57 (2.40-5.30)**	**2.93 (1.79-4.81)**	**5.42 (2.67-11.00)**	**4.07 (1.90-8.70)**	**2.99 (1.33-6.76)**	**3.85 (2.06-7.20)**
Slight risk perception on using marijuana once or twice	**1.98 (1.40-2.79)**	**1.75 (1.15-2.68)**	**2.68 (1.42-5.08)**	**2.22 (1.11-4.42)**	1.65 (0.81-3.35)	**2.28 (1.36-3.81)**
Low tobacco refusal skills	**2.42 (1.83-3.20)**	**2.61 (1.83-3.74)**	**2.24 (1.42-3.54)**	**2.72 (1.66-4.46)**	**1.88 (1.01-3.49)**	**2.43 (1.56-3.79)**
Low alcohol refusal skills	**1.36 (1.04-1.77)**	1.34 (0.95-1.88)	1.43 (0.93-2.21)	1.58 (0.99-2.52)	1.49 (0.86-2.57)	1.31 (0.86-2.00)
Low cannabis refusal skills	**3.30 (2.50-4.37)**	**2.95 (2.05-4.25)**	**3.86 (2.46-6.06)**	**3.57 (2.16-5.88)**	**4.47 (2.47-8.08)**	**2.87 (1.83-4.50)**
Knowledge about cannabis 1 vs 0 correct answer	**1.46 (1.11-1.93)**	1.35 (0.93-1.94)	**1.58 (1.01-2.46)**	1.56 (0.95-2.57)	1.37 (0.78-2.39)	1.42 (0.91-2.21)
Knowledge about cannabis 2 vs 0 correct answers	**1.64 (1.14-2.38)**	**1.70 (1.06-2.73)**	1.46 (0.79-2.70)	1.41 (0.74-2.69)	1.21 (0.55-2.67)	**2.40 (1.33-4.32)**

RESULTS
Having friends using cannabis was the strongest risk factor for lifetime cannabis use, followed by low risk perceptions and low refusal skills toward cannabis use. One-parent household, parental permissiveness to smoke and parental smoking were associated with the risk. Low refusal skills toward tobacco and alcohol use, low negative beliefs toward cannabis, high positive attitudes toward drugs and knowledge about cannabis were also significantly associated with lifetime cannabis use. Differences by gender and were observed.

CONCLUSIONS
The identified factors should be taken into account in orienting future prevention programs.

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