



# **PARENTAL ASSOCIATION ON THE AGE AT FIRST DRINK AMONG GRENADIAN ADOLESCENTS**

**By**

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# INTRODUCTION

- The relationship between parent and child plays an important role in alcohol use (Hawkins et al., 1997; Andrews et al., 1993; Ary et al., 1993). Nonsubstance abuse-specific behaviors have been shown to be associated with adolescent substance abuse (Jacobson and Johnson, 1997).



## INTRODUCTION (CONT'D...)

- Contradictory to these findings, Zhang et al. (1999) claim that parental modeling and parenting styles are more likely to influence the age at initiation of alcohol and/or substance abuse and these effects may be differential based on gender and the age of the adolescent at the time of exposure.



## INTRODUCTION (CONT'D...)

- According to the Global School-based Health Survey (GSHS) (2008), approximately 49% of boys and 43% of girls between the ages of 13 to 15 years in Grenada has had at least one drink containing alcohol on one or more days during the past 30 days.



# PUBLIC HEALTH SIGNIFICANCE

- The early use of alcohol by teenagers :
  1. significantly heightens the risk of future dependence (Zador et al., 2008).
  2. increases the susceptibility to the effects of brain damage (Sen, 2002).
  3. increases the likelihood of engaging in health risk behaviors and illegal activities (Windle et al., 1992)



# OBJECTIVES

The objectives of this study were to assess the association between parental involvement and adolescent drinking in Grenada. In particular, this study will:

- (1) examine the relationship between parental involvement and early onset drinking
- (2) determine gender differences at the age of alcohol initiation



# METHODS

- *Procedure*
- *Sampling*
- *Measures*
- *Participants*







## METHODS: PROCEDURE

- The GSHS was administered in the year 2008 to assess the different dimensions of health behaviors in Grenada.





## METHODS: SAMPLING

- The original data collection involved a two-stage cluster sampling strategy. The first stage, schools were selected with probability proportional to the number of enrolled students. At the second stage, the classes were randomly chosen and all students in selected classes were eligible to participate in the study.



## METHODS: MEASURES

- To assess the relationship between parental involvement and age at first drink of alcohol, proxies measuring the variables were used from the GSHS standardized questionnaire.
- Early drinking onset is defined as drinking prior to 16 years old.



## METHODS: MEASURES (CONT'D)

- Parental involvement is defined as a mixture of commitment and active participation of a parent in a child's life and it was measured using the following variables from Table 1.
- TABLE 1. Parental involvement measures

### Measures

1. "During the past 30 days, how often did your parents or guardian check to see if your homework was done?"

2. "During the past 30 days, how often did your parents or guardian understand your problems and worries?"

3. "During the past 30 days, how often did your parents or guardian really know what you were doing with your free time?"

*Note:* Response options were 1 = Never; 2 = Rarely; 3 = Sometimes; 4 = Most of the time; 5 = Always



# METHODS: PARTICIPANTS

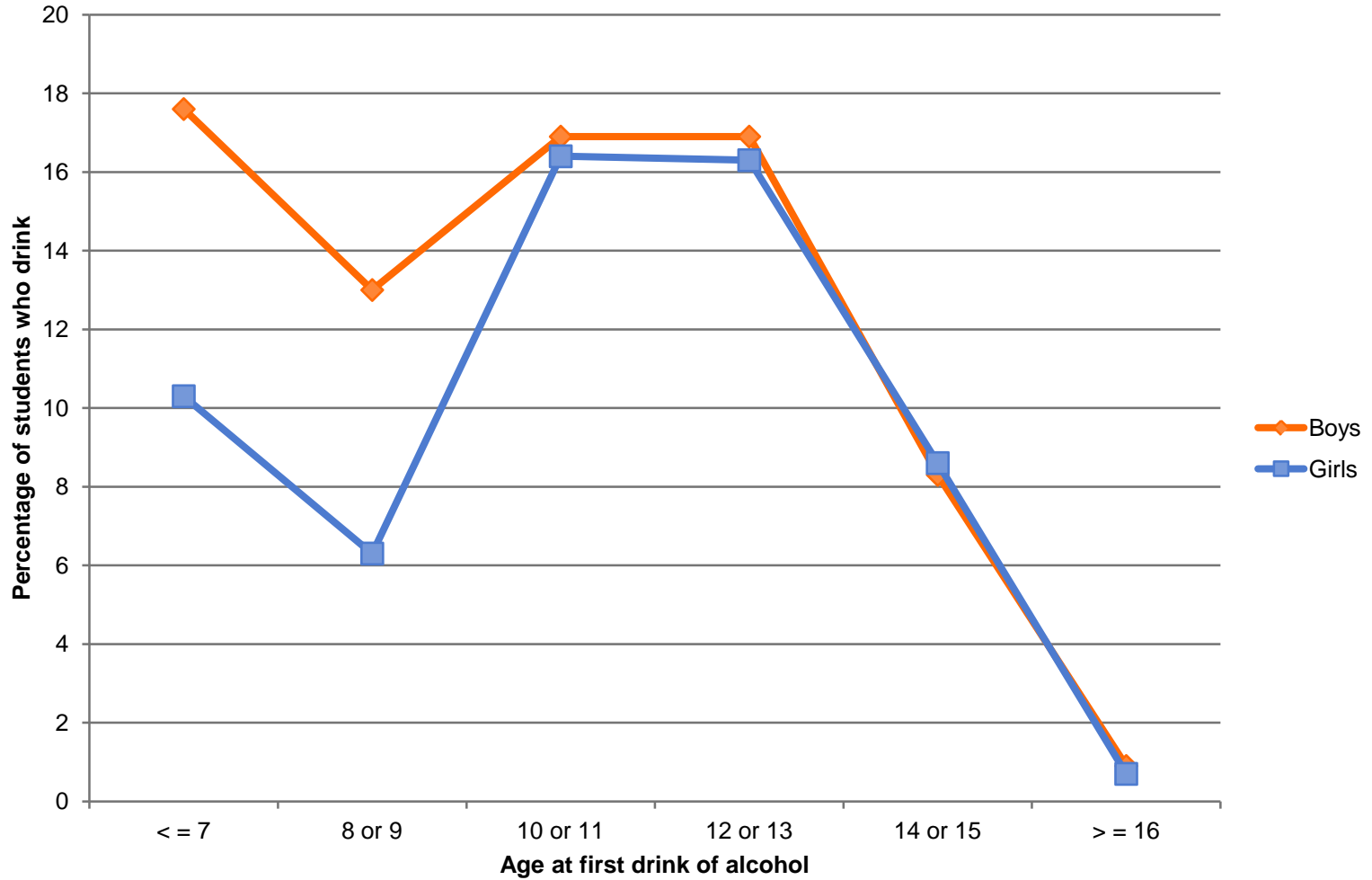
The study sample included :

- N = 1542
- 44.9% boys
- 55.1% girls
- Age 13-15 years
- Secondary school students in the year 2008.
- Students were chosen from a sample of students in Forms 1, 2, 3 or 4.



# RESULTS

FIGURE 1. PERCENTAGE OF STUDENTS WHO DRINK VS. AGE AT FIRST DRINK



# RESULTS

TABLE 3. COMPARISON OF PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT AND AGE AT FIRST DRINK AMONG GRENADIAN BOYS

Boys						
Parental involvement	<=7 n (%)	8 or 9 n (%)	10 or 11 n (%)	12 or 13 n (%)	14 or 15 n (%)	>=16 n (%)
Parents know what you do						
Never	42(38.9)	23(28.7)	21(20.6)	21(20.4)	21(39.6)	3(60.0)
Rarely	15(13.9)	12(15.0)	14(13.7)	14(13.6)	4(7.5)	0 (0.0)
Sometimes	27(25.0)	21(16.3)	41(40.2)	26(25.2)	14(7.5)	1(20.0)
Most times	12(11.1)	15(18.8)	18(17.6)	19(18.4)	4(7.5)	1 (20.0)
Always	12(11.1)	9(11.3)	8(7.8)	23(22.3)	10(18.9)	0 (0.0)



# RESULTS

TABLE 4. COMPARISON OF PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT AND AGE AT FIRST DRINK AMONG GRENADIAN GIRLS

Girls						
Parental involvement	<=7 n(%)	8 or 9 n (%)	10 or 11 n (%)	12 or 13 n (%)	14 or 15 n(%)	>=16 n(%)
Parents check homework						
Never	41(50.0)	20(40.0)	55(43.7)	53(41.4)	23(34.8)	6(54.5)
Rarely	12(14.6)	10(20.0)	18(14.3)	8(6.3)	11(16.7)	0(0.0)
Sometimes	14(17.1)	10(20.0)	19(15.1)	25(19.5)	21(31.8)	1(9.1)
Most times	4(4.9)	5(10.0)	14(11.1)	16(12.5)	4(6.1)	2(18.2)
Always	11(13.4)	5(10.0)	20(15.9)	26(20.3)	7(10.6)	2(18.2)







# IMPLICATIONS

The findings of this study indicate that:

- lack of parental involvement is a risk factor early onset of alcohol use.
- There are few gender differences at the age of initiation between both sexes.
- Future research should seek to explore the relationship between masculinity and alcohol consumption patterns in Grenada.





# CONCLUSION: STRENGTHS & LIMITATIONS

Strengths of this study include:

1. High power of the study
2. Sampling method

The limitations of this study are:

1. Cross-sectional study design
2. Dependence on study participants





# CONCLUSION

- The findings of this study suggest that parental involvement and age at first drink of alcohol exhibit differential associations on the basis gender and age of adolescent

