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4-2014

### Attitudes Towards Drug and Alcohol Use: Culture and Emerging Adulthood

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#### Recommended Citation

Daniewicz, Sam, "Attitudes Towards Drug and Alcohol Use: Culture and Emerging Adulthood" (2014). *Undergraduate Research Symposium 2014*. 4.  
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# Attitudes towards Drug and Alcohol Use: Culture and Emerging Adulthood

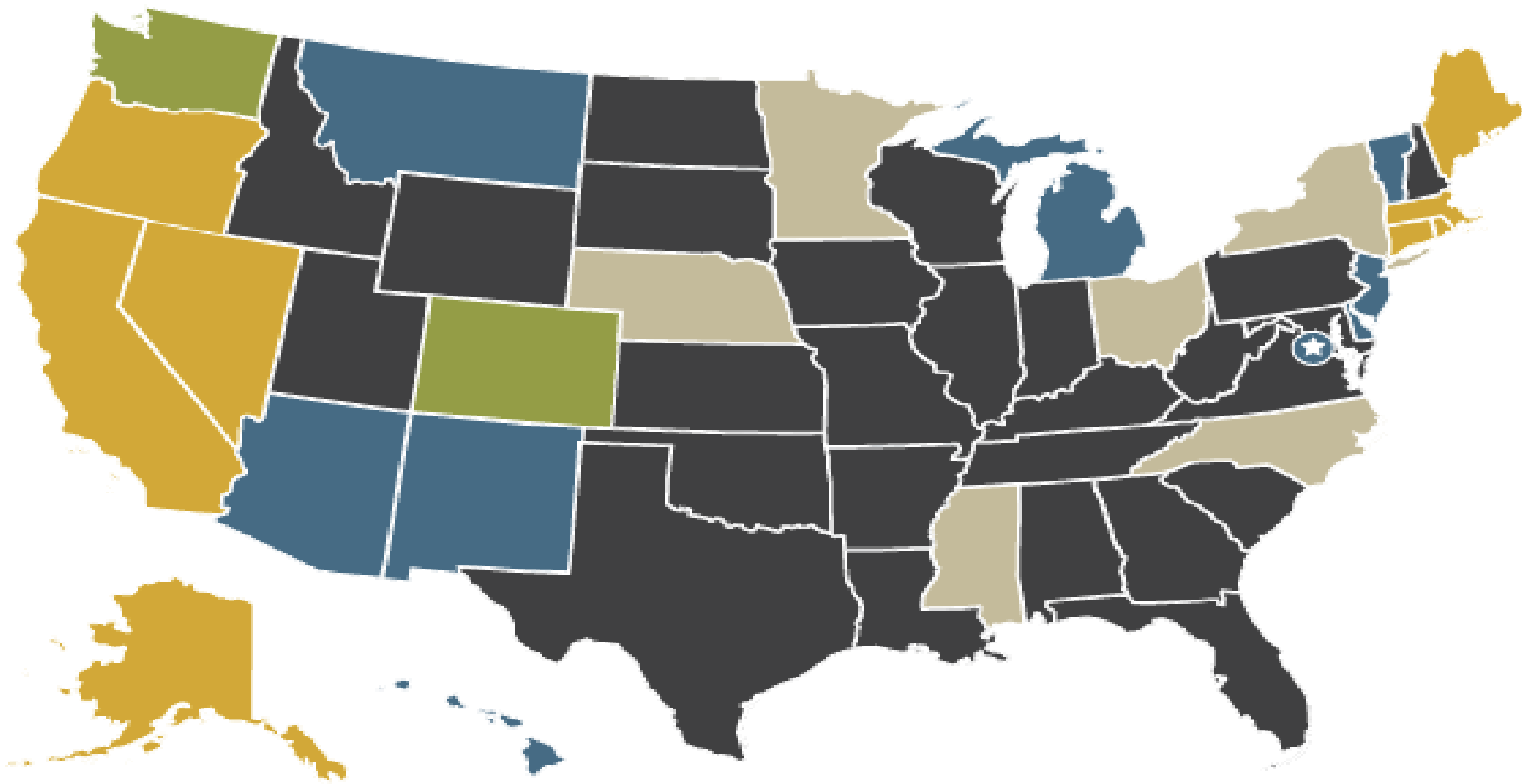
Sam Daniewicz

Advised by Dr. Oscar Baldelomar



# Outline

- Emerging adulthood
- Culture and emerging adulthood
- Hypotheses
- Methodology
- Results
- Discussion
- Conclusion



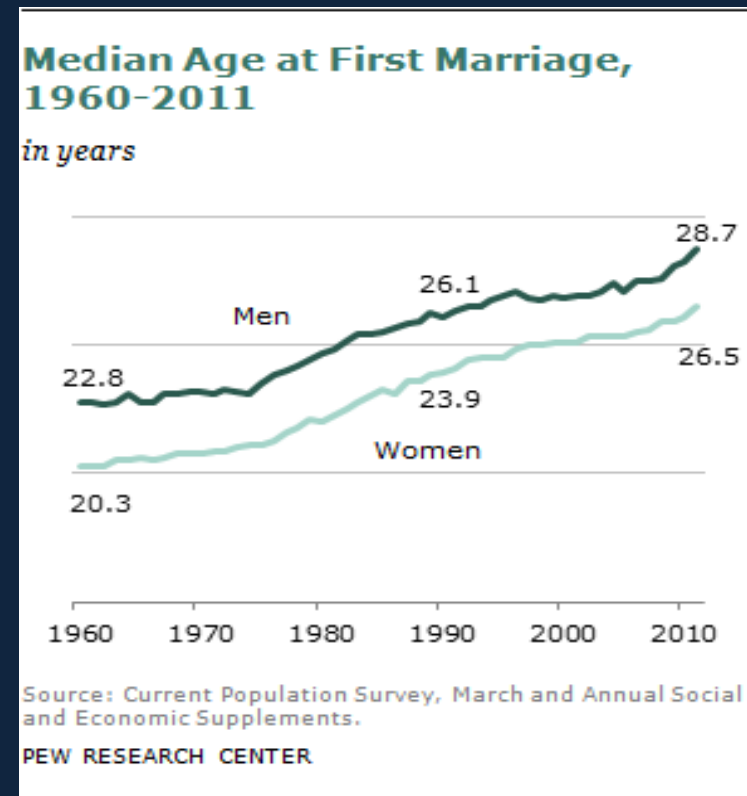
- Legal
- Medicinal Use Only
- Illegal
- Decriminalized
- Medicinal Use Only and Decriminalized

**REJECTED BALLOT INITIATIVES**

<p><b>Legalization</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Alaska</li> <li>California</li> <li>Nevada</li> <li>Oregon</li> </ul>	<p><b>Medicinal Use Only</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>South Dakota</li> <li>Arkansas</li> </ul> <p><b>Decriminalization</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>North Dakota</li> <li>Oregon</li> </ul>
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# Emerging Adulthood

- Substance use peaks in emerging adulthood (Patrick et al., 2011)
- New stage in development (Arnett, 2000, 2004, 2011)
- Factors in creation
- Five main dimensions
  - Identity exploration
  - Experimentation
  - Instability
  - Self-focused
  - Feeling in-between
- Experimentation and drug use  
(Lisha, 2012)



# Culture and Emerging Adulthood

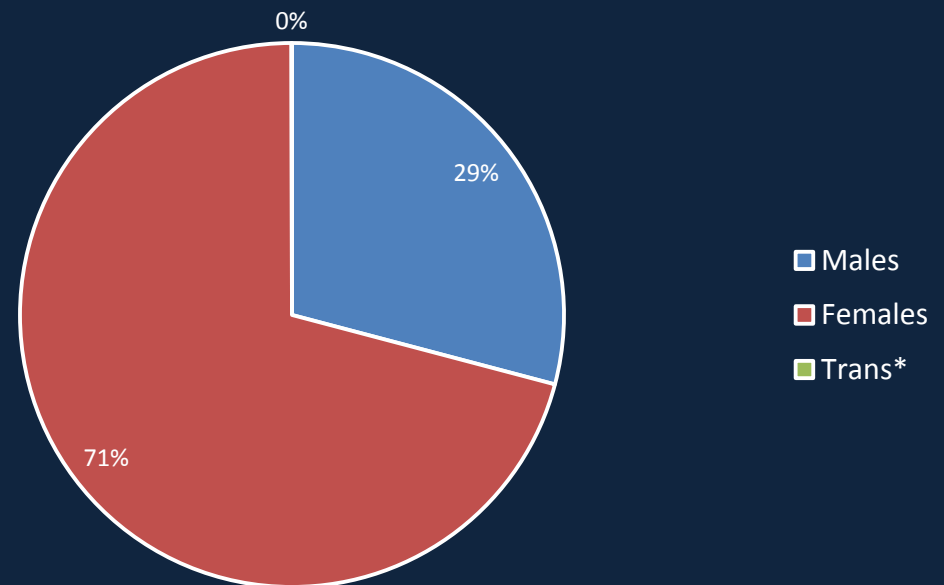
- Individualism and Collectivism (Arnett, 2011)
- Cross-cultural (Nelson & Chen, 2007)
- Collectivism associated with lower levels of substance use (Piko & Brazzai, 2007)

# Hypotheses

- Hypothesis 1:
  - Higher levels of emerging adulthood are related to positive attitudes towards substance use.
- Hypothesis 2:
  - Lower levels of emerging adulthood are related to negative attitudes towards substance use.

# Procedure and Participants

- Recruitment and extra credit
- Online survey and questionnaires
- UMM students of age 18-26
- 270 participants





# Methodology

- Attitudes to Drug Use (Harmon, 1993)
  - $\alpha=.82$
- Beliefs about Consequences (Harmon 1993)
  - How likely would it be for this to happen to you if you consumed (name of drug) in the next month?
  - Positive Beliefs
    - Alcohol ( $\alpha=.82$ )
    - Tobacco ( $\alpha=.90$ )
    - Marijuana ( $\alpha=.90$ )
  - Positive consequence examples:
    - Have more fun
    - Forget my troubles

# Methodology cont...

- Negative Beliefs
  - Alcohol ( $\alpha=.91$ )
  - Tobacco ( $\alpha=.86$ )
  - Marijuana ( $\alpha=.92$ )
- Negative consequence examples
  - Get into trouble with police
  - Become an addict

# Methodology cont...

- Inventory of the Dimensions of Emerging Adulthood (IDEA) (Reifman, Arnett, & Colwell, 2007)
  - Identity exploration ( $\alpha=.83$ )
  - Experimentation ( $\alpha=.80$ )
  - Instability ( $\alpha=.83$ )
  - Self-focused ( $\alpha=.80$ )
  - Feeling “in-between” ( $\alpha=.70$ )
- Demographic section

# Results for hypothesis 1

- Alcohol
  - Positive Beliefs positively correlated with:
    - Experimentation ( $r = .14$ ,  $p = .019$ )
    - Instability ( $r = .17$ ,  $p = .05$ )
    - Feeling “in-between” ( $r = .13$ ,  $p = .040$ )
- Tobacco
  - Positive Beliefs negatively correlated with:
    - Identity Exploration ( $r = -.19$ ,  $p = .002$ )
    - Experimentation ( $r = -.17$ ,  $p = .004$ )
    - Self-Focused ( $r = -.21$ ,  $p = .001$ )

# Results for hypothesis 2

- Alcohol
  - Negative Beliefs negatively correlated with:
    - Experimentation ( $r=-.18, p=.003$ )
    - Self-Focused ( $r= -.17, p=.005$ )
- Tobacco
  - Negative Beliefs negatively correlated with:
    - Experimentation ( $r= -.17, p=.004$ )
    - Self-Focused ( $r= -.17, p= .005$ )
- Marijuana
  - Negative Beliefs correlate negatively with:
    - Experimentation ( $r= -.145, p=.017$ )

# Discussion

- Experimentation
- Instability and alcohol
- Attitudes towards marijuana
- Future research
  - Better and more diverse demographic
  - Different age groups

# Conclusion

- Higher levels of emerging adulthood correlated with positive attitudes towards alcohol, but not tobacco.
- Lower levels of emerging adulthood correlated with negative attitudes towards alcohol, tobacco, and marijuana.
- Emerging adults
  - think positively of alcohol.
  - Tobacco is thought of less positively than alcohol.
  - Have more ambiguous attitudes towards marijuana.

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# Acknowledgements

- Dr. Oscar Baldelomar
- Maria Fleck
- Kaj Benson
- Empirical Investigations classmates
- Family and friends
- My dog Bjorn



Questions?