Summer 2017

Associations Between Multi-Level Contextual Factors and Mental Health Service Utilization in Adolescents with Comorbid Depression and Substance-use: Moderating role of School Connectedness on Racial/Ethnic Disparities in Service Utilization

Follow this and additional works at: <https://digitalcommons.georgiasouthern.edu/jgpha>

Part of the [Public Health Commons](#)

Recommended Citation

Thornton, Kate (2017) "Associations Between Multi-Level Contextual Factors and Mental Health Service Utilization in Adolescents with Comorbid Depression and Substance-use: Moderating role of School Connectedness on Racial/Ethnic Disparities in Service Utilization," *Journal of the Georgia Public Health Association*: Vol. 7 : No. 1 , Article 39.

DOI: 10.21633/jgpha.7.140

Available at: <https://digitalcommons.georgiasouthern.edu/jgpha/vol7/iss1/39>

This conference abstract is brought to you for free and open access by the Journals at Digital Commons@Georgia Southern. It has been accepted for inclusion in Journal of the Georgia Public Health Association by an authorized administrator of Digital Commons@Georgia Southern. For more information, please contact digitalcommons@georgiasouthern.edu.

Conference Abstract

Associations between multi-level contextual factors and mental health service utilization in adolescents with comorbid depression and substance-use: Moderating role of school connectedness on racial/ethnic disparities in service utilization

Kate Thornton, MPH

Georgia State University

Corresponding author: Kate Thornton • Georgia State University • 191 Johnson Rd., Suwanee, GA 30024 • 678-373-6649 • kathornton15@gmail.com

Background: Comorbid depression and substance use has been a prevalent issue in adolescent health. Although rates have remained relatively stable, their level is still alarming and efforts to see a decrease have led leaders and organizations to call for research to better understand factors related to both depression and substance use as well as how these factors may change when these disorders occur together.

Methods: Data from the National Survey on Drug Use and Health (NSDUH) were utilized to pursue the research objectives for this study. The NSDUH is an ongoing cross-sectional survey of the civilian and non-institutionalized population of the United States. Multi-level logistic regression procedures were used to determine the relationship between mental health care utilization and research variables in adolescents with comorbid depression and substance-use.

Results: Multi-level modeling showed that the model that controlled for individual-level and family-level factors was able to best predict mental health care use (model 4, -2LL=945,303, $p < 0.001$). In addition, school attachment was shown to be positively associated with mental health care use in all models tested, including the best-fit model selected (OR=2.18; 95% CI 2.13, 2.22). Other contextual factors that were significantly associated with mental health care use were gender (OR=1.92; 95% CI 1.88, 1.94), parental attachment (OR=1.72; 95% CI 1.70, 1.74), and poverty (OR=1.59; 95% CI 1.58, 1.62). In addition, the school attachment and race/ethnicity interaction term was found to be significant with an odds ratio of 3.02 (95% CI 2.96, 3.22).

Conclusions: This research has shown the importance of contextual factors, specifically the school environment, on the service use of comorbid adolescents. Particularly interesting in the world of mental health promotion is the use of schools as key coordinators in providing specialty mental health services to adolescents, especially for those who suffer from service use disparities.

Key words: comorbid, depression, substance-use, adolescents, contextual-factors, school, family, disparities, mental health service use

<https://doi.org/10.21633/jgpha.7.140>

© Kate Thornton. Originally published in jGPHA (<http://www.gapha.org/jgpha/>) December 20, 2017. This is an open-access article distributed under the terms of the Creative Commons Attribution Non-Commercial No-Derivatives License (<http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/>), which permits unrestricted use, distribution, and reproduction in any medium, provided the original work ("first published in the Journal of the Georgia Public Health Association...") is properly cited with original URL and bibliographic citation information. The complete bibliographic information, a link to the original publication on <http://www.gapha.jgpha.org/>, as well as this copyright and license information must be included.