

# Why do parents supply alcohol? Parenting practices, peers, and behaviour.

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## Introduction

During early adolescence, alcohol use most commonly occurs in parent-supervised family contexts [1-6]. While parental supply has received much attention in public discourse, it has been overlooked by existing research.

Parents may be motivated to supply alcohol during early adolescence to prevent unsupervised and harmful use [7]. However, it is unknown why some parents do, and others do not, supply alcohol.

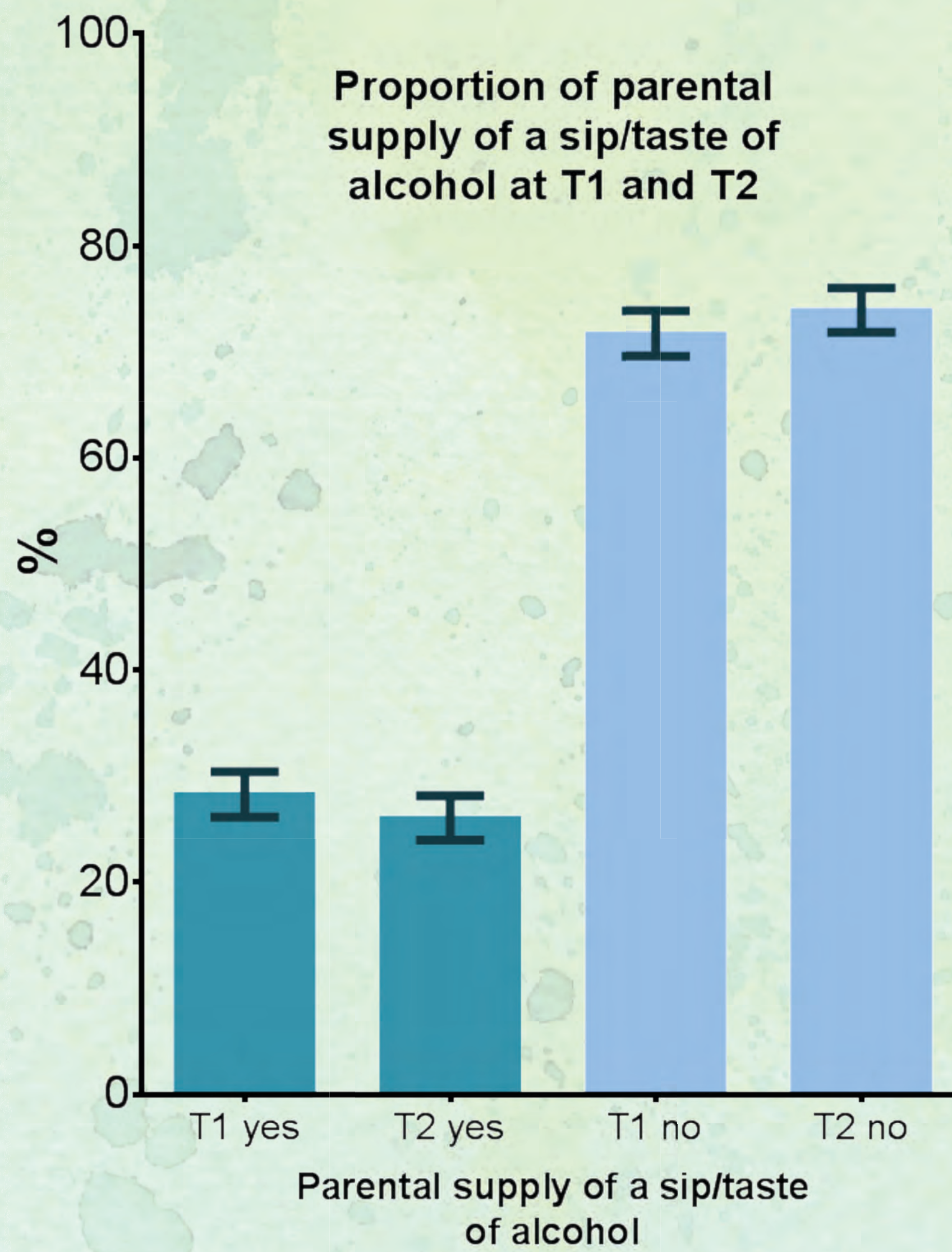
## Aim

The present study investigated whether parenting practices, peer influences (including parent perception of peers), and problem behaviours were associated with parental supply of a sip/taste of alcohol one-year later.



## Results

At T1, 28.2% (95% CI: 26.15-30.40) of parents provided a sip/taste of alcohol to their child. One year later, 26.0% (95% CI: 23.60-28.35) parents provided a sip to their child.



## Results

The biggest predictor of parental supply of a sip/taste of alcohol at T2 was parent perception of the number of their child's substance using peers at T1 (OR=1.20, 95% CI: 1.08-1.33).

Increased T1 home alcohol access (OR=1.07, 95% CI: 1.03-1.11), and parent alcohol use (OR=1.07, 95% CI: 1.00-1.14), also predicted T2 supply.

Notably, the only parenting practice associated with T2 supply were lenient T1 alcohol-specific rules (OR=0.88, 95% CI: 0.80-0.96). Other poor parenting practices (such as poor monitoring, lack of discipline, inconsistent parenting, and poor relationship) were not associated with T2 supply.

## Conclusion

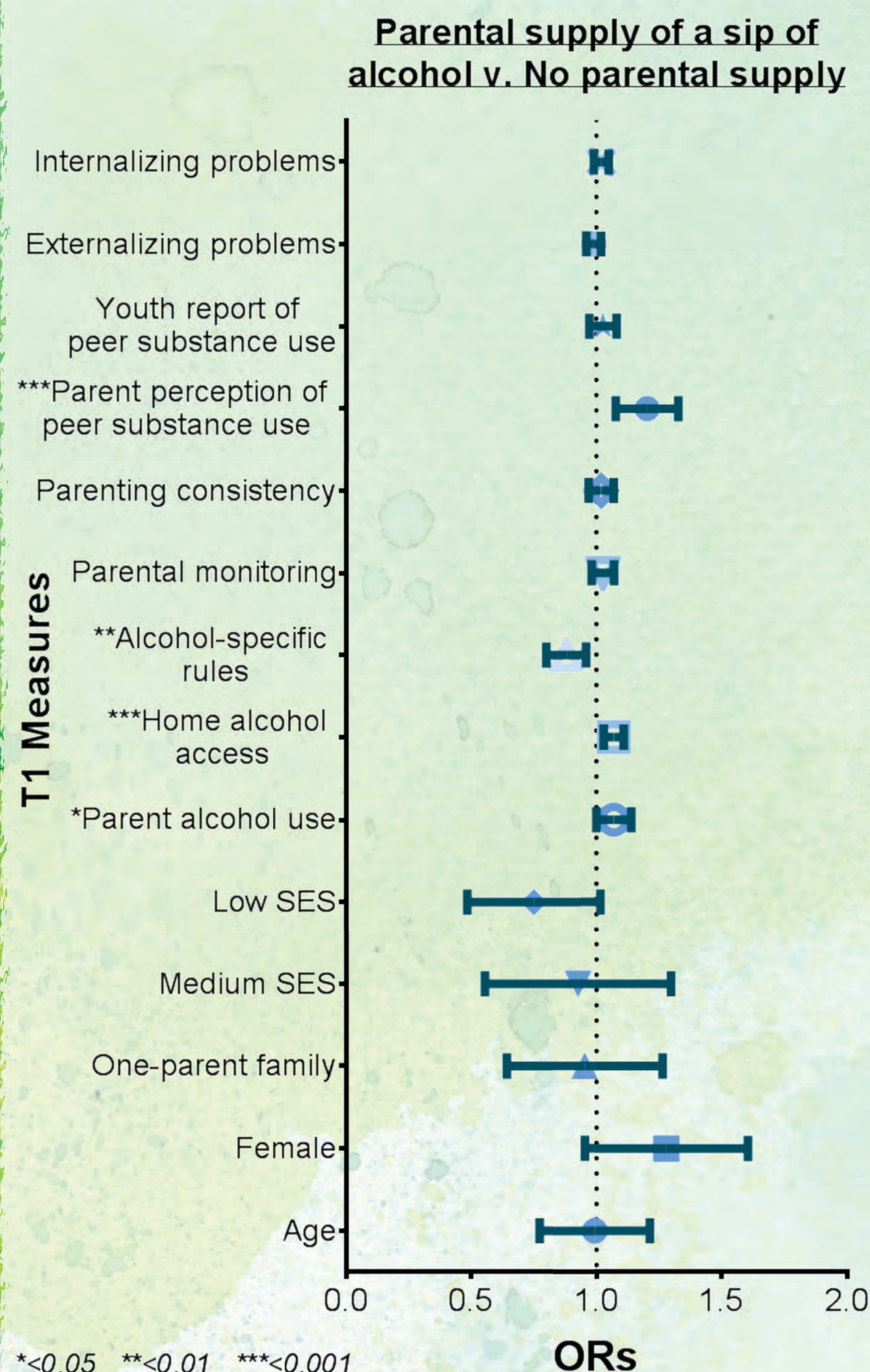
Overall, parental supply was not associated with poor parenting practices. Instead, the present findings suggest parental supply was predicted by parent perceptions of whether their child's friends used substances. Parental supply also appeared to be associated with opportunity – parents' own alcohol use, and home alcohol access.

These findings suggest that parents may provide a sip/taste of alcohol in response to substance-using peers, and what is possibly the inevitability of exposure to substance use. Further research is required to better understand the context that such supply occurs in, and of its long-term impacts on adolescent alcohol use trajectories.

## Results

Multivariate logistic regression analyses were conducted, comparing parental supply of a sip/taste of alcohol versus no parental supply of a sip/taste.

The multivariate model was significant ( $\chi^2_{(22)}=411.95, p<0.001$ ), and included all variables listed in the methods. Selected odds ratios (ORs) are presented in forest plots below.



## Method

**Sample:** Families were recruited from Grade Seven classes across Independent, Government and Catholic schools. 1,823 dyads completed baseline surveys (T1; M adolescent age: 12.4, SD=0.6; 55% were male), and 95% (n=1,729) completed surveys one year later (T2), the latter being the basis of these analyses. Comparison with the Australian population found the present sample was matched on adolescent sex distribution, household composition, and socioeconomic status [8-10].

**Measures: T2 outcome measure:** Parent supply of a sip/taste of alcohol to child.

**T1 adolescent measures:** alcohol use (abstention, sipping, and drinking); parental alcohol-specific rules; parental monitoring; peer substance use; peer substance use disapproval; externalizing problems; and internalizing problems.

**T1 parent measures:** demographics; parent supply of a sip to child; parent alcohol use; home alcohol access; parent-child relationship quality; parenting consistency; child's peer substance use.

**Statistical analysis:** Multinomial logistic regressions tested the prospective effects of parenting, peers, and problem behaviours, on abstention, sipping, and drinking.

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**References:** [1] White, et al. Australian secondary school students' use of tobacco, alcohol, and over-the-counter and illicit substances in 2011. Victoria: Cancer Council Victoria; 2012. [2] Rowland, et al. Associations between alcohol outlet densities and adolescent alcohol consumption: A study in Australian students. *Addict Behav* 2014. [3] McMorris, et al. Influence of family factors and supervised alcohol use on adolescent alcohol use and harms: Similarities between youth in different alcohol policy contexts. *J Stud Alcohol Drugs* 2011. [4] Henderson, et al. Smoking, drinking and drug use among young people in England in 2012. London: NHS; 2013. [5] Goncy, et al. Where and when adolescents use tobacco, alcohol, and marijuana: Comparisons by age, gender, and race. *J Stud Alcohol Drugs* 2013. [6] Donovan, et al. Children's introduction to alcohol use: Sips and tastes. *Alcoholism: Clinical & Experimental Research* 2008. [7] Jackson, et al. Letting children sip: Understanding why parents allow alcohol use by elementary school-aged children. *Arch Pediatr Adolesc Med* 2012. [8] ABS. Australian demographic statistics, June quarter 2012: Australian demographic statistics tables. Canberra: ABS; 2012. [9] ABS. Family characteristics, Australia, 2009-10: Households, families and persons, selected characteristics by state. Canberra: ABS; 2011. [10] ABS. Socio-economic Indexes for Areas (SEIFA), Data cube, 2006. Canberra: ABS; 2008.

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