



National Drug &  
Alcohol Research Centre

The Difference is Research



## **The overall effect of parental supply of alcohol across adolescence on alcohol-related harms in early adulthood**

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# Background

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- Alcohol is a leading cause of harm among young people
- One of the main suppliers of alcohol to adolescents are their parents
  - This is sometimes based on the idea that getting the child 'used to drinking' will decrease risky drinking later
- Recent research suggests parental supply of alcohol is associated with higher odds of risky drinking and alcohol-related harm among adolescents

# Background

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- The overall effect of parental supply in adolescence remains unclear
  - Supply is complex and varies over time
  - This can introduce bias in standard analyses
- This study examined the effect of parental supply of alcohol on alcohol-related outcomes in early adulthood using robust methods to minimise risk of bias.

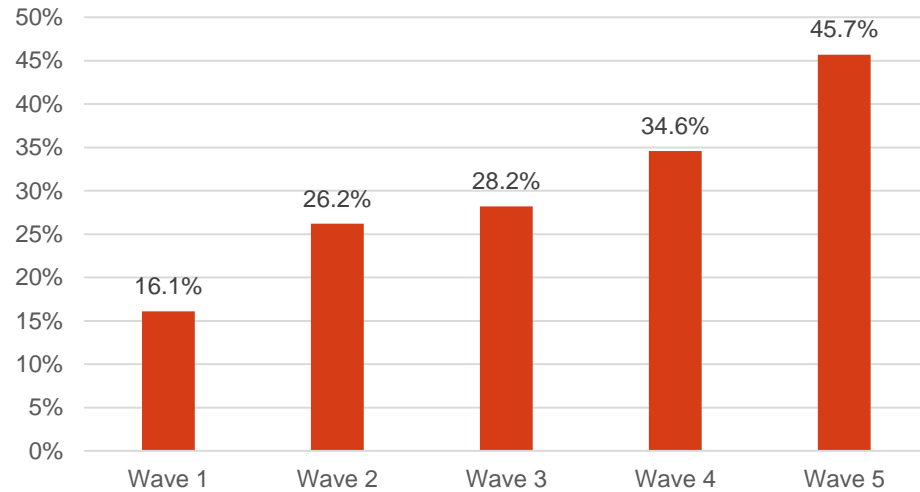
# Methods

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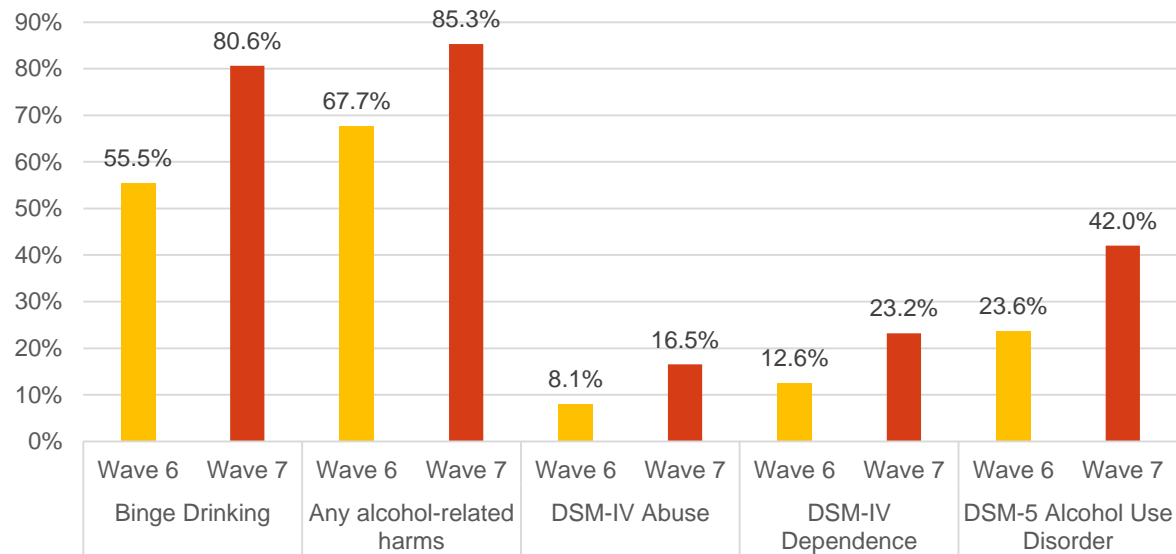
- Data was from a longitudinal cohort of Adolescents
  - N=1906
  - Recruited from Australian school at mean age 12.9yrs
  - Followed for 9 years (7 years included in this analysis)
- Examines the overall effect of parental supply in the first five waves of the study (up to mean age 16.8yrs)
- Analysis uses targeted maximum likelihood estimation
  - Consistent, unbiased estimator of causal effects in observational data, under some structural assumptions

# Results

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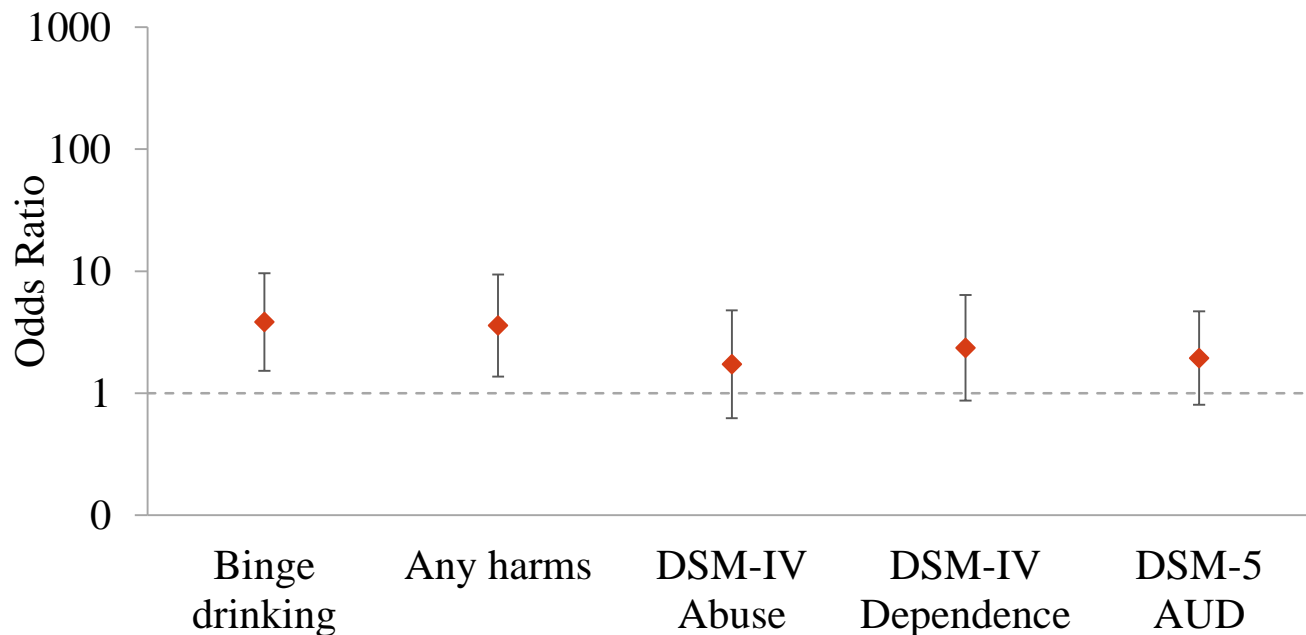


# Results



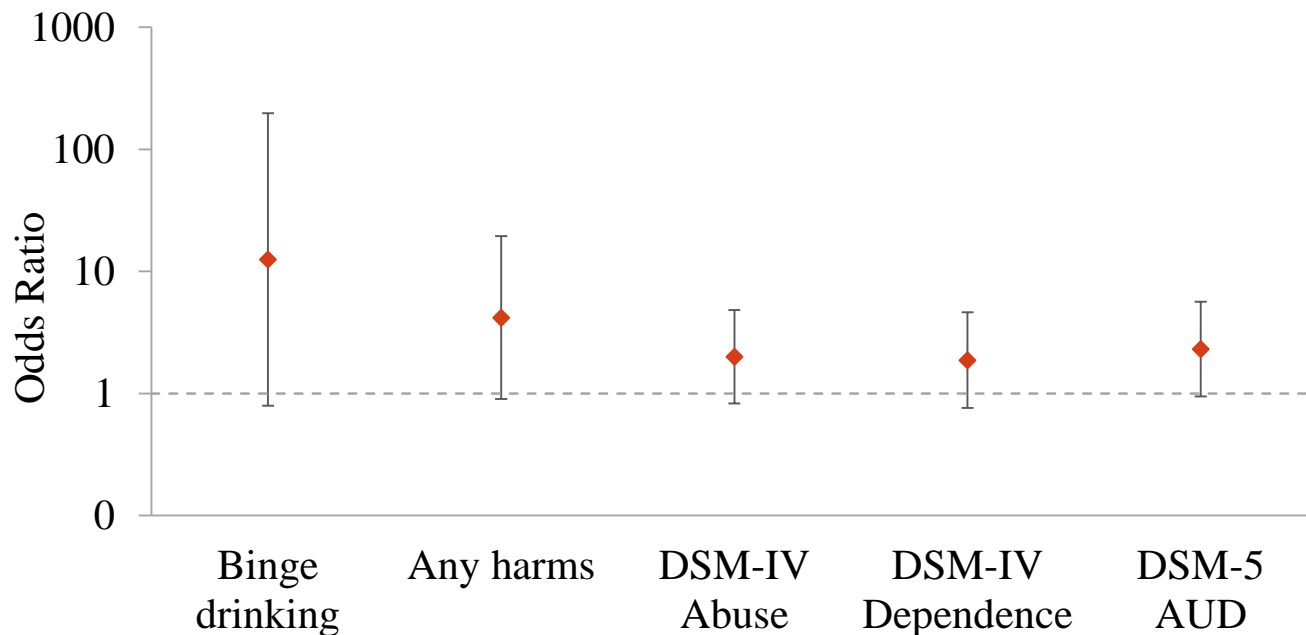
# Results

## Effect of parental supply on outcomes in Wave 6



# Results

## Effect of parental supply on outcomes in Wave 7





# Conclusions

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- Similar to previous studies, parental supply of alcohol in adolescence increased risk of alcohol-related harm
- These effects did not persist into adulthood
- However - alcohol consumption differs across cultures, and these results may not generalise
- The study also demonstrates the utility and value of TMLE and machine learning in conducting robust analysis of complex data