

Perceived Discrimination and Substance Use among Latino Adolescents

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Objective: To examine perceived discrimination and substance use among Latino high school students. **Methods:** Latino 9th graders (N=1332) completed self-report measures of perceived discrimination and substance use behavior. **Results:** Perceived discrimination was associated with lifetime use measures of smoking (OR=1.73, P<0.01), alcohol (OR=1.53, P<0.01), marijuana (OR=1.70, P<0.01), and inhalants (OR=1.50, P<0.05); and past 30 day measures of smoking (OR=2.54, P<0.01), alcohol

(OR=1.63, P<0.01), marijuana (OR=1.95, P<0.01), and inhalants (OR=1.64, P<0.01), and binge drinking (OR=1.84, P<0.01). **Conclusions:** Latino adolescents who have higher perceptions of discrimination are at risk for substance use. Interventions to help Latino adolescents cope with feelings of discrimination may be a useful addition to substance use prevention programs.

Key words: Latino, adolescent, substance use, discrimination

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