

# Social Self-control, Sensation Seeking and Substance Use in Samples of US and Russian Adolescents

Pallav Pokhrel, PhD, MPH; Steve Sussman, PhD, FAAHB; Ping Sun, PhD; Vadim Kniazer, MD; Radik Masagutov, MD

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**Objective:** To compare the relations of social self-control and sensation seeking with substance use across samples of US and Russian adolescents. **Methods:** Cross-sectional data were obtained from 362 tenth-graders from Ufa, Russia, and 965 tenth-graders from California. **Results:** Lack of social self-control was significantly related with higher alcohol and hard drug use in the Russian sample and higher cigarette use in the US sample. Higher sensation-seeking showed signifi-

cant associations with higher cigarette and alcohol use in the Russian sample and higher alcohol, marijuana, and hard drug use in the US sample. **Conclusion:** As with US adolescents, prevention programs for Russian adolescents may also benefit from being tailored to higher sensation-seekers and including self-control skills training.

**Key words:** substance use, adolescents, social self-control, sensation seeking

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