

THESIS



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THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN FEMALE ADOLESCENT DRUG USE  
AND DRUG USE ATTITUDES AND PERCEIVED PARENTING STYLE  
IN UPPER-MIDDLE CLASS FAMILIES

presented by

Christopher A. Branton

has been accepted towards fulfillment  
of the requirements for

M.A. degree in Child Development

Major professor

Date 12/20/96

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**THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN FEMALE ADOLESCENT DRUG USE  
AND DRUG USE ATTITUDES AND PERCEIVED PARENTING STYLE  
IN UPPER-MIDDLE CLASS FAMILIES**

**By**

**Christopher A. Branton**

**A THESIS**

**Submitted to  
Michigan State University  
in partial fulfillment of the requirements  
for the degree of**

**MASTER OF ARTS**

**Department of Family and Child Ecology**

**1996**

## **ABSTRACT**

### **THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN FEMALE ADOLESCENT DRUG USE AND DRUG USE ATTITUDES AND PERCEIVED PARENTING STYLE IN UPPER-MIDDLE CLASS FAMILIES**

**By**

**Christopher A. Branton**

**This study examined the relationship between upper-middle class, female adolescents' behaviors and attitudes regarding drug use and their perceptions of their own parents' style of parenting (i.e. permissive, authoritative, or authoritarian). The primary focus of the study was the relationship between self-reported drug use and perceived parenting style. The relationship between drug use attitudes and perceived parenting style was also investigated.**

**The results indicate that female adolescents who perceived their parents to have had a more permissive style were most likely to use drugs and have liberal drug use attitudes. Those who perceived their parents to have employed a more authoritarian style were least likely to use drugs and had conservative drug use attitudes. Finally, female adolescents who perceived an authoritative style in their parents' approach were less likely to use drugs than those who perceived a permissive style, but were more likely to use drugs than those who perceived their parents to have used an authoritarian style. Similarly, with regard to drug use attitudes, female adolescents who perceived an authoritative style by their parents had more conservative views than those who perceived their parents to be permissive, but more liberal views than those who perceived their parents to be authoritarian.**

## **ACKNOWLEDGMENTS**

A work such as this would not have been possible without the help of numerous individuals, including my family, my graduate advisor, Dr. Robert Boger, and the rest of my committee, and the staff of the Department of Family and Child Ecology at Michigan State University. I have received invaluable academic and financial support, without which this publication would never have been completed. Further, I have received continuous encouragement throughout the writing of this thesis that has allowed me to successfully fulfill my degree requirements. I pray that, one day, this paper may be used to further educate anyone who is interested in the healthy development of children. Again, I give my sincere thanks to all who were involved in helping me to complete this work.

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## **CHAPTER I - INTRODUCTION**

### **Introduction**

Over the past decade, drug, alcohol, and cigarette use have come to be seen as significant health problems. These problems are not characteristic of adults, only. One third of all high school seniors report having drunk at least five drinks in a row at least once in a two week period. Seventeen percent report monthly use of marijuana, and nineteen percent smoke cigarettes on a daily basis (Bachman, et al., 1991; National Institute on Drug Abuse, 1990). Research, over the years, has generally supported the claim that lower-class youth are overrepresented in rates of substance abuse and other types of delinquency. Some studies, however, have concluded that upper-class youth are more likely to be drug users or delinquent (Williams & Gold, 1972; Drug Abuse Council, 1975). It appears, from the differences in these studies, that youth, at both ends of the economic spectrum, are at risk.

In a recent study, (Lorch, 1990), student self-reports showed that substance abuse and other types of delinquency were most predominant among lower-class youth, with an unexpected second place finish by those youth from upper-class families. How could this be? Adolescents from families with educated parents and a comfortable income were also exhibiting high levels of drug abuse and delinquency. Unlike adolescents from families with little material wealth, one can assume that adolescents from upper- or upper-middle class families are not affected by the stress of lack of economic resources. The so-called, "rich kids", have problems that are generally considered less impacting when compared to those of youth in poverty. They do not have to worry about whether or not there will be enough money for

food or clothing, or if they will be the victim of a drive-by shooting on the way to school. They have well educated parents, with good jobs and more than enough money to provide life's basic necessities. Why, then, are the incidence rates of drug and alcohol use the same for these two vastly different groups of youth? At this point, it is necessary to focus upon a non-economic variable that is common among all adolescents: the quality and style of parenting that a child has received throughout his/her lifetime.

### **Statement Of The Problem**

This study investigated the relationship between female adolescent drug use and perceived parenting style. Specifically, the study investigated the relationship between female adolescent drug use and drug use attitudes and the perceived style of parenting exhibited by parents in upper-middle class families as reported by undergraduate students at Michigan State University, in East Lansing, Michigan.

### **Importance Of The Problem**

A substantial number of articles have been written with regard to adolescent substance abuse in lower-class families (Lester, 1992; Turner, et al., 1991), but there has been very little research done with adolescents from upper-middle class families. The purpose of this study, therefore, was to show a relationship between adolescent drug use and upper-middle class parenting styles. The results may lend themselves to further research on the problem, and following more extensive research, solutions may be offered to

reduce the rates of drug use by adolescents by focusing upon the quality and style of parenting that they receive as they are growing up.

### **Research Objectives**

The overall purpose of this research was to investigate the relationship between adolescent drug use and perceived parenting style in upper-middle class families. In order to reach this goal, the following, more specific research objectives were developed:

- \*To investigate the relationship between adolescent drug use and drug use attitudes and permissive parenting in upper-middle class families as measured by the "Parent Attitude / Drug Use Survey".**
- \*To investigate the relationship between adolescent drug use and drug use attitudes and authoritarian parenting in upper-middle class families as measured by the "Parent Attitude / Drug Use Survey".**
- \*To investigate the relationship between adolescent drug use and drug use attitudes and authoritative parenting in upper-middle class families as measured by the "Parent Attitude / Drug Use Survey".**

### **Theoretical Framework**

The theoretical framework for this study is focused upon human ecology theory (Bubolz & Sontag, 1993). As defined by Bubolz & Sontag, the

family, in continuous interaction with its environment, constitutes an ecosystem. The whole and its parts are interdependent, and they operate in relation to each other.

Human ecology theory involves several levels that are applicable to this study. In particular, the concept of human-derived rules (i.e. social norms, distribution of power, traditions, etc.) are one way that interactions are governed within the ecosystem. The independent variables that are being measured in this study (permissive, authoritarian, and authoritative parenting styles) are indicative of the manner in which these human-derived rules are employed. Permissive parents employ few rules and little control over their children, allowing for loose boundaries within the ecosystem. The children are more or less free to do as they wish, without the consequence of breaking any rules. Authoritarian parents employ strict rules and much control over their children, causing the ecosystem's boundaries to be very rigid. These children have little autonomy in decision making, and always run the risk of breaking one of the many rules laid down by their parents. Lastly, authoritative parents, employing clear and consistent rules and control over their children, are sensitive to the child's need for independence. These children have many opportunities for autonomy and independence, but it is in the context of a loving and caring parental overseer to guide and protect the child.

Further, decision making, the central control process in families, directs actions for attaining individual and family goals (Bubolz & Sontag, 1993). Like human-derived rules, careful decision making is paramount to the successful functioning of the family ecosystem. With regard to children, parental decision making can have positive or negative effects upon the children within the system. These effects can be either direct or indirect. For example, if a parent makes the decision to take a promotion, it may be

considered a personal career opportunity. However, that decision has indirectly effected the entire family system. The family may have to relocate, and if that is the case, there will be new and unfamiliar people and environments with which the family must interact. These interactions may be positive, like the forming of new friendships, or negative, like becoming involved in delinquent activities, as far as the children are concerned.

Decision making within the family ecosystem is not dependent upon socioeconomic status, race, culture, or location. It is a process that goes on in all families (not necessarily in the same way) that effects every member of that family; positively or negatively, directly or indirectly.

With regard to the this study, the context of upper-middle class families was chosen for its unique qualities that have an effect upon the members of the family system. Typically, in upper-middle class families, both parents are involved in some kind of career. This career usually takes up a substantial amount of the parent's time and energy, and also creates additional stress that has the potential to affect the members of his/her family when he/she returns home. Further, the upper-middle class society stresses financial competition and high educational expectations. If the child, in this context, does not live up to these parental expectations, he/she may experience feelings of inadequacy or inferiority. A child that experiences these kinds of feelings may be more likely to use drugs. Simply, parental decision making (or parenting style) has an effect on adolescent decision making (whether or not to use drugs), as energy flows throughout the system and all parts interact.

According to human ecology theory, the ecosystem is dynamic and in a state of continuous change, over time. This change occurs via the flow of energy throughout the system. The system has permeable boundaries that

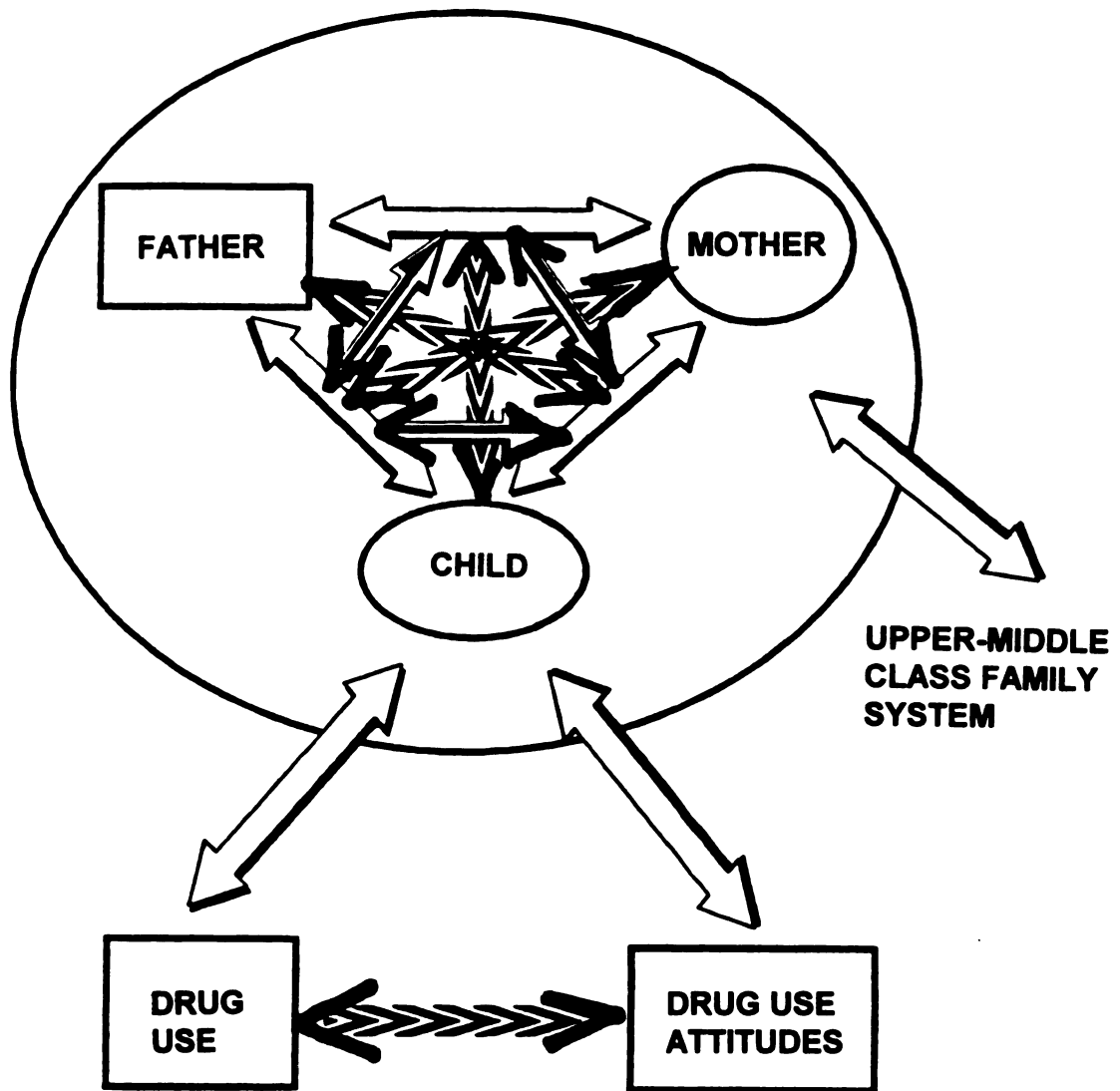
allow energy to flow in, out, and throughout it. Energy can take many forms, from personal decision making and conforming to societal norms, to the simple giving and receiving of a hug.

The visual representation of the conceptual model for this study is illustrated in Figure (1). The figure shows an upper-middle class family system, with two parents and one child. The parents, both, have a relationship with each other and with their child. The energy that flows, here, is known as the primary effects. Each dyad (mother-father, father-adolescent, mother-adolescent) has a relationship that can effect each member of the family, individually. This energy represents the second order effects. Finally, each dyadic relationship can effect another dyadic relationship within the family system, and this energy transfer is known as third order effects. The relationship upon which this study has focused is the secondary effect of the mother-father dyad upon the adolescent (i.e. the effect of parenting style upon the adolescent). The visual representation of this conceptual model is shown in Figure 1, on the following page:



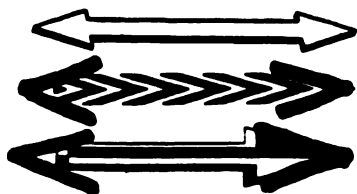
**FIGURE 1**

**THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN FEMALE ADOLESCENT DRUG USE  
(AND DRUG USE ATTITUDES) AND PERCEIVED PARENTING STYLE  
IN UPPER-MIDDLE CLASS FAMILIES**



**KEY:**

**ARROWS REPRESENT FLOW OF ENERGY**



**PRIMARY EFFECTS**

**SECOND ORDER EFFECTS**

**THIRD ORDER EFFECTS**

## **Conceptual & Operational Definitions**

### **Dependent Variables**

#### **FEMALE ADOLESCENT DRUG USE**

**Conceptual:** Female adolescent drug use refers to those females, in grade twelve, who report the use of marijuana and/or alcohol.

**Operational:** Female adolescent drug use was measured using the "Parent Attitude / Drug Use Survey", which is derived from a survey designed by the Search Institute in Minneapolis, Minnesota (Search Institute, 1990).

#### **FEMALE ADOLESCENT ALCOHOL USE**

**Conceptual:** Female adolescent alcohol use refers to those female adolescents, within the sample, who report the use of alcohol during their senior year of high school.

**Operational:** Female adolescent alcohol use was measured using the "Parent Attitude /Drug Use Survey".

#### **FEMALE ADOLESCENT MARIJUANA USE**

**Conceptual:** Female adolescent marijuana use refers to those female adolescents, within the sample, who report the use of marijuana during their senior year of high school.

**Operational:** Female adolescent marijuana use was measured using the "Parent Attitude/ Drug Use Survey".

### **FEMALE ADOLESCENT DRUG USE ATTITUDES**

- Conceptual:** Female adolescent drug use attitudes refers to the way a subject, within the sample, feels about the use of, potential risks, and problems associated with a particular drug.
- Operational:** Female adolescent drug use attitudes was measured using the "Parent Attitude / Drug Use Survey".

### **FEMALE ADOLESCENT ALCOHOL ATTITUDES**

- Conceptual:** Female adolescent alcohol attitudes refers to the way an adolescent, within the sample, thinks about alcohol with regard to risks, potential problems, and personal choice.
- Operational:** Female adolescent alcohol attitudes was measured using the "Parent Attitude/ Drug Use Survey".

### **FEMALE ADOLESCENT MARIJUANA ATTITUDES**

- Conceptual:** Female adolescent marijuana attitudes refers to the way an adolescent, within the sample, thinks about marijuana with regard to risks, potential problems, and personal choice.
- Operational:** Female adolescent marijuana attitudes was measured using the "Parent Attitude / Drug Use Survey".

**Independent Variables****PERCEIVED PARENTING STYLE**

- Conceptual:** Perceived parenting style refers to the way in which an adolescent, within the sample, perceives her own parents' behavior with regard to her own upbringing. Parenting style refers to the manner in which the parent exhibits parenting behaviors toward their child, including the showing love, discipline, the use of rules and regulations, autonomy of decision making, and support. There are three styles, or prototypes, of interest as defined by Diana Baumrind, in 1971: permissive, authoritative, and authoritarian.
- Operational:** Perceived parenting style will be measured using a part of the "Parent Attitude / Drug Use Survey", known as the "Parental Authority Questionnaire", or PAQ. It is designed to elicit the child's opinion of his/her parent's style, or prototype, as defined by Baumrind (1971).

**PERMISSIVE PARENTING**

- Conceptual:** Permissive parenting refers to those parents that set few limits for their child. They are accepting of their child's impulses and appear cool and uninvolved. They exhibit high levels of acceptance with low levels of discipline, as defined by Baumrind (1971).
- Operational:** Permissive parenting was measured using the "Parent Attitude / Drug Use Survey".

### **AUTHORITARIAN PARENTING**

- Conceptual:** Authoritarian parenting refers to those parents who exercise firm control, in a power-oriented fashion, without regard to their child's individuality. They emphasize control, with limited nurturance or support to achieve it. They exhibit low levels of acceptance with high levels of discipline, as defined by Baumrind (1971).
- Operational:** Authoritarian parenting was measured using the "Parent Attitude / Drug Use Survey".

### **AUTHORITATIVE PARENTING**

- Conceptual:** Authoritative parenting refers to those parents who exercise firm control of the child's behavior, but also emphasize the individuality and independence of the child. Control is balanced with support and nurturance, and they exhibit high levels of acceptance with high levels of discipline, as defined by Baumrind (1971).
- Operational:** Authoritative parenting was measured using the "Parent Attitude / Drug Use Survey".

### **Control Variables**

#### **UPPER-MIDDLE CLASS SOCIOECONOMIC STATUS**

- Conceptual:** Upper-middle class refers to those adolescents whose total family income is at least \$80,000, and at least one parent has a post-secondary education.
- Operational:** Upper-middle class socioeconomic status was

measured using the "Hollingshead Two-Factor Index of Social Position", which measures both level of education and level of income.

#### **GENDER - FEMALE**

- Conceptual:** The female gender refers to those subjects who reported to be female.
- Operational:** Gender was measured using one question on the "Parent Attitude / Drug Use Survey".

#### **Research Assumptions**

- (1) Lack of economic resources is *not* a stress that affects the adolescents within the sampling frame.
- (2) The quality and style of parenting that a child receives throughout his/her life will have a significant impact upon the types of behavior that he/she will exhibit.
- (3) Female adolescent drug use may be the result of a combination of factors.
- (4) Female adolescents that have more liberal drug use attitudes are more likely to use drugs than those who have more conservative attitudes.

## **CHAPTER II - REVIEW OF LITERATURE**

### **Review Of Literature**

**As stated earlier, the theoretical model for this research is human ecology theory (Bubolz & Sontag, 1993). The basic premise is that the family is in continuous transaction with its environment and is a part of a functional ecosystem. All parts of the family ecosystem are interdependent and operate in relation to each other and to the larger contexts of the family system. A very similar perspective, by Urie Bronfenbrenner (1979) is known as ecological theory. The following excerpt, by Bronfenbrenner, defines the ecology of human development as:**

**the scientific study of the progressive, mutual accommodation between an active, growing human being and the changing properties of the immediate settings in which the developing person lives, as this is affected by relations between those settings, and by the larger contexts in which those settings are embedded (Bronfenbrenner, 1979, p. 21).**

**The smallest settings in which the family members are embedded are known as microsystems. For example, a child is involved in a school microsystem, while a parent is involved in a career microsystem. Each member has multiple microsystems in which he/she is embedded, and the combination of all of them is known as the mesosystem, which is the larger context in which the individual is involved. Another system, the exosystem, refers to one or more settings that do not involve the individual, but in which events occur that affect, or are affected by, what happens in the setting containing the individual (Bronfenbrenner, 1979). The last of Bronfenbrenner's systems is known as the macrosystem, which is defined as the "cultural milieu", or societal**

surroundings, and encompasses the individual's microsystems, mesosystems, and exosystems. For the purposes of this study, the upper-middle class macrosystem will be of primary concern.

Utilizing this theoretical model, this research seeks to investigate the children's perceptions of the transactions that their upper-middle class parents had with them, and whether or not these transactions have any relationship to these adolescents' drug use or drug use attitudes while in high school.

Much research has focused upon the relationship between substance abuse and poverty (Braithwaite, 1981; Eliot & Ageton, 1980). A study done in Toronto, Canada, by Smart (1994), suggested that the highest rate of adolescent drug and alcohol use was found in areas with the lowest socioeconomic characteristics. These characteristics, specifically, were: areas with the highest rates of single-parent households and those with low overall family incomes. Smart also found that areas with low standard, government subsidized housing had social and racial problems, in addition to problems with drugs and delinquency.

One study, by Lorch (1990), suggested that upper-class youth are just as likely as lower-class youth to be substance abusers. Based upon an evaluation of student self-report questionnaires, Lorch found a curvilinear relationship between social class and substance abuse. The two high ends of the curve belonged to both upper and lower-class youth. Regarding upper-class youth, Lorch stated that one contributing factor may be a greater discrepancy between aspirations and present accomplishments. In upper or upper-middle class families, the adolescent is surrounded by other family members and friends that have achieved a certain degree of success. When comparing these achievements to his/her own current accomplishments, the adolescent may feel inadequate or unable to live up to family standards,



whether they are simply perceived or specifically defined by the parents. If indeed the adolescent perceives him/herself as not being able to fulfill his/her aspirations or the aspirations of the parents, this may lead to status frustration and depressed feelings of self-worth, which may in turn make them more prone to abuse substances as a way to escape these feelings of inadequacy.

Children's development is the result of increasingly complex interactions with socializing adults - primarily parents - who, during the early years, have the power to control these interactions (Baumrind, 1975). . . . . Permissive parents exhibit low levels of control. They give unconditional love with insufficient rules and regulations. This type of parenting, associated with an affluent environment, may be the causal culprit in youthful deviance (Levine & Kozak, 1979). If the adolescent perceives his/her parents to have little involvement in the types of activities he/she chooses to participate in, they are likely to become influenced by peers and not exercise the type of decision making that would allow them to avoid experimentation with drugs or alcohol. Parents who exhibit excessive permissiveness and little control are more likely to have adolescents who become involved in delinquency (Gluek & Gluek, 1962).

Similarly, parental pressure to succeed and overly high expectations can generate self-rejecting attitudes in adolescents (Kaplan, 1982). When young people believe themselves to be subject to intense pressure to perform, they may lose confidence in their capacity to achieve valued goals (Eskilson et al., 1986). In affluent families, adolescents' egos are developed in a culture that places extraordinary emphasis on individual achievement. Therefore, in an upper-class environment that stresses competition, achievement, and success, and in which most of the adults are visibly successful, feelings of competence may be elusive for the high-status adolescents (Muehlbauer &

Doddler, 1983). This may create a predisposition for adolescents with these feelings to fall prey to substance abuse, in an attempt to mask the perceived incompetence. The following excerpt provides a further perspective on the concept of parental pressure to succeed and the potential effects on the adolescent:

If parental expectations are congruent with the child/adolescent's ability, then it is likely that the adolescent will exhibit control over his or her school environment. If expectations and ability differ, and the adolescent is goaded or seduced into accepting unrealistic academic or vocational goals, the variance between actual self and ideal self often results in turmoil. A child viewed as an object of pride, as a kind of family property, who consistently fails to meet family expectations, perceives a loss of familial respect that often results in estrangement. Because his or her actual self varies widely from his or her ideal self, this vulnerable adolescent is likely to engage in acting-out behavior (Shine, 1992; pg. 51).

Although these problems are too often considered less of a concern than the problems of adolescents in poverty, the behavior of the adolescents is the same; substance abuse. No matter what the socioeconomic status of a particular individual, substance abuse is an issue that warrants careful consideration by our society.

A rather substantial body of research investigated the relationship between adolescent drug use and their association with drug using peers. Family attachment is decreased by divorce or by the presence of a stepparent which increases the likelihood of association with drug using peers. Higher association with drug using peers, coupled with decreased family attachment, increased the probability of adolescents initiating marijuana use and elevated the frequency of use (Hoffman, 1995). Another study, by Bauman (1994) claimed that peers are the major determinants of adolescent drug use and that social network analysis is an appropriate method for studying adolescent drug

use if it is in the context of peer relations. Irvin (1994) found that the contributing factors to adolescent drug use are: peer relations, self-concept, social competence, and sociocultural considerations. That study also suggested that successful prevention programs must focus upon a peer component and the social milieu of substance abuse. Mounts (1995) investigated the interactive effects of peer influence and perceptions of authoritative parenting and found that high rates of adolescent drug use was the result of low perceptions of authoritative parenting and high levels of peer drug use. Another study, in North Carolina, examined drug use among student athletes and found that athletes' drug problems were significantly less than the general student body. The data suggested that participation in athletics was a strong deterrent to drug use or abuse (Shields, 1995).

Other research has focused upon the effects of family attachment or family bonds on adolescent drug use. Adolescents with stronger family bonds are less likely to have friends that use drugs. Similarly, adolescents with higher educational commitments (which is positively related to strong family bonds) drink less frequently and in smaller quantities (Bahr, 1995). Another study, among Spanish adolescents, examined the mother-child bond and its relationship to adolescent drug use (Recio, 1995). Cultural traits among Spanish adolescents were responsible for the preventative role that the mother-child bond played (i.e. the strong family bond was responsible for less drug abuse).

As stated earlier, the quality and style of parenting has a significant impact upon the types of behaviors and social-emotional functioning that a child will exhibit while they are growing up (Haskett, 1995). The most effective style of parenting is authoritative, characterized by raised levels of acceptance and control. Other styles that are characterized by low levels of

acceptance and control are associated with school disaffection and poor psychological outcomes (Shucksmith, 1995). A parenting style which included caring and empathy, and was devoid of excessive intrusion and infantilization, correlated with the best family functioning and adolescent well-being (McFarlane, 1995). Another study found that parenting styles may be related to levels of perfectionism shown by adolescents (Flett, 1995). Socially prescribed perfectionism (i.e. bettering oneself to please society) was associated with high perceptions of authoritarianism by parents. Perceived authoritative parenting was associated with self-oriented perfectionism (i.e. bettering oneself for one's own benefit).

Permissive parenting was found to be significantly correlated to extrinsic social commitment in a study by Giesbrecht (1995). Extrinsic social commitment is synonymous with peer association, and if those peers use drugs, the adolescent will have a predisposition to participate in those activities, as well. The same study showed that authoritative parenting and spousal agreement in style appeared to be instrumental in fostering intrinsic religious commitment among adolescents. The stronger the bond to religion, the less likely the adolescent will be to succumb to the pressure of drug using peers.

A study, by Paulson (1994), looked at the relationship between perceived parenting style and achievement among students. The data suggested that adolescents' reports of both maternal and paternal demands, responsiveness, and parental involvement in achievement predicted significant proportions of variance in achievement outcome by the adolescents. Adolescent achievement was more highly related to their own perceptions of parenting style than to the style of parenting that the parents, themselves, believed they were utilizing.

No research was found that specifically addressed adolescent drug use (or attitudes) and its relationship to upper-middle class parenting styles. Some research focused upon the relationship between juvenile delinquency (in general) and low perceptions of self-worth (Levine & Kozak, 1979). Others found that low self-esteem was related to parental permissiveness and/or authoritarianism (Kaplan, 1982). Others showed that permissiveness was a characteristic typical of upper or upper-middle class parents (Shine, 1992). In some families, parental actions encompass both extreme social permissiveness and rigid expectations for academic success (Friedman, et al., 1992). Still, other studies suggested that adolescent drug use was the result of association with drug using peers (Hoffman, 1995; Bauman, 1994).

This study will attempt to bridge the gap in the previously mentioned studies, by focusing upon the specific connection between adolescent drug use (and drug use attitudes) and perceived parenting styles of upper-middle class parents.

## **Research Questions**

**Based upon this review of literature, the following specific research questions will be addressed:**

- \* What is the relationship between female adolescent drug use and perceived permissive parenting, by the adolescent, in upper-middle class families?**
- \* What is the relationship between female adolescent drug use attitudes and perceived permissive parenting, by the adolescent, in upper-middle class families?**
- \* What is the relationship between female adolescent drug use and perceived authoritarian parenting, by the adolescent, in upper-middle class families?**
- \* What is the relationship between female adolescent drug use attitudes and perceived authoritarian parenting, by the adolescent, in upper-middle class families?**
- \* What is the relationship between female adolescent drug use and perceived authoritative parenting, by the adolescent, in upper-middle class families?**

- \* **What is the relationship between female adolescent drug use attitudes and perceived authoritative parenting, by the adolescent, in upper-middle class families?**

## **CHAPTER III - HYPOTHESES AND METHODOLOGY**

### **Research Predictions**

Based upon the research questions, the following relationships were predicted between the variables measured in the study:

#### **In Upper-Middle Class Families:**

- (1) Female adolescents who perceive their parents to be more permissive will exhibit higher levels of drug use than those who perceive their parents to be less permissive.**
- (2) Female adolescents who perceive their parents to be more permissive will report more liberal drug use attitudes than those who perceive their parents to be less permissive.**
- (3) Female adolescents who perceive their parents to be more authoritarian will exhibit higher levels of drug use than those who perceive their parents to be less authoritarian.**
- (4) Female adolescents who perceive their parents to be more authoritarian will report to report more conservative drug use attitudes than those who perceive their parents to be less authoritarian.**
- (5) Female adolescents who perceive their parents to be more authoritative will exhibit lower levels of drug use than those who**



perceive their parents to be less authoritative.

- (6) Female adolescents who perceive their parents to be more authoritative will report more liberal drug use attitudes than those who perceive their parents to be more authoritarian, but will report more conservative drug use attitudes than those who perceive their parents to be more permissive.

### **Research Hypotheses**

- H<sub>01</sub>:** There is no relationship between female adolescent drug use and perceived permissive parenting in upper-middle class families.
- H<sub>a1</sub>:** Female adolescents who perceive their parents to be more permissive will exhibit higher levels of drug use than those who perceive their parents to be less permissive in upper-middle class families.
- H<sub>02</sub>:** There is no relationship between female adolescent drug use and perceived authoritarian parenting in upper-middle class families.
- H<sub>a2</sub>:** Female adolescents who perceive their parents to be more authoritarian will exhibit higher levels of drug use than those who perceive their parents to be less authoritarian in upper-middle class families.
- H<sub>03</sub>:** There is no relationship between female adolescent drug use and perceived authoritative parenting in upper-middle class families.

- H<sub>a3</sub>:** Female adolescents who perceive their parents to be more authoritative will exhibit lower levels of drug use than those who perceive their parents to be less authoritative in upper-middle class families.
- H<sub>o4</sub>:** There is no relationship between female adolescent drug use attitudes and perceived permissive parenting in upper-middle class families.
- H<sub>a4</sub>:** Female adolescents who perceive their parents to be more permissive will report more liberal drug use attitudes than those who perceive their parents to be less permissive in upper-middle class families.
- H<sub>o5</sub>:** There is no relationship between female adolescent drug use attitudes and perceived authoritarian parenting in upper-middle class families.
- H<sub>a5</sub>:** Female adolescents who perceive their parents to be more authoritarian will report more conservative drug use attitudes than those who perceive their parents to be less authoritarian in upper-middle class families.
- H<sub>o6</sub>:** There is no relationship between female adolescent drug use attitudes and perceived authoritative parenting in upper-middle class families.
- H<sub>a6</sub>:** Adolescents who perceive their parents to be more authoritative will report more conservative drug use attitudes than those who perceive their parents to be less authoritative in upper-middle class families.

## **Research Design**

In order to carry out the objectives of this research most effectively, an exploratory, applied research design was implemented. The study was experimental and was carried out in a partially controlled setting. The unit of analysis for this research was the undergraduate student. These students were enrolled in two different, freshman-level, undergraduate courses. The study took place at Michigan State University, in East Lansing, Michigan. The sample population was approximately 375. The actual number of sample elements that fit the criteria for the study was 67.

## **Decision Rule**

A chance probability of .25 or less ( $p \leq .25$ ) will be required to reject the null hypotheses and accept the alternative hypotheses.

## **Research Procedure**

Following a review and approval of the research by the University Council for Research Involving Human Subjects (UCRIHS) at Michigan State University, the researcher contacted the professors of the courses in which the study was to be implemented. A copy of the approval letter is provided in Appendix A. Dates were set up with each to administer the survey, and the surveys were provided to each of the professors by the researcher. One of them administered the survey during class time, and the other gave it to the students to take home and bring back. Consent forms were attached to the instrument, stating that participation was voluntary and that all information

given would be kept in strict confidentiality. The consent form also stated that the surveys were completely anonymous and that no names were to be written anywhere on them. After the surveys were complete, they were compiled and kept in a safe place at the researcher's home office. A copy of the survey and consent form is provided in Appendix B.

### **Sample Selection**

The subjects involved in this study were enrolled in one of two 100-level, undergraduate courses at Michigan State University. In order to have been selected for the study the subjects needed to meet the criteria of the control variables, upper-middle class socioeconomic status and female gender, as defined in the "Conceptual and Operational Definitions" section of this thesis. Not all individuals that completed the survey became sample elements, and those that did, were anonymously identified. After all of the surveys were collected, only those that met the criteria of upper-middle class SES and female gender became part of the sample (approximately 20% of those surveyed). The sample size was 67.

### **Sample Description**

All of the sample elements were between the ages of 18 and 20. All were enrolled in one of two 100-level, undergraduate courses at Michigan State University, from an upper-middle class background, and were female.. Religion, cultural background, or ethnicity was not measured for the purposes of this study, although the majority (over 80%), were White. All subjects

attended high school at one time, as many of the questions focused upon their behaviors during their senior year.

### **Instrumentation**

The dependent variables, or outcomes of this study (adolescent drug use and adolescent drug use attitudes), were measured using a portion of the "Parent Attitude / Drug Use Survey". This portion of the survey, called the "Alcohol and Other Drugs Survey", was developed by the Search Institute in Minneapolis, Minnesota. It is a multiple choice questionnaire that consists of questions regarding specific types of substance abuse, including alcohol, marijuana, and other drugs. In addition to questions regarding frequency of drug use, the survey asks questions about specific attitudes regarding the different types of drug use, and about drug use, in general. For example, there are questions that ask whether or not the subject feels that a particular drug is a problem for teenagers, or whether drug use should be considered a crime vs. a personal choice. An example of the survey is provided in Appendix B.

The independent variables, or predictors of this study (perceived permissive, authoritarian, and authoritative parenting styles, by the adolescent) were measured using another portion of the "Parent Attitude / Drug Use Survey". This portion of the survey was called the "Parent Attitude Questionnaire" or "PAQ". It was developed by Buri, (1991). This questionnaire involved 30 questions in a 5-point Likert Scale format. The responses to each question could range from "Definitely Not Like My Family" to "Exactly Like My Family". The survey was designed to measure a child's perception of their own parent's style of parenting. There were 10 questions

related to each of the three styles of parenting (i.e. permissive, authoritarian, and authoritative), as defined by Baumrind (1971). All of the questions were given as one, single list of questions, and were mixed up with regard to which style of parenting they focused upon. This scale was chosen for its ability to measure adolescents' perceptions of the parenting styles described by Baumrind (1971). An example is provided in Appendix B.

The "Parent Attitude Questionnaire" and "Alcohol and Other Drugs Survey" were combined to form the "Parent Attitude / Drug Use Survey". They were given to the students as a whole, and evaluated separately by the researcher. There were a total of fifty-one questions on the "overall" survey. All subjects finished within thirty minutes. All aspects of the survey remained anonymous and confidential.

One control variable, (upper-middle class socioeconomic status), was measured using the "Hollingshead Two-Factor Index Of Social Position". This index, developed by August Hollingshead in 1957, was designed to measure an individual's social class. It assigns numeric values to two different aspects of the individual: (1) the annual family income, and (2) the level of the parents' education. By multiplying these two numbers, Hollingshead has created a scale consisting of five different social class levels. They range from "upper class" to "lower class". Hollingshead reported that the correlation between the estimated social class of an individual and their actual behavior had been validated by the use of factor analysis. This index was chosen, by the researcher, because it was an objective, easily applicable procedure to estimate the positions that families occupy in the status structure of our society. The researcher used the "Hollingshead Two-Factor Index of Social Position" to obtain the actual sample elements that met the criteria of the

control variable (upper-middle class SES). These criteria were defined as follows:

- \* an annual family income of at least \$80,000.
- \* at least one parent with post-secondary education (beyond high school).

An example of Hollingshead's index is provided in Appendix C.

The second control variable, (female gender), was measured using one question on the first page of the "Parent Attitude / Drug Use Survey". The subject was asked to check the box that applied to his/her gender. The choices were: 1) Male, and 2) Female. Only those that reported to be female were involved in the study.

### **Data Analysis**

All data collected, for this study, was evaluated using the "Student Edition of Minitab" statistical software package for DOS, by Addison-Wesley Publishing Company. In order to assess any relationships between the independent and dependent variables, correlational and regression statistical analyses were used. A Pearson Product Moment Correlation Matrix was produced, which is provided in Table 1. Linear regression formulas were used to assess any linear relationships between the independent and dependent variables, and examples are provided in Table 2. Correlations and regressions were considered significant when the coefficient was greater than zero and had a probability value (p-value) that was less than or equal to .25.

## **CHAPTER IV - RESULTS**

### **Research Findings**

The results of this research will be discussed in relation to the hypotheses that were posed in Chapter III. A Pearson Correlation Matrix is shown in Table 1, and indicates the correlations between the independent and dependent variables. Linear regression formulas that indicate linear relationships between the independent and dependent variables are provided in Table 2.

#### **Null Hypothesis 1:**

There is no relationship between female adolescent drug use and perceived permissive parenting in upper-middle class families.

#### **Results:**

The independent variable, perceived permissive parenting, is correlated with the following dependent variables:

**ALCOHOL USE** - Perceived permissive parenting showed a mild, positive correlation (.140) with female adolescent alcohol use.

**MARIJUANA USE** - Perceived permissive parenting showed a mild, negative correlation (-.135) with female adolescent marijuana use.

**TOTAL DRUG USE** - Perceived permissive parenting showed a slight, positive correlation (.017) with female adolescent total drug use.

The linear regression results are as follows:

**ALCOHOL USE** - The "R-squared" value for this relationship is .02, or 2.0% of the variance in the outcome (female adolescent alcohol use) is explained by the predictor (perceived permissive parenting).



**MARIJUANA** The "R-squared" value for this relationship is .018, or 1.8% of the variance in the outcome (female adolescent marijuana use) is explained by the predictor (perceived permissive parenting).

**TOTAL DRUG USE** - The "R-squared" value for this relationship is 0.0, or none of the variance in the outcome (female adolescent total drug use) is explained by the predictor (perceived permissive parenting).

The probability value associated with the relationship between female adolescent drug use and perceived permissive parenting is .889, and based on the decision rule, the null hypothesis cannot be rejected. The alternative hypothesis, therefore, cannot be accepted.

#### **Null Hypothesis 2:**

There is no relationship between female adolescent drug use and perceived authoritarian parenting in upper-middle class families.

#### **Results:**

The independent variable, perceived authoritarian parenting, is correlated with the following dependent variables:

**ALCOHOL USE** - Perceived authoritarian parenting showed a moderate, negative correlation (-.387) with female adolescent alcohol use.

**MARIJUANA USE** - Perceived authoritarian parenting showed a mild, negative correlation (-.152) with female adolescent marijuana use.

**TOTAL DRUG USE** - Perceived authoritarian parenting showed a moderate, negative correlation (-.328) with female adolescent total drug use.

The linear regression results are as follows:

**ALCOHOL USE** - The "R-squared" value for this relationship is .15, or 15% of the variance in the outcome (female adolescent alcohol use) is explained by the predictor (perceived authoritarian parenting).

**MARIJUANA USE** - The "R-squared" value for this relationship is .023, or 2.3% of the variance in the outcome (female adolescent marijuana use) is explained by the predictor (perceived authoritarian parenting).

**TOTAL DRUG USE** - The "R-squared" value for this relationship is .107, or 10.7% of the variance in the outcome (female adolescent total drug use) is explained by the predictor (perceived authoritarian parenting).

The probability value associated with the relationship between female adolescent drug use and perceived authoritarian parenting is .007, and based on the decision rule, the null hypothesis is rejected. The alternative hypothesis, however, cannot be accepted because the relationship found between the variables is negative. The alternative hypothesis states that there is a positive relationship between female adolescent drug use and perceived authoritarian parenting in upper-middle class families. Based upon these results, a new alternative hypothesis will be proposed: Female adolescents who perceive their parents to be more authoritarian will exhibit lower levels of drug use than those who perceive their parents to be less authoritarian in upper-middle class families.

### Null Hypothesis 3:

There is no relationship between female adolescent drug use and perceived authoritative parenting in upper-middle class families.

### Results:

The independent variable, perceived authoritative parenting, is correlated with the following dependent variables:

**ALCOHOL USE** - Perceived authoritative parenting showed a mild, positive correlation (.114) with female adolescent drug use.

**MARIJUANA USE** - Perceived authoritative parenting showed a slight, negative correlation (-.078) with female adolescent marijuana use.

**TOTAL DRUG USE** - Perceived authoritative parenting showed a slight, positive correlation (.031) with female adolescent total drug use.

The linear regression results are as follows:

**ALCOHOL USE** - The "R-squared" value for this relationship is .01, or 1% of the variance in the outcome (female adolescent alcohol use) is explained by the predictor (perceived authoritative parenting).

**MARIJUANA USE** - The "R-squared" value for this relationship is .027, or 2.7% of the variance in the outcome (female adolescent marijuana use) is explained by the predictor (perceived authoritative parenting).

**TOTAL DRUG USE** - The "R-squared" value for this relationship is .001, or .1% of the variance in the outcome (female adolescent total drug use) is explained by the predictor (perceived authoritative parenting).

The probability value associated with the relationship between female adolescent drug use and perceived authoritative parenting in upper-middle class families is .842, and based on the decision rule, the null hypothesis cannot be rejected. The alternative hypothesis, therefore, cannot be accepted.

#### **Null Hypothesis 4:**

There is no relationship between female adolescent drug use attitudes and perceived permissive parenting in upper-middle class families.

**Results:**

The independent variable, perceived permissive parenting, is correlated with the following dependent variables:

LIBERAL VIEWS ABOUT ALCOHOL USE - Perceived permissive parenting showed a mild, positive correlation (.166) with female adolescent liberal views about alcohol use.

LIBERAL VIEWS ABOUT MARIJUANA USE - Perceived permissive parenting showed a mild, positive correlation (.210) with female adolescent liberal views about marijuana use.

TOTAL LIBERAL DRUG USE VIEWS - Perceived permissive parenting showed a moderate, positive correlation (.337) with female adolescent total liberal drug use views.

The linear regression results are as follows:

LIBERAL VIEWS (ALCOHOL) - The "R-squared" value for this relationship is .027, or 2.7% of the variance in the outcome (female adolescent liberal alcohol views) is explained by the predictor (perceived permissive parenting).

LIBERAL VIEWS (MARIJUANA) - The "R-squared" value for this relationship is .044, or 4.4% of the variance in the outcome (female adolescent liberal marijuana views) is explained by the predictor (perceived permissive parenting).

LIBERAL VIEWS (TOTAL) - The "R-squared" value for this relationship is .114, or 11.4% of the variance in the outcome (female adolescent total liberal drug use views) is explained by the predictor (perceived permissive parenting).

The probability value associated with the relationship between female adolescent drug use attitudes and perceived permissive parenting in upper-middle class families is .005, and based on the decision rule, the null hypothesis

is rejected. The alternative hypothesis, therefore, is accepted: Female adolescents who perceive their parents to be more permissive will report more liberal drug use attitudes than those who perceive their parents to be less permissive in upper-middle class families.

**Null Hypothesis 5:**

There is no relationship between female adolescent drug use attitudes and perceived authoritarian parenting in upper-middle class families.

**Results:**

The independent variable, perceived authoritarian parenting, is correlated with the following dependent variables:

LIBERAL VIEWS ABOUT ALCOHOL - Perceived authoritarian parenting showed a mild, negative correlation ( $-.107$ ) with female adolescent liberal views about alcohol use.

LIBERAL VIEWS ABOUT MARIJUANA - Perceived authoritarian parenting showed a mild, negative correlation ( $-.153$ ) with female adolescent liberal views about marijuana use.

TOTAL LIBERAL DRUG USE VIEWS - Perceived authoritarian parenting showed a moderate, negative correlation ( $-.338$ ) with female adolescent total liberal drug use views.

The linear regression results are as follows:

LIBERAL VIEWS (ALCOHOL) - The "R-squared" value for this relationship is .011, or 1.1% of the variance in the outcome (female adolescent liberal alcohol views) is explained by the predictor (perceived authoritarian parenting).

LIBERAL VIEWS (MARIJUANA) - The "R-squared" value for this relationship is .024, or 2.4% of the variance in the outcome (female adolescent

liberal marijuana views) is explained by the predictor (perceived authoritarian parenting).

LIBERAL DRUG USE VIEWS (TOTAL) - The "R-squared" value for this relationship is .114, or 11.4% of the variance in the outcome (female adolescent total liberal drug use views) is explained by the predictor (perceived authoritarian parenting).

The probability value associated with the relationship between female adolescent drug use attitudes and perceived authoritarian parenting in upper-middle class families is .005, and based on the decision rule, the null hypothesis is rejected. The alternative hypothesis, however, cannot be accepted because the relationship is negative, and the alternative hypothesis states that there is a positive relationship between female adolescent drug use attitudes and perceived authoritarian parenting in upper-middle class families. Based on these results, a new alternative hypothesis is proposed: Female adolescents who perceive their parents to be more authoritarian will report less liberal drug use attitudes than those who perceive their parents to be less authoritarian in upper-middle class families.

#### Null Hypothesis 6:

There is no relationship between female adolescent drug use attitudes and perceived authoritative parenting in upper-middle class families.

#### Results:

The independent variable, perceived authoritative parenting, is correlated with the following dependent variables:

LIBERAL VIEWS ABOUT ALCOHOL - Perceived authoritative parenting showed a mild, positive correlation (.105) with female adolescent liberal views about alcohol.

**LIBERAL VIEWS ABOUT MARIJUANA** - Perceived authoritative parenting showed a slight, positive correlation (.035) with female adolescent liberal views about marijuana.

**TOTAL LIBERAL DRUG USE VIEWS** - Perceived authoritative parenting showed a slight, positive correlation (.074) with female adolescent total liberal drug use views.

The linear regression results are as follows:

**LIBERAL VIEWS (ALCOHOL)** - The "R-squared" value for this relationship is .011, or 1.1% of the variance in the outcome (female adolescent liberal alcohol views) is explained by the predictor (perceived authoritative parenting).

**LIBERAL VIEWS (MARIJUANA)** - The "R-squared" value for this relationship is .001, or .1% of the variance in the outcome (female adolescent liberal marijuana views) is explained by the predictor (perceived authoritative parenting).

**LIBERAL DRUG USE VIEWS (TOTAL)** - The "R-squared" value for this relationship is .005, or .5% of the variance in the outcome (female adolescent total liberal drug use views) is explained by the predictor (perceived authoritative parenting).

The probability value associated with the relationship between female adolescent drug use attitudes and perceived authoritative parenting in upper-middle class families is .552, and based on the decision rule, the null hypothesis cannot be rejected. The alternative hypothesis, therefore, cannot be accepted.

**TABLE 1**

**Pearson Correlation Coefficients Between  
Independent and Dependent Variables**

	<b><u>PERCEIVED PARENTING STYLE:</u></b>		
	<b><u>PERMISSIVE</u></b>	<b><u>AUTHORITARIAN</u></b>	<b><u>AUTHORITATIVE</u></b>
<b><u>ALCOHOL USE</u></b>	.140 (p=.258)	-.387 (p=.001)****	.098 (p=.430)
<b><u>MARIJUANA USE</u></b>	-.135 (p=.274)	-.152 (p=.220)*	-.164 (p=.184)*
<b><u>TOTAL USE</u></b>	.017 (p=.889)	-.328 (p=.007)***	-.025 (p=.842)
<b><u>LIBERAL VIEWS ALCOHOL USE</u></b>	.166 (p=.180)*	-.107 (p=.388)	.105 (p=.398)
<b><u>LIBERAL VIEWS MARIJUANA USE</u></b>	.210 (p=.088)*	-.153 (p=.215)*	.035 (p=.777)
<b><u>TOTAL LIBERAL DRUG USE VIEWS</u></b>	.337 (p=.005)***	-.338 (p=.005)***	.074 (p=.552)

**Significance:**

- \*  $p \leq .25$
- \*\*  $p \leq .05$
- \*\*\*  $p \leq .01$
- \*\*\*\*  $p \leq .001$



**TABLE 2**

**Linear Regression Analyses of the Relationships  
Between Independent and Dependent Variables**

**FEMALE ADOLESCENT DRUG USE vs.  
PERCEIVED PARENTING STYLE**

<b><u>Regression Equation</u></b>	<b><u>R<sup>2</sup></u></b>	<b><u>S.D.</u></b>	<b><u>P</u></b>
alcohol use = 2.24 + .556 * permissive	.02	.49	.258
alcohol use = 6.42 - 1.02 * authoritarian	.15	.30	.001
alcohol use = 2.52 + .263 * authoritative	.01	.33	.430
marijuana use = 2.88 - .448 * permissive	.02	.41	.274
marijuana use = 2.80 - .335 * authoritarian	.02	.27	.220
marijuana use = 3.25 - .368 * authoritative	.03	.27	.184
total use = 5.12 + .108 * permissive	0.0	.77	.889
total use = 9.22 - 1.36 * authoritarian	.11	.49	.007
total use = 5.77 - .104 * authoritative	.001	.52	.842

**FEMALE ADOLESCENT DRUG USE ATTITUDES vs.  
PERCEIVED PARENTING STYLE**

<b><u>Regression Equation</u></b>	<b><u>R<sup>2</sup></u></b>	<b><u>S.D.</u></b>	<b><u>P</u></b>
alcohol views = 6.29 + .594 * permissive	.03	.44	.180
alcohol views = 8.38 - .255 * authoritarian	.01	.23	.389
alcohol views = 6.69 + .255 * authoritative	.01	.30	.398
marijuana views = 5.02 + .811 * permissive	.04	.47	.088
marijuana views = 8.01 - .394 * authoritarian	.02	.32	.215
marijuana views = 6.55 + .092 * authoritative	.001	.32	.777
total drug views = 14.9 + 3.24 * permissive	.114	1.1	.005
total drug views = 28.5 - 2.17 * authoritarian	.114	.75	.005
total drug views = 20.5 + .482 * authoritative	.005	.81	.552

**TABLE 3**

**Correlation of Subjects' Mean Individual Parenting Style Scores**

	<b><u>PERMISSIVE</u></b>	<b><u>AUTHORITARIAN</u></b>
<b><u>AUTHORITARIAN</u></b>	<b>- .367</b>	<b>---</b>
<b><u>AUTHORITATIVE</u></b>	<b>- .033</b>	<b>- .185</b>

**\* Note:**

The purpose of this table is to demonstrate that the subjects' individual parenting styles scores are, in fact, independent of one another. Each subject answered questions and received a separate score with regard to each parenting style.

**TABLE 4**

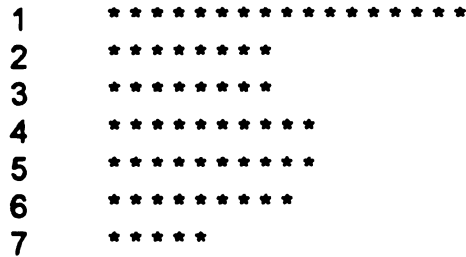
**Correlation of Subjects' Reported  
Actual Drug Use and Drug Use Attitudes**

	<b><u>Reported Drug Use</u></b>		
	<b><u>Alcohol</u></b>	<b><u>Marijuana</u></b>	<b><u>Total</u></b>
<b><u>Alcohol Views</u></b>	.503	.122	.386
<b><u>Marijuana Views</u></b>	.557	.468	.605
<b><u>Total Liberal Views</u></b>	.495	.300	.475

**FIGURE 2**

**Histogram of Subjects' Reported Frequency of Drug Use**

**ALCOHOL USE**



**MARIJUANA USE**



**(N=67)**

**Key:**

- 1 = 0 times**
- 2 = 1-2 times**
- 3 = 3-5 times**
- 4 = 6-10 times**
- 5 = 11-20 times**
- 6 = 21-40 times**
- 7 = more than 40 times**

**\* Time frame represents subjects' senior year of high school.**

## **CHAPTER V - DISCUSSION**

The purpose of this study was to consider the effects of the perceptions of parenting style, by the adolescents, on resulting drug use and drug use attitudes. The intention was not to put a label on any particular parent's style of parenting, or to infer that because of the way an adolescent answered a particular question on the survey, their parent was bound to one of the three parenting style categories. In fact, it is likely that most parents exhibit characteristics of all three styles, depending upon the situation at hand. However, due to the nature of the study and the questions on the survey, it was necessary to delineate the adolescents' perceptions of the three individual parenting styles and how they related to the way they perceived their own parents in many different situations as they were growing up.

### **Implications Of The Results For Human Ecology Theory**

Human ecology theory describes the family as an ecosystem, with the whole and its parts being interdependent and operating in relation to each other. Energy flows through the family ecosystem, as the boundaries are permeable (see Figure 1). This energy is not necessarily heat, light, or electricity, as energy is typically perceived. It can take the form of speech, love, or parenting style, for example, and travels between members of the family ecosystem. For the purposes of this study, it is energy, in the form of perceived parenting style, that is of particular interest.

The perceived style of parenting (i.e. permissive, authoritarian, or authoritative), by the adolescent, represents energy flowing from the parents to the child. As shown in Figure 1, this energy produces what is known as a

secondary, or second order effect. The parents' dyadic relationship produces a parenting style, which is then transferred to their child. This energy dynamic determines the dependent variables that were measured in this study. The adolescent's resultant behaviors regarding the use of drugs and his/her drug use attitudes determine the independent variables and reflects the internal energy that is flowing within the adolescent. Second order effects of this energy represent the relationship between female adolescent drug use (and drug use attitudes) and perceived parenting style in upper-middle class families.

### **Individual Second Order Effects**

Based on the results, in Chapter IV, the strongest correlations between independent and dependent variables were those that involved perceived parenting style and female adolescent drug use attitudes, although relationships between perceived parenting style and drug use were evident. Perceptions regarding the energy transferred to the adolescent in the form of parenting style, by the parent, predicted the most variance in the female adolescents' reported drug use attitudes. Specifically, those female adolescents who perceived their parents to be more permissive reported the most liberal drug use attitudes. In contrast, those female adolescents who perceived their parents to be more authoritative reported much more conservative drug use attitudes. The differing perceptions of parenting styles, by the female adolescents, accounted for some of the variance in reported drug use attitudes, and should be considered individually.

Some parents, defined as permissive in Chapter I, are insufficiently involved in the lives of their children. They exhibit much acceptance of their

adolescents' behaviors and do not implement appropriate discipline.

Adolescence is a time of life when a child is striving for independence and autonomy, looking for new and exciting experiences, and struggling to make difficult decisions. If the parent is not willing or available to offer guidance through these difficult times, the adolescent may make wrong decisions, based on lack of knowledge or pressure from peers. Liberal drug use attitudes, or not being aware of the dangers and detrimental effects of drug use, can have a negative impact on the lives of these female adolescents. If there are no parental guidelines that suggest otherwise, they may show little concern for their own health and safety, or that of others, with regard to how they perceive the use of controlled substances. Liberal drug use attitudes, as defined in Chapter I, include liberal views of the potential risks of alcohol and marijuana. Female adolescents who perceive their parents to be more permissive were more likely to minimize the risks of these drugs. This may be the result of a lack of communication with their parents, who did not take the time to discuss these dangers with their child, or parental indifference or ignorance about how these drugs are potential risks to their child.

If the child perceives excessive permissiveness on the part of his/her parents, and comes to believe that drugs and alcohol do not involve dangers and should not be avoided, there may be a predisposition for drug use and/or abuse. Although the results of this study did not support this, for reasons that will be discussed in the next chapter, female adolescents who perceive their parents to be more permissive may also exhibit higher levels of drug use, in addition to reporting more liberal drug use attitudes.

Some parents, defined as authoritarian in Chapter 1, exhibit strict rules and regulations and do not allow the child much room for autonomy and independence. Although experts do not consider it a preferred style of

parenting, due to its tendency toward harsher discipline and overwhelming pressure on the child, the data in this study showed results that were unexpected. That is, female adolescents who perceived their parents to be more authoritarian had less liberal drug use attitudes and lower levels of drug use than those who perceived their parents to be less authoritarian. These results are contrary to the predictions of the study (i.e. that those female adolescents who perceived their parents to be more authoritarian would exhibit higher levels of drug use and less liberal drug use attitudes). It is possible that because of the authoritarian parenting style perceived by these female adolescents, they were afraid to admit that they had any liberal drug use attitudes, or had ever used any drugs or alcohol to speak of. If an adolescent is accustomed to overbearing rules and regulations and the punishment associated with delinquent activities, he/she might not admit to any drug use, and might report conservative drug use attitudes, as that is what his/her parent would expect. It is difficult to accept the minimal reported use of drugs and conservative attitudes by these female adolescents. It may be that these reported levels are spurious, and that the actual use of drugs are more similar to those adolescents who perceive their parents to be more permissive. Typically, adolescents will rebel against parental authority, especially when it is excessive, as their need for autonomy and individuality at this stage of life is paramount. This being the case, it is possible that those adolescents who perceive a more authoritarian parenting style would report more liberal drug use attitudes and exhibit higher levels of drug use, as it may be contrary to what the authoritarian parent expects. Further research into actual drug use behavior is needed.

Those female adolescents who perceived their parents to be more authoritative reported lower levels of drug use and more conservative drug



use attitudes than those who perceived their parents to be permissive. Authoritative parents are characterized by their careful balance of love and acceptance with guidance and discipline. This style of parenting is most preferred to ensure the healthy upbringing of a child. When confronted with issues concerning drug use, the child of the authoritative parent is more likely to use better judgment by not giving in to peer pressure or to the urge to experiment with substances. The female adolescents in this study also had more conservative drug use attitudes, which includes a greater knowledge of the potential risks and harmful effects that are associated with alcohol and drugs. If the adolescent perceived a more authoritative parenting style, they also were more likely to view drug use as a crime and potentially harmful to teenagers. Although not measured in this study, conservative drug use attitudes are likely to coincide with low levels of actual drug use. This is an important result of the relationship between drug use and perceived authoritative parenting. If the attitudes are such that drug use is wrong and/or dangerous, the corresponding behaviors will likely follow.

The second order effects measured in this study were of great importance to the behaviors of the female adolescents within the sample. The highest levels of drug use and most liberal drug use attitudes came as a result of the second order effects of the permissive style of parenting. The lowest levels of drug use and most conservative attitudes correlated most highly with authoritarian parenting, although this must be qualified as an unhealthy parenting practice. The most effective style of parenting was authoritative, and the behaviors associated with these second order effects were characterized by low levels of drug use and less liberal drug use attitudes. A balance of love, nurturance, autonomy, and discipline, perceived by these female adolescents, was most effective in providing them with the knowledge

**and ability to avoid risks of having liberal drug use attitudes and/or high levels of drug use.**

## **CHAPTER VI - SUMMARY AND CONCLUSIONS**

### **Limitations Of The Study**

- (1) The female adolescents within the study were reluctant to report drug use of any kind, beyond alcohol use, which caused the total drug use correlations to be very weak. The validity of these reports is questioned due to the prevalence of adolescent drug use in the media. The fact that many of the sample elements reported no drug use of any kind, but did report very liberal drug use attitudes raises questions about the validity of the reported drug use responses. (See Figure 2)**
- (2) The sample was taken from two undergraduate courses at Michigan State University. Both classes were within the Department of Family and Child Ecology. This may or may not create some bias with regard to the nature of the responses on the survey.**
- (3) The original sample consisted of an unbalanced number of male and female subjects (a ratio of approximately 1:4, respectively). Therefore, the male subjects were dropped from the sample, and gender became a control variable. The data reflects only the responses of female subjects.**
- (4) The sample size was relatively small: N = 67.**
- (5) The survey was given to subjects enrolled in a freshman-level,**

undergraduate course, but many of the questions were called for retrospective judgments in the context of their senior year in high school, or about a period of their childhood. Accurate memories of the past cannot be guaranteed, and may or may not reflect complete reality.

### **Conclusions And Implications For Future Research**

This study was relatively small in scale, but it did point out the importance of the relationships between perceived parenting style and drug use (and drug use attitudes). Adolescent drug use is more prevalent in today's society than it ever has been, and it deserves careful consideration. Based on the results of this study, the parent has a major impact upon the kinds of behaviors and viewpoints that their adolescent will have with regard to drugs and drug use. With this knowledge, it may be possible to impact drug use, to some degree, by educating parents and alerting them to the types of parenting styles that are perceived by their children to be linked with the predisposition to use drugs or hold liberal drug use attitudes.

This study focused upon upper-middle class family systems. This socioeconomic level has a high percentage of permissive parents (Levine & Kozak, 1979). These data suggest that the adolescent girls who perceived their parents to be most permissive were those that reported the highest levels of drug use, and also had the most liberal drug use attitudes. Parents need to be aware of this trend. If they become aware and more involved in the lives of their children, a reduction in female adolescent drug use may result. However, busy work schedules and long hours do not always allow for time to provide the necessary communication and guidance that an

adolescent needs. The point is that these parents must make time. From the researcher's perspective, the importance of consistent and reasonable involvement with their children far outweighs the need to be over-involved with their careers. If there is no parental figure to point out the potential risks of illegal substances, their adolescent may decide for themselves or learn from peers that drug use is an acceptable form of recreation.

Although it is true that even if an adolescent perceives an authoritative style of parenting, he/she may still engage in drug use, or have liberal attitudes, these data suggest that an authoritative style is most highly correlated with lower levels of use and conservative attitudes. Adolescents may seem to have minds of their own, especially when it comes to peer activities, but there is no substitute for the nurturance and guidance that can be provided by the parents.

Further research is needed that explores the same research questions that were posed in this study, on a much larger scale, to evaluate male adolescent drug use and drug use attitudes, as both genders need to be considered. Also, further research upon the relationships between actual drug use and drug use attitudes would likely prove beneficial.

For the purposes of this study, it was assumed that if an adolescent had liberal drug use attitudes, he/she would also exhibit drug use (see Table 4). This assumption should be further tested. Adolescent drug use attitudes were explored by this survey, but a more in-depth questionnaire would have provided richer data. Questions about why an adolescent feels a certain way about certain drugs, for example, would be useful. Future research might also focus upon perceived parenting style and other types of delinquent activities (i.e. theft, or violence).

The most important concern, for those who are interested in the well-being and healthy, drug free development of children, is the quality and style of parenting that a child receives as they are growing up. Unlike permissive or authoritarian parenting, authoritative parenting provides adolescents with the tools they need to deal with today's ever-changing societal influences (i.e. drugs and alcohol) and make the correct decisions based on what they have learned and how they were reared throughout their lives. Parents of today must be aware that they have a significant impact upon the health and success of their child's future. Truly, there is no substitute for a loving, involved, parental authority figure to encourage, guide, and nurture the child throughout his/her childhood and adolescence.

## **APPENDIX A**

**MICHIGAN STATE  
UNIVERSITY**

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January 15, 1996

TO: Christopher A. Branton  
520 Cornell Ave.  
E. Lansing, MI 48823

RE: IRB#: 95-522  
TITLE: THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN ADOLESCENT DRUG USE AND  
PARENTING STYLE IN UPPER-MIDDLE CLASS FAMILIES  
REVISION REQUESTED: 11/15/95  
CATEGORY: 1-C  
APPROVAL DATE: 10/18/95

The University Committee on Research Involving Human Subjects' (UCRIHS) review of this project is complete. I am pleased to advise that the rights and welfare of the human subjects appear to be adequately protected and methods to obtain informed consent are appropriate. Therefore, the UCRIHS approved this project and any revisions listed above.

**RENEWAL:** UCRIHS approval is valid for one calendar year, beginning with the approval date shown above. Investigators planning to continue a project beyond one year must use the green renewal form (enclosed with the original approval letter or when a project is renewed) to seek updated certification. There is a maximum of four such expedited renewals possible. Investigators wishing to continue a project beyond that time need to submit it again for complete review.

**REVISIONS:** UCRIHS must review any changes in procedures involving human subjects, prior to initiation of the change. If this is done at the time of renewal, please use the green renewal form. To revise an approved protocol at any other time during the year, send your written request to the UCRIHS Chair, requesting revised approval and referencing the project's IRB # and title. Include in your request a description of the change and any revised instruments, consent forms or advertisements that are applicable.

**PROBLEMS/  
CHANGES:**

Should either of the following arise during the course of the work, investigators must notify UCRIHS promptly: (1) problems (unexpected side effects, complaints, etc.) involving human subjects or (2) changes in the research environment or new information indicating greater risk to the human subjects than existed when the protocol was previously reviewed and approved.

If we can be of any future help, please do not hesitate to contact us at (517)355-2180 or FAX (517)432-1171.

Sincerely,

*David E. Wright*  
David E. Wright, Ph.D.  
UCRIHS Chair

DEW:bed

cc: Robert Boger



OFFICE OF  
RESEARCH  
AND  
GRADUATE  
STUDIES

Assistant Vice President  
for Research

Michigan State University  
22 Administration Building  
East Lansing, Michigan  
48824-1046

517/355-2180  
FAX: 517/432-1171



**Consent**

The following survey is being conducted by a graduate student at Michigan State University. The information obtained by the survey will be used to write a Master's thesis, which is a part of the graduation requirements for this individual.

This survey contains questions for students that ask them about certain aspects of their families and their parents' behaviors, as well as about their own behaviors. The purpose of this study is to examine the nature of certain relationships between adolescents and their parents, and what behaviors can be expected because of these relationships.

Participation in this survey is voluntary. If you do not wish to participate, please let your teacher know, and he/she will tell you what to do.

All information in this survey will be completely anonymous and confidential. There are to be no names written anywhere on the questionnaire. The researcher is only interested in the responses to the questions, and NOT who, specifically, gave these responses.

Any questions or concerns about this survey may be directed to Dr. Robert Boger, Department of Family and Child Ecology, at Michigan State University. The phone number is: (517) 353-4453.

**You indicate your voluntary agreement to participate by completing and returning this survey.**

**JCRIHS APPROVAL FOR  
THIS project EXPIRES:**

**OCT 18 1996**

**and must be renewed within  
11 months to continue.**

## **APPENDIX B**

**TEENAGERS AND THEIR FAMILIES**  
**(AN ANONYMOUS SURVEY)**

## **Consent**

**The following survey is being conducted by a graduate student at Michigan State University. The information obtained by the survey will be used to write a Master's thesis, which is a part of the graduation requirements for this individual.**

**This survey contains questions for students that ask them about certain aspects of their families and their parents' behaviors, as well as about their own behaviors. The purpose of this study is to examine the nature of certain relationships between adolescents and their parents, and what behaviors can be expected because of these relationships.**

**Participation in this survey is voluntary. If you do not wish to participate, you do not have to fill it out.**

**All information in this survey will be completely anonymous and confidential. There are to be no names written anywhere on the questionnaire. The researcher is only interested in the responses to the questions, and NOT who, specifically, gave these responses.**

**Any questions or concerns about this survey may be directed to Dr. Robert Boger, Department of Family and Child Ecology, at Michigan State University. The phone number is: (517) 353-4453.**

**You indicate your voluntary agreement to participate by completing and returning this survey.**

**Please answer the following:**

- (1) What is your sex?
  - A. Male
  - B. Female
- (2) What is your age?
  - A. under 18
  - B. 18-20
  - C. 21-23
  - D. 24 or older
- (3) Where did you go to high school?

---

(CITY and STATE, or COUNTRY)

- (4) What was your *approximate* total family income during the time you were in high school?
  - A. over \$100,000
  - B. \$80,000-100,000
  - C. \$60,000-79,000
  - D. \$40,000-59,000
  - E. \$20,000-39,000
  - F. less than \$20,000
- (5) What was the highest level of education that either one of your parents had completed during the time you were in high school?
  - A. never completed high school
  - B. high school graduate or equivalent
  - C. some college
  - D. bachelor's degree
  - E. master's degree
  - F. professional or doctorate degree

**Instructions:**

*For each of the following statements, circle the number on the 5-point scale that best applies to you and your parents **during the time you were in high school.***

**1 = DEFINITELY NOT LIKE MY FAMILY**

**2 = NOT VERY MUCH LIKE MY FAMILY**

**3 = NEUTRAL**

**4 = PRETTY MUCH LIKE MY FAMILY**

**5 = EXACTLY LIKE MY FAMILY**

*Read each statement and think about how it applies to you and your family as you were growing up. There are **NO** right or wrong answers. We just want to know how each statement applies to your own family while you were in high school. Please do not skip any questions.*

---

1. While I was growing up, my parents felt that the children should have 1 2 3 4 5  
their way as often as the parents do.
2. Even if the children didn't agree with them, my parents felt that it was 1 2 3 4 5  
for our own good to do whatever they thought was right.
3. Whenever my parents told me to do something, they expected me to 1 2 3 4 5  
do it *immediately*, without asking any questions.
4. As I was growing up, when a decision had been made, my parents 1 2 3 4 5  
discussed the reasoning behind the decision with the children in the family.
5. My parents have always encouraged me to ask questions whenever 1 2 3 4 5  
I have felt that family rules and restrictions were unreasonable.

6. My parents have always felt that children need to be free to make up their own minds, even if it does not agree with what the parents want. 1 2 3 4 5
7. As I was growing up, my parents did *not* allow me to question any decision that they made. 1 2 3 4 5
8. As I was growing up, my parents directed the children *calmly*, using reasoning and discipline. 1 2 3 4 5
9. My parents have always felt that more force should be used by parents in order to get their children to do what they are supposed to. 1 2 3 4 5
10. As I was growing up, my parents felt that I did *not* need to obey the rules and regulations of behavior *just because* someone with authority said so. 1 2 3 4 5
11. As I was growing up, I knew what my parents expected of me, but I also felt free to discuss those expectations with them if I thought they were unreasonable. 1 2 3 4 5
12. My parents felt that wise parents should teach their children early just who is boss in the family. 1 2 3 4 5
13. As I was growing up, my parents did *not* give me expectations and guidelines for my behavior very often. 1 2 3 4 5
14. As I was growing up, my parents consistently gave me guidance and directions in calm and understanding ways. 1 2 3 4 5
15. Most of the time when I was growing up, my parents did whatever the children wanted when making family decisions. 1 2 3 4 5
16. When I was growing up, my parents would get very upset if I tried to disagree with them. 1 2 3 4 5
17. My parents feel that most problems in society would be solved if parents would *not* be so strict about their children's activities, decisions, and dreams as they are growing up. 1 2 3 4 5
18. As I was growing up, my parents let me know what behavior they expected of me, and if I didn't meet those expectations, they punished me. 1 2 3 4 5

19. As I was growing up, my parents allowed me to decide most things for myself without a lot of direction from them. 1 2 3 4 5
20. As I was growing up, my parents asked the children what they wanted when making family decisions, but they would not decide on something *just because* the children wanted it. 1 2 3 4 5
21. My parents did *not* feel they were responsible for directing and guiding my behavior as I was growing up. 1 2 3 4 5
22. My parents had clear standards of behavior and activities for the children in our family, but they were willing to *compromise* to fit the needs of each individual. 1 2 3 4 5
23. My parents gave me guidelines for my behavior, and they expected me to follow them, but they were always willing to listen to my concerns and to discuss their decisions with me. 1 2 3 4 5
24. As I was growing up, my parents allowed me to have my own point of view, and they usually allowed me to decide for myself what I was going to do. 1 2 3 4 5
25. My parents have always felt that most problems in society would be solved if parents would be strict and forceful with their children when they don't do what they are supposed to. 1 2 3 4 5
26. As I was growing up, my parents often told me exactly *what* they wanted me to do and *how* they wanted me to do it. 1 2 3 4 5
27. As I was growing up, my parents gave me clear directions for my behavior, but they were understanding when I disagreed with them. 1 2 3 4 5
28. As I was growing up, my parents did *not* direct the behaviors, activities, and dreams of the children in the family. 1 2 3 4 5
29. As I was growing up, I knew what my parents expected of me in the family, and they *insisted* that I respect their authority and do what they told me to do. 1 2 3 4 5
30. As I was growing up, if my parents made a decision in the family that hurt me, they were willing to discuss that decision with me and admit it if they had made a mistake. 1 2 3 4 5



*For the next part of this survey, you will be asked questions about different kinds of drug use. Remember: this survey is totally anonymous and confidential, so please answer the questions honestly. Circle the letter that makes the most sense to you, personally.*

---

**For the following items, mark the answer that best describes your feelings about...**

1. Teenagers that drink alcohol -
  - A. a serious problem
  - B. a moderate problem
  - C. a small problem
  - D. not a problem
2. Teenagers that smoke marijuana -
  - A. a serious problem
  - B. a moderate problem
  - C. a small problem
  - D. not a problem
3. Teenagers that use hallucinogenics (mushrooms, LSD, acid) -
  - A. a serious problem
  - B. a moderate problem
  - C. a small problem
  - D. not a problem
4. Teenagers that use cocaine or crack -
  - A. a serious problem
  - B. a moderate problem
  - C. a small problem
  - D. not a problem

**How much do you think that people risk hurting themselves if they...**

5. Try marijuana once or twice?
  - A. big risk
  - B. medium risk
  - C. small risk
  - D. no risk
6. Smoke marijuana regularly?
  - A. big risk
  - B. medium risk
  - C. small risk
  - D. no risk
7. Use cocaine or crack once or twice?
  - A. big risk
  - B. medium risk
  - C. small risk
  - D. not risk
8. Use cocaine or crack regularly?
  - A. big risk
  - B. medium risk
  - C. small risk
  - D. no risk
9. Drink alcohol occasionally?
  - A. big risk
  - B. medium risk
  - C. small risk
  - D. no risk
10. Drink alcohol every day?
  - A. big risk
  - B. medium risk
  - C. small risk
  - D. no risk
11. Use hallucinogens (LSD, acid, mushrooms) every once in a while?
  - A. big risk
  - B. medium risk
  - C. small risk
  - D. no risk

12. Use hallucinogens (LSD, acid, mushrooms) regularly?

- A. big risk
- B. medium risk
- C. small risk
- D. no risk

**How many times, during your last year of high school, did you... (Remember, this survey is anonymous. We don't know or care who you are, so please be honest.)**

13. Use cocaine or crack?

- A. 0 times
- B. 1-2 times
- C. 3-5 times
- D. 6-10 times
- E. 11-20 times
- F. 21-40 times
- G. more than 40 times

14. Drink alcohol to get drunk?

- A. 0 times
- B. 1-2 times
- C. 3-5 times
- D. 6-10 times
- E. 11-20 times
- F. 21-40 times
- G. more than 40 times

15. Smoke marijuana?

- A. 0 times
- B. 1-2 times
- C. 3-5 times
- D. 6-10 times
- E. 11-20 times
- F. 21-40 times
- G. more than 40 times

16. Use hallucinogens (LSD, acid, mushrooms)?

- A. 0 times
- B. 1-2 times
- C. 3-5 times
- D. 6-10 times
- E. 11-20 times
- F. 21-40 times
- G. more than 40 times

**Do you think that people should be able to \_\_\_\_\_ if they want to?**

**17. Drink alcohol?**

- A. no - it's wrong
- B. yes - but I think it's wrong
- C. yes - it doesn't bother me

**18. Smoke marijuana?**

- A. no - it's wrong
- B. yes - but I think it's wrong
- C. yes - it doesn't bother me

**19. Use cocaine or crack?**

- A. no - it's wrong
- B. yes - but I think it's wrong
- C. yes - it doesn't bother me

**20. Use hallucinogens (LSD, acid, mushrooms)?**

- A. no - it's wrong
- B. yes - but I think it's wrong
- C. yes - it doesn't bother me

**21. Do you think drug use is a personal choice, or should it be a crime?**

- A. it should be a crime
- B. it should be a crime for children under 18 years old
- C. it should be a *minor* violation, like a parking ticket
- D. it should be a personal choice - people can do it if they want to

**THE END**

**Thank you for participating in this survey.  
Your questionnaire will be kept confidential.**

**APPENDIX C**

Two Factor Index of Social Position

August B. Hollingshead  
1965 Yale Station  
New Haven, Connecticut

© 1957 by August B. Hollingshead.  
Published in United States of America.

## THE TWO FACTOR INDEX OF SOCIAL POSITION

### I. Introduction.

The Two Factor Index of Social Position was developed to meet the need for an objective, easily applicable procedure to estimate the positions individuals occupy in the status structure of our society. Its development was dependent both upon detailed knowledge of the social structure, and procedures social scientists have used to delineate class position. It is premised upon three assumptions: (1) the existence of a status structure in the society; (2) positions in this structure are determined mainly by a few commonly accepted symbolic characteristics; and (3) the characteristics symbolic of status may be scaled and combined by the use of statistical procedures so that a researcher can quickly, reliably, and meaningfully stratify the population under study.

Occupation and education are the two factors utilized to determine social position. Occupation is presumed to reflect the skill and power individuals possess as they perform the many maintenance functions in the society. Education is believed to reflect not only knowledge, but also cultural tastes. The proper combination of these factors by the use of statistical techniques enable a researcher to determine within approximate limits the social position an individual occupies in the status structure of our society.

### II. The Scale Scores.

To determine the social position of an individual or of a household two items are essential: (1) the precise occupational role the head of the household performs in the economy; and (2) the amount of

formal schooling he has received. Each of these factors are then scaled according to the following system of scores.

A. The Occupational Scale.

1. Higher Executives, Proprietors of Large Concerns, and Major Professionals.

a. Higher Executives

Bank Presidents; Vice-Presidents  
Judges (Superior Courts)  
Large Business, e.g., Directors,  
Presidents, Vice-Presidents,  
Assistant Vice-Presidents,  
Executive Secretary,  
Treasurer.

Military, Commissioned Officers, ~~Major~~  
and above, Officials of the Executive  
Branch of Government,  
Federal, State, Local, e.g.,  
Mayor, City Manager, City Plan  
Director, Internal Revenue  
Directors.  
Research Directors, Large Firms

b. Large Proprietors (Value over \$100,000<sup>1</sup>).

Brokers  
Contractors

Dairy Owners  
Lumber Dealers

c. Major Professionals

Accountants (C.P.A.)  
Actuaries  
Agronomists  
Architects  
Artists, Portrait  
Astronomers  
Auditors  
Bacteriologists  
Chemical Engineers  
Chemists  
Clergyman (Professionally Trained)  
Dentists

Economists  
Engineers (College Grad.)  
Foresters  
Geologists  
Lawyers  
Metallurgists  
Physicians  
Physicists, Research  
Psychologists, Practicing  
Symphony Conductor  
Teachers, University, College  
Veterinarians (Veterinary Surgeons)

2. Business Managers, Proprietors of Medium Sized Businesses, and Lesser Professionals.

a. Business Managers in Large Concerns.

Advertising Directors  
Branch Managers  
Brokerage Salesmen  
District Managers  
Executive Assistants  
Executive Managers, Govt. Officials,  
minor, e.g., Internal Revenue Agents  
Farm Managers

Office Managers  
Personnel Managers  
Police Chief; Sheriff  
Postmaster  
Production Managers  
Sales Engineers  
Sales Managers, National Concerns  
Sales Managers (Over \$100,000)

<sup>1</sup> The value of businesses is based upon the rating of financial strength in Dun and Bradstreet's Manual.



b. Proprietors of Medium Businesses (Value \$35,000-\$100,000)

Advertising Owners (-\$100,000)	Manufacturer's Representatives
Clothing Store Owners (-\$100,000)	Poultry Business (-\$100,000)
Contractors (-\$100,000)	Purchasing Managers
Express Company Owners (-\$100,000)	Real Estate Brokers (-\$100,000)
Fruits, Wholesale (-\$100,000)	Rug Business (-\$100,000)
Furniture Business (-\$100,000)	Store Owners (-\$100,000)
Jewelers (-\$100,000)	Theater Owners (-\$100,000)
Labor Relations Consultants	

c. Lesser Professionals

Accountants (Not C.P.A.)	Military, Commissioned Officers,
Chiropodists	Lts., Captains
Chiropractors	Musicians (Symphony Orchestra)
Correction Officers	Nurses
Director of Community House	Opticians
Engineers (Not College Grad.)	Pharmacists
Finance Writers	Public Health Officers (M.P.H.)
Health Educators	Research Assistants, University
Librarians	(Full-time)
	Social Workers
	Teachers (Elementary and High)

3. Administrative Personnel, Small Independent Businesses, and Minor Professionals.

a. Administrative Personnel

Adjusters, Insurance	Section Heads, Federal, State, and
Advertising Agents	Local Government Offices
Chief Clerks	Section Heads, Large Businesses
Credit Managers	and Industries
Insurance Agents	Service Managers
Managers, Department Stores	Shop Managers
Passenger Agents--R.R.	Store Managers (Chain)
Private Secretaries	Traffic Managers
Purchasing Agents	
Sales Representatives	

b. Small Business Owners (\$6,000-\$35,000)

Art Gallery	Cigarette Machines
Auto Accessories	Cleaning Shops
Awnings	Clothing
Bakery	Coal Businesses
Beauty Shop	Convalescent Homes
Boatyard	Decorating
Brokerage, Insurance	Dog Supplies
Car Dealers	Dry Goods
Cattle Dealers	Electrical Contractors
	Engraving Business

b. Small Business Owners (Continued)

Feed	Monuments
Finance Co., Local	Package Store (Liquor)
Fire Extinguishers	Painting Contracting
5 & 10	Plumbing
Florist	Poultry Producers
Food Equipment	Publicity & Public Relations
Food Products	Real Estate
Foundry	Records and Radios
Funeral Directors	Restaurant
Furniture	Roofing Contractor
Garage	Shoe
Gas Station	Shoe Repairs
Glassware	Signs
Grocery-General	Tavern
Hotel Proprietors	Taxi Company
Inst. of Music	Tire Shop
Jewelry	Trucking
Machinery Brokers	Trucks and Tractors
Manufacturing	Upholstery
	Wholesale Outlets
	Window Shades

c. Semi-Professionals

Actors and Showmen	Morticians
Army M/Sgt; Navy C.P.O.	Oral Hygienists
Artists, Commercial	Photographers
Appraisers (Estimators)	Physio-therapists
Clergymen (Not professionally trained)	Piano Teachers
Concern Managers	Radio, T.V. Announcers
Deputy Sheriffs	Reporters, Court
Dispatchers, R.R. Train	Reporters, Newspaper
I.B.M. Programmers	Surveyors
Interior Decorators	Title Searchers
Interpreters, Court	Tool Designers
Laboratory Assistants	Travel Agents
Landscape Planners	Yard Masters, R.R.

d. Farmers

Farm Owners (\$25,000-35,000)

4. Clerical and Sales Workers, Technicians, and Owners of Little Businesses.  
(Value under \$6,000)a. Clerical and Sales Workers

Bank Clerks and Tellers	Factory Storekeeper
Bill Collectors	Factory Supervisor
Bookkeepers	Post Office Clerks
Business Machine Operators, Offices	Route Managers (Salesmen)
Claims Examiners	Sales Clerks
Clerical or Stenographic	Shipping Clerks
Conductors, R.R.	Supervisors, Utilities, Factories
Employment Interviewers	Toll Station Supervisors
	Warehouse Clerks

### 5. Skilled Manual Employees (Continued)

Printers  
Radio, T.V., Maintenance  
Repairmen, Home Appliances  
Riggers  
Rope Splicers  
Sheet Metal Workers (Trained)  
Shipsmiths  
Shoe Repairmen (Trained)  
Stationary Engineers (Licensed)  
Stewards, Club  
Switchmen, R.R.

Tailors (Trained)  
Teletype Operators  
Toolmakers  
Track Supervisors, R.R.  
Tractor-Trailer Trans.  
Typographers  
Upholsterers (Trained)  
Watchmakers  
Weavers  
Welders  
Yard Supervisors, R.R.

### Small Farmers

Owners (under \$10,000)  
Tenants who own farm equipment

### 6. Machine Operators and Semi-Skilled Employees

Aides, Hospital  
Apprentices, Electricians, Printers  
Steamfitters, Toolmakers  
Assembly Line Workers  
Bartenders  
Bingo Tenders  
Building Superintendents (Cust.)  
Bus Drivers  
Checkers  
Clay Cutters  
Coin Machine Fillers  
Cooks, Short Order  
Delivery Men  
Dressmakers, Machine  
Drill Press Operators  
Duplicator Machine Operators  
Elevator Operators  
Enlisted Men, Military Services  
Filers, Benders, Buffers,  
Foundry Workers  
Garage and Gas Station Assistants  
Greenhouse Workers  
Guards, Doorkeepers, Watchmen  
Hairdressers  
Housekeepers  
Meat Cutters and Packers  
Meter Readers  
Operators, Factory Machines  
Oiler, R.R.  
Paper Rolling Machine Operators

Photostat Machine Operators  
Practical Nurses  
Pressers, Clothing  
Pump Operators  
Receivers and Checkers  
Roofers  
Set-up Men, Factories  
Shapers  
Signalmen, R.R.  
Solderers, Factory  
Sprayers, Paint  
Steelworkers (Not Skilled)  
Stranders, Wire Machines  
Strippers, Rubber Factory  
Taxi Drivers  
Testers  
Timers  
Tire Moulders  
Trainmen, R.R.  
Truck Drivers, General  
Waiters-Waitresses ("Better Places")  
Weighers  
Welders, Spot  
Winders, Machine  
Wiredrawers, Machine  
Wine Bottlers  
Wood Workers, Machine  
Wrappers, Stores and Factories

### Farmers

Smaller Tenants who own little equipment.

## 7. Unskilled Employees.

Amusement Park Workers (Bowling  
Alleys, Pool Rooms)  
Ash Removers  
Attendants, Parking Lots  
Cafeteria Workers  
Car Cleaners, R.R.  
Car Helpers, R.R.  
Carriers, Coal  
Counter men  
Dairy Workers  
Deck Hands  
Domestics  
Farm Helpers  
Fishermen (Clam Diggers)  
Freight Handlers  
Garbage Collectors  
Grave Diggers  
Hod Carriers  
Hog Killers  
Hospital Workers, Unspecified  
Hostlers, R.R.

Janitors, Sweepers  
Laborers, Construction  
Laborers, Unspecified  
Laundry Workers  
Messengers  
Platform Men, R.R.  
Peddlers  
Porters  
Roofer's Helpers  
Shirt Folders  
Shoe Shiners  
Sorters, Rag and Salvage  
Stagehands  
Stevedores  
Stock Handlers  
Street Cleaners  
Unskilled Factory Workers  
Truckmen, R.R.  
Waitresses--"Hash Houses"  
Washers, Cars  
Window Cleaners  
Woodchoppers

Relief, Public, Private

Unemployed (No Occupation)

## Farmers

Share Croppers

This scale is premised upon the assumption that occupations have different values attached to them by the members of our society. The hierarchy ranges from the low evaluation of unskilled physical labor toward the more prestigious use of skill, through the creative talents of ideas, and the manipulation of men. The ranking of occupational functions implies that some men exercise control over the occupational pursuits of other men. Normally, a person who possesses highly trained skills has control over several other people. This is exemplified in a highly developed form by an executive in a large business enterprise who may be responsible for decisions affecting thousands of employees.

### B. The Educational Scale

The educational scale is premised upon the assumption that men and women who possess similar educations will tend to have similar tastes and similar attitudes, and they will also tend to exhibit similar behavior patterns. The educational scale is divided into seven positions: (1) Graduate Professional Training. (Persons who complete a recognized professional course leading to a graduate degree are given scores of 1). (2) Standard College or University Graduation. (All individuals who complete a four-year college or university course leading to a recognized college degree are assigned the same scores. No differentiation is made between state universities, or private colleges.) (3) Partial College Training. (Individuals who complete at least one year but not a full college course are assigned this position. Most individuals in this category complete from one to three years of college.) (4) High School Graduates. (All secondary school graduates whether from a private preparatory school, a public high school, a trade school, or a parochial high school, are assigned the same scale value.) (5) Partial High School. (Individuals who complete the tenth or the eleventh grades, but do not complete high school are given this score.) (6) Junior High School. (Individuals who complete the seventh grade through the ninth grade are given this position.) (7) Less Than Seven Years of School. (Individuals who do not complete the seventh grade are given the same scores irrespective of the amount of education they receive.)

### III. Integration of Two Factors

The factors of Occupation and Education are combined by weighing the individual scores obtained from the scale positions. The weights for each factor were determined by multiple correlation techniques. The weight for each factor is:

<u>Factor</u>	<u>Factor Weight</u>
Occupation	7
Education	4

To calculate the Index of Social Position score for an individual the scale value for Occupation is multiplied by the factor weight for Occupation, and the scale value for Education is multiplied by the factor weight for Education. For example, John Smith is the manager of a chain supermarket. He completed high school and one year of business college. His Index of Social Position score is computed as follows:

<u>Factor</u>	<u>Scale Score</u>	<u>Factor Weight</u>	<u>Score X Weight</u>
Occupation	3	7	21
Education	3	4	12
Index of Social Position Score			<u>33</u>

#### IV. Index of Social Position Scores.

The Two Factor Index of Social Position Scores may be arranged on a continuum, or divided into groups of scores. The range of scores on a continuum is from a low of 11 to a high of 77. For some purposes a researcher may desire to work with a continuum of scores. For other purposes he may desire to break the continuum into a hierarchy of score groups.

I have found the most meaningful breaks for the purpose of predicting the social class position of an individual or of a nuclear family is as follows:

<u>Social Class</u>	<u>Range of Computed Scores</u>
I	11-17
II	18-27
III	28-43
IV	44-60
V	61-77

When the Two Factor Index of Social Position is relied upon to determine class status, differences in individual scores within a specified range are ignored, and the scores within the range are treated as a unit. This procedure assumes there are meaningful differences between the score groups. Individuals and nuclear families with scores that fall into a given segment of the range of scores assigned to a particular class

are presumed to belong to the class the Two Factor Index of Social Position score predicts for it.

The assumption of a meaningful correspondence between an estimated class position of individuals and their social behavior has been validated by the use of factor analysis.<sup>2</sup> The validation study demonstrated the existence of classes when mass communication data are used as criteria of social behavior.

<sup>2</sup> See August B. Hollingshead and Frederick C. Redlich, Social Class and Mental Illness, John Wiley and Sons, New York, 1958, pp. 398-407.

## **APPENDIX D**



## **TIME LINE FOR WORK**

<b>September, 1995:</b>	<b>Submitted research proposal to advisory committee for approval</b>
<b>September, 1995:</b>	<b>Received "unofficial" approval from high school in which survey was going to be administered</b>
<b>October, 1995:</b>	<b>Received approval from advisory committee</b>
<b>October, 1995:</b>	<b>Applied to UCRIHS at Michigan State</b>
<b>November, 1995:</b>	<b>Received UCRIHS approval</b>
<b>November, 1995:</b>	<b>Found out that school board had not yet received materials from principle to be reviewed (contrary to what I was told)</b>
<b>November, 1995:</b>	<b>Was denied by school board to give survey in public schools</b>
<b>December, 1995:</b>	<b>Quickly decided to attempt to administer survey at Michigan State in hopes of making up for lost time</b>
<b>January, 1996:</b>	<b>Met with professors of courses in which survey was to be administered</b>
<b>February, 1996:</b>	<b>Administered survey</b>
<b>February, 1996:</b>	<b>Collected sample and entered data into computer</b>
<b>March/April, 1996:</b>	<b>Analyzed data</b>
<b>April/May/June, 1996:</b>	<b>Wrote thesis paper</b>
<b>August 1996:</b>	<b>Submitted and defended thesis paper</b>

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