Precursors of problem drinking based on two follow-up studies from school age to young adulthood

The licentiate thesis consists of three articles. The first two articles were based on data from the Jyväskylä Longitudinal Study of Personality and Social Development. The participants (196 males, 173 females) were studied at ages 8, 14, 20, and 26. The third article was based on a follow-up study from high school (age 17) to young adulthood (age 22) at the National Health Institute. In the first article, the predictive validity of different measures of aggression was analyzed in order to study the dependence of continuity in aggression on the methods used to measure it. Adult outcomes (including problem drinking) of highly aggressive individuals were analyzed in detail in order to find possible differences in developmental trajectories. In the second article, the data were used for the analyses of individual differences, including gender differences, in young adults' drinking behavior; behavioral precursors of adult problem drinking; and the effects of parental alcohol-related problems on their offsprings' use of alcohol. In the third article, the psychological well-being of 233 male and 418 female adolescents was followed up into young adulthood and examined in terms of their drinking styles at age 22. On the basis of these studies it can be concluded that behavioral problems and poor psychological well-being are risk factors for the development of later problem drinking, although gender differences exist.

Articles:

Keywords:
- problem drinking - young adults
- psychological well-being - alcoholism
- longitudinal study - drinking habits

Muita tietoja:
The work is in Finnish language but a good part of the work is articles written in English.