

Structural MRI studies of limbic system and other relative brain regions among young adult methamphetamine users

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In 2012, the National Institutes of Health (NIH) indicated that scientific knowledge, with respect to sex/gender differences, was deficient in the areas of substance abuse, in particular alcohol consumption. NIH has also endorsed more research for "high-risk" groups, such as racial/ethnic minorities and younger populations. The proposed study addresses these research limitations as it seeks to understand differences in risk and protective factors for alcohol use among male and female college students at a Hispanic-serving institution. Specifically, the study aims to explore the unique and combined associations of a range of peer, parent, and social/cultural variables with alcohol use among incoming freshmen. A random sample of 200 incoming freshmen at a Hispanic-serving institution, males and females 18 years of age and older, will be surveyed. Findings from the study are expected to extend breadth of knowledge on the extant topic and also yield beneficial information for future prevention/intervention strategies.

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