

Risk consumption (RC) of alcohol among teenagers is a public health challenge. Perceptions regarding alcohol consumption as well as number of friends who have gotten drunk in the peer groups are two of the most relevant determinants, which may affect differently according to gender.

A validated survey on health-related habits was conducted among last compulsory education course students (15/16 years old) in the province of Barcelona, Spain (N = 8078). In this research several questions regarding 'alcohol consumption' were addressed. In order to detect risk factors for RC (defined as students that had experienced drunkenness or binge-drinking in the past 12 months), bivariate chi square tests were performed. Variables that presented statistically significant differences were analysed using a multivariate logistic regression model, considering interactions between them. The analysis was performed with SAS v9.4. The significance level was set to 0.05.

Among teenagers who have at least once consumed alcohol, RC was greater in boys than in girls, but not significant (77% vs 76%). Risk perception (an aggregate variable of different questions regarding opinions on effects of alcohol consumption) and drunkenness among peers showed statistically significant differences in the bivariate analysis. The multivariate model for RC confirmed that both perception and number of friends who got drunk among peers were relevant. Two interactions were found: gender with risk perception (risk perception in girls had more influence on RC than in boys); and perception with drunkenness in the peer group (risk perception had more effect on RC among teenagers whose friends never got drunk, compared to teenagers with a peer group where some or all have gotten drunk).

Drunkenness among friends and risk perception are related to RC. Additionally, the interaction between RC and risk perception with gender shows that the association is more intense in girls. This is relevant to adapt interventions.

**Key messages:**

- Gender, risk perception and consumption among peers affect alcohol risk consumption in teenagers and present different relations.
- Health promotion activities should take into account these interactions.

**Alcohol, gender and teenagers: risk consumption, beliefs, and peer consumption in Barcelona province**  
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