

# Alcohol and Marijuana Use Among College Students: Economic Complements Or Substitutes?, , ; Jenny Williams; National Bureau of Economic Research, 2001; 2001

Alcohol and marijuana use among college students: economic complements or substitutes? *Health Econ.* 2004 Sep;13(9):825-43. doi: 10.1002/hec.859. Previous research has shown that the recent tightening of college alcohol policies has been effective at reducing college students' drinking. Over the period in which these stricter alcohol policies have been put in place, marijuana use among college students has increased. This paper begins to address this question by investigating the relationship between the demands for alcohol and marijuana for college students using data from the 1993, 1997 and 1999 waves of the Harvard School of Public Health's College Alcohol Study (CAS). Implicit in these arguments are two competing, individual-level hypotheses-that people use alcohol and cannabis either as complements or substitutes for one another. This is the first study to test these hypotheses using micro-longitudinal data on individuals' alcohol and cannabis use on a given evening. Tweets\*. 5. Facebook likes\*. 2. Reddit\*. 0. *The Economic Analysis of Substance Use and Abuse: An Integration of Econometric and Behavioral Economic Research.* NBER Conference Report Series. Chicago (IL) and London: University of Chicago Press; 1999. p.133-55. Williams J, Pacula RL, Chaloupka FJ, Wechsler H. Alcohol and marijuana use among college students: economic complements or substitutes. *Health Econ.* 2004;13:825-43. CAS Article PubMed Google Scholar. 27. Williams J, Pacula RL, Chaloupka FJ, Wechsler H. College students' use of cocaine. *Subst Use Misuse.* 2006;41:489-509. Article PubMed Google Scholar. 28. Thies C, Register C. Decriminalization of marijuana and the demand for alcohol, marijuana and cocaine. *Soc Sci J.* 1993;30:385-99. Article Google Scholar. Book Google Scholar. Background Alcohol and marijuana are the two most abused substances in US colleges. However, research on the combined influence (cross sectional or longitudinal) of these substances on academic performance is currently scant. Methods Data were derived from the longitudinal 2-year Brain and Alcohol Research in College Students (BARCS) study including 1142 freshman students who completed monthly marijuana use and alcohol consumption surveys. Subjects were classified into data-driven groups based on their alcohol and marijuana consumption. Longitudinal influence of alcohol and marijuana use on academic performance in college students. Shashwath A. Meda , \* E-mail: shashwath.meda@hhchealth.org.