

Project Nicholls

Development and Validation of the Adolescent Sport Drug Inventory (ASDI) and Factors that Influence Attitudes among Adolescents

The primary aim of this project is to develop and then validate the Adolescent Sport Drug Inventory (ASDI) among adolescent athletes from different cultures (UK, US, Hong Kong, and Australia). The ASDI will be then utilized to explore maturational, environmental, and psychological factors, in three separate studies, which might influence such attitudes towards doping and doping susceptibility.

On the whole, adolescents have been widely ignored within the doping literature (Backhouse et al., 2007). The fact that adolescents have featured sparingly in the literature is somewhat of a surprise, because adolescence has been widely accepted as a period in which a person's attitudes are formed (Harton & Latane, 1997; Prawat, Jones, & Hampton, 1979). As such, it could be crucial to understand adolescents' attitudes towards doping, in order to aid the development of interventions aimed at eliminating negative attitudes towards doping before they have formed and to target individuals who may be susceptible to doping behavior.

To our knowledge, there are no questionnaires in existence that have been developed exclusively to measure adolescents' attitudes and susceptibility towards doping. Scholars from other domains of psychology, who publish widely in the developmental literature, such as Compas et al. (2001) have suggested that adolescents should not be classified as mini-adults and that specific measures and conceptualizations are required, because there might be subtle differences between adults. As such, it could be argued that specific measures are required for adolescent samples.

Of the 13 studies that have measured attitudes towards doping among adolescents, none of the questionnaires used have been based on a conceptual model. The ASDI will be based upon Donovan et al.'s Sport Drug Control Model (SDCM; 2002). There has been some support for this model from Gucciardi et al. (2011) who used questions from a variety of established questionnaires and found that half of the subscales were supported. However, the study by Gucciardi and colleagues: (a) contained a sample of athletes aged between 14 and 66 years of age, so did not feature an adolescent only sample, (b) did not have athletes from a variety of cultures, (c) only sampled elite athletes, and (d) used questions from a variety of questionnaires. A questionnaire such as the ASDI, which will be specifically developed for adolescents, is likely to have a much better model fit.

With regards to the development of the ASDI, the SDCM (Donovan et al., 2002) will be used to help develop an interview guide for which adolescent athletes, coaches, sport psychologists, and medical professionals will be interviewed and items will be generated in consultation with an expert panel. It will then be subjected to content validity analysis, Confirmatory Factor Analysis (CFA) and Exploratory Structural Equation Modeling (ESEM) to assess the factorial validity, construct validity assessment, and test-retest reliability examination.

Three separate studies, using the ASDI, will assess maturational, environmental-social, and psychological factors that might be associated with doping attitudes among adolescent athletes.