

Intermediate and high school students' attitudes toward and behavior regarding steroids and sports supplements use: The mediation of clique identity

Acknowledging the reality that steroid use among adolescence is no longer confined to high school male athletes, this study seeks to compare the attitudes and behaviour of Long Island intermediate and high school students regarding the use of steroids and other sport supplements. It will assess the extent to which attitudes and behaviours are related to the respondents' age, gender, athletic experience, and fitness behaviour.

This study also examines the importance of peer group membership in explaining steroid and sports supplements attitudes and behaviours. Specifically, we test the extent to which attitudes and behaviours about steroids and other sports supplements use is mediated by clique membership. Such information is valuable for theoretical and practical reasons. If different groups are using steroids for reasons other than sporting success then current theories need to include this reality. If steroid and other sport supplements are becoming more acceptable to middle and high school students, particularly among male and females cliques not involved in organized school sports, this reinforces the need to broaden anti-steroid education programs. A connection between attitudes toward steroids and attitude towards other supplements would also have important implications for the content of these programs.