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Alcohol drinking by parents and risk of alcohol abuse by adolescents

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OBJECTIVE(S): To investigate associations between alcohol drinking by parents at different time of their life and alcohol use by adolescents.

DESIGN: The longitudinal epidemiological study design was used to answer the proposed research questions. This study is based on the data of the Family and Children of Ukraine Study, which is a prospective cohort study of women and children.

PARTICIPANTS: Recruited subjects were pregnant women with last menstrual period between 25 December 1992 and 23 July 1994. Self-completed questionnaires and the medical record data were collected at the first antenatal clinic visit and at the delivery. The sample in the city of Dniprodzerzhynsk consists of 2148 women, their children and partners (if any), but at 15-17-years-old follow-up only data about 1020 participants were available.

MAIN EXPOSURES: Use of alcohol by mother/father before pregnancy, during pregnancy, and at 15-17 years of child's age.

OUTCOME MEASURE: Use of alcohol by 15-17-year-old adolescent.

RESULTS: Use of alcohol more than once a week by mother before pregnancy was associated with alcohol abuse by adolescents, unlike father's use of alcohol before and during pregnancy. Use of alcohol both by mother and father during adolescence of their offspring was strongly associated with alcohol abuse by the child. In the multivariate analysis, only alcohol use by mother during ado-

lescence of the child was significantly associated with alcohol use by the adolescent.

CONCLUSIONS: This study supports the hypothesis that concurrent social factors influence regular alcohol use among adolescents more intensively than early life factors.

KEY WORDS: alcohol, parents, adolescents.

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Употребление алкоголя родителями и риск злоупотребления алкоголем подростками

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КЛЮЧЕВЫЕ СЛОВА: алкоголь, родители, подростки.

Вживання алкоголю батьками та ризик зловживання алкоголем підлітками

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