



## Research Article

**Attitude, Perceived Severity and Behavioral Intention to Methamphetamine use among Iranian Adolescents**Mari Atae<sup>1</sup>, Touraj Ahmadi Jouybari<sup>1</sup>, Seyyed Nasrolah Hosseini<sup>2</sup>, Abbas Aghaei<sup>1</sup>, Mohammad Mahboubi<sup>3</sup>, Fazel Zinat-Motlagh<sup>4\*</sup><sup>1</sup>Substance Abuse Prevention Research Center, Kermanshah University of Medical Sciences, Kermanshah, Iran<sup>2</sup>Ministry of Health and Medical Education, Tehran, Iran<sup>3</sup>Ph.D in Health Services Administration, Kermanshah University of Medical Sciences, Kermanshah, Iran<sup>4</sup>Social Determinants of Health Research Center, Yasuj University of Medical Sciences, Yasuj, Iran**ARTICLE INFO**

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Research Center, Yasuj University of Medical Sciences,  
Yasuj, Iran.

Tell: +98741 2220881

Fax: +98741 2220881

Email: [motlaghf@yahoo.com](mailto:motlaghf@yahoo.com)**ABSTRACT**

One the most important problems in recent years was psychoactive substances abuse, especially among adolescents and young people. The aim of this study, was determined attitude, perceived severity and behavioral intention toward methamphetamine use among sample of adolescents in the Yasuj County, southern of Iran. This cross-sectional study was performed among 474 male adolescent were selected in random sampling for participants in our study. Data collection by standard self-report questionnaire, and analyzed by SPSS version 21 using bivariate correlations, and linear regression statistical tests at 95% significant level. Our result indicated, intention of methamphetamine use while it was correlated with the positive attitudes toward the methamphetamine use ( $r=0.657$ ), and it was inversely related with perceived severity ( $r=-0.307$ ). In addition, the two predictor variables of (1) attitude, and (2) perceived severity accounted for 44% of the variation in the outcome measure of the intention to use the methamphetamine use.

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**1. Introduction**

Substance abuse is one of the most serious human problems, as surely as one of the four crises of the twenty-first century, all the communities involved [1-2]. Addiction was defined a chronic, compulsive, or uncontrollable drug use, to the extent that a person (an addict) cannot or will not stop the use of some drugs, It usually implies a strong (Psychological) Dependence and (Physical) Dependence resulting in a Withdrawal syndrome when use of the drug is stopped [3]. Currently, more than 26 million annual deaths occur due to drug use worldwide and it will rise to more than 40 million within next 20 years that more than a third of it will occur in developing countries [4]. One the most important problems in recent years was psychoactive substances abuse, especially among adolescents and young people. Currently there are at least 1.300 type of psychoactive substance, and Amphetamine compounds, most of which is use in the world [5]. Our community is prone to turning to substance use because of its especial conditions such as cultural aspects, myths, and special geographical conditions (neighborhood with a large national producer of opium) [6]. Psychoactive drugs resulted in the destruction serotonergic neurons in the nervous system are [7]. This drugs as stimulants cause excitement and energy and stimulates the activity of the central nervous system, commonly cause to increase consciousness, build tolerance to stay awake too long, loss of appetite and feel jolly; It can severe psychological dependence to the drug [8]. As well as strong correlation between psychotropic drugs use, alcohol, unprotect sex and HIV infection [9-10] in addition drug users often have multi-drug use [11].

Awareness health professionals regarding why adolescent substance use, can help them to design an effective and appropriate curriculum for psychotropic drug abuse prevention. So the main aim of this study, was determined attitude, perceived severity and behavioral intention

toward methamphetamine use among sample of adolescents in the Yasuj County, southern of Iran.

**2. Methods**

Our cross-sectional study was conducted on 474 boy adolescent in Yasuj city in the south of Iran, during 2013; with the goal of providing knowledge for the prevention of methamphetamine use. The participants' age ranged from 13 to 19 with a mean of 16.62 years. Being literate for completing written questionnaire and boy adolescents were eligibility criteria to participate in this study. To enrol the participants and collect first, different areas of the city were classified based on the municipal divided region, next for each region one crowded area were randomly selected (a total of four area were selected) and finally, participants were enrolled in study voluntarily. Of the population of 474, 408 (86.1%) signed the consent form and voluntarily agreed to participate in this study, which has been approved by the institutional review board at the Yasuj University of medical sciences. Attitude, perceived severity, and intention scale was designed based on a standard questionnaire [12-14]; in addition, prior to conducting the main project, a pilot study was carried out. Estimated reliability using alpha Cronbach coefficient for each attitude, severity, and intention constructs questionnaire were as follows: attitude ( $\alpha = 0.75$ ); perceived severity ( $\alpha = 0.86$ ); and behavioral intention ( $\alpha = 0.83$ ).

**3. Result**

Our findings showed, among the participants, 12.7% (52/408) were reported methamphetamine use in lifelong. Nearly 29.2 % (119/408) had history of cigarette smoking and 17.4 % (71/408) reported drinking alcohol in lifelong. Table 1 indicates bivariate associations among the attitude, severity, and intention variables, which were all statisti-

cally significant at either.01 level. However, with the study results, the possibility of multicollinearity could not be ruled out. For example, the intention of methamphetamine use while it was correlated with the positive attitudes toward the methamphetamine use, and it was inversely related with perceived severity.

**Table 1. Correlation between Perceived Severity, Attitude and Intention**

Variable	X1	X2
X1. Attitude	1	
X2. Severity	-0.272	1
X3. Intention		-
	0.657	0.
		30
		7

A hierarchical multiple regression analysis was performed to explain the variation in intention and willingness to methamphetamine use. As can be seen in Table 2, attitude, and severity variables were statistically significant for predicting methamphetamine use which, they were accounted for 44% of the variation in intention to methamphetamine use.

**Table 2. Hierarchical Regression Analyses Predicting Methamphetamine use Intention by Attitude, and Severity**

Variable	B	SE B	Beta	T	P-value
Attitude	0.428	0.027	0.619	16.146	0.001
Perceived Severity	-0.335	0.093	-0.138	-3.600	0.001

R<sup>2</sup> = 0.44 & P < 0.001

#### 4. Discussion

Our Results indicate a high correlation between attitude and behavioral intention to use the methamphetamine (r=0.657). In this regard, Allahverdipour et al reported improving negative attitude toward drug use can protect against drug abuse [15]. In addition, several study reported positive attitude toward drug use among addicted [16]. Also Jalilian et al [17] in his study reported attitude was a best predictor to Ritalin misuse among young college students. In addition, Jalilian et al carried out a research on adolescents aged 15 to 19 years old in Kermansha County, the west of Iran and reported that positive attitude was a strong factor to ecstasy use [13]. Furthermore, Zinat-Motlagh et al [18], was reported the important role of attitude in aggressive behavior predict among the boy adolescents. It seems that, designing and implementing educational program among teenager for reduce positive attitude toward psychotropic drug is necessary. Another finding of the present study, was a negative correlation between intention and perceived severity. These findings can be considered in design of educational interventions. In this regard, several studies noted the adolescents who think that they are not vulnerable for complications in risky behavior. They have less vulnerable belief towards risks behavior; in other words adolescents protect themselves against hazards and health threats and does not feel requirement of adopting preventive behaviors [19-21]. It seems, training programs in order to enhance proportion of adolescents perceived side effects of the methamphetamine use, could be beneficial results followed.

#### 5. Conclusion

Our findings showed attitude and subjective norm were predict accounted for 44% of the variation in intention to methamphetamine use; it seem designing and implementing educational program for increasing negative attitude toward methamphetamine use and increasing severity toward side effect of methamphetamine use could be effectiveness result to prevent methamphetamine use among adolescents.

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#### Conflict of interest statement

The authors declare that they have no conflict of interest.

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