



## Description of the project

Findings regarding problematic developmental pathways of alcohol use in adolescents are needed to conceptualize effective prevention programs. Unfortunately, today's knowledge in that field is still limited. This is primarily due to the fact that until recently there were no statistical methods available which allow to model hypothesized and empirically identified prototypical trajectories and their associated predictors.

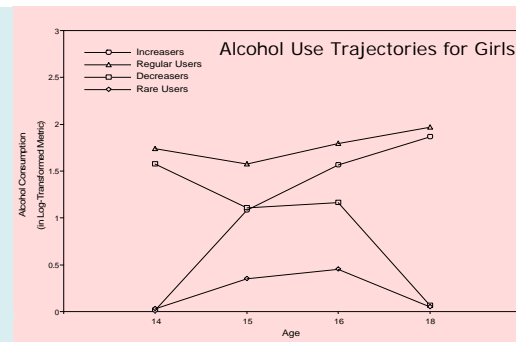
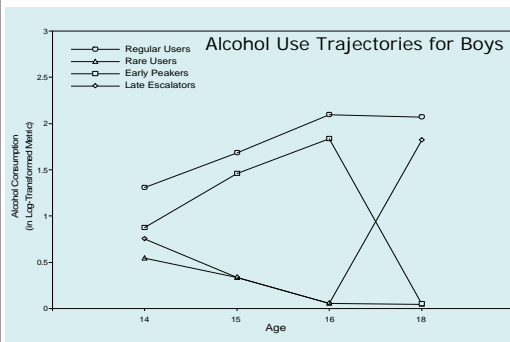
The aim of the current project is to identify trajectories of alcohol use in male and female adolescents. Moreover, they will be linked with early childhood risk factors and concurrent negative circumstances. In order to pursue that, we will reanalyze an archival data set (Leipzig Longitudinal Study) which includes 9 waves of data collection from childhood through adolescence.

Results according to the aims of the study are in particular important for the reanalysis of evaluation studies regarding their group-specific effects. Finally, recommendations for effective indicative prevention attempts against alcohol misuse in adolescence may be given according to the findings.

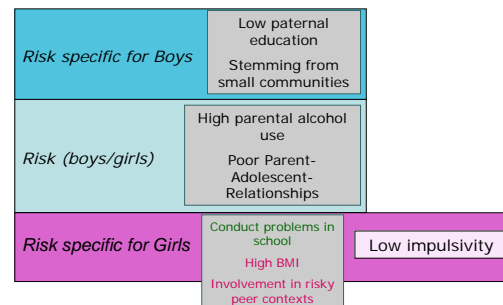
## Aims of the project

1. To identify distinctive trajectories of alcohol consumption of Eastern German youths (14-18 year). Particular focus will be given to gender differences.
2. To identify which risk factors may work as precursors and/or correlates of different alcohol course types; To investigate gender differences regarding the relation between risk factors and alcohol use trajectories.
3. To investigate time specific influences of contact with deviant peers on alcohol use trajectories and examine gender differences in this relation.
4. To apply results to planning and implementation of prevention efforts against alcohol misuse; Thereby, reanalyzing existing evaluative studies of preventive interventions in early adolescence (e. g. 'IPSY').

### 1. Differential trajectories of alcohol use for boys and girls



### 2. Risk Factors for the most Problematic Alcohol Trajectories in boys and girls



## First results related to study aims 1, 2, 3 & 4:

### 3. Time specific influences of contact with deviant peers on alcohol use trajectories

- Mixture analysis indicated consistent concurrent effects of deviant peer association on alcohol use for the regular users group, but not for any of the other drinking trajectory groups.
- Very few lagged effects of deviant peer association on alcohol use were found, and thus social influence hypothesis received little empirical support.
- Overall, findings suggest the need to consider heterogeneity in the study of peer characteristics and alcohol use for both male and female adolescents.

### 4. IPSY, an universal school-based program based on Life-Skills-Approach

- We found a 'normative group' and a 'sharp increasing group' from age 10-13.
- IPSY prevented from being member of the problematic group which was associated with temperament variables and problems with peers at age 10 but not with gender.
- As expected, IPSY exerted positive effects on alcohol use development within the normative but not the problematic group, were more intensive intervention programs focusing on early childhood antecedents seem to be necessary.

