

Melissa Lewis, PhD
Health Behavior & Health Systems
School of Public Health
Email: Melissa.Lewis@unthsc.edu



Area of Expertise

My research focuses on uncovering why adolescents and young adults engage in health-risk behavior and how this knowledge can be used to identify protective and risk factors as well as prevent risk. My scholarly interests focus on advancing the understanding of the dual processing nature of decisions to engage in health-risk behaviors and inform theoretically sound and efficacious alcohol use and related risky sexual behavior interventions among adolescents and young adults. Alcohol use and concomitant risky sexual behavior are public health concerns that often initiate during adolescence. For many adolescents and young adults, when they begin drinking, they do so in an extreme fashion, with frequent heavy-episodic drinking episodes. What factors place some individuals at greater risk for negative consequences than others? How can we use our knowledge of risk and protective factors in interventions to reduce harm? These are precisely the type of questions my research seeks to answer.

My research connects with my value to conduct research that has potential to make a significant impact on public health. I value research and policy that aims to expand prevention and intervention to adolescents and young adults. Our health services need to meet the needs of young adults and incorporate technology to bring preventative interventions to adolescents and young adults, with potential for significant impact on public health. My program of research has been funded by grants from the National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism, the Alcohol and Drug Abuse Institute, and the Alcohol Beverage Medical Research Foundation.

Qualifications

BS in Psychology, Montana State University
MS in Psychology, Montana State University
PhD in Health and Social Psychology, North Dakota State University

Recent Publications

Alcohol-related cognitions: Implications for concurrent alcohol and marijuana use and concurrent alcohol and prescription stimulant misuse among young adults

Litt, D. M., Lowery, A., LoParco, C. & Lewis, M. A., Aug 2021, In: Addictive Behaviors. 119, 106946.

Internalizing Symptoms, Alcohol Use, and Protective Behavioral Strategies: Associations with Regretted Sexual Experiences of College Students

Peterson, R., Dvorak, R. D., Woerner, J. & Lewis, M. A., 15 Mar 2021, In: Journal of Affective Disorders. 283, p. 363-372 10 p.

Cognitions and behaviors related to risk for alcohol-exposed pregnancies among young adult women

Thompson, E. L., Litt, D. M., Griner, S. B. & Lewis, M. A., Feb 2021, In: Journal of Behavioral Medicine. 44, 1, p. 123-130 8 p.

Correlates of STI Testing Among US Young Adults: Opportunities for Prevention

Thompson, E. L., Griner, S. B., Galvin, A. M., Lowery, A. D. & Lewis, M. A., Feb 2021, In: Prevention Science. 22, 2, p. 216-226 11 p.

Protective behavioral strategies and alcohol outcomes: Impact of mood and personality disorders

Grazioli, V. S., Studer, J., Larimer, M. E., Lewis, M. A., Bertholet, N., Marmet, S., Daeppen, J. B. & Gmel, G., Jan 2021, In: Addictive Behaviors. 112, 106615.

Understanding perceived usefulness and actual use of protective behavioral strategies: The role of perceived norms for the reasons that young adult drinkers use protective behavioral strategies

Fairlie, A. M., Lewis, M. A., Waldron, K. A., Wallace, E. C. & Lee, C. M., Jan 2021, In: Addictive Behaviors. 112, 106585.

An International Comparison of a Web-Based Personalized Feedback Intervention for Alcohol use During the Transition out of High School in the United States and Sweden

Larimer, M. E., Witkiewitz, K., Schwebel, F. J., Lee, C. M., Lewis, M. A., Kilmer, J. R., Andersson, C., Johnsson, K., Dillworth, T., Fossos-Wong, N., Pace, T., Grazioli, V. S. & Berglund, M., 2021, (Accepted/In press) In: Prevention Science.

Discordance Between Perinatal Alcohol Use Among Women and Provider Counseling for Alcohol Use: An Assessment of the Pregnancy Risk Assessment Monitoring System

Thompson, E. L., Barnett, T. E., Litt, D. M., Spears, E. C. & Lewis, M. A., 2021, (Accepted/In press) In: Public Health Reports.

Prospective Risk for Incapacitated Rape Among Sexual Minority Women: Hookups and Drinking

Jaffe, A. E., Blayney, J. A., Lewis, M. A. & Kaysen, D., 1 Sep 2020, In: Journal of Sex Research. 57, 7, p. 922-932 11 p.

Examining the associations between alcohol-related parental communication, alcohol use, and protective behavioral strategy use among young adults

Litt, D. M., Garcia, T. A., Lowery, A., LoParco, C., Galvin, A. M., Larimer, M. E. & Lewis, M. A., Aug 2020, In: Addictive Behaviors. 107, 106398.

Sponsored Projects

Alcohol-Related Risky Sex Prevention

Lewis, M.

National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism

1/08/07 → 31/07/13

A longitudinal measurement burst study to examine the ecological validity of the prototype willingness model of hazardous young adult alcohol use.

Lewis, M. & Litt, D.

NIAAA: Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism

1/08/18 → 31/07/23

A Longitudinal, Measurement Burst Study to Examine the Ecological Validity of the Prototype Willingness Model of Hazardous Adolescent and Young Adult Alcohol Use

Lewis, M. & Lewis, M.

National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism

1/08/18 → 31/07/21

Developmental Models of High-Risk Alcohol Use & Special Roles in Young Adulthood

Lewis, M.

University of Washington

1/02/18 → 31/01/19

Development and Pilot of a Parent Based Intervention for Reducing High-risk Social Networking Site Cognitions, Alcohol Use, and Negative Consequences Among Adolescents

Litt, D. & Lewis, M.

NIAAA: Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism

15/08/19 → 31/07/22

Evaluation of Brief Intervention for Young Adult Alcohol-Related Risk Behaviors

Lewis, M. & LEWIS, M. A.

National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism

20/09/13 → 31/08/16

Experimental Test of Facebook Social Drinking Norms on Adolescent Alcohol Use (R21AA024163)

Litt, D. & Lewis, M.

NIAAA: Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism
1/01/18 → 31/07/18

Informing Alcohol-Related Risk Intervention with the Prototype Willingness Model

Lewis, M. & Litt, D.

NIAAA: Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism
1/01/18 → 30/06/19

Informing Alcohol-Related Risk Intervention with the Prototype Willingness Model

Lewis, M. & LEWIS, M. A.

National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism
1/07/13 → 30/06/19

Refining and piloting a text messaging intervention to delay alcohol initiation and reduce alcohol use escalation among abstainer and lighter drinker college students

Litt, D. & Lewis, M.

NIAAA: Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism
1/09/18 → 31/08/21

SM BASICS: Development and testing of a social media enhanced intervention

Lewis, M.

University Of Wisconsin Madison
1/01/18 → 31/08/19

SM BASICS: Development and testing of a social media enhanced intervention

Lewis, M. & MORENO, M.

30/09/16 → 31/08/17