



# The Association Between Parental Alcoholism and Offspring Alcohol Use Disorders among Those Living with at Least one Parent



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## Introduction

- Parental alcoholism is a major issue in the United States. Parents who have alcohol use disorders may not be able to provide the proper care for their children (Raitasalo 2018).
- Studies indicate that young adults who live with an alcoholic parent are more likely to have problematic drinking behaviors than those who do not live with an alcoholic parent (Bohm 2023, Rossow 2015).
- Young adult alcohol misuse has been studied along with family income and income trajectory, but there have been mixed results (Patrick 2012, Poonawalla 2015).

## Research Questions

- Are those who live with alcoholic parents more likely to have alcohol use disorders?
- Does this relationship differ between those with different family income levels?

## Methods

### Sample

- Respondents (N=3704) were drawn from the first wave of the National Epidemiologic Survey on Alcohol and Related Conditions (NESARC), a sample of civilian, non-institutionalized adults in the United States, and only included those with at least one parent in the household.

### Measures

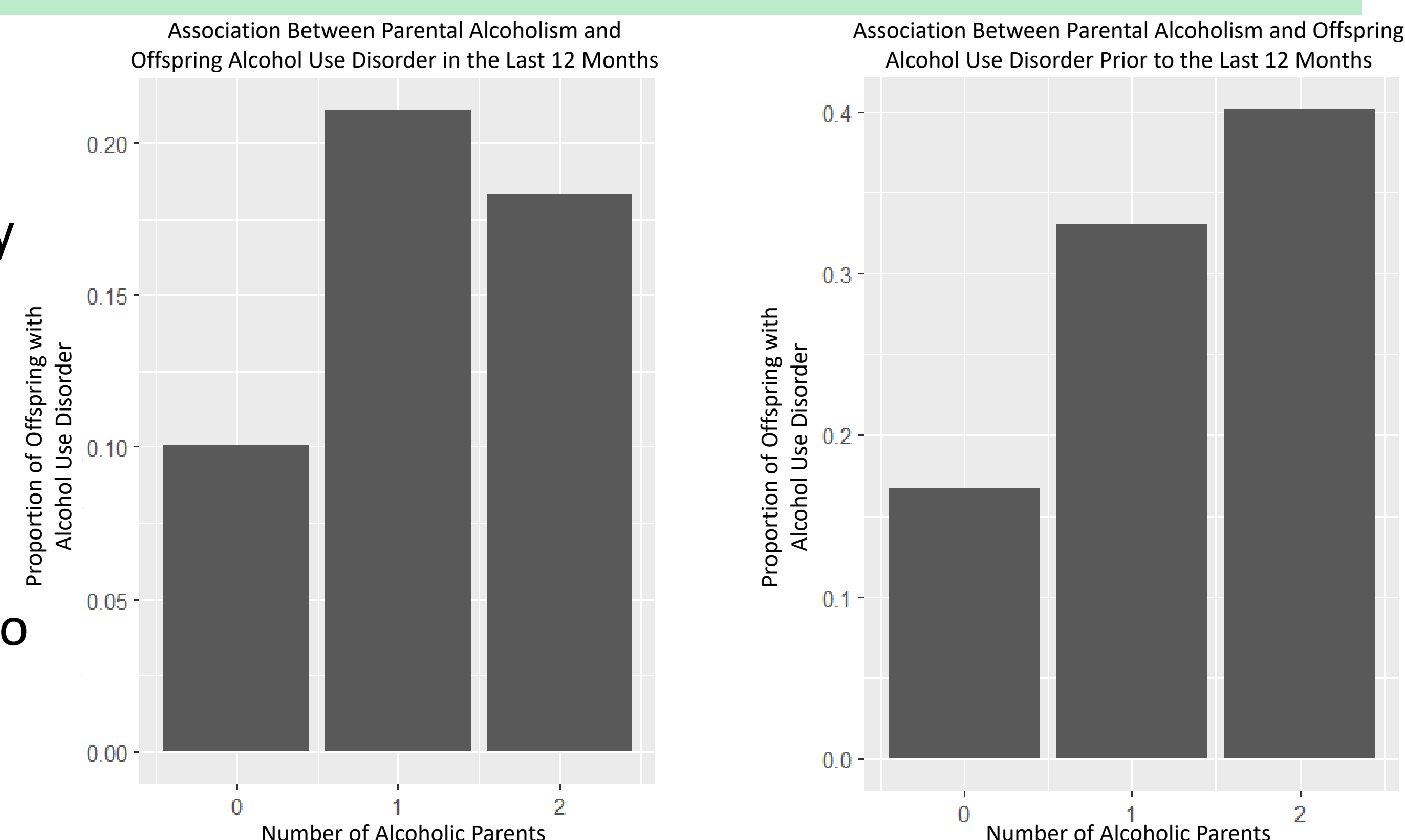
- The variables representing the respondents' alcohol history in the last 12 months and prior to the last 12 months were measured by combining specific alcohol diagnoses into categories of "No Diagnosis" and "Alcohol Use Disorder Diagnosis."
- Parental alcohol use disorder history was measured with the question "How many of your parents were ever alcoholics or problem drinkers?" Possible responses ranged from 0 (neither) to 2 (both).

- Participants reported their total family income in the last 12 months with responses ranging from \$24 to \$3,000,000 and were regrouped into three income levels, low, medium, and high.

## Results

### Bivariate

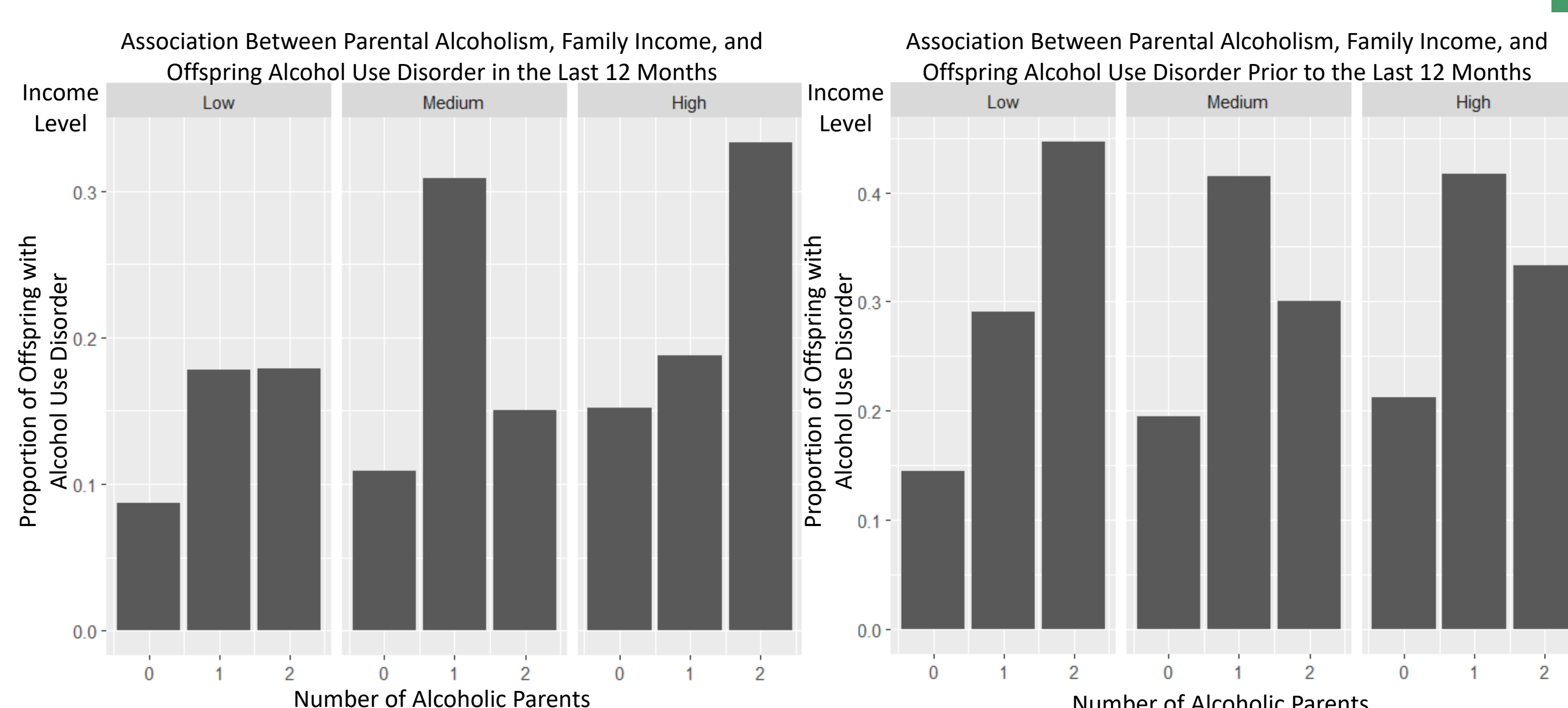
- Chi-Square analysis showed that parental alcoholism was significantly associated with their child's alcohol use ( $p < 0.0001$ ).
- This is true for those who abused/depended on alcohol in the last twelve months as well as prior to the last twelve months (Fig. 1).



**Figure 1: The Association Between Parental Alcoholism and Offspring Alcohol Use Disorder**

### Multivariate

- Logistic regression analyses showed that someone with at least one alcoholic parent is 92% more likely than someone without an alcoholic parent to have an alcohol use disorder within the last 12 months (OR 1.9240,  $p < 0.0001$ ) and 119% more likely to have an alcohol use disorder prior to the last 12 months (OR 2.19727,  $p < 0.0001$ ).



**Figure 2: The Association Between Parental Alcoholism, Family Income, and Offspring Alcohol Use Disorder**

- For every additional \$10,000 of family income, a person's odds of having an alcohol use disorder prior to the last 12 months increases by 1.82%.

## Discussion

- If someone has an alcoholic parent, a higher family income makes them more likely to have had an alcohol use disorder prior to the last 12 months, but this relationship is not true within the last 12 months.
- These findings may make offspring with higher family income and alcoholic parents an important population subgroup for alcohol intervention programs.
- Future research is needed to determine the role of other covariates such as parent or offspring gender on alcohol use disorder.

## References

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