

Analysis #3

The third logistic regression analysis is confined to school leavers and stayers ages 18-34 who have ever drunk alcoholic beverages. The analysis includes, along with predictors in Analysis #1, a set of life problems associated with alcohol, tobacco, and other drug use, mainly family and relationship problems, job and financial problems, mental and physical health problems, and legal problems. As shown in Figure 5 and Table 13, only one life problem predictor distinguishes school leavers and stayers, when other variables are controlled. This is arrests for drug-related offenses, sales or possession. **School leavers are 2.8 times more likely than stayers in this age group to have been arrested for drug offenses.**

Analysis #4

The final set of logistic regression analyses compares gender differences among young adult school leavers and stayers controlling for the above characteristics to document whether certain predictors are salient for males or for females or both.

It is expected that the reasons for leaving school, and subsequent employment and educational experiences will differ by gender, with pregnancy and family illness/need for caregiving postulated as a major determinant of school leaving for females and disciplinary and behavioral problems and employment pressures serving as major reasons for school leaving among males.

Results of separate logistic regression analyses by gender suggest that the effects of certain variables associated with or predictive of school leaving are similar by gender, while other predictors are gender-specific, i.e., apply to one gender group more than the other. Thus, both males and females among school leavers are more likely than stayers to be recent tobacco users, poor, unemployed, and they are less likely to have recently drunk alcoholic beverages (Tables 11, 12 and 13).

Certain factors affect female school leavers. Thus, female school leavers are more likely than female stayers to be enrolled on Medicaid (TennCare), to reside in non-metropolitan areas of Tennessee, to report one or more mental health problems during the past 30 days, to live in households with children or youth under 18, and to have made at least one emergency room visit in the past year. Female school leavers are less likely than female stayers to be very religious and are less likely to have recently used a psychoactive prescription drug.

Some factors affect male school leavers only. Male school leavers are more likely to be ill or disabled and to be COAs/CODAs than are male stayers.

Increased risk of cancer diagnoses among young adult school leavers is confined