

# Examining Parental Alcohol Use and Peer Relationships as Predictors of Substance Use Severity



Vinisha Inaganti<sup>1</sup>, Brooke Preston<sup>1</sup>, Addison Williams<sup>1</sup>, Kha Hoai Bao Vu<sup>1</sup>, Stephanie Villaire, B.S., Jen Pankow, Ph.D., Amanda L. Wiese, M.S.

## Background

- Adolescents report increasing rates of both alcohol and other substance use (SU; Johnston et al., 2018).
- Parental SU is related to both psychological stress and personal SU (Brook et al., 2010).
- Male adolescents are more likely to engage in alcohol use than females (Johnston et al., 2018).
- This study aims to observe the effects of maternal and paternal alcohol use on subsequent substance use disorder (SUD) severity.
- Additionally, we were interested in the effects of pro-social peer relationships on the development of SUDs.

## Method

### Sample

- 216 participants were recruited from Amazon's Mechanical Turk (MTurk) with prior histories of both SU and criminal justice involvement.

### Measures

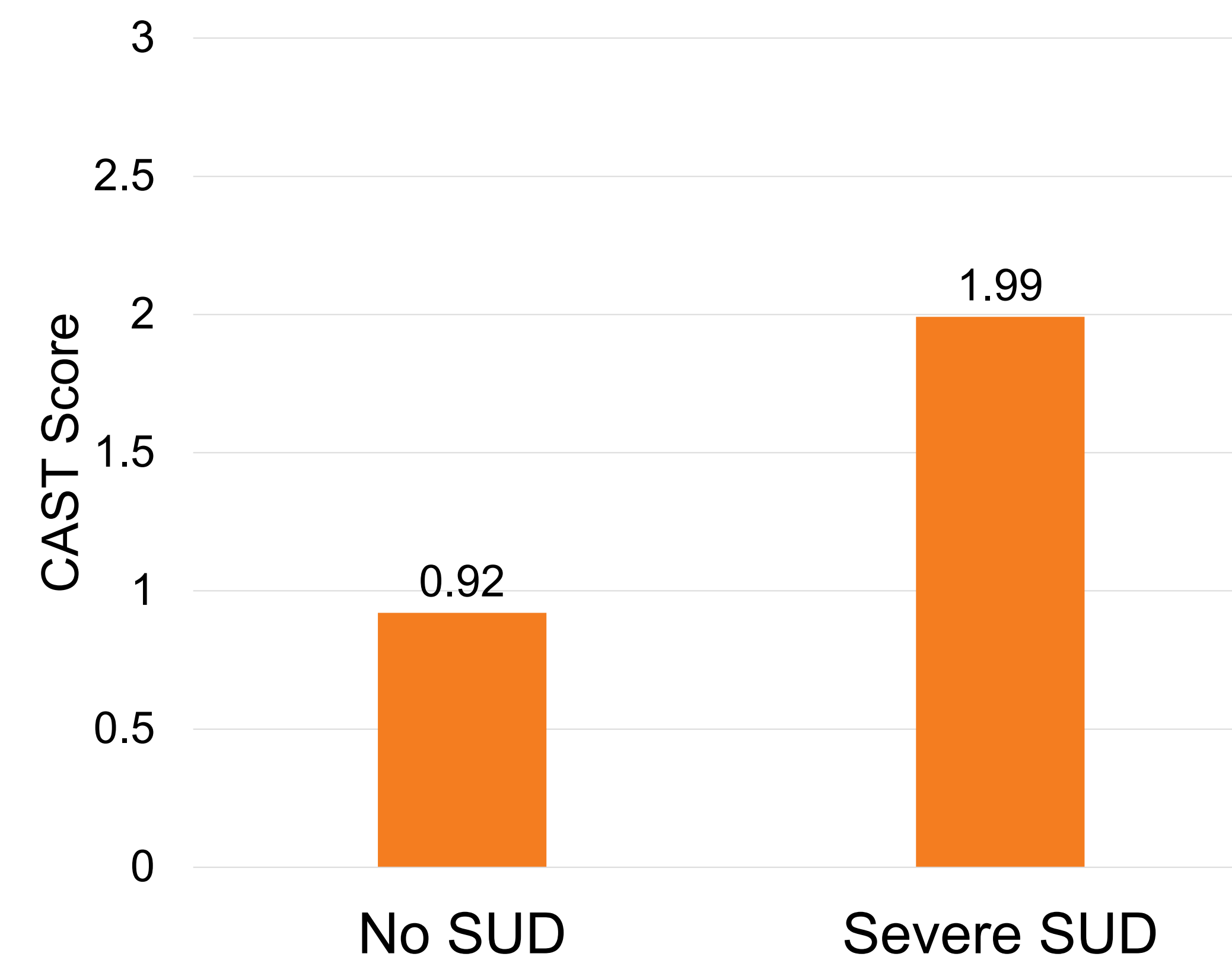
- Parental alcohol use:** Maternal and paternal alcohol use was measured using the 6-item Children of Alcoholics Screening Test (CAST-6).
- Peer socialization:** TCU Family & Friends Form was used to measure pro-social peer relationships.
- SUDs:** TCU Drug Screen 5 was used to assess SUD severity on a continuum (0-11) and determine if they meet criteria for a diagnosable SUD (none/mild/moderate/severe). Only none & severe were analyzed.

### Analysis

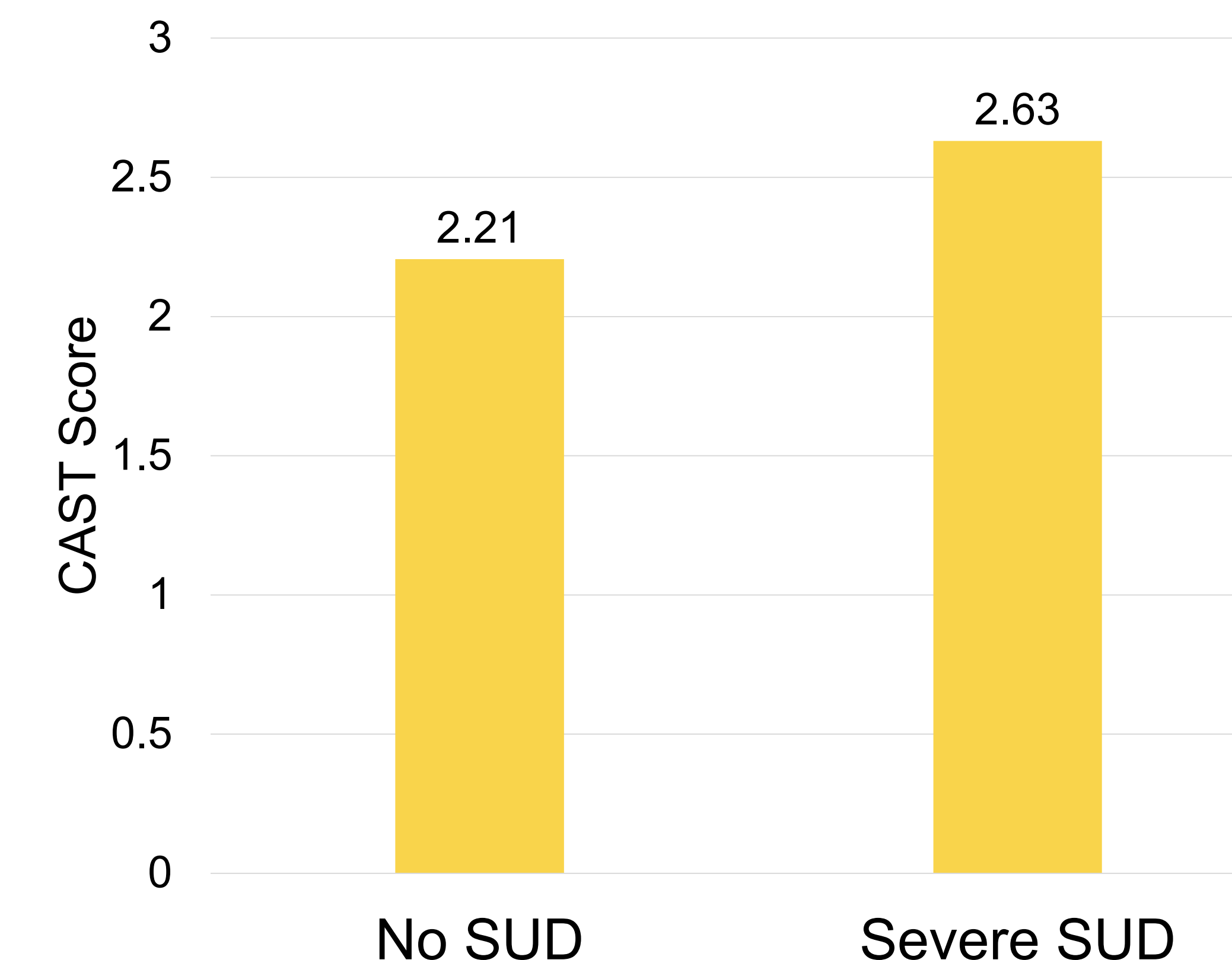
- Logistic regression analysis was used to examine the influence of parental alcohol use and peer relationships on SUD severity.

Demographic	Total (n)	Percent (%)
<b>(N = 216)</b>		
Gender		
Female	136	63
Male	78	36.1
Transgender man	1	0.5
Gender queer/gender non-conforming	1	0.5
Hispanic		
No	185	85.6
Yes	31	14.4
Race		
American Indian/Alaska Native	3	1.4
Asian	2	0.9
Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander	1	0.5
Black	24	11.1
White	169	78.2
More than one race	9	4.2
Other or unknown	8	3.7

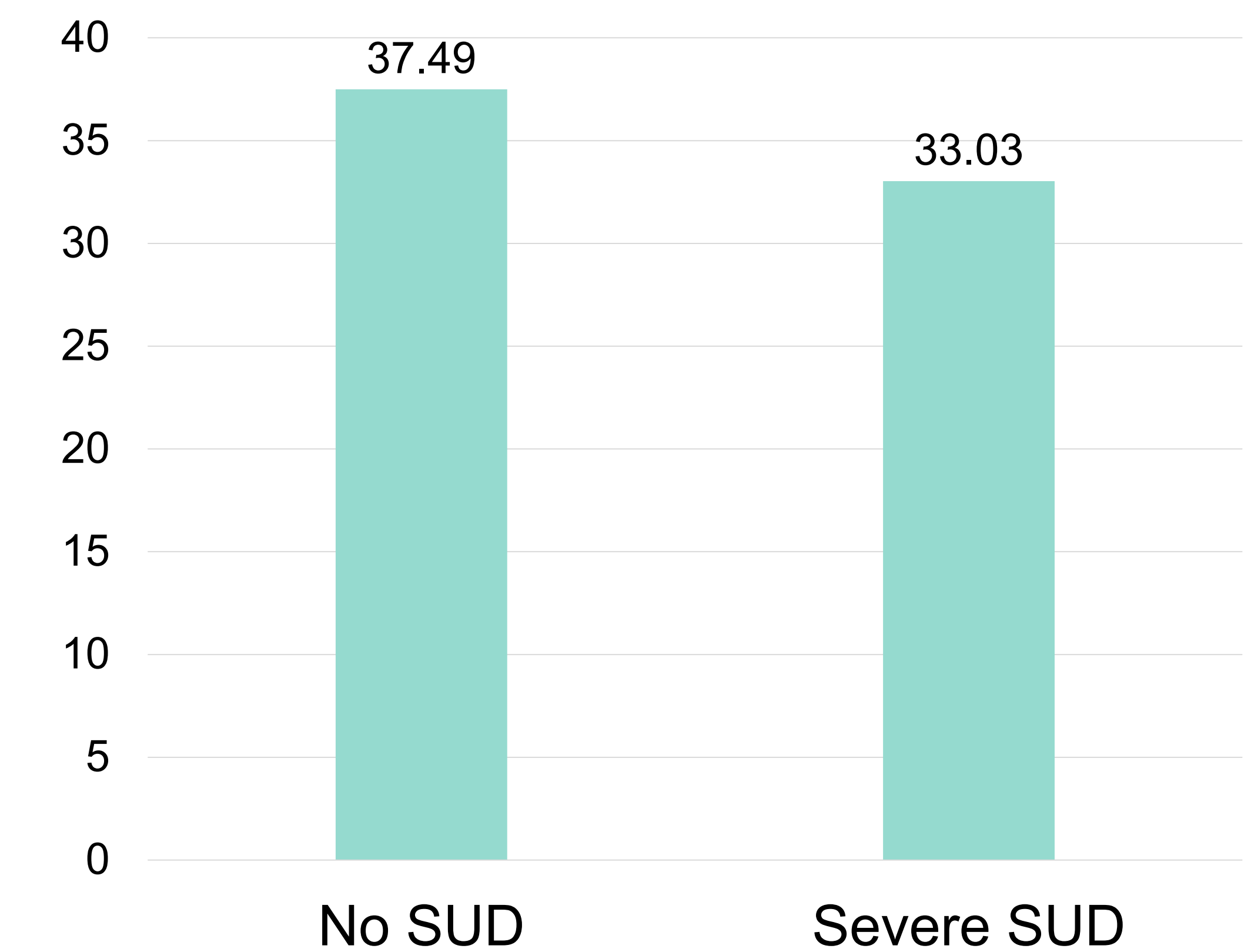
## Maternal Alcohol Use



## Paternal Alcohol Use



## Peer Socialization



## Results

### Main effect of Child of an Alcoholic Mother (COAM):

- $b = 1.14$  ( $SE = 0.41$ ),  $Wald = 7.77$ ,  $p = .005$
- Being a COAM raises like likelihood of having a severe SUD by 3.13 times.

### No main effect of Child of an Alcoholic Father (COAF):

- $b = -0.16$  ( $SE = 0.03$ ),  $Wald = 0.20$ ,  $p = .651$
- Being a COAF does not have a significant impact on a severe SUD.

### Main effect of Peer Socialization:

- $b = -0.10$  ( $SE = 0.03$ ),  $Wald = 13.38$ ,  $p < .001$
- Associating with pro-social peers reduces the odds of having a severe SUD by 0.91.

## Discussion/Future Directions

### Previous research suggests children with parents who engage in SU are more likely to engage in SU on their own.

- We found that COAM are more susceptible to developing a severe SUD. Additionally, having a peer support system reduces the risk of developing a severe SUD.

### Why are COAM more likely to develop a severe SUD, but COAF are not?

- Perhaps mothers have a greater effect due to their primary care role. Fathers are traditionally less involved in a child's care.

### Limitations:

- Use of MTurk and subsequent demographic inaccuracy, self-report error, and subjectivity of parental relationships.

### Future Directions:

- Expand upon the role in which environmental factors (peer influence, societal institutions, etc.) can impact SUD development and severity.
- Additional research could examine the role of parenting style and attachment style in children's future SU.

## References

- Brook, J. S., Balka, E. B., Crossman, A. M., Dermatis, H., Galanter, M., & Brook, D. W. (2010). The Relationship between parental alcohol use, early and late adolescent alcohol use, and young adult psychological symptoms: a longitudinal study. *The American journal on addictions*, 19(6), 534–542. <https://doi.org/10.1111/j.1521-0391.2010.00083.x>
- Johnston, L. D., O'Malley, P. M., Miech, R. A., Bachman, J. G., & Schulenberg, J. E. (2016, January 31). *Monitoring the future National Survey results on drug use, 1975-2015: Overview, key findings on adolescent drug use*. Institute for Social Research. Retrieved March 28, 2022, from <https://eric.ed.gov/?id=ED578539>