

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

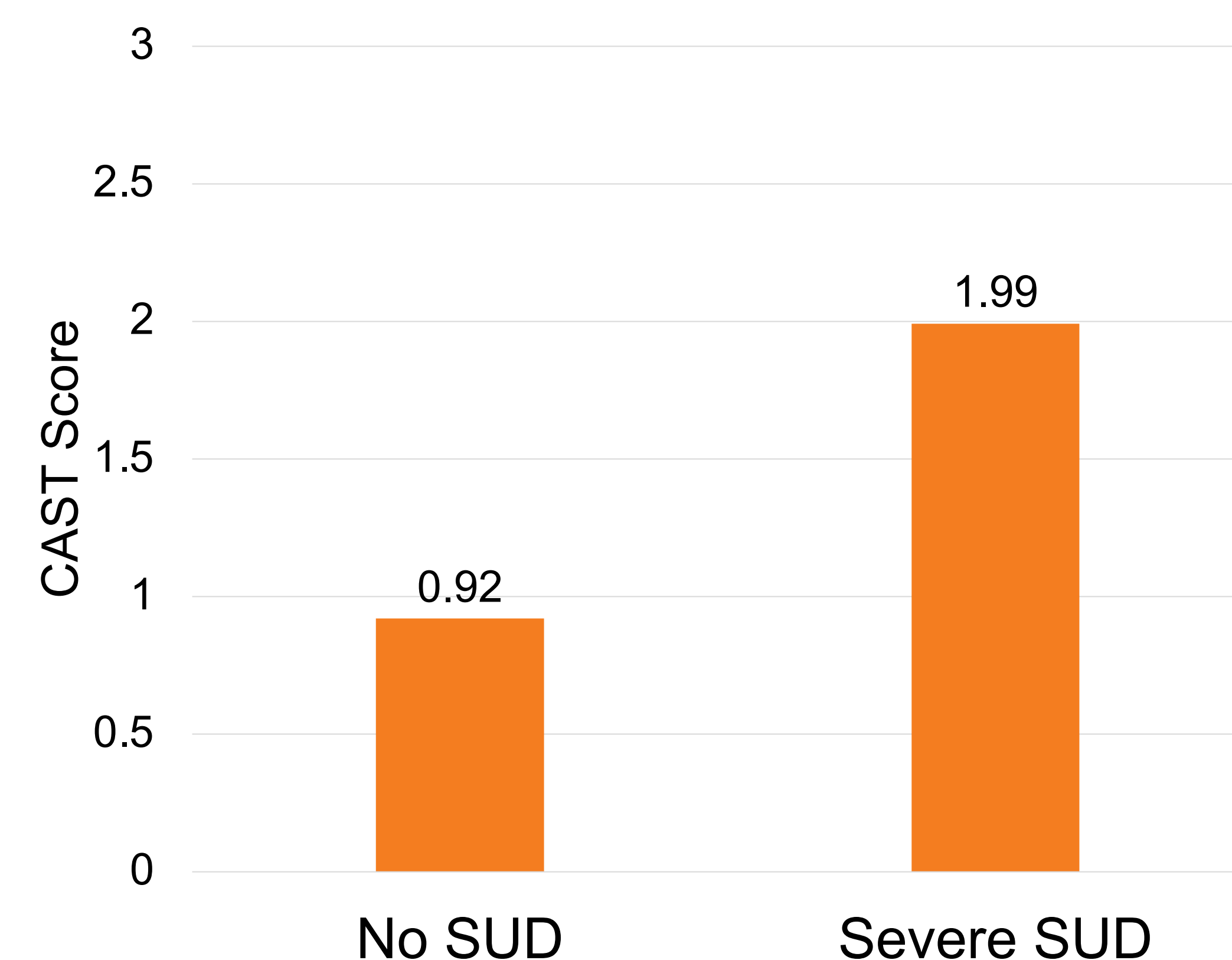
- **Parental alcohol use:** Maternal and paternal alcohol use was measured using the 6-item Children of Alcoholics Screening Test (CAST-6).
- **Peer socialization:** TCU Family & Friends Form was used to measure pro-social peer relationships.
- **SUDs:** TCU Drug Screen 5 was used to assess SUD severity 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

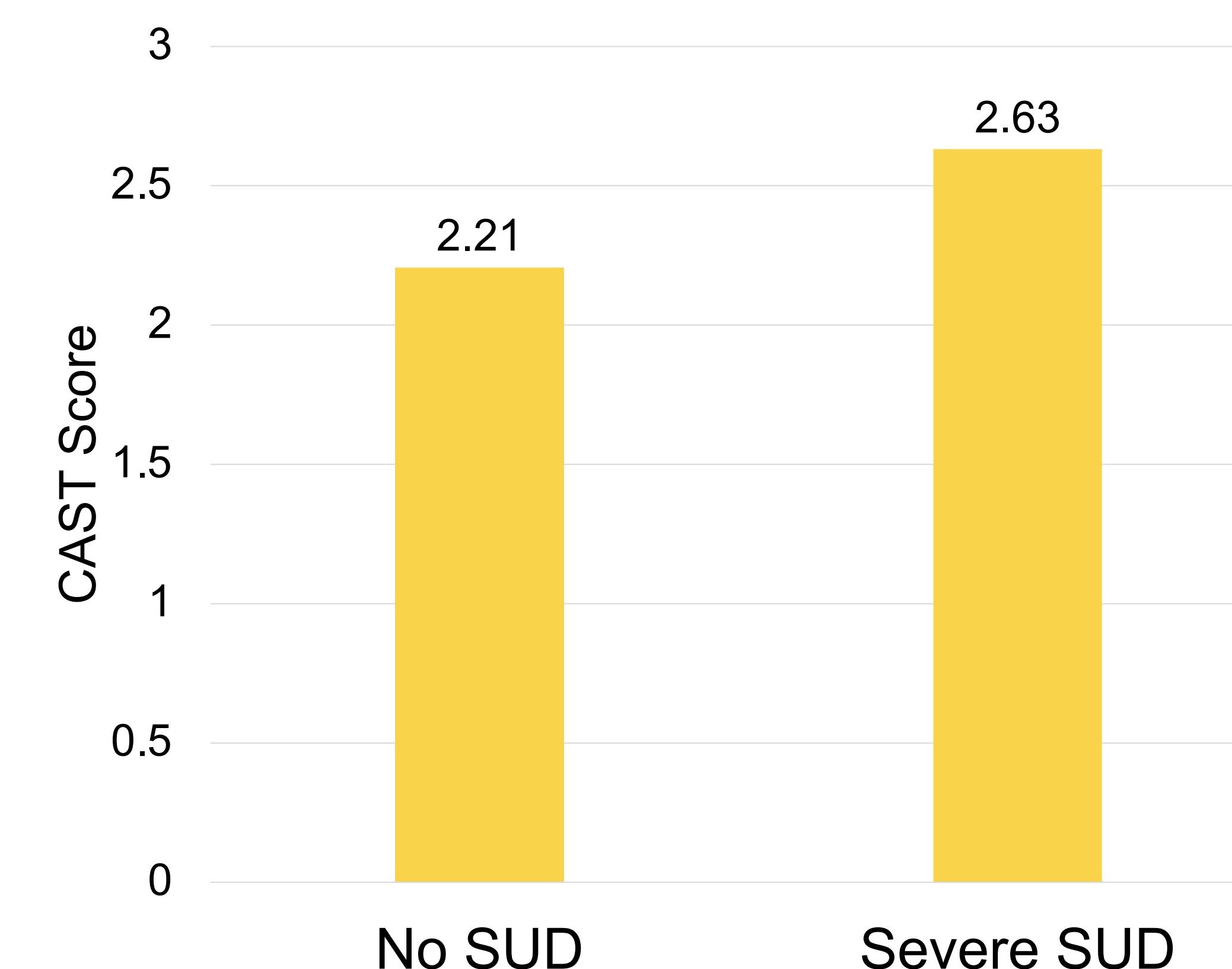
- Logistic regression analysis was used to examine the influence of parental alcohol use and peer relationships on SUD severity.

Demographic	Total (n)	Percent (%)
(N = 216)		
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

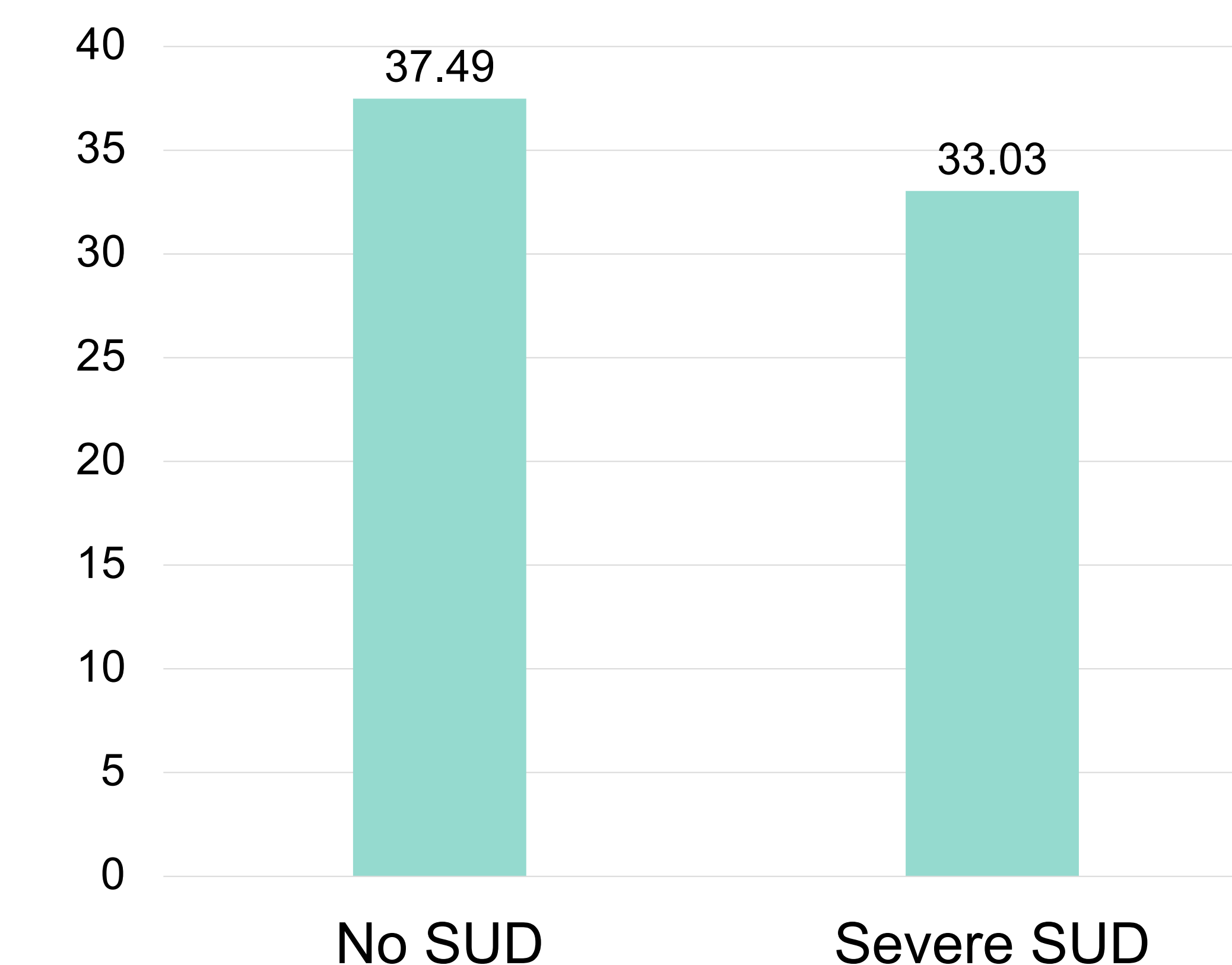
Maternal Alcohol Use



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.

Conclusions

- Participants whose mothers struggled with alcohol use were significantly more likely to develop a severe SUD.
- Having a father who struggled with alcohol use did not affect respondents' likelihood of having a severe SUD.
- For those with a strong peer support system, subsequent SUD development is reduced regardless of parental alcohol use.

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>