

Behind the Bottle: Exploring Family History in Alcoholism Development

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Introduction

- Numerous studies have investigated the influence of family alcoholism history on individual drinking behavior.
- Individuals with a family history of alcoholism are more prone to developing alcohol dependence, as established by research.
- Research on US Hispanic families indicates that familial history of alcoholism exerts a stronger impact on women compared to men (Chartier et al., 2017).

Research Question

1. How does a family history of alcoholism influence an individual's development of alcohol issues?
2. Is the impact of family alcoholism on individuals varied across gender?

Results

- 27.48% of the respondents have some degree of alcoholism issue.
- Families with alcoholic members are more likely to result in respondents' alcoholism issues, as indicated by a statistically significant association ($p < 0.05$) for any family member, including fathers, mothers, and grandparents.
- Chi Square test revealed a significant association between individuals with alcoholism issues and the number of family members with alcoholism (0-6 people). (X-squared = 643.52, df = 1, p-value < 2.2e-16)
- The percentage of individuals developing alcoholism (O.R. 1.92, CI 1.86-1.99) is significantly associated with the number of family members with alcoholism after controlling for biological sex.
- Biological sex (O.R. 0.94, CI: 0.89-0.99, $p < 0.05$) is significantly associated with lower odds of alcohol issues. The odds decrease by a factor of 0.94 for female respondents than male respondents when all other variables are fixed.
- Overall, females have a lower predicted probability of developing alcoholism issues, however, they seem to be more influenced by family drinking history than males.

Discussion

- Our NESARC dataset findings align with Chartier et al.'s 2017 research, indicating a stronger impact of family history of alcoholism on women.
- Future investigation of other factors (e.g. mental conditions and income levels) may enhance our understanding of family history's role in alcoholism.
- The research identifies the need to implement educational campaigns to inform people about the impact of family alcoholism on next-generation alcohol issues, aiding in recovery and reducing future alcoholism.

Methods

Samples

- 43,093 samples from the first wave of the National Epidemiologic Survey on Alcohol and Related Conditions (NESARC) in 2001-2002.
- Represent the civilian, non-institutionalized adult population of the United States across various ethnicities and age groups.

Measures

- Alcohol Abuse/Dependence situation: the individual's alcohol abuse/dependence, considering both recent and past drinking issues.
- Sex: the sex of each respondent.
- Blood/natural parent/grandparent ever an alcoholic: assess family alcoholism history for parents and grandparents on both sides using a scale from 0 (none) to 6 (all).

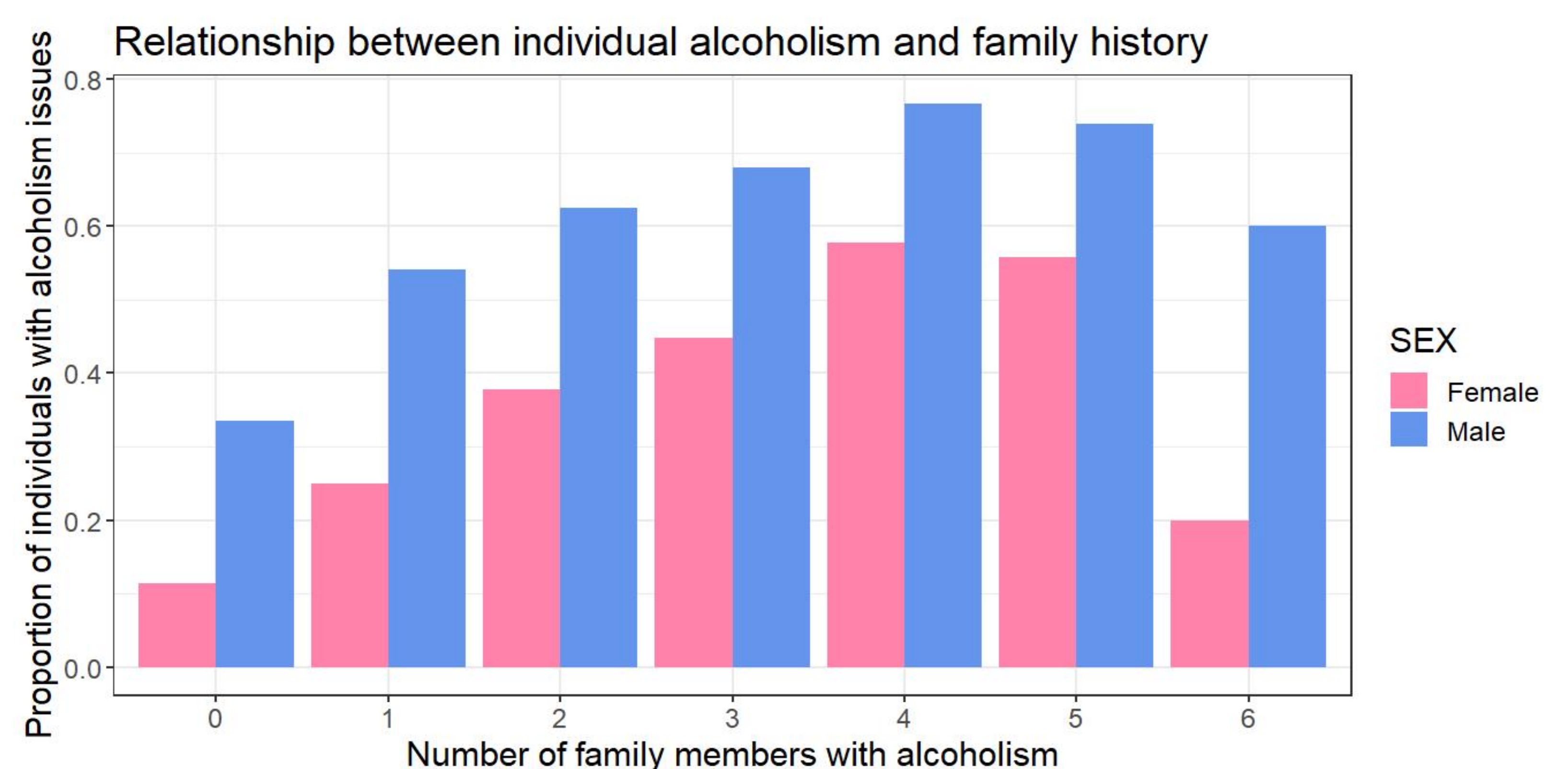


Figure 1: Relationship between individual alcoholism and family history

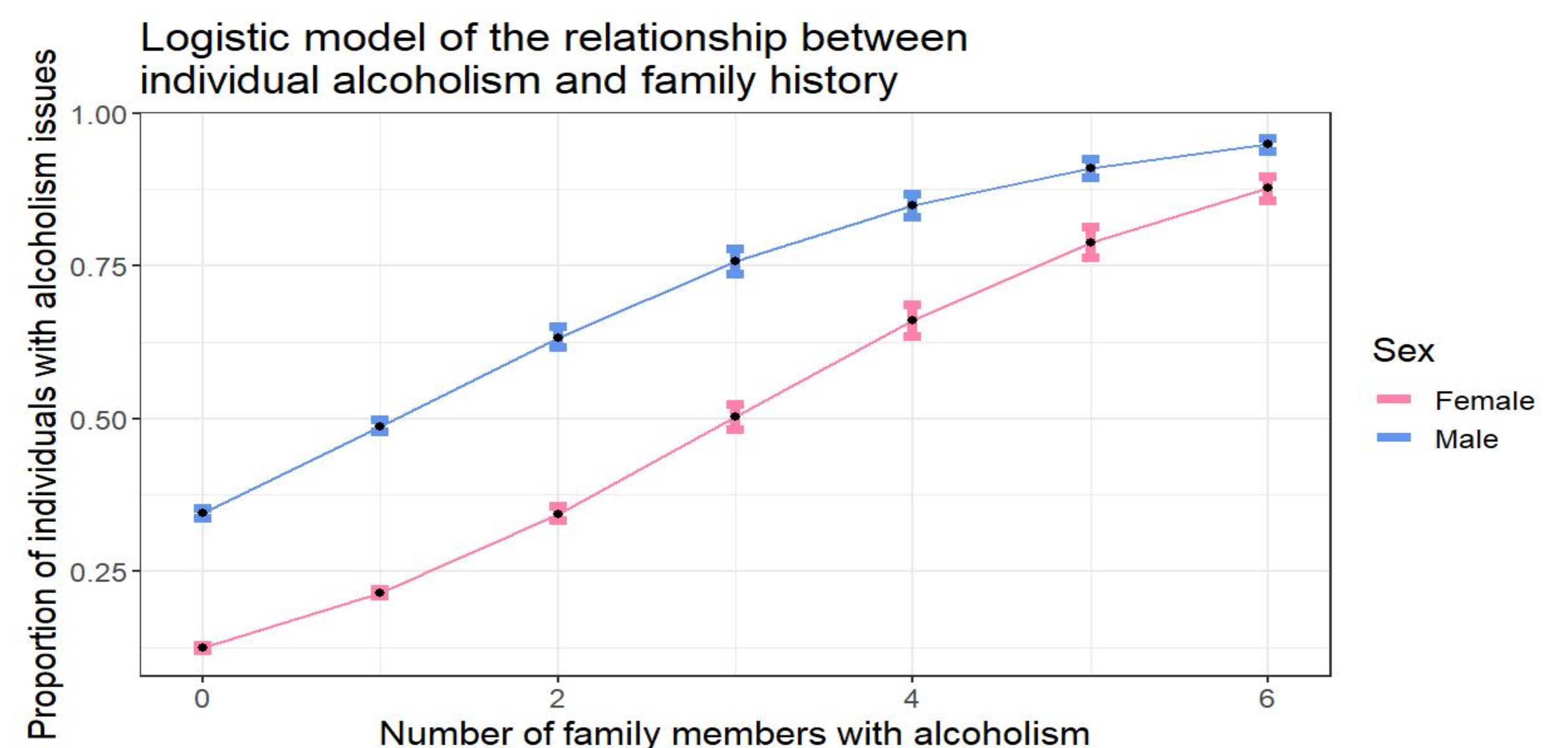


Figure 2: Logistic model of the relationship between individual alcoholism and family history

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