Alcohol Behavioral Research and HIV Risk: Understanding Causality in Observational Research

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Putting it Together

- Triangulation: Primarily comparing lab experiments vs. TLFB vs. EMA

- Natural(ish) experiment: People going on PrEP (association changes?)

- Intervention for causality: Exposure to risk messages can be random.

- Both experiments and observational studies generate hypotheses for the other.

Cross Contextual

Contexts that might alter the confounders

- Different levels of stigma by region
- In college vs. not, within the 18-22 age range
- Race/ethnicity: Stigma and different prevalence
- Social networks: sample from different ones
- Different drinking age (e.g., Europe vs. US)
- Transactional sex

Negative Controls

- What might be the negative control for alcohol exposure? Intentional behavior. When is the confounding the same?

  - Exposure to a bar

  - Exposure to a potential sexual partners

  - Exposure to a hookup app

- Negative control for outcome of risky sex?

  - Hangover?

  - Physical injury or legal issue?

Thank you!