



HAL
open science

Lifecourse SEP and tobacco and cannabis use.

Lucy Bowes, Aude Chollet, Eric Fombonne, Cédric Galéra, Maria Melchior

► **To cite this version:**

Lucy Bowes, Aude Chollet, Eric Fombonne, Cédric Galéra, Maria Melchior. Lifecourse SEP and tobacco and cannabis use.: Lifecourse socioeconomic position and substance use. *European Journal of Public Health*, 2013, 23 (2), pp.322-7. 10.1093/eurpub/cks065 . inserm-00708189

HAL Id: inserm-00708189

<https://inserm.hal.science/inserm-00708189>

Submitted on 29 May 2013

HAL is a multi-disciplinary open access archive for the deposit and dissemination of scientific research documents, whether they are published or not. The documents may come from teaching and research institutions in France or abroad, or from public or private research centers.

L'archive ouverte pluridisciplinaire **HAL**, est destinée au dépôt et à la diffusion de documents scientifiques de niveau recherche, publiés ou non, émanant des établissements d'enseignement et de recherche français ou étrangers, des laboratoires publics ou privés.

Lifecourse socioeconomic position and tobacco and cannabis use.

Lucy Bowes,¹ Aude Chollet,¹ Eric Fombonne², Cédric Galéra³, Maria Melchior^{1*}

*Corresponding author:

Dr Maria Melchior

Epidemiology of occupational and social determinants of health

Inserm U1018 (ex U687), CESP

Hôpital Paul-Brousse, Bâtiment 15

16 avenue Paul Vaillant Couturier, 94807 VILLEJUIF CEDEX

France

Tel:+ 33 (0)1 77 74 74 27

Fax:+33 (0)1 77 74 74 03

¹ CESP, Inserm U1018, Epidemiology of occupational and social determinants of health, F-

94807, Villejuif, France

² McGill University, Montreal Children's Hospital, Child Psychiatry, Montreal, Canada

³ Child Psychiatry Department, Charles-Perrens hospital, University Victor Segalen Bordeaux 2,

Bordeaux, France

This research was supported by the French Ministry of Health-IRESP (TGIR Cohortes), the French Inter-departmental Mission for the Fight against Drugs and Drug addiction (MILDT), The French Institute of Cancer (INCa), the French Foundation for Research on Psychiatry and Mental Health (FRPSM). Maria Melchior is the recipient of a Young Researcher Award from the French National Research Agency (ANR).

Conflict of interest: None.

Word count of main text = 3,348

Abstract: 250

Background: Social inequalities in substance use have been well-documented; however the impact of changes in socioeconomic position from childhood to adulthood is unclear. We examined the relationship between intergenerational trajectories of social position and tobacco and cannabis use among young adults.

Methods: Data come from 1,103 participants (mean age 28.9) of the TEMPO study and their parents, participants of the GAZEL study, France. Multinomial regression analyses were used to examine associations between lifecourse socioeconomic position (SEP) assessed using parents' reports of family income (1989 and 2002) and participants' educational attainment, occupational grade and job stability in 2009, with self-reported tobacco and cannabis use in 2009.

Results: Compared to participants with stable intermediate/high SEP, those with stable low SEP and those with declining SEP were more likely to use tobacco (age and sex-adjusted ORs = 2.03 and 2.26). Participants who experienced declining SEP were also disproportionately likely to use and abuse cannabis (adjusted ORs = 2.22 and 2.73). Associations remained significant after adjusting for family (parental smoking, alcohol use, ill health, unemployment, depression and divorce) and individual (early tobacco and cannabis use, academic difficulties, juvenile internalising and externalizing problems) risk factors.

Conclusions: Cross-sectional studies indicate social inequalities in substance use. Our longitudinal findings suggest that individuals who experienced declining SEP from childhood to adulthood may be twice as likely to use tobacco and cannabis compared to individuals with a stable/high trajectory. Interventions targeting substance abuse should take into account lifecourse determinants including the interplay between individuals' socioeconomic origins and later attainment.

Abbreviations: SEP: Socioeconomic position

Keywords: Substance use, social class, social factors, epidemiology, longitudinal studies

INTRODUCTION

Each year, tobacco smoking accounts for approximately 5 million deaths globally (1), whilst cannabis is the most commonly used illicit drug across industrialized countries (2).

Psychoactive substance use generally begins in adolescence and while tobacco use largely persists after the transition to adulthood, cannabis use tends to decrease. However, recent evidence suggesting that a growing proportion of individuals maintain high levels of use into their 20s and 30s calls for research on factors associated with such substance use in this age group (3, 4). Tobacco and cannabis use are disproportionately frequent in adults who belong to disadvantaged social groups (5, 6). Additionally, childhood socioeconomic disadvantage may be independently associated with later substance use (7, 8) and there is suggestion that lifecourse socioeconomic characteristics may be more precise than adult socioeconomic position (SEP) (9, 10). In particular, declines in SEP (i.e. downward socioeconomic trajectories) may be associated with elevated rates of tobacco smoking (11, 12) but little is known regarding the association with cannabis use.

Childhood socioeconomic disadvantage is associated with specific family and individual risk factors (13). Children who grow up in socially disadvantaged families may be more likely to display emotional and behavioral problems early on, to experience school difficulties, and have problems with their peers, which may further contribute to risk of substance use (14). Substance use in adolescence may, in turn, be related to poor educational and occupational outcomes in adulthood (15, 16). The use of lifecourse socioeconomic measures offers the possibility of investigating patterns of inequalities from childhood to adulthood (17).

The present study uses data from 1,103 French young adults (TEMPO study) to test the research question “Does tobacco and cannabis use differ across different lifecourse

socioeconomic trajectories when adjusting for individual and familial risk factors of substance use?”

SUBJECTS AND METHODS

Sample characteristics

The TEMPO study was set up in 2009 among young adults ages 22-35 years (18), selected among offspring of participants of the GAZEL cohort study, employees of Electricité de France-Gaz de France (EDF-GDF), a large public-sector utility company in France (19). In 1991, participants took part in the GAZEL Youth Study, designed to estimate the prevalence of psychological problems and access to mental health care in children (20). In 2009, parents of eligible youths received a letter asking them to forward the TEMPO study questionnaire to their son/daughter. Of the 2,498 youths whose parents were alive and who could be contacted, 16 had died since 1991 and 4 were too ill or disabled to answer. The overall response rate to the 2009 TEMPO mailed questionnaire was 44.5% (n=1,103), which is comparable to response rates of other mental health surveys in France (21). Leading reasons for non-participation were non-transmission of the questionnaire by the parent (34.4%) or the youth's lack of interest (28.5%). Non-respondents were more likely to be male, and disproportionately came from families that were divorced, had low socioeconomic background or in which the parents smoked tobacco or abstained from alcohol. Participants and non-participants did not vary with regard to parental or own overall psychological characteristics. Unemployment rate, as well as tobacco, alcohol and cannabis use rates in TEMPO are comparable to data from young adults in the general population of France (22, 23). The TEMPO study was approved by the French national committee for data protection (CNIL: Commission Nationale Informatique et Liberté).

Measures

Data primarily come from the 2009 TEMPO study questionnaire; additionally, parental characteristics were collected directly from participants' parents through yearly GAZEL study questionnaires, and participants' juvenile characteristics were reported by their parents in the 1991 GAZEL Youth study.

Socioeconomic trajectories

Participants' socioeconomic trajectory was based on their childhood and adult SEP.

Childhood SEP was ascertained by family income in 1989 and 2002 (mean: 2,408 euros/month in 1989 and 3,329 euros/month in 2002, as compared with 2,695 euros/month and 3,516 euros/month in the French population of the same age during the same period) (24).

We combined the two assessments available to us to obtain mean family income over this thirteen-year period, which was then dichotomized at the bottom quartile (low vs. intermediate/high family income). Adult SEP was ascertained in 2009, based on participants' educational attainment (< high school degree vs. ≥ high school degree), occupational grade (low vs. intermediate/high), past 12-months employment stability (no vs. yes) and past 12-months experience of unemployment (no vs. yes) which were summed into an overall indicator of SEP. Correlations between the four components of our SEP indicator ranged from .03 to .47. To identify individuals with low SEP in 2009, we divided the SEP distribution at the bottom quartile (low vs. intermediate/high SEP). Childhood and adult SEP were combined, making it possible to distinguish four trajectories: 1) stable low SEP (N= 177, 18.3%, low childhood and adult SEP), 2) downward (N= 206, 21.3%, high/intermediate childhood and low adult SEP), 3) upward (N= 212, 22.0%, low childhood and high/intermediate adult SEP) and 4) stable intermediate/high SEP (N= 371, 38.4% high/intermediate childhood and high/intermediate adult SEP). All analyses were repeated

using a composite measure of adult SEP that did not include educational attainment. Results remained essentially unchanged (data not given), suggesting that the inclusion of educational attainment in our composite measure of SEP did not skew our findings.

Tobacco and cannabis use

Past 12-months tobacco use was defined as ≥ 1 cigarette per day; past 12-months cannabis use as cannabis use on ≥ 1 occasion. Problematic cannabis use was assessed by 7 questions adapted from the Cannabis Abuse Screening Test (CAST) (25). The CAST score ranges from 0 to 6 and following the test authors' recommendations, a score of ≥ 2 was considered indicative of problematic use. Additionally, participants were asked about age at first tobacco and cannabis use. Early tobacco (≤ 13 years) and early cannabis use (< 17 years), were defined in consistent with measures used in other studies (26, 27).

Individual characteristics

Participants' demographic characteristics included age in 2009 (< 30 versus ≥ 30 years), and sex (female vs. male). Juvenile psychological problems were reported by parents on the Child Behavioral Checklist (CBCL) in 1991 (20, 28). Internalizing problems included 31 symptoms of depression, anxiety, somatic complaints and withdrawal (mean score = 9.67, SD= 8.12) and externalizing problems included 32 symptoms of behavioural and conduct difficulties (mean score = 11.97, SD= 9.65).

Academic difficulties were assessed by combining a) youths' poor academic performance in 1991 (in French, mathematics, sciences, foreign language; prevalence of failing at least one subject = 4.9%), b) learning difficulties in 1991 (prevalence = 13.7%) and c) grade retention reported in 2009. Because grade retention is common in France, only participants who were retained at least twice were considered to have academic difficulties (prevalence of ≥ 2 grade retentions=19.1%).

Family characteristics

Parental tobacco smoking was defined as regular smoking (≥ 1 cigarette/day in the preceding 12 months) in any assessment year from 1989 to 2009 (smoker vs. non-smoker). To assess *parental alcohol use* (high alcohol use present vs. absent), we combined data from two sources: parents' own yearly self-reports of high alcohol use in the GAZEL study questionnaire (>21 glasses of alcohol/per week in women, >28 glasses of alcohol/per week in men, prevalence=24.8%) and TEMPO participants' reports of parental alcohol dependence, ascertained using a questionnaire adapted from the NIMH-FIGS (29) (prevalence=4.2%). *Parental ill health* (present vs. absent) was assessed based on a) parents' serious illness, accident, or physical disability in 1991 (prevalence=24.5%) and b) the mother or father being hospitalized between 1989 and 2009 (≥ 3 times over the course of follow-up to limit the assessment to significant health problems, prevalence = 21.6%). *Parental unemployment* was defined as either the mother or father becoming unemployed between 1989 and 2009 (yes vs. no, prevalence 14.9%). *Parental depression* (present vs. absent) was defined as at least two parental reports of depression between 1989 and 2009 (prevalence=27.4%), or TEMPO participants' reports of parental lifetime depression (29) (prevalence=21.1%). *Parental separation or divorce* was reported by the parents between 1989 and 2009 (yes vs. no, prevalence=14.8%).

Associations between each family measure and a) participants' socioeconomic trajectories and b) substance use were examined in univariate regression models. To maximise statistical power for multiple regression analyses, we created a cumulative family risk variable (mean = 1.27, SD = 1.10, range = 0-6) summing parental 1) tobacco smoking 2) heavy alcohol use 3) ill health 4) unemployment 5) lifetime depression and 6) separation/divorce.

Statistical analyses

To examine the association between intergenerational socioeconomic position and tobacco and cannabis use in young adulthood we excluded students (n=85) from the sample, as their current SEP was difficult to determine. First, we described socioeconomic trajectory groups in relation to participants' individual and family characteristics in univariate multinomial regression analyses. Second, we examined univariate associations between tobacco smoking and cannabis use and problematic use and socioeconomic trajectories using the chi square statistic. Third, we conducted multivariate logistic regression analyses controlling for variables associated with socioeconomic trajectory and substance use at $p < .10$ to ensure that variables that were statistically related to the outcome but confounded in age and sex adjusted analyses were not automatically excluded from the analyses. Fourth, we calculated the contribution of individual and family characteristics to the association between socioeconomic trajectories and substance use with the following formula: $\% = [(OR \text{ adjusted for gender and age}) - (OR \text{ adjusted for individual+family characteristics}) / (OR \text{ adjusted for gender and age} - 1)] * 100$. Although socioeconomic trajectories and substance use patterns varied by sex, we found no statistically significant interactions, therefore all analyses were conducted across sex groups. We used STATA 10.1 (30).

RESULTS

Table 1 shows the percentage or mean (and standard deviation) score for each individual and family risk factor across each socioeconomic trajectory group. For example, 13.3% of individuals in the stable/high SEP group smoked tobacco at 13 years of age or younger, compared to 16.6% of the downward trajectory group, 5.7% of the upward trajectory group and 13.2% of the stable low SEP group. However, in age and sex adjusted multinomial regression models it was observed that only the upward trajectory group differed significantly from the stable/high group in their early tobacco use.

Table 1

Does substance use vary by socioeconomic trajectory?

As shown in **Figure 1**, levels of tobacco and cannabis use varied according to socioeconomic trajectory: use was lowest in participants who experienced an upward socioeconomic trajectory between childhood and adulthood and highest in those who experienced a downward trajectory or stable low SEP. Overall 29.7% of participants in the stable intermediate-high group were regular tobacco smokers, compared with 48.8% of participants in the downward trajectory group, 28.6% in the upward trajectory group and 46.2% in the stable low SEP group ($\chi^2 = 32.8$, $p < .0001$). Similarly, 18.8% in the stable intermediate-high group used cannabis, as compared with 34.0% in the downward trajectory group, 12.6% in the upward trajectory group and 25.3% in the stable low SEP group ($\chi^2 = 30.8$, $p < .0001$). Finally, 4.7% of participants in the stable intermediate-high SEP group had problematic cannabis use, as compared with 11.8% in the downward trajectory group, 4.3% in the upward trajectory group and 7.7% in the stable low SEP group ($\chi^2 = 13.1$, $p = 0.004$). The downward trajectory group did not differ significantly from the stable low SEP group in their tobacco use (OR = 1.11, $p = 0.62$) or problematic cannabis use (OR = 1.62, $p = 0.18$) however, they were marginally more likely to use cannabis (OR = 1.52, $p = 0.07$). Similarly, the upward trajectory group did not differ significantly from the stable intermediate-high group in tobacco smoking (OR = 0.95, $p = 0.80$) or problematic cannabis use (OR = 0.92, $p = 0.85$), but were marginally less likely to use cannabis (OR = 0.62, $p = .006$).

Figure 1

In age and sex-adjusted analyses (**Table 2**), compared with participants in the intermediate/high SEP group, participants in the downward trajectory and stable low SEP

groups were more likely to smoke tobacco (age and sex-adjusted ORs respectively: OR 2.26, 95% CI 1.58-3.22 and 2.03, 95% CI 1.39-2.96). However, only participants in the downward trajectory group were more likely to use cannabis (age and sex-adjusted OR 2.22, 95% CI 1.50-3.30) or have problematic cannabis use (age and sex-adjusted OR 2.73, 95% CI 1.43-5.23) when compared to the intermediate/high SEP group. Substance use in adulthood was associated with a number of juvenile characteristics, with differing patterns of risk factors according to the specific substance. Tobacco smokers were more likely than non-smokers to have had externalizing symptoms, to have experienced academic difficulties, to have used tobacco and cannabis at a young age and to have high familial risk. Similarly, cannabis users showed elevated rates of juvenile externalizing symptoms, were more likely to have tried tobacco and cannabis at a young age, and to have high familial risk than non-users of cannabis. Problematic cannabis use as an adult was related to juvenile externalizing symptoms, and early tobacco and cannabis use.

Insert table 2

In multivariate analyses, associations between the downward trajectory and tobacco smoking decreased, whilst the association between stable low SEP and tobacco smoking slightly increased. Both associations remained statistically significant (fully-adjusted ORs: downward SEP: OR: 1.76, 95% CI 1.18-2.63; Stable low SEP: OR: 2.14, 95% CI 1.40-3.28). The association between the downward socioeconomic trajectory and cannabis use and problematic use decreased but also remained statistically significant (Cannabis use: OR:1.73, 95% CI 1.13-2.65; Problematic cannabis use: OR:2.17, 95% CI 1.11-4.27). In the downward trajectory group, individual characteristics and family risk statistically explained 39.7% of the excess probability of tobacco smoking, 40.2% of the excess probability of cannabis use and 32.4% of that of problematic cannabis use.

DISCUSSION

Studying a community sample of French young adults, we found that the distribution of smoking, cannabis use and problematic cannabis use varied according to trajectories of socioeconomic position between childhood and adulthood. When controlling for the effects of individual and family characteristics, associations between downward socioeconomic trajectory and tobacco, cannabis use and problematic cannabis use decreased by 32-40% but remained high and statistically significant. Our findings suggest that among socially disadvantaged young adults, there may be different subgroups of individuals at particular risk of substance use.

Methodological strengths and limitations

The present study has several strengths: a) a community sample of young adults; b) prospective data on lifecourse SEP as well as individual and family characteristics; c) childhood SEP and parental characteristics collected from parents independently of youths' assessments of substance use. However, we also acknowledge methodological limitations. First, our sample included youths whose parents participate in an ongoing epidemiological study recruited among employees of a large public-sector company (the GAZEL cohort). Thus, although participating youths were originally selected to match the socio-demographic and family characteristics of French youths, we could not study individuals experiencing extreme forms of socioeconomic disadvantage. Moreover, as in other longitudinal studies, youths from lower socioeconomic backgrounds were least likely to participate in the 2009 follow-up. As a result, associations between lifelong socioeconomic disadvantage and substance use in the general population may be stronger than we report. Second, participants were 22-36 years of age in 2009, and some may thus have not reached their adult SEP; to address this we excluded students from our analyses. Third, we did not account for factors

associated with substance use such as childhood maltreatment (31), parents' antisocial behavior (32) and peer characteristics (33). By controlling for family risk we probably accounted for most variability in study outcomes associated with these factors, nevertheless they should be included in future studies of lifelong socioeconomic trajectories and substance use.

In our study, participants who experienced a downward socioeconomic trajectory were more likely to smoke and use cannabis when compared to the intermediate/high SEP group, whilst participants with persistently low SEP were only more likely to smoke cigarettes. Nevertheless, we found no statistically significant difference between the downward trajectory and the stable low SEP group, supporting previous findings that substance use is more strongly associated with adult than with childhood SEP (12, 34). Taken together, our findings highlight the need for a lifecourse approach when investigating social inequalities in adult substance use that takes into account individual and family risk factors at different developmental stages.

Lifecourse SEP and substance use in young adults

The association between downward socioeconomic trajectory and substance use in young adulthood was partially explained by juvenile externalising problems and early cannabis use. Experience of early behavioural difficulties and early substance use initiation may influence socioeconomic attainment (15, 35) and later substance use (17). We also observed that early tobacco use statistically explained part of the association between the downward socioeconomic trajectory and tobacco smoking in young adulthood. Whilst early tobacco smoking has been shown to increase risk for later, persistent smoking (26) it is unlikely to have a causal effect on socioeconomic trajectories in the same way as early cannabis use may. Instead, early tobacco use may be a marker for other risky behaviours and peer characteristics

that are in turn associated with lower socioeconomic attainment (13). Exposure to family risk partially explained the association between the downward socioeconomic trajectory and cannabis use. In post hoc analyses we observed that this effect was mainly driven by parental depression and divorce. However exposure to family risk did not explain associations between socioeconomic trajectory and tobacco use or problematic cannabis use. The association between stable low SEP and tobacco smoking in adulthood could not be accounted for by any of the individual or family factors assessed in the present study. Since associations between both the downward socioeconomic trajectory and stable low SEP and substance use remained elevated and statistically significant even after controlling for individual and family characteristics, social selection phenomena, as captured by the covariates measured in this study, do not entirely explain our findings. This implies that social causation mechanisms, whereby individuals' socioeconomic circumstances directly impact their substance, may also play a role. Individuals with low SEP may be especially likely to engage in substance use because social norms and expectations around tobacco and cannabis use are less stringent in less privileged groups (36). Additionally, substance use among individuals who experience declines in socioeconomic position may be a form of stress relief (37).

Cannabis use versus problematic cannabis use

Our study is one of few to examine the relationship between lifecourse SEP and problematic cannabis use. Such investigation is important, as different trajectories of cannabis use are likely to have different aetiological pathways, which will impact on prevention and later health outcomes (38). Our findings support this assertion, with family risk factors (and particularly parental depression and separation/divorce) being associated with cannabis use but not problematic use.

CONCLUSION

Risk mechanisms for substance use may operate at different developmental stages which suggests the implementation of interventions across the lifecourse (39). Consistent with other studies, we found that one of the most robust correlates of both the downward socioeconomic trajectory and substance use in adulthood was early experimentation of tobacco and cannabis (40). Identifying why some children experiment with tobacco and cannabis at an early age should be a key research priority in order to help delay age of first substance use.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The authors wish to thank Professor Eric Fombonne and the Gazel study team for help in implementing the TEMPO cohort. This research was supported by the French Ministry of Health-IReSP (TGIR Cohortes), the French Inter-departmental Mission for the Fight against Drugs and Drug addiction (MILDT), The French Institute of Cancer (INCa), the French Foundation for Research on Psychiatry and Mental Health (FRPSM). Maria Melchior is the recipient of a Young Researcher Award from the French National Research Agency (ANR).

Conflict of interest

None declared.

Key Points:

- Substance use is disproportionately prevalent among socially disadvantaged groups.

- Tobacco smoking, and in particular cannabis use and abuse were especially prevalent among individuals who experienced a downward socioeconomic trajectory from childhood to adulthood.
- Individual and family factors only partially explained the associations between the downward socioeconomic trajectory and substance use in adulthood.
- Our findings highlight the importance of taking into account lifecourse trajectories of socioeconomic position when monitoring and investigating social inequalities in substance use.

REFERENCES

1. Mathers CD, Loncar D. Projections of global mortality and burden of disease from 2002 to 2030. *PLoS Med* 2006;3:e442.
2. Johnston LD, O'Malley PM, Bachman JG. National survey results on drug use from the Monitoring the Future Study, 1975-99. Rockville, MD: National Institute of Drug Abuse; 2000.
3. Melchior M, Chastang JF, Goldberg P, Fombonne E. High prevalence rates of tobacco, alcohol and drug use in adolescents and young adults in France: results from the GAZEL Youth study. *Addict Behav* 2008;33:122-33.
4. Patton GC, Coffrey C, Lynskey MT, Reid S, Hemphill S, Carlin JB, et al. Trajectories of adolescent alcohol and cannabis use into young adulthood. *Addiction* 2007;102:607-615.
5. Daniel JZ, Hickman M, Macleod J, Wiles N, Lingford-Hughes A, Farrell M, et al. Is socioeconomic status in early life associated with drug use? A systematic review of the evidence. *Drug Alcohol Rev* 2009;28:142-53.
6. Peretti-Watel P, Constance J, Seror V, Beck F. Cigarettes and social differentiation in France: is tobacco use increasingly concentrated among the poor? . *Addiction* 2009;104:1718-1728.
7. Poulton R, Caspi A, Milne BJ, Thomson WM, Taylor A, Sears MR, et al. Association between children's experience of socioeconomic disadvantage and adult health: a life-course study. *Lancet* 2002;360:1640-1645.
8. Lacey RE, Cable N, Stafford M, Bartley M, Pikhart H. Childhood socioeconomic position and adult smoking: are childhood psychosocial factors important? Evidence from a British birth cohort. *Eur J Public Health* 2010;21:725-31.

9. Gilman SE, Abrams DB, Buka SL. Socioeconomic status over the life course and stages of cigarette use: initiation, regular use, and cessation. *J Epidemiol Community Health* 2003;57:802-8.
10. Kestila L, Koskinen S, Martelin T, Rahkonen O, Pensola T, Pirkola S, et al. Influence of parental education, childhood adversities, and current living conditions on daily smoking in early adulthood. *Eur J Public Health* 2006;16:617-26.
11. Karvonen S, Rimpela AH, Rimpela MK. Social mobility and health related behaviours in young people. *J Epidemiol Community Health* 1999;53:211-7.
12. Melchior M, Berkman LF, Kawachi I, Krieger N, Zins M, Bonenfant S, et al. Lifelong socioeconomic trajectory and premature mortality (35-65 years) in France: findings from the GAZEL Cohort Study. *J Epidemiol Community Health* 2006;60:937-44.
13. Dodge KA, Malone PS, Lansford JE, Miller S, Pettit GS, Bates JE. A dynamic cascade model of the development of substance-use onset. *Monogr Soc Res Child Dev* 2009;74:vii-119.
14. McLoyd VC. Socioeconomic disadvantage and child development. *Am Psychol* 1998;53:185-204.
15. Lynskey M, Hall W. The effects of adolescent cannabis use on educational attainment: a review. *Addiction* 2000;95:1621-30.
16. Fergusson DM, Boden JM. Cannabis use and later life outcomes. *Addiction* 2008;103:969-76; discussion 977-8.
17. Novak M, Ahlgren C, Hammarstrom A. Inequalities in smoking: influence of social chain of risks from adolescence to young adulthood: a prospective population-based cohort study. *Int J Behav Med* 2007;14:181-7.

18. Redonnet B, Chollet A, Fombonne E, Bowes L, Melchior M. Tobacco, alcohol, cannabis and other illegal drug use among young adults: the socioeconomic context. *Drug and Alcohol Dependence* (EPub ahead of print; 10.1016/j.drugalcdep.2011.09.002 [doi]).
19. Goldberg M, Leclerc A, Bonenfant S, Chastang JF, Schmaus A, Kaniewski N, et al. Cohort profile: the GAZEL Cohort Study. *Int J Epidemiol* 2007;36:32-9.
20. Fombonne E, Vermeersch S. Les enfants de la cohorte GAZEL: I--Prevalence des contacts avec le système medico-éducatif pour raisons psychologiques, et facteurs associés. *Rev Epidemiol Sante Publique* 1997;45:29-40.
21. Alonso J, Angermeyer MC, Bernert S, Bruffaerts R, Brugha TS, Bryson H, et al. Sampling and methods of the European Study of the Epidemiology of Mental Disorders (ESEMeD) project. *Acta Psychiatr Scand Suppl* 2004;420:8-20.
22. Beck F, Guilbert P, Gautier A. Baromètre santé 2005. Saint-Denis: Inpes; 2006.
23. INSEE. Diplôme le plus élevé selon le sexe et l'âge. In; 2007.
24. INSEE. Revenu disponible par ménage selon l'âge de la personne de référence. [Available online]. 2010.
25. Legleye S, Piontek D, Kraus L. Psychometric properties of the Cannabis Abuse Screening Test (CAST) in a French sample of adolescents. *Drug and Alcohol Depend* 2011;113:229-35.
26. Breslau N, Perterson EL. Smoking cessation in young adults: Age at initiation of cigarette smoking and other suspected influences *American Journal of Public Health* 1996;86.

27. Lynskey MT, Heath AC, Bucholz KK, Slutske WS, Madden PA, Nelson EC, et al. Escalation of drug use in early-onset cannabis users vs co-twin controls. *JAMA* 2003;289:427-33.
28. Achenbach T. Manual for the child behavior checklist/418. Burlington, VT: University of Vermont Department of Psychology; 1991.
29. Maxwell ME. Family Interview for Genetic Studies (FIGS): A Manual for FIGS. Bethesda, Maryland: Clinical Neurogenetics Branch, Intramural Research Program, National Institute of Mental Health; 1992.
30. STATA. Version 9.0. Manuals. College Station, Tex: Stata Press; 2005.
31. Lo CC, Cheng TC. The impact of childhood maltreatment on young adults' substance abuse. *Am J Drug Alcohol Abuse* 2007;33:139-46.
32. Langbehn DR, Cadoret RJ, Caspers K, Troughton EP, Yucuis R. Genetic and environmental risk factors for the onset of drug use and problems in adoptees. *Drug Alcohol Depend* 2003;69:151-167.
33. Fergusson DM, Swain-Campbell NR, Horwood LJ. Deviant peer affiliations, crime and substance use: a fixed effects regression analysis. *J Abnorm Child Psychol* 2002;30:419-30.
34. Hanson MD, Chen E. Socioeconomic status and health behaviors in adolescence: a review of the literature. *J Behav Med* 2007;30(3):263-85.
35. Lehman WE, Simpson DD. Employee substance use and on-the-job behaviors. *J Appl Psychol* 1992;77:309-321.
36. Galea S, Nandi A, Vlahov D. The social epidemiology of substance use. *Epidemiologic Reviews* 2004;26:36–52.

37. Boardman JD, Finch BK, Ellison CG, Williams DR, Jackson JS. Neighborhood disadvantage, stress, and drug use among adults. *J Health Soc Behav* 2001;42:151-65.
38. Ellickson PL, Martino SC, Collins RL. Marijuana use from adolescence to young adulthood: multiple developmental trajectories and their associated outcomes. *Health Psychology* 2004;23:299-307.
39. Ben-Shlomo Y, Kuh D. A life course approach to chronic disease epidemiology: conceptual models, empirical challenges and interdisciplinary perspectives. *Int J Epidemiol* 2002;31:285-93.
40. Fergusson DM, Horwood J. Early onset cannabis use and psychosocial adjustment in young adults. *Addiction* 1997;92:279-296.

Figure captions

Figure 1 Prevalence of substance use in relation to socioeconomic trajectory groups (TEMPO study, France, n=1103, 2009, age range: 22-35 years).

Insert figure 1 here

Note:

- Smoking: ≥ 1 cigarette per day for the last 12 months.
- Cannabis use: smoking cannabis on ≥ 1 occasion.
- Problematic cannabis use: A score of ≥ 2 on the Cannabis Abuse Screening Test (CAST; range 0-6).

Table 1 Individual and family risk factors of tobacco and cannabis use across lifecourse socioeconomic position groups in the TEMPO study in 2009 (n=1,103; 22-35 years)

Covariables	<i>Stable intermediate/high SEP</i> → N=371	<i>Downward SEP</i> ↘ N=206	<i>p</i>	<i>Upward SEP</i> ↗ N=212	<i>p</i>	<i>Stable low SEP</i> → N=177	<i>p</i>
	% or mean (SD)	% or mean (SD)		% or mean (SD)			
Individual factors							
Early tobacco smoking (<= 13 years vs. >13)	13.32	16.59	0.40	5.74	0.01	13.22	0.92
Early cannabis use (<= 17 years vs. >17)	19.83	31.39	0.04	13.53	0.09	21.89	0.87
Juvenile internalizing symptoms (per unit increase)	11.95 (9.56)	11.92 (10.12)	0.29	12.02 (9.81)	0.91	13.03 (10.13)	0.12
Juvenile externalizing symptoms (per unit increase)	8.67 (7.49)	10.89 (8.38)	0.01	8.73 (7.12)	0.86	10.57 (9.19)	0.01
Academic difficulties (yes vs. no)	22.10	40.29	<.0001	27.83	0.19	34.46	<.0001
Family factors							
Total family risk*	1.08 (1.02)	1.28 (1.05)	0.02	1.33 (1.14)	0.01	1.64 (1.21)	<.0001
Parental smoking (smoker vs non-smoker)	25.63	27.14	0.73	28.64	0.43	25.15	0.91
Parental heavy alcohol use (high alcohol use present vs. absent)	20.27	21.36	0.54	25.47	0.16	34.66	<.0001
Parent ill health (present vs. absent)	18.49	20.1	0.57	22.01	0.35	32.18	<.0001
Parental unemployment (yes vs. no)	10.23	16.41	0.05	19.21	0.01	17.26	0.02
Parental depression (yes vs. no)	26.22	31.55	0.21	25.47	0.88	30.86	0.32
Parental divorce (yes vs. no)	9.6	14.87	0.05	15.35	0.05	27.98	<.0001

p = significance value from age and sex adjusted multinomial logistic regression models testing associations between socioeconomic trajectory groups and individual and family factors, using stable high SEP as the comparison group.

Note: * Total family risk is a cumulative index, created by summing risk for parental: 1) tobacco smoking 2) heavy alcohol use 3) parent ill health 4) unemployment 5) depression and 6) separation/divorce.

Table 2 Logistic regression analyses showing associations between lifecourse socioeconomic position, individual and family factors, and substance use in young adulthood.

Predictors	Regular smoking (≥ 1 cigarette a day)		Cannabis use (at least once in the last 12 months)		Problematic cannabis use (at least 2 problems)	
	Age and sex adjusted adj OR* (95% CI's)	Multivariate adj OR+ (95% CI's)	Age and sex adjusted adj OR* (95% CI's)	Multivariate adj OR+ (95% CI's)	Age and sex adjusted adj OR* (95% CI's)	Multivariate adj OR+ (95% CI's)
Lifecourse SEP trajectory						
Stable intermediate/high SEP (n=371)	1	1	1	1	1	1
Downward SEP (n=206)	2.26 (1.58-3.22)	1.76 (1.18-2.63)	2.22 (1.50-3.30)	1.73 (1.13-2.65)	2.73 (1.43-5.23)	2.17 (1.11-4.27)
Upward SEP (n=212)	0.95 (0.65-1.39)	1.05 (0.70-1.59)	0.62 (0.38-1.01)	0.69 (0.42-1.16)	0.92 (0.40-2.11)	1.10 (0.47-2.57)
Stable low SEP (n= 177)	2.03 (1.39-2.96)	2.14 (1.40-3.28)	1.46 (0.94-2.27)	1.22 (0.75-1.97)	1.69 (0.80-3.56)	1.61 (0.74-3.49)
Covariates						
Juvenile internalizing	1.00 (0.99-1.01)	0.98 (0.96-1.00)	1.00 (0.98-1.02)	--	0.99 (0.96-1.02)	--
Juvenile externalizing	1.03 (1.02-1.05)	1.04 (1.02-1.06)	1.02 (1.00-1.04)	1.01 (0.99-1.03)	1.02 (0.99-1.05)	1.01 (0.98-1.04)
School difficulties	1.40 (1.03-1.90)	1.28 (0.90-1.80)	1.15 (0.80-1.64)	--	1.08 (0.61-1.93)	--
Early tobacco smoking (<=13)	2.90 (2.00-4.22)	1.67 (1.05-2.65)	2.59 (1.75-3.82)	1.43 (0.89-2.28)	2.38 (1.31-4.35)	1.40 (0.71-2.77)
Early cannabis use (<= 17 years)	4.62 (3.27-6.54)	3.63 (2.51-5.26)	3.37 (2.36-4.80)	2.89 (1.97-4.22)	3.56 (2.08-6.09)	3.18 (1.79-5.65)
Family risk*	1.13 (1.00-1.27)	1.06 (0.92-1.21)	1.21 (1.04-1.39)	1.17 (1.01-1.36)	1.13 (0.89-1.42)	--

Running head: Lifecourse socioeconomic position and substance use

Note: * Total family risk is a cumulative risk index, created by summing risk for parental: 1) tobacco smoking 2) heavy alcohol use 3) parent ill health 4) unemployment 5) depression and 6) separation/divorce.

