

A Series of Moderated Mediation Models Examining College Alcohol Beliefs, Residence, Greek Status, and Alcohol Outcomes

INTRODUCTION

Risk factors for increased alcohol consumption among college students include being a member of a Greek organization (e.g., sororities or fraternities), living off- versus on-campus, and greater beliefs that alcohol is an important component of the college experience (college alcohol beliefs [CABs])¹⁻⁵. Greek members specifically have been found to have higher levels of CABs^{2, 6-7}. **The current study examined if Greek status mediated the association between CABs and alcohol outcomes (including consequences), and if type of residence (on-versus off-campus) moderated the association between Greek status and CABs.**

METHOD

Participants

- $N = 427$ undergraduate students
- $M_{age} = 19.76$, $SD = 1.64$
- 69% female; 39% White, 56% Black
- 13% Greek member, 42% living off campus
- Drank at least once in the previous two weeks

Materials

College Alcohol Beliefs

- College Life Alcohol Salience Scale (CLASS)⁸
- 1 = *Strongly Disagree* to 5 = *Strongly Agree*
- Sum of 8 items; $\alpha = .88$

Alcohol Use Outcomes

- Daily Drinking Questionnaire (DDQ)⁹
- Drinks per drinking day, typical BAC, alcohol frequency

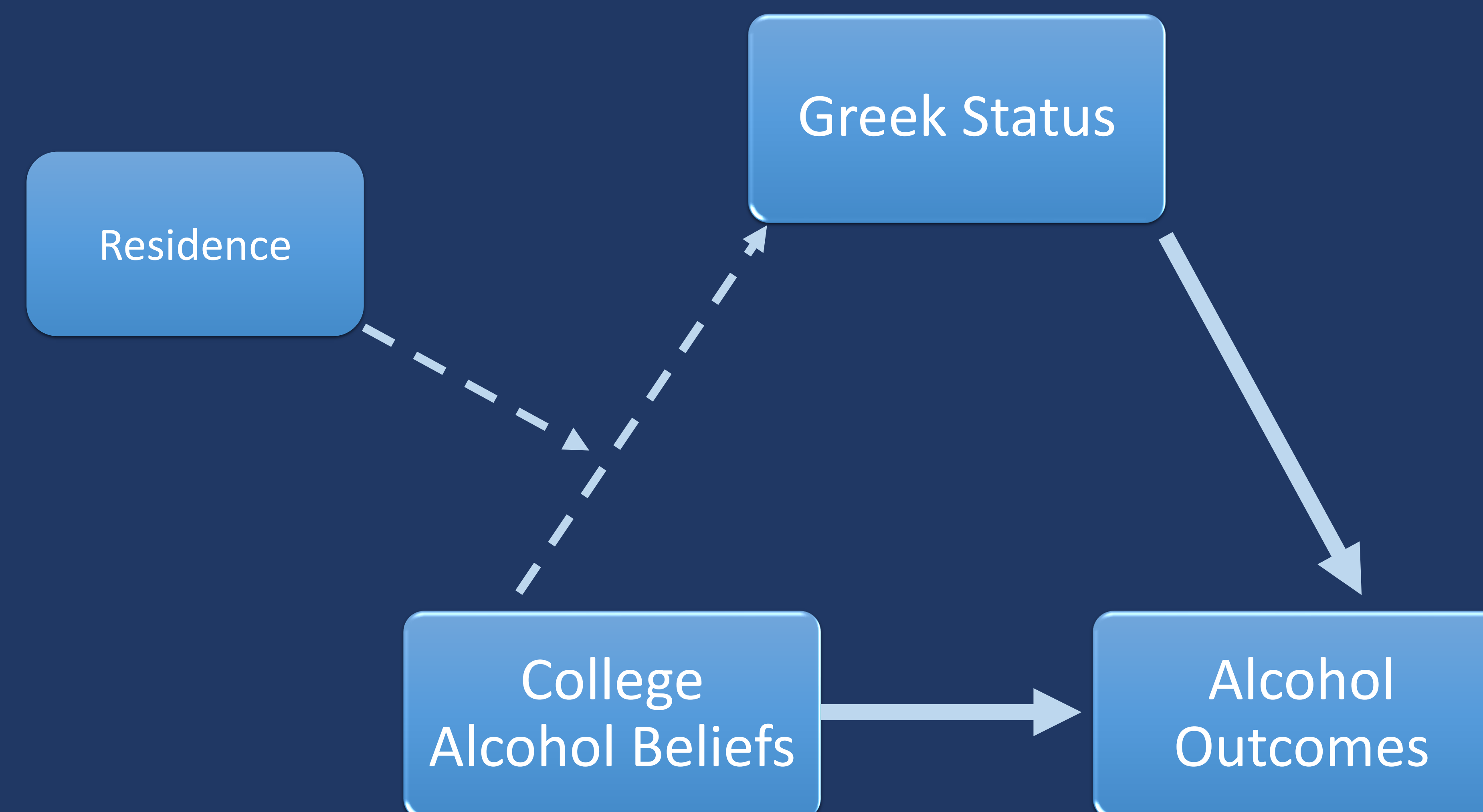
Alcohol Consequences

- Young Adult Alcohol Consequences Questionnaire (YAACQ)¹⁰
- Sum of 48 items; $\alpha = .92$

Procedure and Analyses

- Data were from a baseline survey for a RCT
- Moderated mediation models were analyzed in Mplus v.8
- Maximum likelihood estimation and bootstrapping procedures (10,000 replications) were used. Controlled for gender (models for drinking outcomes) and typical BAC (model for consequences)

Being a member of **Greek Life** and having greater **College Alcohol Beliefs** were associated with **heavy alcohol use.**



RESULTS

Standardized Results of the Direct Effects of Greek Status and College Alcohol Beliefs on Alcohol Outcomes

	Drinks per Drinking Day		Consequences	
	β	95% CI	β	95% CI
College Alcohol Beliefs	0.269	[0.196, 0.338]	0.306	[0.232, 0.376]
Greek Status	0.203	[0.116, 0.291]	0.062	[-0.011, 0.141]

	Alcohol Frequency		Typical BAC	
	β	95% CI	β	95% CI
College Alcohol Beliefs	0.272	[0.192, 0.347]	0.237	[0.162, 0.309]
Greek Status	0.117	[0.040, 0.201]	0.156	[0.064, 0.248]

Average College Alcohol Beliefs by Greek Status (Not controlling for Residence)



DISCUSSION

Although none of the moderated mediation models were significant, direct paths were significant. Greek members had higher CABs scores (not controlling for residence) in a bivariate model and Greek membership was associated with greater alcohol use but not consequences. Having greater CABs was associated with greater alcohol use and consequences. When implementing interventions with Greek members, institutions should address CABs. Further research should be conducted on campuses with more students who are Greek members.

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