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Baseline Population Characteristics

Study population characteristics at baseline are described in Tables 4-6. More than half of the participants were 12-13 years old, but participants in the control group were significantly younger than those in the intervention group ($p < .05$). In the control group, 35% of girls were 10-11 years old and 62% were 12-13 years old, compared to 23% ages 10-11 years and 62% ages 12-13 years in the intervention group. No differences with respect to race or ethnicity; grade; individuals with whom they live; exposure to ATOD; decisions or planned behavior regarding ATOD use; or attitudes and perceived risk were observed between the control and intervention groups at baseline. More than half of the participants were in the sixth grade, 47% lived with their mom and dad, and 43% lived with their mom only. The most frequently reported race/ethnicity was black/African American, followed by white.

At baseline, friends' use of substances ranged between less than 3% using other illegal drugs (excluding marijuana) and more than 11% who had a friend who had tried alcohol. More than 86% reported that they were committed to be drug free and more than 90% had made a decision to stay away from marijuana. Just more than 1% decided to smoke cigarettes and 2% planned to get drunk in the next year. Marijuana was the most commonly reported substance used in the last 30 days (5%), followed by cigarettes and alcohol (both between 4 and 5%). Between 2% and 3% of participants reported that they had been drunk/high from alcohol in the past 30 days. Ketamines were the most commonly reported other illegal drug, with 1.5% reporting use in the last 30 days. More than 20% of the girls had alcohol in their lifetime, with the median age of first drink being 11 years old. Median age for the first cigarette smoked was 11.5 years old, for first using marijuana/hashish was 13 years old, and for first using other illegal drugs was 12 years old.

With respect to perceived risks, most girls reported that smoking a pack per day, smoking marijuana regularly, and having five or more drinks each weekend was a great risk. A lower percentage considered it a great risk to try marijuana once or twice (approximately 10%) or to have one or two drinks per day (approximately 44%). Most participants reported that it was very wrong for someone their age to drink beer/wine/hard liquor regularly, smoke cigarettes, smoke marijuana, or use LSD, cocaine, amphetamines, or other illegal drugs.

Table 4: Demographic Characteristics at Baseline

Characteristics	Total (N=343)	Intervention Group (N=169)	Control Group (N=174)	p-value
Age Group				
10-11	29.2	23.1	35.3	0.0217
12-13	55.0	62.1	48.0	
14-15	15.8	14.8	16.8	
Race/Ethnicity				
Hispanic	17.2	17.5	17.0	0.7624
Non-Hispanic:				
Black/African American	47.7	49.4	46.1	
White	35.1	33.1	37.0	

