

An evaluation of the proposed DSM-5 alcohol use disorder criteria using Australian national data



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BACKGROUND

DSM-5 is due for release in May 2013. Four major revisions have been proposed for the DSM-5 alcohol use disorder (AUD) criteria:

Revision 1:

Alcohol abuse and dependence have been combined into a single disorder

Revision 2:

The criterion reflecting alcohol-related legal problems has been removed

Revision 3:

A new criterion reflecting craving has been included

Revision 4:

New thresholds for a moderate (2+ criteria) and a severe (4+ criteria) alcohol use disorder have been proposed

Aim: The current study evaluated each of these revisions using Australian national data

METHODS

Data came from the 1997 Australian National Survey of Mental Health and Well-Being (NSMHWB):

- N = 10641
- Response Rate = 78.1%
- Instrument = Composite International Diagnostic Interview 2.0
- Alcohol use disorders were assessed in those who had consumed at least 12 alcoholic drinks in the previous 12 months ('current drinkers' = 7746)

Statistical Analysis:

- Prevalence rates were calculated using SUDAAN 10.0
- Confirmatory factor analysis (CFA) was performed using Mplus 5.1
- Item response theory (IRT) analyses were conducted using MULTILOG 7.0
- Differential item functioning (DIF) within an IRT framework was assessed with IRTLRDIF 2.0

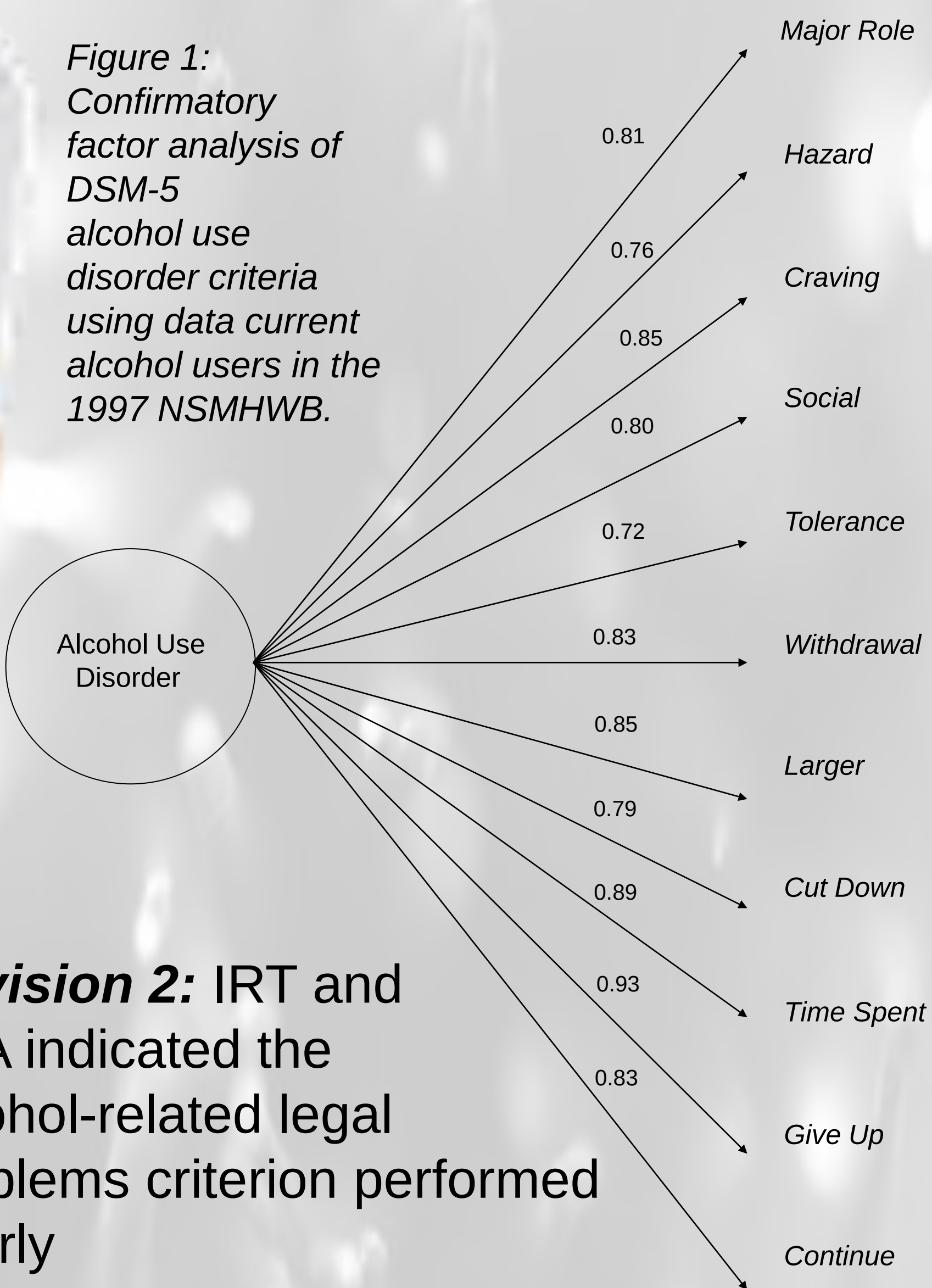
CONCLUSIONS

The proposed criteria for DSM-5 will lead to a substantial increase in the diagnosis of alcohol use disorders in the Australian population (>60% increase)

This study supported the combination of alcohol abuse and dependence and the removal of the alcohol-related legal problems criterion.

This study raised doubts about the inclusion of a new craving criterion and the value of the 2+ criteria threshold proposed for DSM-5.

Revision 1: Confirmatory factor analysis supported the combination of alcohol abuse and dependence into a single disorder (see Figure 1)



Revision 2: IRT and CFA indicated the alcohol-related legal problems criterion performed poorly

Revision 3: IRT and CFA supported the inclusion of a craving criterion. However, this criterion performed differently in males and females (i.e., DIF was detected)

Revision 4: The proposed 2+ criteria threshold would increase the prevalence of alcohol use disorders from 6.0% under DSM-IV to 9.7% in DSM-5. **This represents a 61.7% increase in the prevalence of alcohol use disorders under DSM-5.** Much of this increase is the result of DSM-IV "diagnostic orphans" now being diagnosed with a moderate disorder under DSM-5 (see Table 1)

Table 1: Categorisation of specific DSM-IV AUD diagnostic subgroups in the proposed DSM-5 criteria.

		DSM-IV								
		No criteria		Diagnostic Orphans		Abuse		Dependence		Total
		N	%	N		N	%	N	%	N
DSM-5	No criteria	8581	99.8	0	0	13	6.3	0	0	8594
	1 criterion	17	0.2	939	67.0	59	29.3	0	0	1015
	Moderate AUD (2-3 criteria)	0	0	464	33.1	114	56.2	135	30.8	713
	Severe AUD (4+ criteria)	0	0	0	0	17	8.2	302	69.2	319
	Total	8598		1403		203		437		10641