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PREFACE

This annotated bibliography, updated monthly, provides worldwide coverage of research and statistics on drug and alcohol abuse. English- and foreign-language literature, primarily books and journals published since January 1991 is screened. Research focuses on topics such as usage patterns, new theories on patterns of abuse, signs and symptoms of addiction, legal penalties, genetics and heredity, prevention strategies and techniques, and codependency. The entries are arranged alphabetically by author. Each entry contains keywords.

The authors examine suicide attempters, suicide ideators, and nonsuicidal controls to discover the relationship between both a personal and family history of substance abuse and suicidal behavior. Results showed that suicidal patients differed from nonsuicidal controls on many of the dependent variables. Suicidal patients were more likely to be depressed and report a history of previous suicidal tendencies. Also, alcohol and drug abuse occurred more frequently in suicidal patients. Furthermore, a family history of alcohol abuse was reported more often by suicidal than nonsuicidal patients.

Keyword(s): suicide; substance abuse; methodology


This study explored age at onset of drug injecting behavior, examining its potential relationships with HIV risk behaviors and serostatus among IVDUs (intravenous drug users) entering methadone treatment and participating in a nonblinded HIV seroprevalence study. This study suggested that adolescent injectors are an important target for HIV prevention efforts.

Keyword(s): drug users; injections; age


Despite chronic under funding, a relative lack of staff training and, in some cases, the absence of a system of clinical accountability, Australian methadone services have grown significantly in the last decade. Overall, the history of methadone treatment in Australia mirrors the US
experience. Current problems on policy development are highlighted.

Keyword(s): Australia; methadone treatment; methodology

Carretta, Raffaela, and Cutuli, Maria Grazia. "Droga: Perche Amato ha deciso di cambiare la legge [Drugs: Why Amato has decided to change the law]" *Epoca*, (Milan) Vol. 43, No. 2197, November 11, 1992, 30-34. [Call Number: AP37.E25]

Italy's prime minister, Giuliano Amato, recently proposed that the country's strict drug law of 1990 be altered. He recommends that drug addicts no longer be jailed as the present law stipulates. Critics of the law have long argued that jailing addicts is counterproductive. In addition, many of the persons sent to prison by the law have dangerously overcrowded the country's prison system. Once in prison, addicts are more likely to become HIV-positive. According to the article, 68 percent of Italian addicts are infected, compared to 31 percent in France. The law has also burdened Italian courts because persons caught with very small amounts of illegal substances, even with so-called "soft drugs," must be prosecuted. For example, the trial of three youths arrested with a total of 1.6 grams of hashish required the participation of 8 policemen, 15 judges, and 2 experts. The boys were given suspended sentences of 4 months each. Critics of the law also say that deaths from drug overdoses increased 30 percent the first year the law was in force.

Keyword(s): drug legislation; Italy


A major survey of metropolitan and rural/provincial New Zealand in 1990 confirmed that alcohol and tobacco were the most widely used recreational drugs. With the exception of marijuana, the prevalence of illicit drug use is very low. The drug-related political issues in New Zealand during the past decades have reflected their
pattern of use. In recent years New Zealand has not fallen prey to an illicit drug offensive, however, there were signs in 1991 in the context of a severe economic crisis, of moves in this direction.

Keyword(s): New Zealand; alcohol; drugs


Both theory and practice suggest that individuals who lack effective coping responses are more likely to drink in response to stressful situations. Many if not most individuals believe that alcohol reduces negative emotions, and a substantial minority of drinkers indicate that they use alcohol strategically to cope with negative emotions. Despite the data, inconsistent results have emerged from attempts to document stress induced drinking more directly.

Keyword(s): stress; alcohol; coping


According to Grup Abele, a group concerned with the use of illegal drugs, about 350,000 Italians consume heroin on a regular basis, about 2 million smoke marijuana or hashish, and 2.5 million use cocaine. Italy's severe drug law that went into effect several years ago makes all these consumers liable for prison terms or other heavy penalties. Of Italy's estimated 350,000 drug addicts, only 59,698 are receiving treatment as of September 1991. Of the 32,000 Italians in prison, about 10,700 are drug addicts, 3,000 of whom are HIV positive or have AIDS. A poll of Italians in late 1991 indicated that 41.6 percent think that the use of illegal drugs should be decriminalized, while 42.1 percent think the contrary.
Keyword(s): drug legislation; drug use; Italy


While there is no definitive conclusion, accumulating evidence reveals that alcohol in excess negatively affects the brain and neuropsychological functioning, both immediately and in the long-term. The important question for social drinkers, however, is whether moderate amounts of alcohol can have detrimental effects on the brain or performance in either the medium or long-term. The answer seems to be that considerably more research is needed.

Keyword(s): drinking; brain; methodology


This article examines the evaluation of two programs that attempted to use community strategies for alcohol-health promotion. The programs and their evaluation are described and important issues in evaluating such programs are discussed.

Keyword(s): alcohol; New Zealand; community action


This paper discusses, with illustrative case studies, the role of the family in the development of adolescent drinking behavior. In particular, family socialization is described as being a major influence in the development of an individual's attitudes, perceptions, and orientation to alcohol.
Keyword(s): alcohol abuse; adolescents; family


Both young and old people exhibit attitudes, behavior, feelings, and reasons for abuse that appear to be similar. Therefore, when considering drug and alcohol use and abuse in both populations, it may be possible to draw a correlation between the two groups. These similarities have wide applications for treatment and recovery in both groups.

Keyword(s): adolescents; elderly persons; substance abusers; treatment


A large number of prominent Australian citizens have argued that legalization of drug use should be relaxed because the social costs of illicit drug use are consequences of prohibition. Proponents of "controlled availability" have proposed that currently illegal drugs should be provided under medical supervision to persons who are dependent on them. Despite a vigorous debate, drug policies have not changed because reformers have failed to convince the public that their policies will not increase the use of illicit drugs.

Keyword(s): Australia; heroin; legalization

Controversy exists as to whether dysphoric mood states in heroin addicts are the cause or consequence of their drug use. Upon admission to treatment, patients with levels of dysphoria and opioid withdrawal were assessed before and after a pharmacological challenge with either 0.4 mg naloxone or a placebo. Signs and symptoms of opioid withdrawal and symptoms of dysphoria increased in patients following naloxone, but not placebo administration. Findings suggest that dysphoric mood states in heroin addicts may be, in part, a pharmacological result of their drug dependence. Dysphoria due to opioid withdrawal may contribute to the initiation and maintenance of heroin use.

Keyword(s): heroin; addiction; dysphoria


This article describes the extent of research into brief interventions in Australia and their applications in practice. Separate sections are devoted to excessive alcohol and tobacco consumption. A description of some recent research priority-setting exercises that are relevant to the topic of brief interventions are provided before concluding with a brief overview of the situation with respect to brief interventions in Australia and their likely future directions.

Keyword(s): Austalia; research; alcohol; cigarettes


Liverpool's attempts to deal with its serious drug problems are famous the world over. This article outlines the main features of Liverpool’s program. Liverpool has much unemployment and an estimated ten percent of the unemployed use illegal drugs. Liverpool's police are
highly effective and seize the second largest amount of illegal drugs in Britain. When they arrest an addict, however, they do not place him in jail, but send him to a welfare office. He may then be supplied with heroin or other illegal drugs or with methadone. Only on the third arrest is someone who consumes illegal drugs likely to face criminal charges. A large number of addicts usually means a large number of persons who are HIV-positive or have AIDS. In Liverpool, however, only 19 of the city’s 10,000 addicts are infected, compared with a rate of 30 percent among addicts in Paris. This is a result of the city’s policy of supplying addicts with clean needles free of charge. Another unusual aspect of Liverpool’s drug policy is the employment of former addicts to work in its drug treatment programs.

Keyword(s): drug treatment programs; Liverpool; United Kingdom


In this study the relationship between crack cocaine abuse and sexual behavior in 50 psychiatric patients was examined. Results indicated that while most of the subjects developed sexual disinterest and dysfunction with prolonged cocaine use, some of them became more sexually promiscuous and consequently contracted more sexually transmitted diseases. These results are important because they can lead crack users to better understand the relationship between crack use and STD and perhaps motivate them to change certain aspects of their drug use and sexual behaviors.

Keyword(s): alcohol; cocaine; patients

The study compared the 10-year outcomes of 95 chronic opioid users who spent at least one cumulative year on methadone with those of 77 chronic opioid users who spent less than one cumulative year on methadone. At the end of the ten-year period, 26 percent of the comparison group but only 7 percent of the methadone group had been in continuous voluntary abstinence for three years or longer. Methadone maintenance for one year or longer was inversely related to abstinence during and at the end of the ten years. Results seem consistent with the hypothesis that methadone maintenance for one year or longer impedes eventual recovery from opioid dependence.

Keyword(s): methodology; methadone maintenance; opioid users


This study attempts to put a dollar amount on the costs of the Australian drug policy, and to estimate how it would change under an alternative policy of drug use regulation. The author argues that the recent Cleeland Report underestimates the true costs of the law enforcement against illicit drug use by a factor of at least two. Author estimates a total annual cost of existing drug laws in 1987-88 to Australia of $950 million.

Keyword(s): expenditures; Australia; drug policy


Data collected from a sample of 983 men and 894 women were analyzed using multivariate statistical methods in an attempt to identify different types of drinkers. Twelve male and ten female clusters were identified. The choice of target clusters for health promotion activities is discussed.
Keyword(s): New Zealand; alcoholism; methodology


This is the first study to cluster analyze MMPI profiles of adolescent substance abusers. Three clusters were found which were characterized by: an apparently high level of psychopathology; an impulsive, acting-out style; and a lack of marked psychopathology. The three clusters were validated by differences between the subjects on seven variables. These results are discussed in relation to previous cluster analyses of MMPI profiles of adult substance abusers, primarily alcoholics. Treatment recommendations are made based on the observed clusters.

Keyword(s): cluster analysis; MMPI Profiles; adolescents; substance abusers


The article explores the relationships between treatment research, policy, and practice in the addictions field with a special emphasis on the situation in Australia. The article deals exclusively with treatment or intervention issues and does not address the area of prevention of drug abuse or dependence. The article does not attempt to provide an exhaustive overview of the history or current state of drug treatment policy in Australia.

Keyword(s): Australia; alcohol treatment; drug treatment; research; policy

This study provides an overview of the current information on substance abuse in pregnancy. The authors try to accomplish three important objectives: to review the epidemiology of perinatal substance abuse; to detail the medical, obstetrical, and neonatal complications of substance abuse; and, to discuss some psychosocial issues facing the substance-exposed patient. Treatment considerations are examined and presented.

Keyword(s): substance abuse; pregnancy; prevention

Morini, Roberto. "Alcol: Ora si e trovato l'antidoto [Alcol: Now the antidote has been found]" Epoca, (Milan) Vol. 43, No. 2174, June 10, 1992, 116, 117, 119, 120. [Call Number: will find out]

Scientists in Italy have found a drug which reduces the desire to drink. Unlike Anabuse which makes a drinker ill when he consumes alcohol, Alcol eliminates the desire for the pleasure obtained from alcohol consumption. It does this by reducing the brain's production of dopamine. According to Gian Luigi Gessa, director of the Department of Neuroscience at Cagliari on the island of Sardinia, the absence of dopamine means that the alcoholic has no desire for alcohol. The Italian government has approved the use of the drug in the public health system, but not for sale in pharmacies or for use in private clinics. Italy has about 3 million alcoholics and about 80 Italians die each day of alcohol abuse. The first chapter of Alcoholics Anonymous was founded only in 1974. By 1992 there were 340 chapters with women making up 40 percent of their membership. In addition to this organization, there are a number of other groups that attempt to help alcoholics free themselves from their addiction.

Keyword(s): drug treatment for alcoholism; groups to aid alcoholics; Italy

The paper examines the relationship between acculturation and drinking patterns using data from a 1988 community survey of 1,286 adult regular drinkers. This sample includes 412 Anglo, 239 Black, and 635 Mexican American respondents. Overall, the analyses indicate little evidence to support an 'acculturation stress' model of alcohol use. Generally, the data revealed that the quantity and frequency consumption was somewhat higher among the least acculturated males and the moderately acculturated females.

Keyword(s): acculturation; drinking patterns; Blacks; Mexican Americans


The paper describes the characteristics of jail inmates referred for drug treatment and provides comparisons to other drug dependent samples outside the criminal justice system. Implications for development of specific treatment interventions for offenders are discussed, with the goals of promoting recovery and the prevention of subsequent drug-related crime.

Keyword(s): drug abusers; treatment; jail inmates


Health officials in Frankfurt, the German city with the highest incidence of drug addiction, have requested permission from the German Federal Health Administration to supply 100 addicts with heroin for a period of five years. Frankfurt officials believe that providing free heroin is the best means of dealing with hardened addicts who are unwilling to accept methadone treatment. Officials plan to allow the addicts to come to city offices three times a day and consume heroin by swallowing, inhaling, or injecting. The possession and consumption of heroin are prohibited by German narcotics law. One portion of the law
permits experiments with heroin under certain conditions, however. Although medical experts support the Frankfurt program, modelled on one in Switzerland, some politicians have expressed their opposition and whether permission will be given to proceed is uncertain.

Keyword(s): drug therapy program; Germany


This paper seeks to define and explain the three levels of response as well as discuss each level's application to adolescents in need of substance abuse prevention programs.

Keyword(s): adolescents; substance abuse; methodology; prevention


The study examines three social resource characteristics which were predicted to affect the influence of adolescent social networks on outcome following treatment for substance abuse. In particular, the perceived similarity, perceived support, and the drug use patterns of the support persons in the adolescents' social network were examined in relation to alcohol and drug use outcome following adolescent substance abuse treatment. Increased perceived support predicted continued post-treatment abstinence when recovering teens perceived their social resource network as similar to themselves.

Keyword(s): adolescents; treatment; substance abuse

The largest preventable cause of death and disease in Australia, and the major cause of drug death, is tobacco smoking. Smoking is estimated to have caused 19,899 deaths in Australia in 1991, nearly six times the number of road crash fatalities. Although the 1980s brought increased public awareness about health issues, and legislation concerning advertising restrictions and other aspects of tobacco control, the problem has not disappeared and priority areas for action still remain.

Keyword(s): Australia; tobacco; methodology