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DRUG AND ALCOHOL ABUSE

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Project Manager: Andrea Savada

Analysts: Serge Demidenko
           Eric Solsten

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6. AUTHOR(S)
Serge Demidenko
Eric Solsten

7. PERFORMING ORGANIZATION NAME(S) AND ADDRESS(ES)
Federal Research Division
Library of Congress
Washington, DC 20540-5220

9. SPONSORING/MONITORING AGENCY NAME(S) AND ADDRESS(ES)
U.S. Army Drug and Alcohol Operations Agency
4501 Ford Avenue, Suite 320
Alexandria, VA 22302-1460

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Louis R. Mortimer
Chief
Federal Research Division
Library of Congress
Washington, DC 20540-5220
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.
"Alkohol bleibt die gefährlichste Droge [Alcohol remains the most dangerous drug]" Deutschland Nachrichten, (New York) December 18, 1992, 6. [Call Number: none]

Alcohol remains the most dangerous drug in Germany by far. Specialists estimate that 40,000 people will die from alcoholism in 1992, compared with 2,000 who will perish from the consumption of illegal drugs. United Germany has an estimated 2.5 million alcoholics and annual per capita consumption of alcohol is between 12 and 13 liters of pure alcohol. Authorities are especially worried by the increased consumption of alcohol among young people. Surveys have revealed that in 1980 youths first began drinking at the age of 14; in 1992 they began sometime drinking the ages of 10 and 12.

Keyword(s): alcoholism; Germany

"Alkohol und Wiedervereinigung [Alcohol and reunification]" Deutschland Nachrichten, (New York) December 18, 1992, 6. [Call Number: none]

The West and East German laws governing the amount of alcohol a driver could legally consume differed greatly. In the former German Democratic Republic, drivers were not permitted to have any traces of alcohol in their body; the standards in the Federal Republic of Germany were rather lax. As of January 1, 1993 West German standards will be applied in the former East Germany. Some politicians have argued strongly against this change because East Germans have little experience combining drinking and driving. There was no political support for extending East Germany’s tough restrictions to the west.

Keyword(s): drinking and driving laws; Germany


Article traces the early origins of drug use and misuse in Malaysia, its development and expansion during the 1970s, and the current efforts at eradication and rehabilitation.
Keyword(s): substances of abuse; Malaysia; rehabilitation


Although there is strong evidence that social pressure plays an important role in relapse, there is much less evidence to support the frequent notion that 'shooting up' is almost always a social behavior. Results revealed that injecting drug use was a social behavior approximately half of the time for the overall sample of 1245 users. Statistically significant differences were found according to the age, gender, and drug experience of the user. Females, younger users, and those less experienced in injecting drugs were more inclined to inject in groups, while needle-sharing was more common among older and more experience drug users.

Keyword(s): social behavior; drug users; injections


The study was designed to replicate and expand on the multiple component view of the measurement of drinking restraint. Replication focused on the confirmation of the three restraint-related RDS (Restrained Drinking Scale) clusters identified by Collins et al. (1989) in a sample of community residents. In addition, the authors attempted to bolster the face validity of the measurement of drinking restraint by developing new items that complement the three RDS clusters. Finally, the view that restraint includes successful and unsuccessful regulation of intake was examined.

Keyword(s): methodology; consumption; drinking restraint
"Dann sind Fixer bei uns Freiwillig [We've got open season on junkies]" Der Spiegel, (Hamburg) vol. 46, no. 27, June 29, 1992, 74-75. [Call Number: AP30.S55]

The city of Frankfurt has employed a so-called "ombudsman" since November 1990 to look after the welfare of drug addicts living in the area of the city's main railroad station. The area is such a notorious center for drug abuse that the city hired the lawyer Gerhard Knoess to mediate between the numerous drug addicts present there and the neighborhood's other inhabitants. Much of Knoess's time is spent in court when allegations of police brutality against drug addicts are being investigated. The police themselves have maintained a wall of silence around these charges, but city health officials and city lawyers say that policemen often break the law when dealing with addicts. At the present time, there are fourteen court cases pending that deal with police brutality against addicts. Knoess is Germany's only "junky ombudsman."

Keyword(s): Germany; legal protection for addicts


Rohypnol, a prescribed drug manufactured by the Swiss company Hoffmann-La Roche, is becoming popular among German drug addicts. Ten years ago, only one German drug addict in a hundred consumed the drug; now, an estimated two-thirds do, often as a supplement to other drugs. The drug's popularity stems from its legality and the ease with which it can be obtained. Prescribed to combat anxiety and sleeplessness, 49.7 million tablets were sold legally in Germany in 1991 for less than 50 cents each. Drug addicts obtain the pills either through prescriptions or on the black market for $2 to $3 each. The drug has an effect similar to that of heroin and is quickly addictive. Ten times stronger than valium, the drug has the dangerous side effects of loss of memory and fits of violence. Loss of memory has caused many addicts to forget that they have just taken a dose of drugs--they take another dose and die of an overdose. Like heroin, the drug also slows the respiratory system and addicts sometimes suffocate.
Keyword(s): Germany; drug abuse; Rohypnol

"Dealer fuer Europa [Dealer for Europe]" Der Spiegel, (Hamburg), vol. 46, no. 52, December 21, 1992, 144. [Call Number: AP30.S55]

Spain has been characterized as "Europe's drug dealer" because of the large amounts of illegal drugs smuggled into the country, much of which is later brought into other European countries. The country's long borders and its historical connections with Latin America are the main reasons why drug bosses began to develop the country in the mid-1980s as a transfer point. In 1991 police confiscated 105 tons of hashish, 7.5 tons of cocaine, and 741 kilograms of heroin—a estimated 10 percent of drugs smuggled into the country. A problem for Spanish authorities is the growing corruption of the police units dedicated to fighting the trade in illegal drugs. Recently half of the police narcotics squad in Madrid—ten men—was charged with selling drugs. Investigations in Andalusia are also underway. A big police action in northern Spain is said to have missed the most important drug dealer because he was warned by the head of the Madrid narcotics squad. The dealer was later arrested and charged. He and 51 other dealers caught in the raid "Operation Mago" will go on trial in the summer of 1993.

Keyword(s): Spain; drug smuggling; police corruption


Previous studies suggested that biofeedback/relaxation training significantly improved sobriety for those patients who participated in six or more training sessions in conjunction with a comprehensive Alcohol Rehabilitation Unit program. Specific symptom relief for anxiety was significantly correlated with sobriety. In addition, the reduction of symptoms showed a positive trend with sobriety.

Keyword(s): sobriety; alcoholism; symptom reduction

Article examines the relationship between 26 risk factors and drug use samples of seventh graders in a large southeastern city. The majority of students in the survey were African-Americans. A total of 20 risk factors representing a variety of variables was significantly related to at least one category of drug use. Regression analysis identified a subset of 11 risk factors with minimum overlap. The simple sum of these 11 risk factors was significantly associated with prevalence of use for cigarettes, beer and wine, hard liquor, marijuana, and other drugs.

Keyword(s): adolescents; drug use; African-american; urban environment


This study examines the economic behavior of opiate users in Amsterdam. Main conclusions are that the use of drugs is highly elastic and dependent on the available money rather than on the physical need. Also, the average age of users is rapidly increasing, with very few new young users joining the ranks.

Keyword(s): Netherlands; opiate users; money


Results generally support the view that the effectiveness of outpatient drug misuse treatment is related to important factors at each state in a client's career as well as program efforts to assure quality care.
Keyword(s): drug treatment; methadone; effectiveness


The Symptom Checklist-90-R (SCL-90-R) designed by Derogatis (1977) was administered by 712 alcoholics in treatment. The data was then compared with findings of previous studies. The purpose of this paper was twofold: to describe alcoholics' profiles according to this scale, and to compare these with the general population profiles. The scores of alcoholic groups revealed a symptomatology two to five times as severe as that observed in the general population.

Keyword(s): alcoholics; methodology; profiles


This paper briefly discusses different kinds of alcohol control measures and reviews available evidence of the effects of control measures on alcohol consumption.

Keyword(s): alcoholism; control measures; consumption; treatment


A simple model of response errors is defined, and some analytical results are obtained from this model. Response errors in self-reported drug questionnaires are evaluated with particular reference to incidence and prevalence estimates. Results suggest that while the frequency of false negatives may be larger than the frequency of false positives, the latter error may nevertheless produce large
errors in prevalence estimates, particularly if the prevalence rate is small.

Keyword(s): methodology; substances of abuse; survey data


Research shows that photography can increase completeness and accuracy of reporting about drug use. Photographs of four discrete injection practices as an aid to a standardized interview method were made. Intravenous drug users were presented with photographs of four injection practices and asked for the term associated with each photograph. Forty-six different terms were used to describe direct injection into vein, 51 for the practice of repeatedly withdrawing and reinjecting one own's blood following injection of drug, 39 for subcutaneous injection, and 45 for transferring drug between different syringes. Results show that photographs may be a useful tool in survey research on drug use in the population.

Keyword(s): drug injection; terminology; drug users


Results show that sexual dysfunction among methadone maintenance patients may be due to coexisting psychiatric problems rather than opiates. Methadone patients presented with sexual dysfunction should receive psychiatric evaluation.

Keyword(s): sexual dysfunction; methadone; depression

Book is composed of numerous articles by various experts debating whether drugs should be legalized, how has drug trafficking has affected American society, and whether domestic and international drug trafficking be stopped.

Keyword(s): substances of abuse; legalization; drug traffic


This article concentrates on the impact of the first therapeutic intervention on patients' perceptions of their drinking problems and on their expectations of help from services. Changes over the course of the initial consultation in perceptions of the problem and in expectations of help and the factors associated with changes are discussed.

Keyword(s): patients; alcoholism; treatment


Article demonstrates that there is considerable evidence that children who grow up in homes in which one parent abuses alcohol are at a higher risk of developing a number of childhood problems and disorders than are other children, and there is some indications that these former children are particularly likely to develop conduct problems.

Keyword(s): parents; alcohol; environment

While there is a considerable amount of information from epidemiologic studies on demographic predictors of adolescent substance abuse, there is less understanding of stress and support factors involved in this process. A multiethnic group of 1,289 urban adolescents, aged 11-13 years, was tested. The criterion variable was a composite score for cigarette, alcohol, and marijuana use. Analysis indicated that vulnerability factors (negative life events, negative affect) were related to higher levels of substance use, and protective factors (parent emotional and instrumental support, academic and adult competence, positive effect) were related to a lower level of substance use; peer competence was positively related to substance use in a multivariate model.

Keyword(s): adolescents; life events; substance use; methodology


Studies have reported that alcohol serves as a gateway drug to the use of marijuana, and the latter leads to hard drug use. Researchers further shows that a user of a single drug is prone to develop a multiple drug use pattern. Recent research suggests that alcohol functions as the gateway to all other drugs for high school students, and cigarettes intermediate with alcohol and marijuana use. The authors believe that the onset age of alcohol use affects drug use behaviors; the earlier the onset of alcohol, the more intensified the current drug use behaviors.

Keyword(s): alcoholism; marijuana; drug use; young adults

This article examines the relationship of life-style patterns and alcohol and substance abuse among African-American male adolescents. School attendance and church involvement have been found to be negatively associated with alcohol and substance use. Delinquent behaviors are associated with more alcohol and substance use among adolescents. Work status has been found related to marijuana use but not to alcohol consumption. Results suggest that a life-style that includes a compensatory behavior component may be more adaptive than a life-style that does not include compensatory behavior.

Keyword(s): adolescents; African-Americans; urban setting; methodology; substances of abuse