CURRENT LITERATURE ON DRUG AND ALCOHOL ABUSE

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Current Literature on Drug and Alcohol Abuse: An Annotated Bibliography

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This series of bibliographic databases provides 618 entries consisting of worldwide coverage of research and statistics on drug and alcohol abuse from English- and foreign-language literature published between 1989 and 1993. Full bibliographic citations, analytical abstracts, and keywords are provided.

Drug abuse
Substance abuse
Alcohol abuse

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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 1989, 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.

Results, based on interviews of 640 children aged between 11 and 14 years, show that cigarette advertising has a predisposing as well as reinforcing effects on children's attitudes and behavior with respect to smoking.

Keyword(s): children; smoking; advertising


The authors discuss the part played by aggressive behavior and alcohol consumption in deviancy, and on the significance of aggressiveness and of early drug consumption.

Keyword(s): alcohol; behavior; France


The Opiate Treatment Index (OTI) is multi-dimensional in structure, with scales measuring six independently measured outcome domains: drug use, HIV risk-taking behavior, social functioning, criminality, health, and psychological adjustment. The Index provides a valid and reliable instrument for assessing opiate treatment outcome across a broad range of drug related problems.

Keyword(s): opiate users; treatment; methodology

The study examines the prevalence of current psychopathology among a group of opioid users, examines the relative prevalence of psychopathology among male and female opioid users, and attempts to determine variables which are predictive of psychopathology.

Keyword(s): opioid use; prevalence; psychopathology; treatment


In France, a nation-wide epidemiological survey of 4,796 accident victims was carried out in 1982-83 to determine the distributions of occasional and chronic drinkers among subjects involved in accidents of all kinds.

Keyword(s): alcoholism; driving; accidents; France

"Ei, Sie wisse doch [Oh, you already know]" *Der Spiegel*, (Hamburg) vol. 46, no. 24, June 8, 1992, 104-05, 108-09. [Call Number: AP30.S64]

An old section of Frankfurt, Sachsenhausen, was once renowned for its picturesque winecellars, where people could meet and enjoy the region’s famous white wines. In recent years, however, the neighborhood had degenerated into a violent quarter of beerhalls full of drunkards, many of them under-age. The area had become so dangerous that German police were afraid to go into some bars without protection from United States military police. A principal cause of this unfortunate development was the high rents demanded by landowners. Only by selling large amounts of beer, could restaurant owners keep their businesses open. German laws prohibiting the sale of alcohol to people under 18 years of age or to drunken customers were ignored. City officials in Frankfurt are
now trying to get the situation under control. City ordinances are being enforced and hefty fines are being levied. Bars in which drugs are consumed are being closed. Some property owners are now talking to the authorities to learn how the neighborhood could return to what it once was.

Keyword(s): alcohol abuse; criminality; Germany

Fabiani, Roberto. "E davvero uno stato protettore [It really is a protective state]" L'Espresso, (Rome) vol. 38, no. 24, June 14, 1992, 66-67, 69. [Call Number: AP37.E78]

Contrary to popular opinion, the consumption of marijuana and hashish is not legal in the Netherlands. Laws forbidding their sale and use still stand in the Dutch legal code, but the authorities have decided not to enforce them. This legal laxity began in the early 1970s and continues today. The many cafes with menus listing the varieties of drugs available and their prices are allowed to operate freely, even though selling and consuming of these drugs is against the law. The owners of these establishments fear only the tax authorities who will punish them severely if they do not pay taxes on the money earned from their operation.

Keyword(s): drug law enforcement; Netherlands


In this article the emergence of a "new" Dutch cocaine smoking product, "cooked coke" is discussed within the broader context of older cocaine self-administration smoking rituals among heroin addicts. The prevalence, preferences, and self-administration rituals of cocaine use are documented in a series of Rotterdam field studies. Special emphasis is placed upon the emergence of "cooked coke", highlighting its origins, sales, and user motivations. The appearance of "cooked coke" is compared as an emergent social phenomenon with the appearance of
'crack cocaine' in the Americas. It is suggested that political as well as economic conditions may account for both the appearance and spread of this specific cocaine smoking product.

Keyword(s): cocaine; smoking rituals; Netherlands; addicts


Intoxicated men and women react differently to social pressure. Women yield significantly more to persuasive information when they believe they are intoxicated but in fact are not, while men yield less when they are intoxicated. Alcohol makes women feel less self-assured and less powerful, while intoxicated men feel more self-confident and powerful, and so become less dependent on others.

Keyword(s): alcoholism; social drinking; yielding


The prevalence of teenage smoking in northern Finland is discussed especially in "non-standard" families (where one or more of the parents is absent for at least part of the child's upbringing). An elevated risk of smoking existed among adolescents who had experienced death of their father or divorce of their parents and among girls who had experienced death of their mother. Paternal smoking increased the risk for both sexes, while more than three siblings, mother's unemployment was associated with smoking by the boys as was urban living, and for the girls migration by the family to a town. The results suggest that juvenile smoking may be a kind of indicator of possible problems experienced by the parents and/or the
adolescents themselves with respect to parenthood and family development.

Keyword(s): smoking; teenagers; Finland; family background

"Ja zum Probieren [It's OK to try it]" Stern, (Hamburg) vol. 46, no. 11, March 5, 1992, 212-13. [Call Number: AP30.S675]

The article is an interview with Klaus Hurrelmann, a professor of child development at the University of Bielefeld in Germany. He believes that the best way to deal with the consumption of illegal drugs is to decriminalize their consumption. Sellers of drugs would remain liable for prosecution; casual users would not. This is the policy followed in the Netherlands and it seems to have good results, according to Hurrelmann. He says that about 15 percent of young Germans try hashish. Most drug addicts in Germany do not start with hashish, but with tobacco and alcohol, and he sees many addicts who go directly from these substances to heroin. Roughly 10 percent of 12-year-olds in Germany smoke cigarettes; about 17 percent of 17-year-olds consume alcohol daily and about 5 percent are already alcoholics by this age; about half of German youths take pills of various kinds. Given these figures, German authorities are making a mistake to concentrate their efforts on stopping hashish consumption amongst the young. Hurrelmann believes it would make more sense to teach young people how to deal with their problems, rather than making hashish-consumption such a taboo.

Keyword(s): illegal drugs; alcohol abuse; Germany; Netherlands


The authors of the article found a positive correlation between unemployment and alcohol consumption indicating a reciprocal relationship: high alcohol consumption among school leavers increases the risk of becoming unemployed,
but unemployment will also, irrespective of earlier alcohol consumption, increase alcohol consumption.

Keyword(s): alcohol; youth; consumption


Young people who were drinking at first coitus reported they were significantly less likely to use any form of contraception than non-drinkers. There are three possible explanations of the association between drinking habits and unsafe sex: alcohol might disinhibit safer sex; young risk-takers may also drink more; or, drinking might be associated with unsafe sex by coincidence because sexual encounters often begin in licensed premises. This research shows that drinking habits are related to sexual behavior which risks HIV infection.

Keyword(s): sex; HIV infection; alcohol

"Mehr als Tuenche [More than whitewash]" Der Spiegel, (Hamburg) vol. 46, no. 22, May 25, 1992, 162-63. [Call Number: AP30.S64]

Swiss authorities are beginning a radical program to deal with the problem of drug addiction. The country currently has about 25,000 addicts. About 500 of them will now participate in a study to see how drug addiction can best be managed. Half of the addicts will receive methadone; the other half will receive heroin. It is hoped that in about thirty months enough scientific evidence will be acquired through watching these addicts' response to this last attempt to deal with Switzerland's ever-worsening illegal drug problem. The experiment with "needle park" in Zurich was finally ended when the situation there became so extreme that authorities felt obliged close it. Establishing "free areas" where addicts could consume drugs without fear of arrest did not eliminate the violence and crime connected with obtaining illegal drugs. Closing the park resulted only in the addicts taking over other areas. The city of Zurich is also expanding its
methadone program. By August 1992, about 600 addicts should be enrolled. The addicts themselves decide how much methadone they wish and in what form they receive it. For example, they can get their injections from needles if they want.

Keyword(s): drug treatment programs; Switzerland


The aim of the study was to evaluate the value of serum Carbohydrate-Deficient Transferrin as an indicator of heavy alcohol consumption among first year university students. As compared to other laboratory markers of alcoholism, CDT had a better correlation to reported drinking.

Keyword(s): drinking; university students; methodology


About 95 percent of young university students in Finland use alcohol. Finnish drinking habits are characterized by drinking to intoxication with a high prevalence of mortality caused by alcohol intoxication. The aim of this study was to obtain data about both the negative and positive consequences of alcohol use from first year Finnish university students. Associations between alcohol use, psychosomatic symptoms, and mental parameters (depression, anxiety, stress, competence, etc.) were also studied. Drinking for anxiety, depression, or the reduction of tension appeared to be infrequent. It was found that young Finnish university students mostly drink for the physical enjoyment.

Keyword(s): alcohol; university students; Finland

The study examines the neuropsychological functioning of a group of 20 primary cocaine abusers. These cocaine abusers were compared using standardized assessment procedures with age and education matched controls to determine whether the cocaine abusers evidenced impairment. Within the cocaine sample, a second goal was to examine whether the intensity and frequency of cocaine abuse was associated with the nature and degree of neuropsychological impairment. Evidence suggests that cocaine abuse has a direct relationship to neuropsychological functioning. Scores on the Story Memory Test correlated significantly with the number of grams used over the lifetime.

Keyword(s): cocaine; neuropsychological impairment; abusers; methodology


This paper describes characteristics of drug users in a sample of admissions to detoxication centers in Ontario. The use of THC was more common among younger admissions with low urine alcohol levels. Benzodiazepine use was more common among referrals from hospitals, general practitioners, and those presenting with cuts and bruises.

Keyword(s): drug users; detoxication centers; alcohol; Canada

This article concentrates on the impact of the first therapeutic intervention on patient’s perceptions of their drinking problem 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): alcoholism; treatment; consultations


The consumption of soft drugs in the Netherlands is wide-spread. Police estimate that there are about 350,000 Dutchmen who buy marijuana or hashish on a regular basis from about 4,500 dealers. They pay about $1.0 billion a year. Amsterdam alone has about 400 cafes where these drugs can be bought and 30,000 regular customers. To meet this demand and the demand for for hashish and marijuana in the rest of the country, about 10,000 kilos of these substances are delivered to Amsterdam each week. Police do not usually arrest consumers, although Dutch medical personnel are well aware that many casual consumers eventually become addicted to the so-called soft drugs.

Keyword(s): drug consumption; Netherlands


The author believes that the need for substance abuse services will not drop appreciably in the 1990s. Moreover, the need for services to new subgroups of patients will expand. Federal, corporate, and third-party-payer pressures to reduce costs will be felt with greater emphasis on outpatient services, treatment, and cost benefit of treatment. Federal, state, and local governments are unlikely to commit the resources or to undertake the sociocultural changes that would effectively
reduce the national prevalence of substance use disorders in the 1990s.

Keyword(s): substance of abuse; predictions; prevention


In this study, the newly developed Tridimensional Personality Questionnaire (TPQ) was administered to two groups of young men. One group was comprised of nonalcoholic sons of male alcoholics; the other group consisted of nonalcoholic men with no family history of alcoholism. Since the sons of male alcoholics were considered to be at greater risk to develop alcoholism than the sons of nonalcoholics, it was hypothesized that the two groups would demonstrate differences with regard to one or more personality variants as measured by the TPQ. No statistically significant differences in the three TPQ-subscale scores of the two groups were found.

Keyword(s): alcoholism; personality; questionnaire