CURRENT LITERATURE ON

DRUG AND ALCOHOL ABUSE

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Project Manager: Andrea Savada

Analysts: Serge Demidenko
Eric Solsten
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**Authors:** Serge Demidenko, Eric Solsten

**Performing Organization:**
Federal Research Division
Library of Congress
Washington, DC 20540-5220

**Sponsoring/Monitoring Agency:**
U.S. Army Drug and Alcohol Operations Agency
4501 Ford Avenue, Suite 320
Alexandria, VA 22302-1460

**Abstract:**
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.

**Subject Terms:**
- Drug abuse
- Substance abuse
- Alcohol abuse
- Narcotics

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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.

In July 1991, French police raided a laboratory that produced the illegal drug ecstasy. The drug first came to France in 1987 and police occasionally seized quantities of it, but never enough to stop it from being available. Officials belonging to OCRTIS (Office Centrale pour le Repression du Trafic Illicite de Stupefiants), French narcotics police, created a squad in 1990 devoted to tracking down makers of designer drugs. The unit’s first big success was closing down a laboratory located in a suburb of Paris. French authorities carefully watch shipments of the chemicals needed for the manufacture of so-called "soft drugs." A new drug of this variety available in France is LSD Light, a milder version of the drug popular in the 1960s. If amphetamines are not yet a major component of French illegal drug consumption, police regard them as the drugs of the future.

Keyword(s): LSD; production; ecstasy; France


This study is the first to compare the long-term cost trends of alcoholics with those of a matched age and gender cohort. This has provided the first opportunity to examine how aging may effect longitudinal patterns in health care costs. The results reported show that as long as 10 years before they begin treatment, alcoholics incur costs at a rate which is twice as high as might be expected if they were not alcohol dependent. In the years prior to treatment the health care costs of alcoholics rise steadily but the gap between alcoholics and their age-gender cohort remains relatively constant until the final year prior to treatment. The study indicates that the offset potential of alcoholism treatment is not uniform across all alcoholics, and that, where a decline in the overall utilization of health care occurs for the population, the younger treated alcoholics are the major source of this decline: in effect, offsetting the
increased costs of the older treated alcoholics, resulting in an aggregate decrease.

Keyword(s): medical care; alcoholics; health care costs; treatment


The major finding of this study was that subjects interviewed early during inpatient alcoholism treatment who expressed confidence in being able to remain abstinent over the next 6 months were more likely to complete the treatment program without drinking than were those who expressed less confidence. This finding suggests the usefulness of the general line of reasoning taken by motivational theorists who emphasize the role of expectancies in determining goal-oriented action. In theory, favorable expectancies promote greater efforts toward attaining goals; unfavorable expectancies lead to reduction of effort and giving up.

Keyword(s): abstinence; alcoholism; treatment

Dally, P. "Les francais s'expriment [The French give their opinion]" Alcool ou Sante, (Paris), no. 197, 1991, 51-53. [Call Number: none]

France has the highest rate of alcoholism in the world, according to this article. A survey of a representative sample of 1,003 French citizens above the age of 15 was conducted to learn what the French think about alcoholism and its prevention. Most of those queried (76 percent) believed that national efforts to prevent alcoholism were inadequate. Fifty-nine percent of those surveyed, did not think prevention and treatment programs should be affected when overall budget cuts were needed. Few believed television and radio programs were effective means of countering alcoholism; 76 percent thought school programs for youth were the best method. Surprisingly, young people recommended laws against alcoholism to a greater extent
than old people (25 percent compared to 9 percent). The article reports that alcoholism is declining in France.

Keyword(s): alcoholism; France


This study suggests that heavy cocaine use per se does not affect thyroid function. Therefore, if the thyroid function tests are abnormal in a cocaine abuser, then a true thyroid dysfunction should be considered and completely evaluated.

Keyword(s): cocaine; treatment; thyroid functions


The business of selling heroin in Bremen, Germany, is firmly in the hands of Kurds, most of whom come from two villages in Turkey. A few Germans sell heroin in Bremen, but only at the street level. Police find it difficult to penetrate the organization because the Kurds have a strict code of honor that prevents them from ever giving information against their friends and relatives. Workers in the organization are recruited in Turkey, then brought to Germany where they frequently apply for asylum. This often means they receive German government social assistance at the same time they are working in the illegal drug business. The Kurds are skilled traders and have worked out systems of selling drugs that makes it difficult to convict them of a crime. The fact that a man receiving welfare has large amounts of money in his possession is not sufficient to send him to jail. Kurds seldom use drugs themselves. When one of the group does so, his cohorts escort him back to Turkey. Police say that the Kurdish network in Bremen is now extending itself to Hamburg and the Ruhr area.

Keyword(s): drug imports; drug sales; Germany; Turkey
"Drogfria nojen (Drug-free entertainment places)" Socialnytt, (Stockholm), no. 5, 1990, 25. [Call Number: HN671.S67]

Drug-free entertainment places are handled in Athena’s Theme 3, says Anna Lindh, spokeswomen for Athena. She notes that it is a political scandal that communities allocate so little for drug-free amusements for young people. She adds that young people should not be asked to decrease their drinking if alternatives are not created and that stinginess will betray itself, since care and treatment are much more expensive. One hundred fifty kronor per young person per year towards drug-free arrangements would be money well spent. Some of the alternatives are: a drug-free disco in Orebro and Helsingborg, and the Milk Energy Disco Club which travels around to communities. Tips can also be found at Kontaktnatet (Contact network), a state organization for non-commercial culture. Athena’s main office: 106 30 Stockholm, tel. 08-783 32 71.

Keyword(s): Sweden; drug policy; alcohol policy

Englund, Kicki (ROKS administration). "Nej till missbrukare pa kvinnojourerna (No to substance abusers at women’s shelters)." Socialnytt, (Stockholm), no. 3, 1990, 19. [Call Number: HN571.S67]

At the Women’s Forum conference about women and substance abuse, Sonja Wallbom asked women’s shelters to open their doors to abused women with a substance abuse problem. Kicki Englund from ROKS (State Organization for Women’s Homes in Sweden) said it was not possible as Wallbom had not seen the way women’s shelters worked and their capabilities to support women with substance problems.

Keyword(s): female substance abusers; Sweden

Fernandez, Lucas, and Uribarri, Fatima. "La cocaina reina aun en las rutas del Madrid nocturno [Cocaine is still queen in the streets of nocturnal Madrid]" Cambio 16, (Madrid) no. 9976, August 6, 1990, 118-20. [Call Number: HC381.C33]

The police in Madrid have launched a vigorous campaign against the consumption of cocaine. They have closed for a time a popular nightspot where young people openly sold and used cocaine. Since the police crackdown, the cocaine
business has become less visible. Young people go into restrooms of nightclubs and restaurants to buy and use the illegal drug, rather remaining at their tables as they did formerly. Cocaine has also become popular with ordinary wage earners and is now considerably less expensive than it was ten years ago when only the well-heeled bought it. Cocaine is still easy to find in Madrid. The plazas where it is sold are well known. The only real result the police can boast of is that people are now more careful than before when they purchase the drug.

Keyword(s): cocaine; Spain

"Fit fur die Karriere [Fit for the career]." Der Spiegel, [Hamburg] vol. 45, no. 49, December 2, 1991, 70, 73. [Call Number: AP30.S55]

German specialists in the consumption of illegal drugs think that there may be a trend away from hard drugs among many German young people. The number of young people trying heroin and hashish for the first time appears to be declining. In the states of Hesse and Bavaria, and in the city of Hamburg, authorities note a significant decline in this category of users. In the case of Hamburg, the decline was 17 percent. Many young people see hard drugs as an obstacle to professional success. For this reason the percentage of young people who have tried or want to try illegal drugs has fallen from 36 percent in 1973, to 24 percent in 1990. Developments are not all positive, however. Many young people now use legal drugs as stimulants. In addition, many young people coming from a troubled background are just as likely to become drug addicts as before. The German trends mirror trends in the United States where hard drug use is increasingly centered in the ghetto and among youths who feel they have no chance to succeed in finding decent work.

Keyword(s): heroin; Germany; youth attitudes

This study attempts to assess the understanding of a youthful population, especially among females and Blacks, of alcoholic beverages (wine coolers) by comparing the perceived intoxication power of wine coolers to other more traditional types of alcoholic beverages.

Keyword(s): alcohol; beverages; perceptions; youth

"Handlingsprogram for alkohol (Alcohol program)" Socialnytt, (Stockholm), no. 5, 1990, 24. [Call Number: HN571.S67]

The Department of Welfare has proposed a three-part alcohol program. Part I contains preventative measures and sets five goals:
* a national health perspective,
* no alcohol be served to those under the age limit,
* the spread of knowledge and information,
* the limitation of accessibility, and
* no alcohol be served in a stressful situation.

The Department of Welfare proposed many measures, including stricter rules for serving alcohol at restaurants, a multi-year campaign to increase knowledge, a 20-percent price increase over 3 years, and closer price hikes overall. Part II of the alcohol program contains measures for people in the risk zones, and Part III handles treatment and care.

Keyword(s): alcohol policy; Sweden; preventative measures


The article reviews the published literature on passive inhalation of marijuana smoke as it affects drug test results and attempts to reconcile the experimental conditions with social marijuana use as it occurs in the non-laboratory world.

Keyword(s): inhalation; marijuana smoke; drug test results


This case study illustrates the advantage of buprenorphine and reports the absence of precipitated withdrawal or loss of analgesia when buprenorphine is given after omission of a single dose of morphine in a patient chronically maintained on morphine.

Keyword(s): buprenorphine; pain relief; drug abusers; morphine


In recent years, Spain has become one of the biggest drug markets in Europe, along with the Netherlands and Germany. There are now an estimated 120,000 heroin addicts in Spain, some of them foreigners who come to the country because of easy access to illegal drugs. In some parts of Madrid, for example, the purchase and use of illegal drugs are done openly. The social disorder from widespread drug abuse has caused a vigilante mood in many Spaniards and some addicts and small dealers have been brutally beaten by angry crowds. Gypsies, quite active as dealers, are sometimes attacked and their dwellings burned. To counter increasing drug abuse and pacify an aroused populace, a new tough drug law has been proposed. Called the Law for Citizen Safety, the proposal would permit police to search dwellings when drug-related crimes are suspected without a warrant and would set harsher penalties for the consumption of illegal drugs. Some politicians, both liberals and conservatives, are worried about this law's effects on civil liberties and fear it is mostly a pandering to popular pressure. Some high police officials, experienced in drug enforcement, view it as a step backward and recommend legalizing now prohibited drugs. They reason that a controlled distribution of heroin, for example, would be a better method to deal with drug addiction than the new draconian law.

Keyword(s): drug abuse; drug laws; Spain

This study examines time in treatment in methadone maintenance programs within the context of a framework of four general conceptual domains for describing treatment process: client characteristics at entry; treatment program characteristics; treatment events; and cognitive appraisal. Results showed higher tenure rates when specialized professionals diagnosed problems and defined treatment plans, when service needs were addressed, when client attitudes and satisfaction were high, and when methadones dose were higher. Lower tenure rates were found among Blacks and clients with lower sociodemographic status.

Keyword(s): treatment; methadone maintenance; drug abuse


The history of alcohol treatment programs is discussed. Until recently, no cure was thought to exist. The workers in this field have felt themselves treated poorly, and under present recession, fear a cut in funding. Two flow diagrams describe old and proposed new kinds of treatment. It is felt that treatment needs to be actively marketed.

Keyword(s): Finland; alcohol abuse treatment; recidivism


The Spanish people are no longer as tolerant about the use of illegal drugs as they were a few years ago. Heroin has killed 12,000 people in Spain in the last eight years and has caused an estimated 100,000 young people to become alienated from society. In Madrid, Valencia, and Barcelona, for example, ordinary people attack drug dealers and spoil their business. The mayor of Madrid
charges that the decriminalization of drug use in 1983, a policy of the Socialist Party, has caused much harm. The mayor has decreed stiff fines for the owners of public establishments if they tolerate the consumption of illegal drugs on their premises. The country's leading conservative political figure, Jose Maria Aznar, has decided to make the fight against drug abuse the main point of his political platform. He has proposed as a first step that habitual drug users have their driving licenses and passports confiscated. Socialist politicians, for their part, would rather amend the penal code so that drug dealers would have to serve their entire prison sentences with no hope of parole.

Keyword(s): illegal drug use; Spain


This study examined the differences in five factors--gender, family alcohol abuse, family depression and mental illness, symptoms of childhood hyperactivity, and expression of deviant behavior prior to age 15--between students who met and did not meet DSM-III criteria for alcohol abuse.

Keyword(s): students; alcohol abuse; college


One of the world's most significant areas for the growth of hemp and poppies, the sources of hashish and heroin, is the Bekaa Valley in Lebanon. The valley has been controlled by Syria since 1975. Farmers in the valley make a good living growing those two crops. Experts estimate that 14,000 hectares are used for growing hemp, and 1,800 hectares for growing poppies. The last hemp harvest yielded 700 tons of the highly esteemed hashish of the "Red Lebanese" variety. It is believed that 20 percent of the heroin consumed in the United States comes from the valley. Recently, Syrian armed forces have been plowing under these crops because of pressure from the
United States. The collapse of Syria's sponsor, the Soviet Union, has meant that Syria is eager to gain American goodwill. Some people believe that the Syrian government's action against the cultivation of these two crops is only a short-term program and that once the pressure is lifted, the crops will be grown again. Others contend that the military actions are only a game that leaves much of the production untouched. Too many high officials and groups in the region profit from, or desperately need, the revenues flowing from the illicit harvests. The brother of Syrian President Assad allegedly is among them.

Keyword(s): drug smuggling; government countermeasures; Syria; Lebanon


Hervanta is a 22,000-inhabitant suburb of Tampere. In the fall of 1990, after school began, a toluene abuse wave was noted. A project was started and 50 young people, age 10-17, were found in 2 months who had this problem. Ten were girls. According to a study made in Tampere in 1985, about a third of young people of 14-19 has tried it. In Hervanta, only 0.7% of the young people had a problem with it.

Keyword(s): toluenee sniffing; Finland; glue


This paper reports a new form of benzodiazepine abuse--intranasal use. New complications will doubtless emerge from this new route of administration and pharmacokinetic profile. Medical personnel, especially in emergency ward and addiction centers, need to be aware of these.

Keyword(s): snorting; benzodiazepines; treatment
"Skol’ko narkomanov v Evrope? (How many drug users are there in Europe?)" Gudok, (Moscow), November 23, 1991, 3. [Call Number: No call number]

More than 1.5 million people in Europe are drug users, according to the Greek press. This number is based on figures brought out at the seminar about these problems in Salonika. At present, drugs are a problem in about 50 percent of European countries. Greece has had the biggest increase in the number of drug addicts. According to the data of the seminar participants, 100,000 Greeks have tried drugs at least once, and about 30,000 of them are chronic drug users.

Keyword(s): drug use; Europe; Greece

"Summariska domar i narkotikamal (Summary judgments in drug cases)." Socialnytt, (Stockholm), no. 5, 1990, 38-39. [Call Number: HN571.S67]

Discusses summary judgments in Swedish drug cases from the point of view of Swedish legal experts.

Keyword(s): drug law; Sweden


An information forum on alcohol was held May 13-17, 1991 at the alcohol clinic in Raisio. There were computers on which the fair-goers could calculate their own blood alcohol levels under different circumstances. Blood, cholesterol, and liver functions also could be measured by the computer. More than 1,200 people attended the forum, many of them young.

Keyword(s): alcohol information forum; Finland

Svedin, Anne-Marie. "Kvinnor tvangsvardas oftare an man (Women are going into compulsory treatment more often than men)." Socialnytt, (Stockholm), no. 1, 1990, 14-15. [Call Number: HN571.S67]
Twice as many women as men under 25 are taken into custodial care on the grounds of their substance abuse, says Sonja Wallbom, who arranged a symposium about substance abuse and treatment work from the women’s point of view. Of the 130 lectures presented, only a few talked directly about substance abuse--most illuminated the women’s perspective including societal influences, treatment homes, reasons for abuse, and treatment itself.

Keyword(s): female substance abusers; Sweden; compulsory treatment

"V Litve prinyat zakon ob immigratsii (Lithuania institutes an immigration law)." Estoniya, September 12, 1991, 3. [Call Number: no call number]

A new immigration law will be enforced in Lithuania beginning January 1, 1992. Permission to immigrate into Lithuania may be denied if the foreigner is sick with an infectious disease, seems to be mentally retarded or psychologically impaired, or abuses narcotics, toxic materials, or alcoholic beverages.

Keyword(s): Lithuania; immigration; drug abuse; alcohol abuse

"Vaihtoehtoja psyyken laakkeille (Alternatives to psychiatric medicines)" Sociaaliturva, (Helsinki), no. 19, October 1991, 967-68. [Call Number: HN531.H8]

A World Health Organization (WHO) International Conference on Environment and Health was held in Sundsvall, Sweden, June 9-15, 1991. One day was dedicated to psychiatric treatment and rehabilitation. The arrangements for the conference were made by the Swedish organization RSMH (Riksforbundet for Social och Mental Halsa—State Organization for Social and Mental Health). The representative of the patients’ union, Jacob Ronsten, talked about a study about young psychiatric patients; medicine was withheld up to five weeks and other therapy was applied. Fifty percent of the young were spontaneously cured. Cognitive therapy, originating in the United States, is a good alternative to medicine. Peaceful surroundings are more important than medicines. The
paradox of the welfare state is that patients do not get to make decisions on their own treatment.

Keyword(s): medicine dependency; Nordic countries; psychiatric drugs


This study confirms and extends previous findings that teenage smoking is related inversely to parents’ education and to teenagers’ educational aspirations. For the white high school seniors in this study, those with less educated parents or lower educational aspirations were more likely to have experimented with smoking and more likely to have progressed at each subsequent step in the process of adopting smoking. In addition, students with less educated parents or lower educational aspirations were less likely to have quit smoking. These relationships were similar for females and males. Thus, the factors that contributed to the inverse association between educational aspirations and smoking among high school seniors probably have made a substantial contribution to the inverse association between education and smoking among adults.

Keyword(s): teenagers; smoking; parents; education; cessation


The author is familiar with the scholarly literature about the reasons for the consumption of the legal drugs alcohol and nicotine. In this article she details the results of her survey of 146 German students about why they consume these drugs. Some of the results conformed to standard opinion. For example, students who smoke and drink are less concerned about their health than those who do not.
They are also more passive in their behavior (see movies rather than have hobbies). Contrary to most findings, however, is that students who smoke and drink are less extroverted than their abstinent counterparts. Also noted was that while smokers regard tobacco as a means of meeting difficulties and stress, drinkers are much less likely to view alcohol as a problem solver. The author believes that the results from studies of specific groups are not necessarily valid for understanding the behavior of other social groups.

Keyword(s): tobacco and alcohol consumption; university students; Germany

Westerholm, Barbro. "Ta bort taket pa metadonprogrammet! (Remove the ceiling for the methadone program)." Socialnytt, (Stockholm), no. 5, 1990, 40-41. [Call Number: HN571.S67]

Barbro Westerholm, in a debate about the countereffects between drug policy and AIDS prevention work, said: "I am against administrative limits on how many shall receive methadone.... It is time to do a new study about the effects of drug abuse which also takes into account which land the abusers come from. This is not racism but an effort to find risk groups to be able to help them."

Keyword(s): methadone; Sweden; drug policy