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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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.

Alcohol consumption in New Zealand has fallen in recent years. Per capita alcohol consumption of people over 15 years of age amounted to 12.1 liters of pure alcohol in 1978 and 10.1 liters in 1988. One cause of the drop in consumption is the government's health promotion strategies. An agency, the Alcohol Research Unit, was established in 1980 to investigate alcohol consumption in New Zealand and to determine how it could be reduced. The agency's work has been found to be excellent. A new law regulating the sale of alcohol went into effect in early 1990. The law aims at making wine and beer more available for consumers by allowing these substances to be sold in supermarkets, but not in establishments connected to filling stations. The law prescribes penalties for the sale of alcohol to persons under the age of twenty and young people themselves can be obliged to pay fines if they purchase alcohol. Researchers are looking forward to determining the effects of the new law (Sale of Liquor Act 1989) on the consumption of alcohol.

Keyword(s): alcohol consumption; alcohol legislation; New Zealand

"Aids-sjuka narkomaner (Drug users with AIDS)." Socialnytt, (Stockholm), no. 2, 1990, 20. [Call Number: HN571.867]

Drug users with AIDS is a theme for the Department of Welfare's magazine STOFF, no. 4-5/1989. AIDS-infected drug users pose a whole new situation for the care of drug abusers, something for which the personnel and regulations are not prepared. Nobody yet has a grasp of the HIV- or AIDS-infected person's situation, especially since the opinion about the society's care responsibilities is split. STOFF has articles and interviews about the decisions that concern treatment homes, nursing facilities, and criminal facilities. The need for cooperation between social services and nursing is emphasized as a condition for finding good solutions. Copies of STOFF can be ordered free of charge from the Department of Welfare's Central Distribution, 106 30 Stockholm.
Keyword(s): drug abuse; AIDS; social services; Sweden; nursing


Nearly 1.5 million Americans regularly use cocaine though abuse is declining, according to the latest survey by the National Institute on Drug Abuse. The annual cost of drug abuse to employers has been estimated at $60 billion. Drug companies such as Glaxo Pharmaceutical and Pfizer are working on effective treatments. The focus is on finding nonaddicting substitutes and agents that block the drug's effect. Most of the drugs being tested are already on the market for depression and anxiety, etc. Ritalin and desipramine were tested and found ineffective. Methadone worked because it is a synthetic narcotic like heroin, but much slower acting. Cocaine abusers' diversity defies finding successful treatment. The potential market for drug therapy may be larger than the $50 million methadone market, but not large enough for much involvement.

Keyword(s): cocaine; addiction-fighting drugs; buprenorphine; bromocriptine; carbamazepine; desipramine; fluoxetine; flupenthixol; mazindol; ondansetron


The article examines a community-based sample of weight lifters who admitted taking anabolic-androgenic steroids (AASs) in terms of demographics, training characteristics, and patterns of AAS use; to determine the nature and frequency of dependency symptoms in the sample; and to determine if there were particular demographic, pharmacologic, or psychological correlates of dependence on AASs. Data shows that AASs are addictive and the authors examine the best preventive and treatment programs.

Keyword(s): symptoms; steroids; psychiatric symptoms

This study investigated 129 opium addicts in the Sargodha Division of Punjab Province, Pakistan. Findings confirmed earlier investigations demonstrating an earlier age onset of substance use where there is a positive family history of substance abuse. After opium consumption became illegal in 1979 it was noted that the mean age of onset of opium use increased by 10 years. These findings suggest that regulating access through legal sanctions delays onset. In order to examine this subject more thoroughly, the authors believe more epidemiological studies are necessary.

Keyword(s): opium; addicts; Pakistan


The article is an interview with a West German drug dealer, who was active in the trade from his late adolescence in the mid-1970s until his late twenties. After a term in prison, he decided to end his addiction and illicit activities. In the early years of his drug dealing he acquired small amounts of drugs, sold half of them and consumed the rest, the standard practice for small-time drug dealers in Germany. In the early 1980s, the so-called "scene" lost its "flower-power" character and became brutal. The interviewee then began to distribute drugs to others who sold them. Regular trips to Amsterdam provided him with new supplies. Although locating new drug sources in Amsterdam was not difficult, it could be dangerous. For this reason the dealer seldom went there alone. Wholesome-looking athletic young women were his preferred type of carrier for bringing the drugs into Germany as police rarely examined their automobiles. The young women found the prospect of easy money attractive enough to risk arrest. The dealer's downfall came when his own consumption of drugs became so great that he no longer cared if police caught him or not.

Keyword(s): drug dealing; Germany
Floyd, Carmilla. "90-talets alkoholpolitik diskuterat pa krogen (The 90's alcohol policy is discussed at a tavern)." Socialnytt, (Stockholm), no. 3, 1990, 12-13. [Call Number: HN571.S67]

ATHENA, the government's action group against alcohol and narcotics, arranged the cited discussion. The General Director of the Department of Welfare, Claes Ortendahl, said: "Each year 6,000 people die too early because of alcohol. The socio-economic effect: nine percent of the GNP goes for nursing alcohol-induced injuries. We need more knowledge about the size of the danger that drinking poses both at the workplace or for leisure activities." Further details on various discussions held at the tavern are included.

Keyword(s): Sweden; alcohol policy; EEC

"Foraldrar kan paverka rokning [Parents can affect smoking]." Socialnytt, (Stockholm), no. 4, 1990, 21. [Call Number: HN571.S67]

Parents should influence their children to stop smoking; should not give permission to smoke at home; forbid it at the disco; and work to stop tobacco advertising, according to the youths who were interviewed in a study for the Department of Welfare. An eight-page brochure gives the arguments that parents can use against smoking. The message is that the child pays attention to what parents say and think, even if it is not always apparent -- and even if the parents themselves smoke.

Keyword(s): smoking; parental influence; Sweden


The association between smoking and drinking behaviors of parents and their adolescents, and the effect of gender and social class upon this association is examined by the authors. Both social class and parental smoking behaviors were independently associated with young people's smoking, with young people from lower social classes or those whose
parents smoked very likely to smoke. Social class and gender were independently associated with young people's drinking, with males and young people from non-manual households being most likely to drink. Parental drinking behavior was associated positively with young people's drinking only in non-manual classes and among daughters. It is important to take social class and gender into consideration in the context of these parameters when examining the relationship between children and parents in smoking and drinking behavior.

Keyword(s): smoking; drinking; parents; children


This paper provides a technique by which a behavioral measure of loss of control drinking can be directly established on the basis of self-reports of alcohol consumption. Using a methodology previously shown to reliably index continued drinking among first offender drunk drivers and applying a mathematical model to the characterization of loss of control drinking, an index of loss of control can be established, reflecting the likelihood of continued drinking once drinking has begun. This study examines the degree to which this measure of loss of control is reflected in self-reported loss of control drinking and alcohol dependence.

Keyword(s): alcohol; drunk driving; consumption model

"Inrikes (Domestic column)." Sverige Nytt, (Stockholm), no. 41, 11 October 1991, 4. [Call Number: AP48 .S83]

Smokers are absent from work one week longer per year than non-smokers, regardless of the cause of illness. This discovery came as a result of a study which compared injuries to neck, head and arms among 3,000 people employed at Volvo Flygmotor (Aviation Engines) in Trollhattan.

Keyword(s): smoking; tobacco-related illness; Sweden

The aim of this study was to determine whether alcoholics with a DSM-III-R diagnosis of an anxiety disorder experienced different alcohol withdrawal symptoms, either qualitatively or quantitatively, from alcoholics with an anxiety diagnosis. The study suggests that alcoholics with an anxiety disorder exhibit more severe alcohol withdrawal, as measured by the CIWA-Ar scale, than alcoholics without an anxiety disorder.

Keyword(s): alcoholics; anxiety disorders; withdrawal

"Kontrollerat drickande (Controlled drinking)." Socialnytt, (Stockholm), no. 4, 1990, 24. [Call Number: HN571.S67]

Controlled drinking--is it a possible alternative to total abstinence for an alcoholic? This question has been debated in the West for the last 20 years. What research has come up vis-a-vis the Nordic countries is presented in the book Perspectives on Controlled Drinking (in English), published by NAD, the Nordic Council for Alcohol and Drug Research. Address: NAD, Annankatu 29 A 23, SF-00100, Helsinki, Finland.

Keyword(s): alcohol abuse; controlled drinking; Nordic countries


In Denmark the concepts "narcotic drugs" and "psychotropic substances" as defined by the 1961 and 1971 conventions are embraced in a single legal term "euphoriant substances". Chapter 1 is a short historical outline of how the distribution of medicine has been regulated since the first order of 1672. The first proper act governing apothecaries was passed in 1913--it restricted access to
trade, i.e., cocaine, morphine, and opium legally to apothecaries. In 1937 the first act governing physicians was passed. In Chapter 2 the legal basis for the drug control is described as it is today. According to a circular from the Chief Public Prosecutor, charges must be brought in case of violation of Section 191 of the Danish Penal Code where distribution of heroin and other drugs, apart from cannabis, is concerned. As for cannabis, it falls within the Danish Penal Code only where the amount exceeds 10-15 kilograms and it has been of commercial nature. The punishment for distribution is imprisonment. Arrest is ordered by the police and may be confirmed to 3 to 24 hours, whereas custody requires an order from the court and can only be executed when an offence is suspected which may result in imprisonment for 18 months or more. Telephone tapping is applied, as well as other forms of intervention into the privacy of communication, search of residence, rooms, secret compartments, or person, as well as sequestration of objects which are assumed to be significant as evidence. In 1986, police were given authority to use agents in the investigation of drug cases. That same year, use of anonymous witnesses was prohibited. In Chapters 3-6, special assignments in connection with the control of drugs by customs authorities, police, courts, and prisons, are described.

Keyword(s): Euphoriant Substances Act; Denmark

"Kvinnor och rokning i två videofilmer [Women and smoking in two videotapes]." Socialnytt, (Stockholm), no. 1, 1990, 24. [Call Number: HN571.S67]

"Women discuss smoking" and "Doctor talks about women's smoking" are two videotapes produced by the Stockholm administrative division's parliament in cooperation with the Department of Welfare. The films are primarily meant for nursing staff and are 16 and 20 minutes long, respectively. They may be shown at various occasions and can be used to generate discussion. The films can be ordered from LIC publishers, 171 83 Solna, telephone number: 08-757 60 00. Brochures about smoking--"Stop smoking," "No more," and "Narrow path," can be ordered free of charge from the Department of Welfare Distribution Center, 106 30 Stockholm.

Keyword(s): smoking; women; Sweden
"Lakare mot röknинг (Doctor against smoking)." Socialnytt, (Stockholm), no. 2, 1990, 22. [Call Number: HN571.S67]

Doctors are a key group when it comes to getting people to stop smoking, and the Swedish Doctors' Union and Folksam are launching a big campaign with support from the Department of Welfare. They have brought out a smoking cessation (weaning) program that consists of a sound cassette, photo materials, and a questionnaire with a special guide to doctors. The intention is that the doctors will not only support those who seek help to stop smoking, but also work actively to reduce the number of smokers. An especially important target group for the campaign consists of young, less educated women, of whom 60 percent are smokers. The number of doctors who smoke is 15 percent. Information: Swedish Doctors' Association, tel. 08-24 33 50.

Keyword(s): smoking; Sweden


The article examines recent research on alcohol withdrawal agents that suggests that the severity of withdrawal can be objectively measured, that the severity of withdrawal has implications for pharmacological versus nonpharmacological management, and that agents with different sites of action and different affects may play complementary roles in reducing the complex symptoms of alcohol withdrawal. Interestingly, some of these agents may also diminish craving for alcohol and, hence may aid in engaging patients in alcohol treatment. There is also the possibility that withdrawal drugs may foster "state-dependent" learning. Unfortunately, many of the current withdrawal agents can themselves produce dependency. Additional research on the physiological effects of withdrawal agents should be conducted.

Keyword(s): alcoholism; pharmacotherapies; withdrawal symptoms

This study is the first to examine the extended effects of alcohol and sedatives in family alcoholism history groups. Family history positive subjects displayed an increased intensity of withdrawal as well as an extended duration of withdrawal symptoms following ethanol and the high dose of secobarbital. This is the first laboratory demonstration of withdrawal differences as a function of family history following administration of equal doses of ethanol or sedatives to both family groups. Studies confirm a retrospective questionnaire study of FHP versus FHN college-aged males which found that FHP respondents reported more severe withdrawal symptoms than FHN respondents despite equivalent levels of reported ethanol use.

Keyword(s): alcohol; withdrawal; secobarbital effects


The article examined smokers who had abstained for at least 12 hours in a cross-randomized experimental design that contrasted nicotine gum (before or after drinking) versus sugarless gum, and alcohol versus a non-alcohol comparison condition. Nicotine gum use was associated with significantly greater immediate reduction in craving to smoke, regardless of whether it preceded or followed alcohol, but the effects were weak and short-lived in either case. Moderate use of alcohol after chewing the gum eliminated virtually all of its beneficial effects. Mild side effects were common with nicotine gum, but equally regardless of alcohol use.

Keyword(s): alcohol; nicotine gum; prevention
"Nordiskt möte om alkohol och arbete (Nordic meeting about alcohol and the work place)." Socialnytt, (Stockholm), no. 3, 1990, 25. [Call Number: HN571.S67]

A meeting for researchers at Lidingo, outside of Stockholm was set for April 23-25, 1990 by the Nordic Committee for Alcohol and Drug Research. The meeting will address, among other topics, different workplace cultures where alcohol is available, and will initiate coming to terms with the problem of alcohol at the work place. For information contact: Eckhart Kuhlhorn, Stockholms universitet, tel. 08-16 20 00, or Christina Karvinge, Justitiedepartementet, tel. 08-763 10 00.

Keyword(s): drug research; alcohol research; Nordic countries

"Nordiskt samarbete mot narkotika (Nordic cooperation against drugs)." Socialnytt, (Stockholm), no. 3, 1990, 20. [Call Number: HN571.S67]

Nordic cooperation against drugs will be intensified in the coming three years. A program of action has been adopted which includes measures for information, education, treatment, and practical cooperation with customs and the police. Contacts with countries that have become important as drug producing or transit countries will be increased.

Keyword(s): Nordic countries; cooperation; drug abuse

"Ny grupp mot narkotika [A new group against drug addiction]." Socialnytt, (Stockholm), no. 1, 1990, 25. [Call Number: HN571.S67]

The government has instituted an action group against drug addiction, whose main task will be to obtain financing and to organize it to increase its usefulness. Activities will be started to arrest the development of addiction, especially among youth. Opportunities for junkies will increase in Sweden and a new treatment program is under way. The drug trade will be disrupted even at the level of the individual transaction, according to the government's plans. The group will take the initiative for improved addict care and also work to develop cooperation among
social services, schools, and police. Activities will also be developed where youth, parents, school personnel, free-time personnel, and organizations will work together against drug addiction. The group's work will be finished by summer of 1991.

Keyword(s): drug addiction treatment; activity group; Sweden

"Ny video om benzdiazepiner (A new video about benzodiazepines)." Socialnytt, (Stockholm), no. 4, 1990, 26. [Call Number: HN571.567]

Valium, Librium, Sobril, Mogadon, and other benzodiazepines were popularized in the 1960s as harmless, reliable, and effective against uneasiness, anxiety, and sleeplessness, etc. But in spite of knowledge about these substances' strong dependency-creating characteristics, prescriptions are still written for them in large scale, most often because of old habits. About 1 percent of Sweden's population was estimated to have a tablet dependency. A 30-minute video with psychiatrists Stefan Borg and Johan Cullberg, among others, financed by the Stockholm District Government, Department of Welfare, Folksam's Social Council, and CAN (Central Organization for Alcohol and Drug Education), depicts this dependency. The film Vanliga vardagliga saker (Usual everyday matters) can be rented or bought from Masen Film AB, Kopmanbrinken 2, 111 31 Stockholm, tel. 08-11 38 24.

Keyword(s): benzodiazepine; tranquilizer misuse; Valium; Sweden

"Positivt om alkoholprogram [Positive about the alcohol program]." Socialnytt, (Stockholm), no. 1, 1990, 22. [Call Number: HN571.567]

Most of the submissions towards the Swedish government's social program on alcohol policy are positive. The goal is to lower the consumption of alcohol by 25 percent by the year 2000, calculations based on 1985 when parliament made the decision. In any case these proposals will take longer to put into effect than the government foresaw. There is, for example, the question of increasing the age limit to 20 for being served alcohol at restaurants when most
people wanted to increase it to 21. The control of what was served also was discussed. Criticism against the program concerns claims that it was not concrete enough, should have distinguished more clearly the monies allocated, and should have contained deeper analyses about how the alcohol culture could be changed in the long term.

Keyword(s): alcohol policy; consumption; Sweden

"Rakt pa knarket (Straight talk about drugs)." Socialnytt, (Stockholm), no. 2, 1990, 24. [Call Number: HN571.567]

Straight talk about drugs is the police force's manifest against drugs which is now being distributed as a second edition. The viewpoint of the manifest gives new weight to the debate about the measures against drug abuse and contains 88 "that-clauses" about what the police think about international and national cooperation, importation, illicit trade, abuse and treatment, and education and information. A partial goal for the Swedish police is to proceed against open (visible) abuse, and open trading on the streets and public places (torg), and restaurants and catering facilities. Straight talk about drugs can be ordered from the National Police Board, Info, tel. 08-769 70 11.

Keyword(s): police methods; Sweden; drug abuse


The most difficult drug addicts are those who have some sort of psychological disturbance in addition to drug addiction. The Social Ministry assigned the supervisory physician Jan Ramstrom, a member of the ministry's scientific council, to analyze the situation of the psychologically disturbed addict and to write a study. The result is The Forgotten Addict (Social Ministry report 1989:33). The report shows that the number of addicts with serious psychological disturbances is significant and that conventional addict care can, in some cases, aggravate their problems. The paper is distributed by Allmanna Forlaget, Kundtjanst, 106 47 Stockholm.
Keyword(s): psychological disturbance; drug addiction; Sweden


Study showed that a more highly educated population of alcoholics with less anxiety or an urge to drink would benefit equally well from cognitive-behavioral mood management training or communication skills training but that alcoholics who are less educated and have more anxiety and an urge to drink will fail to benefit from CBMNT (cognitive-behavioral mood management training) but will improve when provided CST (communication skills training).

Keyword(s): alcoholics; treatment; management; communication skills


Study assesses the effects of driving history, liver function, two nutritional factors (albumin, folic acid), depressive symptoms, and family history for alcoholism on the cognitive performance of 171 detoxified male alcoholics at the time of entry to an alcoholic treatment program, at discharge 4 weeks later, and 3 months after completion of the program. Follow-up assessments were completed on both alcoholics who continued to abstain from alcohol, as well as those who returned to drinking after completing the treatment program. This study also provides some clues as to the changing etiological roles of these
various factors in the recovering alcoholics' cognitive performance.

Keyword(s): alcoholism; depression; family history; nutrition; drinking


The aim of the study was to investigate the relationship between attempted suicide rates and alcohol consumption in the community, and to test the hypothesis that the higher the alcohol content of a beverage, the more closely that beverage should be related to variations in the attempted suicide rates. Although epidemiological results of the study are inconclusive, the authors believe that should clinical studies confirm the spirits-attempted suicide relationship, prevention of attempted suicide could also be enhanced by discouraging alcohol consumption at the social level.

Keyword(s): alcohol; suicide; Australia


This paper examined the structure of drinking-related consequences in a sample of alcoholic women by submitting self-reported consequences to a series of exploratory factor analyses. Nine composites were constructed to represent the different domains of adverse consequences as they relate to social isolation, sexual behavior, early and later symptoms or effects, motherhood, accidents, work, medical problems, and interpersonal relationships.

Keyword(s): alcoholic women; alcohol consumption; consequences
"Två rapporter om narkotika [Two reports about drug addiction]." Socialnytt, (Stockholm), no. 1, 1990, 26. [Call Number: HN571.S67]

CAN, the Central Organization for Alcohol and Drug Education, has published two new reports: Dodligheten bland narkotikamissbrukare i de nordiska lander (Mortality rate among drug abusers in the Nordic countries). The studies show that the mortality rate is greatest after 10-12 years of drug abuse and can arise both from physical deterioration as well as the addict’s break with his former life. Further, periods of abstinence are interrupted with risk-carrying lapses. How large the increased mortality rate is in a drug-related fatality varies in different studies, but the rate is stated to be highest among heroin addicts. Narkotikasituationen i Norden (Drug addiction in Nordic Countries), is a follow-up of an earlier report and describes developments up to and including 1988. Each country is represented alone. For further information contact: CAN, Box 27302, 102 54 Stockholm, telephone: 08-667 97 20.

Keyword(s): drug abuse; mortality rate; heroin; Sweden; Nordic countries