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.

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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.

Reports the increase in drug trafficking and the widespread use of drugs among Tanzanians 15 to 35 years old. Heroin, cocaine, and bhang or hashish are more popular in Tanzania than amphetamines, morphine, and crack.

Keyword(s): Tanzania; cocaine; hashish; amphetamine; morphine; crack; heroin


This article proposes replacements for three major components of the drug war: localized, pragmatic controls to replace drug prohibition laws; valid information to replace anti-drug propaganda; and social innovations to replace bureaucratized drug treatment.

Keyword(s): drug use; addiction; alternatives


This essay discusses the implications of the pharmacodynamics of nicotine in the design of pharmacologic therapies for nicotine addiction.

Keyword(s): nicotine; treatment; addiction


Italy's new drug law has been in effect for a year, but the use of illicit drugs continues to climb. Deaths from overdoses are up 13 percent, and although the authorities have confiscated large quantities of illegal drugs, business in these drugs prospers. The Italian government
has launched a poster campaign against drug use by young people and opinions are divided about its success. The government's approach has been a hard one with posters showing young people with white spaces in place of eyes. The posters are captioned: If you take drugs, you turn yourself off. Some observers regard the posters as effective. Others say they are counterproductive in that they make drugs glamorous by demonizing them.

Keyword(s): Italy; anti-drug campaign


Using case examples, the authors review the assessment of steroid abuse and dependence in clinical practice and illustrate the role of urine testing in the assessment process.

Keyword(s): steroids; urine testing; dependence


This study was directed at using "knowledge maps," "conceptual matrices," and scripted peer cooperation to examine/alter individual systems and management strategies. The overall goal is to enhance substance abuse education and prevention programs by using self-management training as a means of modulating internal conditions that lead to abusive behavior.

Keyword(s): substance abuse; management strategies; prevention programs

Solvent abuse was very strongly associated with a diagnosis of Antisocial Personality Disorder and was consistently associated with polysubstance abuse. Solvent abusers were more likely to be male, of lower socioeconomic status, and younger than those without a reported history of solvent abuse. Contrary to current understanding, solvent use did not clearly precede other substance use; rather, alcohol and cannabis use tended to occur first, followed by use of solvents. Solvent users were 5 to 10 times more likely than nonusers to report abuse of opioids, stimulants, depressants, and hallucinogens.

Keyword(s): substance use; solvents; personality disorders


Developmental theories suggest that age modifies the influence of other factors on alcohol, marijuana, and hard drug use among adolescents. This article selected factors commonly associated with usage and examined their interactive effects. The results indicated that age and family have significant interactive influences on alcohol and hard drug use. Age and church participation have significant interactive effects on marijuana and hard drug use. Finally, age and peer groups interactively influence alcohol usage. This study also found that the interactive effect of age with other variables in predicting alcohol, marijuana, and drug use is not additive, but multiplicative. Although each of the various developmental theories emphasizes a different but overlapping set of variables, this article suggests that one common trait may be the interactive nature of age.

Keyword(s): alcohol; marijuana; age

From an interview with Professor Karl-Artur Kovar, an expert in designer drugs at the University of Tubingen in Germany, it is learned that manufacturers of designer drugs in Germany have an easier time of it than their counterparts in the United States. Unlike the United States, Germany can prosecute manufacturers of designer drugs only after these new drugs have been listed in law as illegal. Even worse is the fact that manufacturers can claim they didn’t know a listed illegal designer drug was illegal. This happened recently when a court fined two chemists who had made and sold significant amounts of MDMA $2000 and $5000, respectively. Dr. Kovar fears that if designer drugs become common in Germany, that country’s present drug problems will seem idyllic in comparison.

Keyword(s): designer drugs; Germany


The aim of the article was twofold: to develop a self report measure of alcohol-related problems, the Alcohol Problems Questionnaire (APQ); and to study the relationship between alcohol-related problems, as measured by APQ, and dependence and consumption as measured by the SADQ (Severity of Alcohol Dependence Questionnaire). A strongly positive correlation was found between aggregate problems and dependence scores which existed independently of the quantity of alcohol consumed. A higher level of problems was found in subjects of younger age and lower socio-economic class. No significant sex differences were found.

Keyword(s): alcohol; dependence; clinical population

Experienced clinicians give their personal and frontline views as to how the practical business of treating people with substance problems is best handled.

Keyword(s): alcoholics; treatment; Germanic countries


The study examines health behaviors of alcoholic and nonalcoholic patients in primary care settings. The desire was to determine whether the MHLC construct developed by Wallston could increase the understanding of how alcoholic and nonalcoholic patients in primary care setting attribute their health outcomes. The primary hypothesis was that alcoholics, when compared to nonalcoholics, would view their health as under the control of external forces, particularly chance or fate, and that they, therefore, would feel helpless to change. This would be especially true in the case of alcoholics with a family history of alcoholism.

Keyword(s): alcohol; health; locus of control

Forman, Susan G.; Linney, Jean Ann; and Brondino, Michael J. "Effects of Coping Skills Training on Adolescents at Risk for Substance Use." Psychology of Addictive Behavior, (Seattle), vol. 4, no. 2, 1990, 67-76. [Call Number: RC563.P79]

Article evaluates the effectiveness of personal and social coping skills training, with generalization programming in the social environment of the school and home, in preventing substance use in high-risk adolescents. In addition to providing a test of coping skills training with a secondary prevention (as opposed to a primary prevention population), this study was designed to remedy some of the design flaws identified in previous coping skills intervention studies. These flaws included lack of an attention or placebo control, failure to directly measure coping skills, and reliance on self-report measures.
Keyword(s): substance use; coping; adolescents

[Call Number: AP37.P32]

Italy's new drug law that went into effect in the summer of 1990 has caused much debate about how addiction should be treated: as a crime, or as a sickness. Rita Levi Montalcini, a Nobel Prize winner in medicine, said recently that addiction can be caused by the physical composition of the nervous system. Those opposed to the severe new drug law believe her statement supports their view that drug addiction should be seen as an illness and treated accordingly. Others hold that the scientist's views tempt addicts to give up all hope that they can be cured. At present there are about 200,000 drug addicts in Italy.

Keyword(s): Italy; drug addiction

Greenberg, Susan H.; Theodore Stanger. "Israel's Drug Bomb: Heroin, cocaine and other narcotics take a toll in a country that was once thought to be immune." Newsweek, September 9, 1991, 35-36.

The number of drug addicts in Israel has grown from 5,000 in 1981--mostly Israeli Arabs--to over 40,000 in 1991--nearly 1 percent of the population. The percentage of users dependent on hard drugs--heroin and cocaine--has risen from 20 percent in 1981 to 60 percent in 1991. Economic hardship and stress of living in a militarized society are considered to be primary causes for the sharp increase in drug addiction in Israel.

Keyword(s): drug abuse; abuse prevention; Israel

Greer, Bobby G.; Roberts, Rob; and Jenkins, William M. "Substance Abuse Among Clients with Other Primary Disabilities." Rehabilitation Education, (New York), vol. 4, no. 1, 1990, 33-44.

Recent literature indicates a high incidence of substance abuse among certain types of individuals with
disabilities, although the prevalence rates vary depending on the study. There are several factors predisposing individuals with disabilities to the abuse of alcohol and drugs. In terms of acquired disability, the presence of an abuse problem before the disability appears to be predictive of postdisability substance abuse. In the case of congenital disability, a history of the use of prescriptive, mood-altering medication seems to be a precursor of substance abuse. Easy access to prescription drugs, frustration related to disabilities, and lack of acceptance by the mainstream society also have been ascribed some role in the development of a substance-abuse problem. There is a critical need for more substance-abuse treatment facilities which meet the special needs of persons who are disabled.

Keyword(s): substance abuse; disabilities


Several areas of research into determinants of ability to quit smoking are discussed, including measures of dependence, reactivity to nicotine, severity of withdrawal symptoms, endurance of discomfort, and psychological well being. A number of correlates of inability to quit may have a common denominator in stress and neuroticism.

Keyword(s): smoking; quitting; personality


The present study investigates the criterion validity of the AUI (Alcohol Use Inventory) by using two groups of alcohol abusers: those who reported their fathers had significant alcohol-related problems, and those who reported their fathers did not have alcohol-related problems. The literature clearly shows that, when compared to individuals who do not have an alcohol-abusing parent or parents, people who had an alcohol-abusing parent or parents—as a group drink at an earlier age and experience
more social and personal problems; have more alcoholic symptoms, less occupational stability, and more alcohol-related physical symptomatology; display more severe pathology; exhibit higher levels of alcohol use, more symptoms of alcoholism, more incarcerations, and more sociopathy; and demonstrate more dependent problems drinking and marital disruption. Differences in patterns of and benefits from alcohol use were not found. Results prove the validity of the AUI.

Keyword(s): alcohol; parents; veterans

Kircus, Elise, and Brillhart, Barbara A. "Dealing with Substance Abuse Among People with Disabilities." Rehabilitation Nursing, (Skokie), vol. 15, no. 5, 1990, 250-3. [Call Number: RT120.R4A85a]

Article suggests four levels at which disabled people are at high risk for alcohol or drug abuse. The first level involved ready access to prescription drugs for physical symptoms of pain. The second occurred when disabled persons had high levels of frustration and were predisposed to select alcohol or drugs for escape. The third level described persons as a depressed minority population who used drugs as relief from depression. The fourth level of drug or alcohol abuse often was the result of medical intervention. Recommends that nurses need assessment skills and interventions specifically aimed at dealing with substance abuse.

Keyword(s): substance abuse; physical disabilities


Despite the explosion of research on alcohol expectancies in the last several years, the similarities and distinctions between expectancies as causes and drinking motivations as reasons have not been addressed. The present study, designed to investigate the relationship between alcohol and sexual behavior, affords an opportunity to examine the relationship between expectancies and reasons in this particular realm. Other
papers presenting analyses of data from this survey discuss issues such as gender differences in sex-related alcohol expectancies, the relationship of these expectancies to drinking and sexual behavior, and the relationship of drinking to "unsafe" sex. The analyses presented examine the endorsement of sex-related alcohol consequences as either expectancies or reasons for drinking.

Keyword(s): alcohol; sexuality; drinking practices


This article presents consensus recommendations developed to enhance drug abuse prevention evaluation research by a group of prevention researchers and practitioners who met at the National Institute on Drug Abuse in Rockville, Maryland during May 1989. As noted by a number of statements, there was a high level of agreement. The meeting focused on developing recommendations for refining current evaluation approaches and developing suggestions for future evaluation studies. Emphasis was placed on instrumentation, control/comparison groups, intervention specificity, clarifying outcome variables, replication issues, and measuring immediate and long-term effects. The meeting focused on methodological issues.

Keyword(s): drug abuse; prevention; methodology


This paper is a clinical treatise which discusses the police officer's process of emotional self-protection which the author has called professional protective emotional suppression (PPES). This is followed by an explanation of how the manifestation of this professional role can be a major obstacle to the recovery effort of the alcoholic police officer. The discussion ends with some specific recommendations for resolution of this dilemma by
intelligent employee assistance program and supervisory/managerial assistance efforts.

Keyword(s): emotional suppression; professionals; alcoholics


This study suggests that any complex behavioral or cognitive task could be seriously affected within 24 hours after smoking marijuana. Studies of chronic use were less conclusive. Methodological problems pertaining to differentiating between phases of use, residual effects, and sample size continue to hamper research efforts. An Employee Assistance Program should be instituted as part of a complete package for dealing effectively with drug abuse in the workplace.

Keyword(s): drugs; employers; methodology


According to the article, many young Italian adults are spending their vacation using a variety of drugs and alcohol. They cannot be classified as addicts, but as consumers. Cocaine has replaced heroin as the most commonly used drug. Five years ago, 90 percent of those arrested with drugs were found with heroin. Now most are caught with cocaine, only 20 percent with heroin. Ecstasy, present in Italy only three years, is the second most commonly used drug, followed by hashish. One specialist in drug use, Rocco Caccavari, says that many young people have come to view drug use as a rite of passage. Another expert, Antonio Mazzi, says that many young people do not regard drug use as deviant behavior, but as part of their life, along with school and work.

Keyword(s): drug use; Italy

This paper presents an analysis of addiction from a mindful/mindless perspective in the hope that such an analysis might help in the formulation of successful treatments.

Keyword(s): addiction; control; cognition


The family background characteristics of 756 male heroin users were examined to determine the effects of selected family risk factors on the timing of onset of emancipation and drug use, on pre-addiction incarcerations and on educational attainment. These factors included family size, birth order, fathers's low socioeconomic status, parental absence due to divorce or incarceration, illicit family drug use, and parental alcoholism. Age of onset of regular use was measured for the following drugs: tobacco, alcohol, marijuana, and heroin. Incarceration measures included the occurrence of juvenile detention and the time spent in prison prior to first addiction. Educational attainment was a score on a California State achievement test. Larger family size, higher birth order, parental alcoholism, and parental absence were found to have a cumulatively negative effect on how young the respondents were when they first left home, when they first used particular drugs regularly, on their level of tested academic achievements, and on their probability of juvenile detention.

Keyword(s): addiction; narcotics; family; education; incarceration

Article examines burnout among alcohol rehabilitation treatment providers and general treatment providers who are either recovering alcoholics or non-alcoholics. Using survey research methodology, 481 treatment providers were surveyed regarding their interpersonal, intrapersonal, physical and work health status. Results suggest that overall, recovering alcoholic treatment providers and general treatment providers experience low levels of burnout. Recovering alcoholic treatment providers and those who report problematic usage struggle with specific areas related to burnout. For the recovering alcoholic, employment in the field of alcohol rehabilitation provides a satisfying arena for professional practice and appears to strengthen a commitment to sobriety.

Keyword(s): alcohol; rehabilitation providers; burnout

Moyers, Penelope A. "Occupational Therapy and Treatment of the Alcoholic's Family." Occupational Therapy in Mental Health, (Binghamton), vol. 11, no. 1, 1991, 45-63. [Call Number: RC487.026]

This papers discusses the characteristics of the alcoholic's family that strongly influence treatment outcomes. Treatment variables, matching the characteristics of the family, are described. Outcomes of therapy were delineated along with recommendations regarding the timing of matching decisions.

Keyword(s): alcoholics; treatment; family


Article examines the work of Henry Abraham, a psychiatrist at Harvard Medical School, who has treated more than 100 patients with post-LSD symptoms. The symptoms occurred mostly as flashbacks—fragmentary, unexpected experiences of a past hallucinogenic experience. However, Dr. Abraham
believes that the flashbacks were not restricted to transient visual or emotional disturbances but were a part of a system of perceptual disorders. As a result of his work, a new syndrome, posthallucinogen perception disorder, is now listed in DSM III-R, the bible of psychiatric ailments. Dr. Abraham has identified ten distinct visual perturbations triggered by 19 different stimuli. The disturbances include seeing dots, trails, flashes of color, intensified colors, positive and negative afterimages, or halos; geometric pseudohallucinations; and false perceptions of motion in the peripheral field. Flashbacks can be induced by smoking marijuana and set off by sounds, images, or flashing lights. It is not yet known whether physiological mechanisms underlying flashbacks, or whether they are caused by drug interactions. However, it is known that antipsychotic drugs tend to exacerbate flashback symptoms. Benzodiazepines, a class of tranquilizers including Valium, are now considered the drugs of choice. With the help of medication and therapy, Dr. Abraham believes there is "life after flashbacks."

Keyword(s): LSD; flashbacks; treatment


Study was undertaken to identify quantitative data on alcohol consumption and interpersonal violence in Great Britain. The data provides a basis for considering whether alcohol is a causal factor in interpersonal violence, the proportion of such violence that can be attributed to alcohol, and the levels of alcohol consumption associated with increased relative and absolute risks of violence perpetration and victimization.

Keyword(s): alcoholism; violence; morbidity; Britain; mortality; Great Britain

The study represents an abstract of the research studies dealing with education programs that teach young people about the harmful effects of drugs. Results seem to favor prevention programs that focus on resistance training. A description of some encouraging programs is presented.

Keyword(s): drug education; research; prevention


The paper briefly examines the findings of six studies. Each of these studies originated from a comprehensive database that was obtained from a large sample of US veterans who had requested help from Veterans Administration alcoholism treatment programs. The studies attempted to examine the influence of family history of alcoholism and the presence of co-occurring psychiatric syndromes on the onset, course, and severity of male alcoholism. The paper concludes by proposing a bi-dimensional typology of male alcoholism and discussing its potential implications for research and clinical work.

Keyword(s): alcohol; family; psychiatry


Italy’s new drug law, the so-called Vassalli-Jervolina Law, is now before Italy’s Supreme Court to see if it conforms to the country’s constitution. The core of the question hinges on the issue of equality before the law. The new law’s provisions can easily cause a simple consumer of drugs to be classified as a dealer, and, as such, be subject to stiffer penalties. The law’s setting of average daily doses of drugs is also unjust, because addicts have differing daily needs. The article’s author points out that the law has encouraged the consumption of
hard drugs, rather than soft ones, because of the way it is drawn up.

Keyword(s): drug law; Italy

Scherp, Bruno and Uentzelmann, Dieter. "Ich bin da ganz guter Hoffnung [I’m quite hopeful about this]." Der Spiegel, vol. 44, no. 45, November 5, 1990, 117,120,123,125,127. [Call Number: AP30 .S66]

In this interview with the director of public health in Bremen, a city in northern Germany, the liberal drug policies practiced in this city are explained and defended. Bremen has one of the most liberal methadone policies in Germany and is having success reducing drug-related deaths among addicts. Methadone is not available upon demand, however, and can only be dispensed after the addict’s doctor and a hearing board have discussed the case and approved the substance’s use. Bremen also has erected vending machines for disposable needles around the town in an effort to reduce the danger of HIV infections through contaminated needles. The interviewee states that all political parties support her initiatives, and that for Germany circumstances are fairly advanced, though still not so liberal as those of Amsterdam and Zurich.

Keyword(s): drug treatment programs; Germany


Author overwhelmingly endorses humor as a significant ingredient for psychotherapy of alcohol abuse. A majority of the male respondents and half of the female respondents indicated that they laughed more often when drinking. This is considered a dangerous "road" for humor. Other "roads" would be more fruitful and productive, namely the favorite joke and that of play. Author suggests that humor assessment be part of the intake task, and eventually humor becoming one of the ingredients of psychotherapy.

Keyword(s): humor; treatment; alcoholics

This paper presents a baseline descriptive survey designed to assess whether changing maternal patterns during pregnancy are matched by changing paternal habits. It also examines the notion that mothers who cut down on smoking and drinking during their pregnancy are more likely to have a partner who also reduces.

Keyword(s): alcohol; pregnancy; smoking; parents

Wolk, Jael; Wodak, Alex; Guinan, James J.; Macaskill, Petra; and Simpson, Judy M. "The Effect of a Needle and Syringe Exchange on a Methadone Maintenance Unit." British Journal of Addiction, (London), vol. 85, no. 11, 1990, 1445-50. [Call Number: HV5800.B7]

In this study, an increase in availability of sterile needles and syringes was not found to be associated with an increase in the presence of illicit injectable drugs in the urine specimens of clients of the methadone program compared to a control methadone unit where there was no known change in needle and syringe availability. This study suggests that an increase in the availability of sterile needles and syringes does not appear to lead to an increase in the frequency of intravenous drug use.

Keyword(s): syringes; methadone; substances of abuse