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DRUG AND ALCOHOL ABUSE

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**Abstract (Maximum 200 words):**
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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This annotated bibliography, prepared on a monthly basis, supports research on a drug and alcohol abuse. Foreign- and English language materials—primarily books and journals—are screened. The entries are arranged alphabetically by author. Each entry contains keywords.

The author's thesis is that the war on drugs does society more harm than good. Historical examples of "legalizing the lesser to minimize the greater" social harm are cited as workable alternatives, including acceptance of drug users as members of society; understanding that temperance means moderation, not prohibition; diluting the strength of dangerous drugs; substituting less powerful natural drugs for more powerful extracts and synthetics; and designing safer drugs. The author believes that the key to successful drug policy is a comprehensive strategy which recognizes human differences and is geared to social harm reduction rather than drug prohibition.

Keyword(s): drug policy; legalization; self-control


The 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 abuse; addiction; treatment


Research reviewed in this article supports the adaptive model's assertions that failure of psychosocial integration precedes addiction; that addiction serves a number of adaptive functions; that addictive behavior is not "out of control"; that drug use generally fits the predictions of coping theory; that addictions are often transitory; that the "lessor evil" assumption of the adaptive model is compatible with current theory; that addictions are often interchangeable; and that the term
"adaptive" is defined precisely in the adaptive model. The extensive support for an adaptive model of addiction, in conjunction with the wealth of recent evidence against a disease model of addiction, suggests that a major reformation of theory about drugs and addiction is underway in the scholarly community.

Keyword(s): addiction model; coping theory; adaptive theory


This paper explores alternative explanations for the recent sharp decline in cocaine use among high school seniors, using questionnaire data from annual nationwide surveys conducted from 1976 through 1988. Results show important parallels with earlier analyses of the longer-term decline in marijuana use. Although lifestyle factors (e.g., religious commitment, truancy, evenings out for fun and recreation) show strong links with use of marijuana and cocaine, these factors have not developed trends in ways that can account for the declines in use of either drug. Reported availability of either drug has not been reduced. Instead, increases in perceived risks and disapproval appear to have contributed substantially to the recent declines in use of marijuana and cocaine. The findings provide strong support for the use of realistic information about risks and consequences as an important ingredient in efforts to prevent drug use. Coupled with the findings on availability, the results emphasize the importance of efforts to reduce demand (as opposed to supply).

Keyword(s): cocaine; drug use; attitudes

The purpose of the study is to describe the complexity and the maturational changes in influences on initial use of marijuana by adolescents. The many influences examined here include freedom from conventional ties discouraging use, exposure to attitudes and behaviors related to marijuana use, and considerations of expected costs and benefits of marijuana use. This study attempts to model the complexity of adolescent marijuana use by examining the dynamic influences of concepts from three strong theoretical traditions: social control, social training, and subjective expected utility theories. The results suggest that developmental factors do influence the context of marijuana initiation.

Keyword(s): marijuana; adolescents; theory


Reviews the various programs and intervention strategies of substance abuse prevention in Israel. Concentrates mainly on the stages of primary and secondary prevention among youth. School-based prevention programs designed for youth as well as community-based programs are analyzed. The prevention efforts in Israel are compared to those in other Western countries. The discussion includes recommendations for future developments in this area.

Keyword(s): treatment/prevention


Drug abuse is already a serious problem in Germany and is becoming more so. In 1990, 1,479 persons, most of them young people, died from the use of illegal drugs and in 1991 the death toll is expected to pass 2000. Germany has long had an extensive program to inform schoolchildren of the dangers of drug abuse. That this program is not fully effective is shown by the fact that all young people beginning to use drugs are well informed about the risks involved. German school authorities are consequently
introducing new elements into their efforts to prevent juvenile drug abuse. Instead of focusing on drugs, these officials seek to identify young people likely to fall prey to drugs. Indications of this likelihood include apathy, inability to form friendships, and, most common, coming from a broken or troubled family. Children at risk often have an impaired sense of personal worth. If their self-esteem can be improved, these endangered children will be more likely to face life and its problems, than to seek refuge in drug use. School officials are even being instructed to tolerate some experimentation with drugs on the part of adolescents and see it as a not abnormal activity. In addition, less time will be spent imparting information to pupils; more time will go to developing well-rounded, balanced, and self-confident individuals.

Keyword(s): drug abuse; drug abuse prevention


This study presents one-year follow-up data from an evaluation study testing the effectiveness of a cognitive-behavioral substance abuse prevention approach which emphasizes the teaching of social resistance skills within the larger context of an intervention designed to enhance general social and personal competence. The follow-up study involved 998 eight graders from 10 suburban New York junior high schools. Two schools were assigned to each of the following conditions: (a) peer-led intervention, (b) peer-led intervention with booster sessions, (c) teacher-led intervention, (d) teacher-led intervention with booster sessions, and (e) control. The original intervention was implemented in the seventh grade; the booster intervention was implemented during the eighth grade. Results indicate that this type of prevention strategy, when implemented by peer leaders in the seventh grade and when additional booster sessions are provided during the eighth grade, can reduce marijuana use. Similar effects are evident for females when the prevention program is implemented with fidelity by classroom teachers. Moreover, the prevention program is
also capable of producing a significant impact on several hypothesized mediating variables.

Keyword(s): substances of abuse; treatment


Researchers attempted to contact 133 addicts who were on the waiting list for city-sponsored drug treatment in Baltimore, Maryland. Only 50 addicts could be accounted for, which the authors believe indicates the importance of expanding treatment programs to meet the needs of those requiring help. Twenty of the 40 addicts in the survey had discontinued daily use of drugs after applying for treatment. The remaining ten, while not admitting to everyday use, continued to use drugs several times a week. All of the respondents considered drug treatment necessary for their recovery, and all 50 had been waiting for treatment for more than one month and less than six months.

Keyword(s): treatment/prevention


This article describes a twelve-week multidimensional outpatient dependency treatment program consistent with the model proposed as the BASIC-Iss approach to the treatment of chemical dependency (Brown, Peterson, and Cunningham, 1988). This adaption of the BASIC-Iss model has been altered from the original proposal for an aftercare program to an outpatient primary treatment program for chemical dependency, co-dependency, and poly-dependency. The adapted BASIC-Iss model retains the emphasis on the development of spiritual efficacy defined as a belief in the coping mechanisms inherent in the maintenance of a healthy positive relationship with the self, others, and a "Higher Power". Article reviews recent research supporting this approach to the treatment of
chemical and other types of dependency, and presents additional information on specific modules and supporting resources for treatment which can be adapted for use in either outpatient, aftercare, or inpatient treatment programs.

Keyword(s): psychospiritual approach; drug dependency; treatment


Autopsies of drivers killed in motor vehicle accidents in Los Angeles County between November 1985 and May 1988 indicate that 20 percent of those killed had marijuana or opiates in their blood at the time of death.

Keyword(s): marijuana; opiates


Even if the United States Congress and state legislatures pass harsher penalties for drug dealers and abusers, such measures alone are unlikely to reduce the popularity of cocaine, crack, and other drugs in either poor or affluent neighborhoods. The author suggests that the federal, state, and local governments must spend more on drug rehabilitation and employment programs for former users in order to establish a balanced public policy on the drug problem.

Keyword(s): treatment/prevention

Although estimates concerning the prevalence of various forms of substance abuse vary considerably, it is critical to note that even the more conservative estimates indicate a major public health problem. Furthermore, increased drug experimentation has been frequently associated with college experience. Utilizing a slightly modified version of the National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA) Monitoring the Future Survey, the study examined the epidemiology of self-reported drug taking behaviors (e.g., alcohol, marijuana, tranquilizers, stimulants, psychedelics, etc.) among a sample (n=683) of students attending a major public university. Data analyses focused on the specific settings and social groupings in which drug use occurred as well as on the frequency and type(s) of drug taking behaviors. Based on the results yielded from a disjoint cluster analysis, four distinct groups of drug users were identified. These four groups then served as categories of the dependent variable in a discriminant function analysis. A general linear models procedure was employed to identify the more efficacious discriminating (i.e., independent) variables.

Keyword(s): marijuana; epidemiology

Cooper, Mark G. "Treating the Cocaine Abuser" Employee Assistance Quarterly, (Binghamton, New York), vol. 4, no. 4, July-August 1989, 31-47. [Call Number: HF5549.5.A4L32]

Article suggests that the treatment programs for many addicts are ineffective because they either direct the abuser to the wrong type of self help group or they fail to address the essential aspects necessary for recovery. Cooper maintains that treatment programs should address the following: medical rehabilitation; psychological testing; diet; finances; leisure; sexuality; family life; abstinence; and emotional state.

Keyword(s): cocaine; treatment

Reports the third step in the development of a perceptual inventory of factors associated with marijuana use. Identification of those factors, along with an analysis of demographic characteristics is designed to facilitate the formulation of drug education programs. Factors analysis reveal a five-factor solution that utilized all thirty-four items of the inventory. Drug educators will need to take parents' perceptions into account when designing programs.

Keyword(s): marijuana; treatment/prevention


The Composite International Diagnostic Interview Substance Abuse Module (CIDI-SAM) was designed at the request of the World Health Organization to promote the collection of reliable information from around the world on the types of drugs used and the reasons individuals chose to use drugs. This study attempted to determine the reliability of various sections of the interview. Subjects for study were chosen from three drug treatment centers in St. Louis, Missouri and were interviewed twice in a one week period. Although the CIDI-SAM was found to be generally reliable, the authors recommended simplifying some questions to make it easier for the testee to understand their meaning. Additionally, the authors suggested that administering the test to subjects who do not abuse drugs could provide epidemiological data useful for improving drug treatment in the future.

Keyword(s): treatment; epidemiology


The small number of addicts in the Netherlands is largely attributable to its emphasis on health problems associated with drug abuse rather than the strict enforcement of punitive laws. About one third of the country's 20,000 addicts live in Amsterdam. In Amsterdam, and throughout
the country, methadone and other types of treatment programs are readily available to the addict. As a result many addicts enter treatment not long after they begin taking drugs, and most communities have programs to return addicts to normal and productive lives. The author considers the Dutch approach to drug treatment a model for other countries.

Keyword(s): treatment/prevention


Article examines the assumption that the achievement of the two-pronged objective of drug policy--reducing substantially the harmful effects of drug use and minimizing the costs of the policy itself--is highly unlikely under either the current practice of total prohibition or outright, rapid legalization. The high cost and ineffectiveness of prohibition policy in achieving substantial supply or demand reduction have been evident from a variety of disciplinary perspectives for some time (Erickson 1980; Fraser and Kohlert 1988; Lee 1988; Sharpe 1988). Nevertheless, outright legalization also carries the risk of inflating use levels and associated health and safety problems under present conditions (Clayton 1989). The experience of alcohol and tobacco mortality and morbidity urges caution in promoting any scenario of widespread availability (Kaplan 1988). What is important, the author believes, is that at this juncture to abandon the extreme positions, and to establish a working blueprint that, in the long run, will have the greatest potential for success. The initial step is to reduce reliance on criminal justice measures against users and develop proactive, creative health promotion and protection strategies to achieve demand reduction.

Keyword(s): public health; drugs of abuse; social regulation; control methods

A 1986 national survey on drug abuse in France indicated that heroin was the drug of choice for 69 percent of that country's addicts. Marijuana was a distant second (13 percent) and cocaine abuse amounted to only 1 percent of the total. The article discusses French law enforcement, medical treatment, and other issues related to drug abuse.

Keyword(s): opiates


Reviews the data of a survey on adolescent substance abuse and the studies of pharmacological and behavioral treatments of cocaine dependence. The survey of 1,147 tenth grade students in 4 northern California high schools suggests that drug use may again be on the rise. Among subjects who used one or more substances on a daily basis, 20 percent smoked marijuana, and less than 10 percent used cocaine. Use of marijuana by friends was a powerful predictor of an increased level of substance use by both boys and girls. Other factors contributing to increased substance use include the use of diet pills, laxatives, or diuretics for weight control, and education of parents. The paper on pharmacological and behavioral treatments of cocaine dependence describes an innovative method of deconditioning cocaine craving. It also describes the attempt to use desipramine to reduce cocaine use by opioid addicts on methadone.

Keyword(s): cocaine; marijuana; epidemiology; treatment/prevention; cultural/psychological aspects


There is a need for a diagnostic method and an instrument appropriate for adolescent drug abuse clients, that permits the assignment of clients to the most appropriate treatment setting, provides the basis for individualized
treatment planning, and facilitates comparability across research studies. The development of the Adolescent Drug Abuse Diagnosis (ADAD), a 150-item instrument with a structured interview format, modeled after the Addiction Severity Index (ASI) (which is for adults), is described. The ADAD produces a broad-spectrum comprehensive evaluation of the client, the interviewer's ten-point severity ratings, and composite scores for each of nine life problem areas that are often relevant to the treatment needs of adolescent drug abuse clients. A series of validity and reliability tests are described. The characteristics of the standardization sample, and the comparison of the characteristics of the three sub-samples, are presented.

Keyword(s): substances of abuse; treatment


Forty percent of 150 persons addicted to heroin remained in a treatment program combining the administration of naltrexone and psychotherapy for six months. The study indicates that more than 50 percent of the subjects experienced mild adverse reactions to naltrexone, including respiratory, cardiovascular, and gastrointestinal problems.

Keyword(s): opiates


A study of drug use in Nottingham, the United Kingdom's ninth largest city, indicated that few addicts were abusing opiates and amphetamines. Only 102 heroin addicts and 53 persons who injected amphetamines were located out of a population of 472,000. The 1988 survey was based on data provided by hospitals and drug treatment centers in the metropolitan area.
Keyword(s): opiates; amphetamines


A thoroughly researched study examining the medical and psychiatric problems associated with marijuana use by young drug abusers. An overview of the laboratory testing methods and the fundamentals of treatment and prevention of marijuana abuse is also presented.

Keyword(s): marijuana


Many youths wishing to refuse drugs offered to them are deficient in the interpersonal abilities which constitute such refusal skills. This article describes skillstreaming, an interpersonal skill training approach of apparent effectiveness when used for such behavioral enhancement purposes. Its constituent training procedures, specific skills content, methods for promoting the transfer and maintenance of skill competence in real-world, and refusal-relevant situations are presented.

Keyword(s): substances of abuse


A significant drop in reported consumption of alcoholic beverages was shown in a survey of college students who visited Daytona Beach, Florida during spring break between the years 1981 and 1986. Significant reductions were found for both males and females. Since more than thirty states changed their laws raising the drinking age during the period of study, it was assumed that some of the drop in consumption might be accounted for by the increase in drinking age. However, an analysis of variance failed to
reject the null hypothesis of no significant interaction between the age of the respondent and the year of the study as a predictor of quantity-frequency of consumption. The author suggests that meaningful evaluation studies are needed to determine whether the growth in college alcohol education and prevention programs might better account for the recent decline in student consumption of alcohol and other drugs.

Keyword(s): alcohol; consumption; college students


Research by British sociologists in the 1980s indicates there is a strong connection between opiate use and several types of serious crime. Article provides statistical evidence of this link. Several graphs and tables illustrate how patterns in serious crime relate to the availability of heroin, increases and decreases in the number of addicts, and other factors.

Keyword(s): heroin; psychosocial aspects


The article reports on the results of an evaluation of a school drug prevention curriculum marketed under the title, "Here's Looking at You, Two." Previous evaluations, unreported in the literature and having unresolved methodological problems, have found that while the program appears effective in transmitting information regarding drug abuse, it has not been effective in changing the underlying attitudes and behaviors that, in part, explain substance abuse. Employing a more rigorous methodology, examination of a relatively large sample across five school districts supported previous findings. Over one year period the program was particularly effective at transmitting substance information to primary and middle school students. The program, however, produced very
little of the expected effect on the underlying attitudes that are critical to changing substance abuse behaviors.

Keyword(s): substances of abuse; prevention


Article examines a proposal for noncriminal approach to recreational drugs. Currently controlled substances should be legalized and taxed. The taxes would be used for drug education and for paying the medical and social costs of drug abuse. A commission would be established to determine these costs separately for each drug, and the rate of taxation would be adjusted periodically to reflect the information gathered by the commission. Thus, the government would acknowledge the impossibility of eliminating all drug use and use its taxing power and educational authority to encourage safer drug use. The drugs that are now legal--alcohol and tobacco--would not be distinguished from the others. This proposal accords well with the realities of current drug use in America.

Keyword(s): drug prohibition policy; drugs of abuse; legalization


While heroin addiction is not a major problem in Sweden, the Swedish government has had a methadone treatment program for since 1968. The number of heroin users is estimated at 4,000 out of a population of 8 million. The authors studied the case histories of 174 Swedish heroin addicts who began taking methadone in 1968 and noted that more than 80 percent have stayed off heroin. They urge other countries to consider the Swedish plan which includes mandatory hospitalization, job and behavioral modification training, and the legal use of methadone.

Keyword(s): opiates

A number of studies on heroin use in the United States and the United Kingdom are cited. The authors conclude that heroin, and users of other illegal drugs, do not usually commit crimes because of the psychological effects of the drug, rather they use crime to finance their habits.

Keyword(s): opiates


Drug overdose mortality and its economic consequences are explored for ten different drug categories in this article. Data on drug overdose mortality in Texas for the years 1980-86 are examined and a cost of mortality analysis is presented using the human capital methodology. In addition, mortality rates per 100,000 population are presented for each drug category. The results indicate that the cost of drug overdose mortality has more than doubled over the six-year period. The greatest growth in mortality cost has been for narcotics and cocaine, with commonly prescribed psychoactive drugs remaining fairly constant. The results suggest that men are at a far greater risk of drug overdose than women with respect to illicit drugs. Women, however, appear to be at greatest risk for overdose from commonly prescribed drugs.

Keyword(s): substances of abuse; epidemiology


A questionnaire was designed to determine the type of drug education program most desired by undergraduate students attending a major university. The survey was to provide the basis for a comprehensive drug education program. The
101 item questionnaire elicited responses from 656 undergraduates in categories ranging from knowledge base to credible information sources. The analysis of student desires as they relate to program design is included in this article. The students strongly believed the university should provide a drug education program. In particular they desired a credit course dealing with both drugs and alcohol. They also wanted regularly published articles on drugs in school publications. The most credible knowledge sources were PhDs and MDs. Students also wanted contact with former drug users. More than half the students believed that values clarification and "coping skills" training would decrease their drug use. In general more women than men were likely to utilize such resources.

Keyword(s): substances of abuse; treatment


Focusses on drug abuse by children from 7 to 14 years of age in Shuklaji and other poor sections of Bombay, India. Before 1980, the traffic pattern of white heroin and "brown sugar" which were fabricated in refineries located near the frontier of Afghanistan and Pakistan was from Iran to Western Europe and then to the United States. After 1980 when war began in Afghanistan and in the Gulf area, heroin was forced to come by Bombay where children were recruited to sell and became drug addicts.

Keyword(s): Opiates


Evaluates the impact of the "I'm Special" program (ISP) from the survey of students in grades 5 through 12 in Mecklenburg County, North Carolina. The percentage of
students who are current drug users and the specific drugs used are examined in-depth.

Keyword(s): epidemiology; treatment/prevention


In recent years successful strategies developed in the antismoking campaign became the basis for widely publicized and federally endorsed antidrug "Just Say No" programs. Similarly, many refusal skills programs have been introduced as a new strategy in adolescent drug abuse prevention. However, none of these programs have been evaluated. While employing a typical refusal skills program entitled "WHOA! A Great Way To Say NO," the effectiveness of the program was examined. Through this outcome evaluation, it has been learned that the program was not able to impact on the "high-risk" attitudinal syndromes that are closely related to student drug involvement. Unexpectedly, a significantly larger proportion of students in the program felt it was more difficult to say "No" at the time of the post-test than during the time of the pre-test. This seems to suggest that the program participants became more attentive to the issues surrounding saying "No" or perhaps, were more sensitized to the whole issue involving saying "No," thereby making it more difficult for them to say "No" during the post-test period.

Keyword(s): substances of abuse; prevention


The focus of this book is on choosing among alternative ways of enforcing the marijuana laws at the federal level. It addresses the question of how, and how vigorously, the United States federal law enforcement agencies should enforce the laws against dealing in marijuana, taking into account two distinct problems associated with the drug. The first of these is the problem of marijuana
consumption, which many interpret as a major social problem. The other problem is dealing—along with dealing in heroin and cocaine, it is one of the country's three richest illicit markets. In Part I, "The Marijuana Problem," the author identifies what is at stake in marijuana consumption and dealing, attempts to quantify the size of the problem, and discusses the criteria with which to judge a policy recommendation. Part II, "Choosing a Marijuana Policy," develops a theory of drug dealing and its response to varying levels of enforcement pressure, and applies that theory to the early years of the increased federal anti-marijuana enforcement effort of the 1980s. Part III, "Evaluating Marijuana Policy," evaluates that effort and discusses the policy options available for the future.

Keyword(s): marijuana; detection of illegal operations; law enforcement


Article attempts to uncover information processing differences across four important cultural groups in the United States and California in particular: whites, Hispanics, Asians, and blacks. It was expected that members of these different groups would exhibit different patterns of correlation between their media habits and their drug attitudes and behaviors. By means of a quota sample, 171 personal interviews were completed. Of particular importance was that television exposure, Rock music exposure, print and interpersonal channels behaved differently across ethnic groups. The most striking differences occurred when examining the associations between exposure to specific television shows and attitudes towards drugs and adventurous experimentation. Blacks and whites exhibited sharp contrasts.

Keyword(s): ethnicity; drug usage; communication media

The purpose of this study was to provide descriptive data on what factors individuals perceive help them to maintain sobriety following treatment for alcohol problems. The subjects were 40 males who met the criteria for designation as alcohol dependent. As part of an outcome study of behavioral marital therapy of alcoholism, subjects completed a two-year follow-up interview. Two questions from this evaluation pertained to subjects’ perceptions of the factors that helped them resist temptation to drink and that helped them to maintain sobriety for a period of at least two months. Subjects’ responses were coded into seven reasons categories. The analyses showed that more than half the subjects reported more than one reason, but that number or type of reason was not associated with treatment condition in the outcome study, length of the longest interval of sobriety, or the number of abstinent days during the follow-up period. The implications of these findings for treatment of alcohol problems are discussed.

Keyword(s): alcohol treatment; sobriety; prevention


Article examines retrospective data reported by 756 former and current heroin addicts to illustrate the cumulative impact that multiple family and parental-related risk factors have on the timing of emancipation and drug use onset, on pre-addiction incarcerations and on educational attainment. These risk factors included: family size, birth order, socioeconomic status, family drug use, parental history of alcoholism, parental absence, and family history of incarceration. The article begins by reviewing some of the evidence concerning family conditions that provide for optimal social and cognitive
child development and then reviews some of the literature investigating family influences on psychoactive drug use in general, including the influence of family use of alcohol. Finally, there is a review of the literature on family factors influencing heroin use in particular, because the individuals included in the sample all were treated for heroin addiction.

Keyword(s): narcotic addiction; incarceration; parental alcoholism; heroin; educational achievement


Article examines political, economic, and legal drug tax models and concludes that a retributive model, which is similar to an efficiency-based tax, is the best choice. The article examines revenue potential and considers how drug tax monies should be spent. Criticisms of tax controls are also considered.

Keyword(s): control methods; drug taxes; substances of abuse


Author presents the view that efforts in the United States to eradicate drug addiction fail because they are based on a fundamental misconception of the nature of addiction. In contrast, an accurate view of addiction provides strong clues about policies that can reduce its dangers. The most successful antidotes to addiction are pro-social values and behavior. A value-, skill-, and environment-oriented approach to addiction will be more effective than current medical and admonitory approaches to drug abuse. Although a values-skills-environment approach recognizes that values are crucial in the formation and maintenance of addiction, it is actually less moralistic than approaches that view abstinence from drugs as the only healthy and moral lifestyle.
Keyword(s): addiction; drug policy; eradication


This study examined 113 impaired driving offenders in community corrections programs and correctional centers in Ontario. Elicited from within the sample were four subtypes (clinically relevant in relation to alcohol dependency and personality variables) which were similar to subtypes previously described in the literature. The "worst case" impaired driving offenders (those with the highest rates of recidivism) appeared to be comparatively well adjusted emotionally, but suffered from levels of alcohol dependency to a degree which rivals levels found in samples of alcoholics in treatment. Correctional treatment alternatives are discussed in relation to these findings.

Keyword(s): impaired drivers; alcohol dependency; treatment alternatives


The author of this article believes that this nation should recognize the futility of the very concept of a war on drugs. He feels we should be fashioning peaceful methods—those not involving the criminal law or the military—for curbing drug abuse while preserving constitutional freedoms. Second, we should "medicalize" the use of marijuana and heroin to ease the suffering of those millions of our citizens afflicted with such diseases as cancer, glaucoma, and multiple sclerosis. Thus, we should experiment with various forms of decriminalization or legalization of currently outlawed recreational drugs during the remainder of this century. This could include experiments that involve state laws providing for full legalization of virtually all illegal drugs for adults. If the experiments work well, we can move on to more widespread legalization; if not, we should again invoke the full weight of the criminal law. Fourth,
we should invest billions in new treatment methods and invite the best brains in the nation to participate and help rather than harm our neighbors who are addicts and abusers. Author believes that only through such actions can the wounds created by the drug war be healed, and at the same time, ameliorate the very problems that the drug war has unsuccessfully attempted to solve.

Keyword(s): war on drugs; heroin; decriminalization; treatment methods


The author examines the Dutch drug policy that has received widespread but mostly critical attention. Criticisms arise in part from a misunderstanding of the policy, which is perceived to be more permissive than it actually is. In fact, Dutch drug laws are similar to those of other western countries, although they are enforced with more flexibility in order to minimize harmful effects on drug users. Dutch policy relies heavily on prevention, as well as treatment of drug problems. Although available statistics suggest that these policies are relatively successful in the Netherlands, careful consideration must be given to situational variables in any attempt to adopt them elsewhere.

Keyword(s): Dutch approach; drug problem; prevention


This study randomly sampled alcohol/drug program administrators in four regions of the United States to determine whether services were provided to youths of chemically impaired parents in their treatment center. Because youths from addicted families are at a great risk for becoming chemically dependent themselves, data were gathered to ascertain if treatment programs attempt to reduce that risk by serving clients' children. Findings from this research have shown that most treatment centers
do not routinely offer direct therapeutic services to youths of impaired parents. The most frequent aid offered to such youths was providing them with lists of community Alateen meetings. Consequently, these data suggest that the offspring of parents in drug/alcohol treatment programs may be a vastly underserved population.

Keyword(s): children; parents; drug/alcohol programs; addiction


In this article it is argued that not only should the prohibitionist approach toward drug problems be abolished, but also that it should be seriously considered whether there is a need for any separate drug policy as such. In order to achieve the abolition of drug policy, it is important to develop strategic alternatives for the short term. These alternatives should be aimed at lessening the adverse effects of current drug policy in specific localities in the world without, however, further legitimizing the current system of drug control.

Keyword(s): drug policy; drug control; legalization


An examination of the alternatives to the War on Drugs which perpetuate current social values are considered insufficient because current social values frustrate human needs in a way that makes wars of persecution inevitable. In order to end this War on Drugs, people must change personal and eventually social values in order to satisfy those needs.

Keyword(s): drug war; personal values; social values; psychosocial needs

The article outlines the elements of a social policy that could deal effectively with the drug problem. These elements include (1) treating drug abusers in areas other than just their drug abuse; (2) providing more accurate information in drug education programs; (3) providing a series of symbolic but genuine gestures that indicate our society is willing to make real changes; and (4) coordinating these measures with more pragmatic and swift law enforcement.

Keyword(s): social policy; drug abuse; law enforcement; drug education