CURRENT LITERATURE ON
DRUG AND ALCOHOL ABUSE

An annotated bibliography submitted to
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Current Literature on Drug and Alcohol Abuse: An Annotated Bibliography

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

Drug abuse
Substance abuse
Alcohol abuse
Narcotics
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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.

Article assesses how ethnic background, age, sex, and other sociodemographic factors influence the performance of narcotic addicts who take the Minnesota Multiphasic Personality Inventory (MMPI). The authors question the validity of generalizations about ethnic background and MMPI performance. One such generalization is that blacks have lower scores than whites for the following psychological disorders: hypochondriasis, depression, hysteria, psychopathic deviation, psychasthenia, schizophrenia, and social introversion. Anglin and his associates believe that many of the subjects probably take drugs because of the social, economic, and environmental factors in their lives, and may not actually have the reported disorders. They conclude that psychological and personality tests given to narcotics addicts need to assess both the known behavior before the addict began abusing drugs, and known behavior after receiving treatment.

Keyword(s): ethnopharmacology/epidemiology; psychosocial aspects


Article discusses results of a study of 375 heroin addicts residing in three southern California counties. Study found that heroin addicts tend to use alcohol heavily before they become addicted to narcotics and that their use of alcohol is inversely related to their use of heroin.

Keyword(s): opiates; treatment

"Anti-narcotics Measures--New Justice Ministry." Keesing's Record of World Events, 37, No. 4, 38144.

Reports new legal measures against narcotics introduced by the president of Argentina Carlos Menem. The
anti-narcotics measures include the dismissal of the governor of the northwestern Catamarca province, Ramon Saadi, who was widely believed to be involved in drug trafficking, the cooperation with the United States in carrying out aerial survey to detect drug trafficking activity, and the creation of a Justice Ministry.

Keyword(s): narcotics; legal penalties


Recent analysis of drug policy shows an unintentional effect--law enforcement, rather than undermining the market, indirectly promotes its evolution. The risk-benefit balance of trade, as affected by law enforcement and the use of different substances, is considered. Finally, a scenario for the future evolution of the drug phenomenon is described.

Keyword(s): drug policy; law enforcement; psychoactive substances


A developmental framework is offered for assessing and designing interventions for children living with alcoholic parents. The assessment scheme is comprised of several components: aspects related to the stressor events (parental alcoholism), characteristics of the individual child, and qualities of the child's social environment. The assessment and intervention procedures which are discussed attend to a complex set of factors that serve mediating, potentiating, and protective functions for children. The proposed framework is based upon contemporary models of development and research concerning adjustment and coping among children. This framework is offered as a foundation to be utilized in the planning and
implementation of appropriate and suitable interventions for these children.

Keyword(s): treatment; substances of abuse; alcohol; children


Relationships among three motivational variables (negative-personal functions of drinking, alienation, and perceived discrepancies between valued goals and expected success toward valued goals) were evaluated in a group of 257 college drinkers. As predicted, a positive relationship between alienation scores and the extent of discrepancies between values and expectations for academic and social success was found. Negative-personal drinking functions were positively associated with both alienation and value-expectation discrepancies. Results are discussed in terms of heuristic consistency and potential applications.

Keyword(s): alcoholism; alienation; motivation


Article examines the relationship between ethnicity, cognitive level, gender, drug use, and adolescent alcohol abuse. A sample of 194 white, black, and Hispanic students from two high schools and one college participated in the study. The results indicated that whites report drinking more often, using alcohol more often to relieve tension and experiencing more peer influence to drink than blacks or Hispanics. There was a significant correlation between cognitive development and degree of alcohol abuse for females, but not for males. There was no difference between high school seniors and college freshmen on drinking behavior or drinking due to stress, but there
were differences between these students and high school freshmen. Peer pressure to drink was significantly greater for high school seniors than for college freshmen. While this study was exploratory, the findings offer plausible and potentially useful contributions to identifying and treating the adolescent drinker.

Keyword(s): cross-culture; adolescent drinkers; cognitive development; drug use


Prominent nonquantitative reviews of research evaluating school-based interventions designed to deter adolescents from the use of tobacco, alcohol, and other drugs found the methodology to be flawed and thus little evidence existed that the interventions had the desired impact. Recent meta-analytic reviews indicate that information-focused interventions have more impact upon knowledge but less upon attitudes and behavior whereas alternative interventions have less impact upon knowledge but more upon attitudes and behavior. This result is replicated by the current meta-analysis performed upon eight risk-reduction programs meeting six standard methodological requirements for evaluation research.

Keyword(s): alcohol; drug abuse; methodology; behavior


Cocaine is extensively and increasingly used as a drug of abuse in Los Angeles County, California. Over the last several years cocaine has quickly become the most abused drug (outside alcohol) in the United States. Deaths involving cocaine have been on the rise, especially since the early 1980s, and have skyrocketed over the five-year period from 121 deaths in 1983 to 1,160 deaths in 1988. One hundred fourteen cases found to be positive in drug screening for the presence of cocaine were studied to determine the relationship between cocaine abuse and
violent death. Of these 114 victims, 70 died violently. Fourteen of the violent death victims were found to have been behaving in a violent manner just prior to their deaths. Violence seems to be clearly connected to the use and abuse of cocaine.

Keyword(s): cocaine; psychosocial factors; epidemiology


The focus of this article is on a rehabilitation model that utilizes the community college as a means of introducing clients back into the community, while engaged in the treatment process. Clients are given the opportunity to apply program tools, develop effective coping mechanisms, establish alternative support systems, and test new learned behavior in the community while earning college credits.

Keyword(s): college; rehabilitation; drug abusers

Clark, Roger, and Hanna, Mary-Ellen. "Effective Short-Term Treatment Modalities for Primary Users and Significant Others in Outpatient Treatment." Alcoholism Treatment Quarterly, vol. 6, no. 2, 1989, 105-15. [Call Number: HV5279.A69]

Treatment data were analyzed on 134 clients of the Alcohol Counseling and Education Program in Taunton, Massachusetts. One hundred three of these clients were primary users; 31 were significant others. Short-term improvements in four measured attributes--sobriety, emotional status, employment status and family situation--as well as an index of overall improvement suggest not only that different treatment modalities are more appropriate for different kinds of improvement, but also that different treatment modalities may be effective for primary users and significant others. In terms of the index of overall improvement used in this study, for instance, primary users appear responsive to anonymous-group referrals, whereas significant others appear to be responsive to individuals counseling alone.
Keyword(s): alcoholism; treatment; outpatient treatment


Article compares case histories of 19 heroin smokers and 19 heroin injectors to determine why they developed their preferences for smoking and injecting, respectively. Subjects in both groups began abusing alcohol and smoking cigarettes at 14 or 15 years of age and used amphetamines and marijuana before they used heroin. The authors concluded that the smokers were less dependent on heroin and were more likely to quit abusing heroin in the future. While injectors used other drugs, they expressed a continuing need for heroin and a strong preference for injecting over smoking or imbibing this and other drugs.

Keyword(s): opiates; marijuana; amphetamines; psychosocial aspects


This article illustrates how the psychodrama method can help substance abusers actively work on the tasks of beginning recovery.

Keyword(s): alcohol; psychodrama; therapy


Article discusses topics on drug abuse currently being studied at the University of London’s Institute of Psychiatry. Various research projects on the physiological and psychological effects of addiction, the effectiveness of various types of treatment, out-patient
services that assist former addicts from abusing drugs, and analyses of the quality of life for drug abusers twenty years after treatment are noted. The status and results of these projects are regularly reported in the publication entitled Addiction Research Unit Bulletin.

Keyword(s): Treatment


Article examines sexual differences in cocaine use utilizing statistical analyses produced in the United States and Canada, and the authors' own survey of 75 male and 36 female cocaine abusers. While the statistical evidence indicates that women are less likely to use cocaine than men, the authors' survey showed similar patterns of use for both sexes. The article includes seven tables which compare cocaine use by men and women.

Keyword(s): cocaine; psychosocial aspects


Discusses the results of a 1984 study that focused on patterns in the recreational use of marijuana by stable, employed adults. Demographic information and the drug use history of the subjects is provided in Table 1. The authors conclude that for most of the subjects marijuana was of little importance as they were involved in various healthy activities in their everyday lives. While the illegality of using marijuana was a concern, almost all of the subjects had access to marijuana and were not concerned about being arrested.

Keyword(s): marijuana; psychosocial aspects

Sixty pledges from four fraternities at a public university in the deep South participated in a study evaluating various strategies of alcohol abuse prevention. Entire pledge classes were assigned randomly to one of three treatment conditions (behavioral self-management, alcohol education, or self-monitoring of drinking behavior only) or a no-treatment control condition. No differences were found among the treatment conditions on four self-reported dependent variables of drinking behavior. Significant differences were found on self-report measures of alcohol consumption at a post-treatment and a five-month follow-up interval. The strategy employing self-monitoring of drinking behavior alone was judged to be the most effective on the variable of adjusted mean alcohol consumption over a five-month post-treatment follow-up period.

Keyword(s): alcohol; prevention; methodology; college males


Screening of 155 consecutive admissions to a voluntary, 4-6 week substance abuse inpatient rehabilitation program revealed a 13 percent prevalence of PCP abuse and a 23 percent prevalence of nonabusive PCP use. The abusers were younger (31.6 vs. 40.2 years) and had more prior arrests (2.0 vs. 0.8) than the nonabusive users, but did not differ in other social demographic characteristics. A majority both of users (97 percent) and abusers (80 percent) also abused other drugs, including opiates (29 percent), marijuana (29 percent), and stimulants (18 percent). These findings suggest that PCP abuse and use are common among unselected patients seeking substance abuse inpatient treatment and that they are not confined to the adolescent/young adult age group.
Keyword(s): phencyclidine (PCP); treatment/prevention; psychosocial aspects


PCP abuse is a persistent public health problem in many urban areas of the United States, with recent trends suggesting an increase of abuse after a period of decline. Studies of the outcome of the outpatient treatment of 37 unselected male PCP abusers (mean age 32 years, 73 percent black, 19 percent married, 68 percent unemployed) who attended at least one outpatient treatment session at the Brentwood Division, West Los Angeles VA Medical Center. All subjects smoked PCP for an average of 7 years, with 84 percent using it at least weekly (38 percent daily) and 76 percent using other drugs (alcohol, marijuana, cocaine). All subjects reported psychological dependence on PCP, while none reported a physiological withdrawal syndrome when stopping PCP use. Treatment outcome is not significantly associated with subject characteristics. Age is the only characteristic that significantly predicts length of stay in treatment.

Keyword(s): phencyclidine (PCP); treatment/prevention; epidemiology; psychosocial aspects


The author considers the developmental needs of adolescents and shows how these are interrupted by parental alcoholism. They describe a treatment model designed to educate adolescents about both the disease and the recovery processes while treating the resulting emotional problems utilizing group process. This structured/process hybrid treatment model aims to return the adolescent to a more appropriate developmental pattern thereby resulting in self-knowledge, life skills, and a healthier emotional life for these high risk youngsters.
Keyword(s): alcoholism; treatment; model; adolescents


Treatment for chemical dependence and the ensuing recovery process for one partner in a relationship creates a crisis for the couple, which is superimposed on residual stereotypic issues and dynamics of the relationship. A treatment model is described in which salient issues, tasks for resolution, and regressive tendencies arise for the couple and are addressed in three phases of recovery for the relationship.

Keyword(s): chemical-dependence; treatment model; couples


Presents data on 141 retired Caucasians (65-74 years old) who were assessed repeatedly over 6 months. Compared to national samples, the subjects were relatively heavy users of alcohol, and average users of psychoactive drugs. The findings about psychoactive drug users are compared with other findings about misusers of drugs, and the risks associated with each type of drug are discussed.

Keyword(s): psychosocial aspects


Since the end of 1960s, the Dutch have deliberately developed drug policies that both fit their needs and their tradition of solving social problems. This includes the notion that these policies have to be cost-effective.
This strategy has almost automatically led to an uneasy relationship not only with the international drug control system and its administrators but also with countries advocating "War on Drugs" type policies. Two basic elements of this policy are presented here. The decriminalization of the use of and the retail trade in cannabis products aims at keeping experimenting youngsters away from drugs such as heroin and cocaine. This "separation of markets" concept, developed in the 1970s, has proven to be successful for further steps in policy development. The most recent concept of normalization of drug problems aims at integration or encapsulation of drug abusers in society, in order to minimize the harm inflicted by drug abuse on the abuser, his environment and society. This policy element plays a paramount role in AIDS prevention.

Keyword(s): drug markets; Netherlands; drug policies; marijuana


The Pygmalion Effect examines the formation and transmission of expectancies as they influence educational outcomes. The application of these principles to treatment outcomes in alcoholism is the focus of this article.

Keyword(s): coping; alcoholism; treatment


This study investigated the effects of counselor gender and drinking status on 93 mandated clients' perceptions of counselor trustworthiness, expertness and attractiveness, and confidence in the counselor. Results revealed no differences between ratings of recovering alcoholic, non-alcoholic, or no-statement counselors on any of the dependent measures. These findings are discussed relative
to the prevalent assumption of the superiority of recovering alcoholics as alcoholism counselors.

Keyword(s): counselor; alcohol; gender


Article reports on a preliminary study of the impact of parent-led prevention groups on youthful drug and alcohol use. In addition, the study assessed the extent to which families involved with parent-led prevention programs reported improved family relations and increased parental control of children's social activities—two major mechanisms by which parent-group advocates claim their activities alter youth substance use patterns. Consistent with the claims of parent-group advocates, the study results suggest that the parent groups did have some impact on family relations and on parental control of children's social activities. The evidence for an impact on drug and alcohol use however, was weak. A somewhat unexpected finding was that parents who became involved in parent-led prevention activities may not be those parents whose children are at highest risk.

Keyword(s): prevention; alcohol; drugs; parents


Article discusses how the Naloxone Challenge Test is used to determine the severity of addiction in a heroin addict. There was a tendency for a greater opiate dependence to be associated with a shorter time to reach a minimum withdrawal state after a naloxone injection. The authors believe the test is highly reliable for its intended purpose and present evidence of this in their conclusions.

Keyword(s): opiates

Article reviews several medical studies that show that progress has been made in treating addiction to narcotics and other illegal drugs. Much of this article focuses on the need for more research on why relapses occur. The authors recommend five types of studies be undertaken on the topic of relapse: longitudinal studies which clarify the natural history of addiction careers; descriptive studies to pinpoint who relapses; laboratory studies to examine physiological factors; experimental studies to assess behavioral factors; and clinical studies to improve diagnostic tests and prognoses.

Keyword(s): treatment


A method was developed for empirically evaluating the functioning of a peer-based alcohol abuse prevention organization, subsequent to subjective observations of various problems. The results were used in designing a three-part intervention aimed at improving the organization's functioning by: increasing student control; enhancing cohesiveness; and, providing training in leadership skills and alcohol use. A reassessment one year later indicated that the intervention had positively impacted the organization's functioning, although some problems continued. The method and results of the evaluation and intervention are discussed in terms on consultation to peer-based alcohol abuse prevention organizations and the rationales behind such groups.

Keyword(s): alcohol; prevention; methodology

May, Everette L. and Jacobson, Arthur E. "The Committee on Problems of Drug Dependence: A Legacy of the National Academy of Sciences." Drug and Alcohol Dependence,
The Committee on Problems of Drug Dependence, a privately funded organization that traditionally has researched and published findings on the addictive properties of opiates, has developed new testing programs for synthetic opiates such as carfentanil. This article traces the history of the committee’s research program from 1929 to the present.

Keyword(s): opiates


Corrective educational programs for persons convicted of drinking-driving are promising not only for reducing drinking-driving but also for dealing with problem drinkers. This study evaluates the effectiveness of a countermeasure program in 12 rural middle Tennessee counties. Effectiveness is measured on the basis of the program’s goal achievement, success of program implementation, improvement of the participants’ behavior patterns, and the participants’ evaluations of the program. The analyses indicate a considerable accomplishment in program development and public relations.

Keyword(s): alcohol; prevention; Tennessee


As a pilot for a larger statewide effort, 31 high school senior athletes, representing 15 high schools, were brought together for a four-day drug prevention institute. The purpose of the institute was twofold. First, it was designed to prepare the athletes to use their positions as athletes and seniors to present prevention activities to junior high school and elementary students. Secondly, it
was viewed as an early intervention for the athletes themselves, some of whom were probably already experimenting with drugs. The last day of instruction was devoted to the development of action plans detailing how participants would use their new knowledge to present prevention activities to younger students. Response from local school, civic, and community leaders and post-institute student evaluations were positive.

Keyword(s): drug prevention; athletes; models


This study examined 113 impaired driving offenders in community corrections programs and correctional centers in Ontario. Elicited from within the sample were four subtypes 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): treatment; driving offenders; impaired drivers; alcoholics


This paper reviews health risks with particular attention to psychological aspects of tobacco use, including the influences of cultural, social, and gender-specific factors. After highlighting the advantages of interventions to prevent smoked and smokeless tobacco use,
the paper suggests a prevention model based on bi-cultural competence theory and on cognitive and behavioral principles of social learning. The authors discuss implications and suggest research directions for tobacco use prevention efforts with American Indian and Alaska Native populations.

Keyword(s): tobacco; American Indians; Alaskans; prevention


This study investigates two issues affecting women alcoholics: self-esteem and purpose in life. Two standardized tests, the Coopersmith Self-Esteem Inventory (SEI), Adult Form and the Crumbaugh-Maholick Purpose-in-Life Test (PIL), Part A, were administered to 120 volunteer adult subjects, together with a brief questionnaire of relevant biographical information. The total sample included four groups of 30 subjects each: Group A, alcoholic women; Group B, alcoholic men; Group C, non-alcoholic women; and Group D, nonalcoholic men. The four groups were matched for age, race, marital status, employment, and for alcoholic's length of sobriety. Statistical analysis included an examination of eight major hypotheses. The results and their implications for further research and treatment of female alcoholism are discussed.

Keyword(s): alcohol; self-esteem; women


One hundred and twenty individuals applying for help at an alcoholic out-patient agency were given a questionnaire regarding humor. The results indicated that the respondents judged themselves to laugh often. They were of the opinion that drinking increased their humor (males more than females). An overwhelming endorsement indicated
that humor can be an aspect of psychotherapy. However, some puzzling results emerged. On the basis of this study, the author tendered some clinical opinions.

Keyword(s): alcoholism; treatment; humor


The public tends to think of drug use (as it did in the mid-1960s) as the most serious domestic problem without paying attention to the social setting in which use occurs. Vital changes have taken place since the 1960s, including the recognition of the deleterious effects on health of cigarettes and alcohol. Recently, because of the failure and high cost of the war against illicit drugs, demands have been made for the legalization of all drugs so that they can be regulated openly, as are cigarettes and alcohol. But the answer is not legalization—accompanying the war against drugs is a call for increased education the first element in a coherent social policy. The book includes several chapters on understanding cocaine and cocaine addiction, as well as on methods of quitting the cocaine habit.

Keyword(s): cocaine; addiction; treatment/therapy


Self-reports continue to be the most widely used method of data gathering in adolescent substance misuse surveys. This paper addresses the issue of validity and reliability of data gathered using this method. The sources of error are discussed and the process of validating responses are illustrated using data obtained through the survey. Some suggestions are made to improve the validity of responses both in the planning and in the execution phases of surveys.

Keyword(s): self-reports; substance abuse

A selective literature overview of marital and family treatments with substance abusing populations is provided. Theoretical issues are presented and research is categorized into four main areas: Marital Therapy, Multicouple Therapy, Family Therapy, and Multifamily Therapy. Implications and suggestions for future research are provided.

Keyword(s): alcoholism; treatment; family


This paper presents the results of a survey of addiction treatment programs in Ontario regarding their perceptions of the availability and nature of case management provided by their programs. Services frequently provided as part of case management by different types of addictions programs included addictions education and counselling, counselling for non-addictions problems, detox and relapse support, crisis intervention, and discussing clients with other staff at the same program. Less frequently provided types of case management included seeing clients in other locations, family/marital counselling, practical help, employment and financial counselling, and liaison/advocacy with other services on the client's behalf. Similarities in case management services were more apparent than were differences among the addictions programs surveyed.

Keyword(s): alcoholism; case management; addiction


Many studies have focused on the influence of peers on delinquency and drug use. But what about adolescents who are not part of the peer culture—the loners, or nerds?
This study focuses on drug use, delinquency, and lifestyle correlates of LONERS and SOCIALS. Data for a nine year period from the Monitoring the Future data set of high school seniors across the United States are analyzed. The lack of peer influence on the LONERS seems to contribute to less delinquency and drug use and more conventional lifestyle activities than is found among SOCIALS.

Keyword(s): drugs; adolescents; loners


The authors examined the relationships between drinking and perceived current health and physical functioning for a general household sample of Mexican-Americans and non-Hispanic whites. These relationships differed by sex and by the presence or absence of medical and psychiatric comorbidity, but not by ethnicity. Among men with a chronic medical illness, current abstinence was uniquely associated with poor current health and physical functioning, especially when current abstinence was combined with a past history of alcohol disorder. Among men without a chronic medical illness, a history of alcohol disorder was uniquely associated with poorer functioning. For women, among the medically or psychiatrically ill, drinking was not strongly associated with physical functioning; while among women without chronic medical or psychiatric illness, a history of drinking was uniquely associated with poor physical functioning. The authors interpret the findings in terms of adverse effects of drinking and chronic medical conditions on functioning and the tendency of physically limited and chronically medically ill persons to stop drinking.

Keyword(s): alcohol; Mexican Americans; Los Angeles; medical morbidity

Werch, Chudley E. "Are Drinkers Interested in Inexpensive Approaches to Reduce Their Alcohol Use?" Journal of Drug...

Study examined whether adult drinkers would be willing to receive self-help and other minimal contact aids designed to help them drink more moderately. A total of 316 adults 18 years of age and older residing in two adjacent communities in northwest Arkansas participated in a mail survey. Drinkers most frequently requested newspaper articles on how to drink more moderately, followed by television and radio programs. Over one-fourth of adult alcohol users reported an interest in receiving one or more of the aids to limit drinking. Heavier drinkers were more likely than lighter drinkers to be interested in television and radio programs, contests and cash awards, and newspaper articles aimed at helping them to drink more moderately. Drinkers who were interested in receiving one or more self-help alcohol aids reported higher levels of alcohol consumption, and greater motivation to limit their alcohol use. These data suggest that a considerable number of alcohol users would like to receive inexpensive aids to help them to drink more moderately.

Keyword(s): alcohol; prevention


The need for improved practices in the adolescent chemical dependency field is discussed. This need exists due to a lack of well-developed, standardized assessment tools and because of expanding demands and strains on the adolescent chemical dependency service delivery system. Current efforts to improve the situation are also addressed.

Keyword(s): substances of abuse; adolescents; assessment practices