CURRENT LITERATURE ON
DRUG AND ALCOHOL ABUSE

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Prepared by: Federal Research Division
Library of Congress
Washington, DC 20540

Project Manager: Andrea Savada

Analysts: Serge Demidenko
           Eric Solsten

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Library of Congress
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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 1991 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.

Though Christian theologians are often called on to deal with chemically dependent persons or those suffering from alcoholism, few are trained in this area. And because few clergy are trained as treatment specialists, often they only make the problem worse through personal, empathetic involvement. The book shows how clergy and laity can be pastoral problem solvers, not practitioners, through intervention and referral. The author focuses on what the church family can do, and offers unique strategies to prevent problems before they begin and deal with chemical problems after they have begun. This is a how-to-handbook with specific descriptions and suggestions, featuring a comprehensive list of organizations and agencies equipped to help.

Keyword(s): alcohol; substance abuse; clergy; prevention


Leisure experiences are intrinsically motivated and are accompanied by feelings of enjoyment, escape, or freedom. The motivation to master, create, or control is another frequent element in a leisure experience. Thus, freely chosen activities that require skills, provide an escape from routine or boring situations, offer a challenge, and result in enjoyment, exemplify the leisure experience. Because of the link between substance abuse and leisure, this paper argues for the need to incorporate leisure education and counseling programs in treatment settings. Recommendations for the design of leisure education and counseling programs based on successful intervention techniques are provided.

Keyword(s): leisure time; substances of abuse; counseling

This article reviews the evolution of Department of Defense policies and programs directed toward drug and alcohol abuse and evaluates progress toward eliminating such abuse. The article focuses on four areas specified in military policies: assessment, deterrence and detection, treatment and rehabilitation, and education and training. Results indicate that military policy and programs to eliminate drug abuse have been highly successful, but that military efforts to eliminate alcohol abuse should be intensified.

Keyword(s): armed forces; substances of abuse; elimination


The article presents and analyzes Peru's drug production and trafficking and the insurgency of the Shining Path (Sendero Luminoso). By protecting the coca-growing peasants from joint Peruvian-US government efforts to combat the drug trade, Sendero has gained additional support bases for its proposed New Democracy in Peru. By controlling many landing strips, Sendero is able to collect large sums paid by traffickers, mostly Colombians. The efforts of the Peruvian army to pursue the drug traffickers only heightens the opposition of coca-growing peasants and drives them further into the arms of Sendero. The country lacks a coordinated approach to combat this socio-political problem.

Keyword(s): Shining Path; Peru; drug industry

With technological advances it is now possible to undertake investigations about the effects of alcohol on the brain and behavior. Evidence reveals that alcohol in excess negatively affects the brain and neuropsychological functioning, both immediately and in the long-term. The important question, however, is whether moderate amounts of alcohol can have detrimental effects on the brain. There are three levels at which the effects of alcohol on the nervous system may be studied: the behavioral level, the structural level, and the cellular level. This paper examines each one of these levels and their effects. No definite conclusions have been found and considerably more research is needed.

Keyword(s): alcoholism; brain; physiology


It has been noted that drug abusers typically possess a rigid, paranoid personality, have difficulty in relating to reality and to others, and have a tendency to opposition and aggression. Information about the self and the lifestyle of the subjects undergoing methadone treatment was obtained using the Murray’s Thematic Apperception Test (TAT). Results showed an increased need for destructive aggression and an environment experienced as coercive. Information is discussed in relation to possible means of treatment.

Keyword(s): heroin; environment; self-image


The aim of the study was to determine whether drinkers who are found to be exceeding their limits are more likely to have sliding limits than those who are not. Results indicated that those drinkers who were found to be
exceeding their limits were more likely to have sliding limits.

Keyword(s): sliding limits; drinking; methodology


The article examines the growth of the illegal drug industry in Colombia and the dramatic impact it had on the country's society. Several attempts have been made to answer the question as to why Colombia has become so involved in this industry but there are no definitive answers. Finding the answers to this problem could help the Colombian government to determine the most productive course to follow in dealing with the illegal drug industry.

Keyword(s): psychoactive drugs; drug industry; Colombia


Beginning January 1, 1993, fourteen brands of cigarettes are longer available for legal purchase in the countries belonging to the European Community (EC). By the end of 1997, the sale of seventy-seven additional kinds of cigarettes will be banned. In a number of Italian cities (Bologna, Empoli, among others), restrictions have already been placed on smoking in public places. At the cabinet level, proposals to ban all smoking in public in Italy are advanced. For these and other reasons, eight million of Italy's thirteen million smokers want to stop smoking. For this article, several experts were consulted about ways to quit smoking. They noted that hypnosis, acupuncture, and nicotine patches were among those tools found to be successful, but they often did not lead to a permanent ending of the habit. Carlo Dalla Vecchia, an epidemiologist in Milan, recommends that smokers first try to quit on their own. If, after several attempts, they have failed to free themselves of their habit, they should
go to the "Italian League for the Fight against Tumors," which has had a good success rate by examining why people smoke and forming therapy groups of six to seven people. Another Italian doctor, Giacomo Mangiaracina, has formed a non-profit association that has introduced the American program called "The Five-Day Plan."

Keyword(s): tobacco; anti-smoking legislation; Italy


This study examines the possibility that CA (catalase activity) in erythrocytes may be related to human alcohol intake. It also attempts to test the notion that CA may represent a biological marker of alcohol intake mediating the reinforcing properties of alcohol through the production of Ach. Results support the notion that CA is a strong positive determinant of alcohol intake.

Keyword(s): blood; drinking; biological marker; consumption

"Krieg statt Hilfe [War instead of Help]" Der Spiegel, (Hamburg) vol. 46, no. 47, November 15, 1992, 98, 100-01. [Call Number: AP30.855]

Trial programs in Germany have shown methadone to be a very effective substance in the campaign to help addicts free themselves from the use of illegal drugs. For example, only 10 percent of addicts receiving methadone drop out of programs to end drug abuse, while 70 percent of participants in programs advocating abstinence do. Only three percent of addicts receiving methadone commit crimes, while about 50 percent of addicts do so before treatment began. Most addicts receiving methadone are soon integrated socially, and their health also improves quickly. Addicts receiving methadone are very unlikely to become HIV-positive, while on average about one-third of Germany's addicts are infected. Despite these positive results and the success of methadone programs in the
Netherlands and Switzerland, there are still many restrictions on the use of methadone in Germany. Generally, addicts may only receive methadone when they are pregnant, have AIDS, or are otherwise seriously ill. There is hope the restrictions will be relaxed. For example, it has been proposed that women be permitted to receive methadone six weeks after childbirth. Another problem for the use of methadone in Germany is that the paperwork connected with prescribing the substance is so demanding that many doctors refuse to become involved in methadone treatment. The fact remains that German drug addicts are usually told that they can beat their addiction by sheer will power.

Keyword(s): Germany; methadone


The French minister of the interior, Paul Quiles, declared in late December that his ministry had declared war on drugs and was going after suppliers, sellers, and users. The consumption of illegal drugs has become serious in France. In some areas, 85 percent of crime is connected to drug addiction and in seven years the number of deaths from drug overdoses has more than doubled (172 in 1985; 411 in 1991; by the end of October, 1992, 417). Quiles is going to get some of the money for his war on drugs from an agency founded three years ago to deal with the drug problem. Critics fear that Quiles will do more harm than good in his campaign. A more thoughtful plan is needed. The French Ministry of Health decided in November, for example, to distribute clean needles because about half of France's 150,000 heroin addicts are HIV-positive and 5,000 addicts now have AIDS, a quarter of all cases reported in France. The ministry also wants to increase the distribution of methadone in France. High-ranking French officials, seeking to solve the battle for revenues between the two ministries, have declared that both police methods and health methods will be useful in the fight against drug addiction, but are worried that the good relations between the police and health authorities may be damaged.

This study examines, in 104 methadone patients, the relationship between self-rating, observer-rating, urine tests, HIV-1 serostatus, daily methadone doses, and plasma levels of methadone. A significant relationship between methadone dose and plasma levels was found in patients using illicit drugs. Authors conclude that therapeutic drug monitoring should become routine in methadone treatment to achieve optimum results.

Keyword(s): plasma; methadone; treatment


This report examines the history and use of khat in East Africa and the Arabian Peninsula since the beginning of the 6th century. Khat grows in the wild from eastern to southern Africa. It is a shrubby tree with persistent leaves whose height may vary from 3 feet in the wild to 85 feet in equatorial forests. Khat is picked several times a week and shipped when fresh and potent. The active ingredients in khat are cathine and cathinone. The physical and psychological effects of khat, including addiction, are many and similar to that of amphetamines. Ethiopia, Yemen, and Kenya are the major commercial producing countries and khat trafficking is a big business. Today, over 75 percent of Somali men and over 80 percent of Yemeni men reportedly chew khat. The US Attorney General has designated khat a controlled substance whose cultivation, distribution, or possession is punishable by imprisonment and fine.

Keyword(s): khat; Somalia; Yemen

This pamphlet was designed to help Americans meet the challenge of illicit drug use and abuse of alcohol. It provides vital information about alcohol and other drugs, their physiological effects, and how families can help each other overcome the problems associated with alcoholism and illicit drug use. The first section explains what drugs are, how and why use starts, and the physical and psychological toll alcohol and drugs take on an individual. This source also provides vital information on prevention of alcohol use and drug abuse at home and school.

Keyword(s): drug use; United States; prevention


President Bush's multi-faceted drug policy focused on reducing both the demand and supply of illicit drugs. Treatment, prevention/education, research, law enforcement, and international efforts were major components of this strategy. The international component was to encourage increased levels of Andean nation military involvement in counter-narcotics operations and to provide for enhanced US military support to the counter-narcotics forces of the host nation. Goal of policymakers was to reduce illicit drug traffic by twenty percent by 1993 and sixty-five per cent by the year 2001.

Keyword(s): substances of abuse; Andean countries; drug policy

West German police have noticed a new drug coming into use by German drug addicts. The substance, nicknamed "Polish soup," is made in Poland from poppies grown there for cooking purposes. When the poppies are cooked and combined with acetic acid and some other chemicals, morphine is produced. Once the substance is ready, it is smuggled into Germany where it is packed into needles usually used by diabetics and sold for as little as $15. The drug is pure and dangerous--its strength is unknown. As a result, there have already been a few deaths from overdoses. German police have noted that the number of deaths among inexperienced drugs addicts has been on the rise. In 1992 2096 addicts died from their habit, four fewer than in 1991. The number of deaths among "beginner" drug addicts, however, is increasing. In the state of Lower Saxony, for example, new addicts accounted for 20 percent of drug deaths in 1991, and 40 percent in 1992. Police are worried that the new substance from Poland may help to sustain this trend because inexperienced addicts are unaware of its dangers.

Keyword(s): Germany; Poland; Polish soup


This article examines the drug situation in Paraguay, particularly how the change in political regime has affected Paraguay's approach in dealing with the drug problem. The author clarifies the nation's perception of its domestic problem and examines the positive repercussions on the way in which the country makes, and acts upon, its policymaking decisions.

Keyword(s): drug addiction; Paraguay; trafficking


This handbook teaches families about drugs, including the drugs most children use first--alcohol and tobacco. It
provides valuable information on four stages of child development and gives suggestions to reinforce drug prevention efforts at home and school.

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

"Viele bewundern uns [Many people admire us]" Der Spiegel, (Hamburg) vol. 46, no. 47, November 16, 1992, 103, 105. [Call Number: AP30.S55]

The article is an interview with a top health official of the city of Bremen, in northern Germany. The official, IMGARD GAERTNER, explains that the city has had a very successful methadone treatment program. The addicts' health problems soon became less serious and the number of deaths from drug overdoses has stabilized. Prostitution among addicts became less common, as did crime in general. Bremen is unusually bold in its campaign to help drug addicts. A methadone bus is used on weekends when clinics are closed and addicts can buy needles from vending machines. Mrs. Gaertner estimates that it costs about $600 a month to supply an addict with methadone, but that it is cheaper in the long run. Health officials from around Germany are studying the Bremen program.

Keyword(s): Germany; methadone treatment


This article analyzes, by surveying the existing literature, what is known about Asian drug trafficking and suggests an agenda for future research.

Keyword(s): Asia; substances of abuse; drug traffic

This study examines alcohol consumption in three English-speaking countries with common heritages—the United States, Canada, and United Kingdom. The aim was to explore whether drinking patterns portrayed in television in these three countries had any meaningful relationship to international statistics for alcohol consumption, cirrhosis, and alcohol-related traffic accidents. Results indicated that British television had three times the amount of alcohol consumption seen in either American or Canadian programming, but results indicated no greater levels of alcohol misuse in the United Kingdom than in Canada or the United States.

Keyword(s): alcoholism; television; United Kingdom; Canada


The topic of job satisfaction among substance abuse prevention personnel is important because employee morale is a critical factor in the success of prevention itself. This article examines job satisfaction among substance abuse prevention personnel in the US Army setting. This study elaborates on earlier research which suggested that role perception and frequency of performing these duties are key variables associated with job satisfaction. The study involved military substance abuse prevention specialists serving in the Norddeutschland Military Community, located in Northern Germany.

Keyword(s): substance abuse; prevention; job satisfaction