CURRENT LITERATURE ON DRUG AND ALCOHOL ABUSE

An annotated bibliography submitted to
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**Abstract:**
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.

**Subject Terms:**
- Drug abuse
- 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 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.
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 and offer a challenge, as well as resulting in enjoyment and exemplifying 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


In response to requests for assistance from state and local governments and claims that the nation's crime and drug abuse problem require coordinated local, state and federal efforts, Congress enacted the Edward Byrne Memorial State and Local Law Enforcement Assistance Programs. The Byrne Programs fund statewide anti-drug abuse strategies that support federal drug control priorities. Byrne funds are used to control drug trafficking, reduce demand for illegal drugs, or improve the capabilities of state and local criminal justice systems to take action against violent crime and serious offenders.

Keyword(s): crime; drug control; federal government; states and localities

The Netherlands has long taken a very liberal attitude towards the consumption of drugs. Dutch authorities believe their country's policies are having positive results. The country presently has 21,000 addicts in a population of 15,000,000. The Dutch attempt to care for their addicts and only 74 died of drug overdoses in 1992. Of the 6,000 addicts who live in Amsterdam, 2,500 are Dutch, 2,000 are foreigners, and 1,500 come from Holland's former colonies. The average age of Dutch addicts is increasing and at present is 34, an indication that the community of addicts is gradually becoming closed off from the population in general. Only 6 percent of Dutch teenagers have tried drugs, even though the state does not stop them from

Keyword(s): Netherlands; drug policy


Drug specialists believe that the consumption of heroin in Italy is declining because the amount of this substance seized by the police during 1992 dropped 12.5 percent, compared to 1991. Police confiscated 6 percent more cocaine, 138 percent more marihuana, and 800 percent more "ecstasy" in 1992. Officials speculate that the increased seizures of these drugs could indicate, officials speculate, that Italians are turning more to hallucinogenic drugs. Another indication of changing drug consumption patterns is a decline in the number of deaths from overdoses: 1,382 in 1991; 1,139 in 1992. Authorities have also noted the appearance of a new drug in Italy: "poppers," that is, liquid isobutyl nitrite. Long used in the United States, and until recently legal, "poppers" cause a brief and intense high and can enhance sexual pleasure. Used in great quantities, this drug can be physically harmful, especially when combined with alcohol. In use only since the end of 1992 in Italy, "poppers" are not yet illegal in that country.

Keyword(s): Italy; drug consumption

Dawson, Deborah A., Thomas C. Harford, and Bridget F. Grant. "Family History as a Predictor of Alcohol Dependence." Alcoholism: Clinical and Experimental Research,
Clinical data have shown more severe alcohol problems among alcoholics with positive parental histories than among those with negative parental histories. Recent studies have confirmed an increased risk of alcohol-related problems among adults and youths with positive family histories of alcoholism. Results indicate that the odds of alcohol dependence were increased by 86 percent among those with alcoholism in first degree relatives only, and by 167 percent among those with alcoholism in first and second or third degree relatives.

Keyword(s): alcoholism; family; dependence


Until the beginning of 1993, people driving in the former East Germany were not permitted to have any measurable amount of alcohol in their blood. Starting on January 1, 1993, however, this part of Germany adopted the legal standard of the former West Germany: 0.8 promille. This change has caused much debate in Germany, with some wishing to apply East Germany’s standard to the entire country, others recommending that the country adopt a top legal level of 0.5 promille, and others advocating the course taken on January 1. Traffic deaths involving alcohol in the former East Germany have increased by 25 percent in some areas, but there is little agreement on what this means. Some observers point to reduced police controls and greater traffic volume as the causes of increased fatalities. Statisticians note that the percentage of the population killed in automobile accidents involving alcohol were virtually identical in the two Germanies, despite the differences in legal levels of alcohol for driving. Medical specialists, for their part, maintain that tests indicate that human reflexes and powers of perception begin to deteriorate seriously at the level of 0.4 promille and by 1.1 promille a person is incapable of driving safely.

Keyword(s): Germany; alcohol; laws

Recent studies have shown that men with high-density family histories of alcoholism differ from those with low-density family histories on important dimensions. When compared with low-density family history men and family history negative controls, the male offspring of alcoholics with a high-density family history of alcoholism have higher alcohol and drug abuse prevalence rates and more severe psychosocial problems and psychological symptoms related to alcohol abuse. They also are more reactive to unavoidable electric shock, show greater alcohol-induced cardiovascular problems, and have more psychopathology.

Keyword(s): family history; personality; alcoholism

Inciardi, James A., Ruth Horowitz, and Anne E. Pottieger. Street Kids, Street Drugs, Street Crime: An Examination of Drug Use and Serious Delinquency in Miami. (Belmont, CA), Wadsworth Publishing Company, 1993. [Call Number: none]

The authors conducted on-street interviews of some 600 active serious delinquents in 20 neighborhoods within the Miami/Dade Country metropolitan area. The major focus of the study was on the relationship between criminal behavior and drug involvement. Results show that all of the youth interviewed had extensive histories of multiple drug use, with identifiable patterns of onset and progression. The availability and use of crack cocaine were particularly widespread, contributing to early adult violent criminal activities. Little variation was found to exist between drug use and crime involvement with respect to age, gender, and race; the link, however, between serious criminality and extensive drug use was undeniable.

Keyword(s): drugs; crime; street kids; delinquency

Although the drug crack is widely available in the United States, it is still relatively rare in France. In 1992, for example, the laboratory of the National Police analyzed only five samples of crack, compared to 268 samples of cocaine seized in police raids. The cost of crack is another indication of its rarity: between $80 and $110 for a dose, compared to $5 in the United States. Police believe, however, that the drug will become common in the near future. Crack is already sold in Paris by dealers mostly from the Antilles and the Cape Verde Islands. The ease with which crack is produced, combined with the dependency it quickly engenders, cause French police to fear that they are watching the beginning of a drug epidemic in the streets in Paris where crack is sold each night between midnight and dawn.

Keyword(s): France; crack consumption


Kava, a member of the pepper family Piperacease, is a drug of narcotic and hypnotic properties widely used in Pacific Ocean societies. Kava is a handsome shrub that is propagated vegetatively with its active principles, a series of kavalactones, concentrated in the rootstock and roots. Islanders ingest these psychoactive chemicals by drinking cold-water infusions of chewed, ground, pounded, or otherwise macerated kava stumps and roots. The authors discuss the botanical, physiological, and anthropological aspects of Kava and in the final chapter summarize its origins, history and dispersal, cultural role, contemporary economic importance, and the innovative and creative ways Islanders use it.

Keyword(s): botany; cultivation; kava; Pacific Islands; consumption


According to many behavioral scientists, occupation is a contributing factor in the development of alcoholism.
Three types of studies have been carried out to confirm these observations: analysis of cirrhosis mortality figures, examination of patient populations in alcoholism clinics, and surveys of drinking behaviors in populations. The findings from the present data set examining 104 occupations provides evidence for a positive association between occupations and prevalence of Alcohol Abuse or Dependence Disorder.

Keyword(s): occupations; methodology; alcoholism


The article is an interview with France’s new minister of the interior, Charles Pasqua. He says that drugs are the cause of nearly half the crimes committed in France and he thinks some new policies are needed to deal with the drug problem. He believes that Europe must frame a common drug policy and common legislation dealing with drugs and cites the liberality of the Dutch criminal code as an example of the present variety of European responses to drugs. He sees the need for the United Nations to become involved in curbing the cultivation of plants that yield illegal drugs. Countries that produce these plants should receive financial aid so that they would no longer need the profits gained from agriculture of this sort. If financial aid does not succeed, Pasqua recommends military action because he thinks that the loss of part of France’s youth to drugs must be prevented by any means.

Keyword(s): France; drug policy


This book is divided into three parts. Part I treats causes of alcoholism and considers its generic and dynamic aspects. Part II addresses the effects of alcoholism through cases of recovering alcoholics that illustrate what happens to alcoholics and those close to alcoholics when they drink. Part III deals with both the theoretical and practical therapeutic aspects of treatment—both in individual and group therapy.
According to government statistics, smoking is a contributing factor in more than one of every six deaths in the United States and is the number one preventable cause of death. Alcohol abuse is also recognized as a primary risk factor in deaths from certain diseases and unintentional injuries. Thus, smoking and alcohol abuse impose a substantial financial and health burden on those affected and on society in general. The author examines these issues and presents her findings in table summaries.

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This paper reviews some of the conceptual areas linking drinking and the life course to issues associated with work and careers. Preliminary data are presented from an ongoing research project that describe some relationships between age, work, and alcohol problems.

Chronic alcohol abuse alters very specific operations within the information processing cycle. Alcohol reduces attention to external stimulus cues and results in incorrect or inadequate processing of environmental information. Alcoholics display reduced vigilance, reduced scanning, and increased spatial search times when compared with nonalcoholics. Results suggest that visuospatial...
learning deficits may reflect an antecedent to, rather than a consequence of, chronic alcohol use and abuse.

Keyword(s): learning; adults; alcoholism


The authors examine situational strains that derive from the individual's work setting and from transitions imposed by life events: namely, unemployment, economic strain, and stress--such a death in the family or serious injury. Results indicate that among the three indices of life events, unemployment is of relatively little consequence, but economic strain and stress are associated with drinking problems. With regards to personal alienation variables, high powerlessness is clearly related to drinking problems. Those with both high stress and high powerlessness are most vulnerable in drinking. The failure to find intrinsic value in work is not predictive of alcohol use or abuse, but there is some evidence that the combination at work of low job latitude and high job demands makes for more drinking and more drinking problems.

Keyword(s): alcohol; alienation; work


Over the past two decades as women have increasingly entered the work force, people have become concerned about women's drinking habits. These parallel changes have encouraged behavioral scientists to look for direct connections between work and drinking among women. The simple connections have usually turned out to be weak, inconsistent, and difficult to analyze. Results indicate that women drinkers were least likely to report drinking-related problems or alcohol dependence symptoms if they were full-time homemakers or retired or disabled, but women employed full-time were less likely to report symptoms and no more likely to report problems than women unemployed or employed only part-time. Judging from these
findings and other research, the evidence will not support a theory that paid employment inherently makes women more likely to become problem drinkers. If there are important connections between employment and women's drinking behavior, they are more complex and require more analyses.

Keyword(s): women; employment; alcoholism