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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PREFACE

This annotated bibliography, updated monthly, provides worldwide coverage of research and statistics on drug and alcohol abuse. English- and foreign-language literature, primarily books and journals published since January 1989, is screened. Research focuses on topics such as usage patterns, new theories on patterns of abuse, signs and symptoms of addiction, legal penalties, genetics and heredity, prevention strategies and techniques, and codependency. The entries are arranged alphabetically by author. Each entry contains keywords.
Alcohol consumption in New Zealand has fallen in recent years. Per capita alcohol consumption of people over 15 years of age amounted to 12.1 liters of pure alcohol in 1978 and 10.1 liters in 1988. One cause of the drop in consumption is the government’s health promotion strategies. An agency, the Alcohol Research Unit, was established in 1980 to investigate alcohol consumption in New Zealand and to determine how it could be reduced. The agency’s work has been found to be excellent. A new law regulating the sale of alcohol went into effect in early 1990. The law aims at making wine and beer more available for consumers by allowing these substances to be sold in supermarkets, but not in establishments connected to filling stations. The law prescribes penalties for the sale of alcohol to persons under the age of twenty and young people themselves can be obliged to pay fines if they purchase alcohol. Researchers are looking forward to determining the effects of the new law (Sale of Liquor Act 1989) on the consumption of alcohol.

Keyword(s): alcohol consumption; alcohol legislation; New Zealand

The article discusses a club in Tampere, Finland that attempts to give its members (all of them alcoholics) a new way of living, so that they are free of a craving for alcohol. The aim of the club is not to internalize certain social norms that will prevent drinking, but instead remove the desire for alcohol by modifying a person’s overall view of life. Most of the club’s members are workers with the Finnish worker’s attitude toward drinking: work hard and drink hard. The club attempts to show its members that they need not work so hard, that they can have a more relaxed attitude towards life, and that they can enjoy their free time without the crutch of alcohol.

An aerosol with many of the sensory qualities of cigarette smoke was produced, but only with 3 per cent of the tar and nicotine and none of the carbon monoxide of a typical commercial cigarette. The aerosol, generated with an ultrasonic nebulizer, resembled smoke visually but had a larger particle size than cigarette smoke. Twelve smokers rated blocks of 10 puffs of aerosolized smoke solution, a popular commercial cigarette, and an unlit cigarette. The blocks of puffs were evaluated for sensory qualities and smoking satisfaction obtained. The rated strength of the smoke aerosol was comparable to that of the commercial cigarette. The aerosol was rated significantly more desirable and more satisfying than the control, though not as desirable as the commercial cigarette. Surprisingly, the smoke aerosol reduced self-reported desire for cigarettes as much as the commercial cigarette. This new method is a promising approach for evaluating the role of sensory cues in smoking, and it may also be useful as a clinical tool for smoking cessation.

Bergmark, Anders and Oscarsson, Lars. "Att vilja vara en annan—nagra funderingar kring motivationsbegreppet inom missbrukarvarden [The desire to be someone else--some reflections on the concept of motivation within the treatment of alcohol and drug abuse]." Alkoholpolitik, (Helsinki) vol. 6, no. 2, 1989, 50-59. [Call Number: none]

"Motivation" is a key concept in many drug and alcohol treatment programs. In this article the authors look at the concept both from clinical and theoretical points of view and attempt to set out how the concept can affect the patient's progress. An historical overview of the concept is also offered, and the authors seek to place it within the framework of modern philosophy. At the end of their article Bergmark and Oscarsson discuss how the concept of
motivation can sometimes confirm a patient’s view of himself in ways that prevent him from abandoning destructive ways of seeing himself and adopting new ones.

Keyword(s): alcohol and drug abuse treatment

"Der Stoff versaut das Land" [The stuff is ruining the country]." Der Spiegel, (Hamburg) vol. 44, no. 28, July 9, 1990, 32-34, 36-41. [Call Number: AP30.S55]

Germany is being overrun with drugs. All efforts by the authorities seem incapable of stopping the tidal wave of drugs available in even the most remote districts. About 20 tons of hard drugs are sold each year, with profits of about $3 billion. An estimated 100,000 dealers are active. In 1989 alone, about 25,000 dealers became known to the police, about equal to the number of pharmacists working in Germany. In the first six months of 1990, 553 persons died of drug overdoses, 100 more than in the same period of 1989. Experts say that the inhabitants of what used to be East Germany are the customers of the future. Now that they have hard western currency, they too can buy drugs. German police have already determined the existence of a 70-man Scandinavian-Polish "Speed Mafia" that specializes in providing East Germans with synthetic drugs. Authorities see little likelihood that illegal drug consumption will diminish in the near future. Selling illegal drugs is widespread, and most small dealers are ordinary people without criminal pasts. Becoming a dealer is Germany is easy, far easier than arresting them. In Hamburg the trend is towards increasingly younger dealers. In this city hundreds of juveniles, many of them Turkish, are full-time dealers.

Keyword(s): drug abuse; Germany; criminality


The authors believe that while AA 12-step programs have helped millions of individuals recover from chemical dependency, the propriety of combining any religious philosophy with the treatment of alcoholism and other drug
abuse problems should be reexamined and altered. They believe that more harm than good is caused by AA's insistence that the concept of Divine Intervention be maintained as part of its program.

Keyword(s): drug abuse treatment; religious beliefs; recovery


The article is an interview with a West German drug dealer, who was active in the trade from his late adolescence in the mid-1970s until his late twenties. After a term in prison, he decided to end his addiction and illicit activities. In the early years of his drug dealing he acquired small amounts of drugs, sold half of them and consumed the rest, the standard practice for small-time drug dealers in Germany. In the early 1980s, the so-called "scene" lost its "flower-power" character and became brutal. The interviewee then began to distribute drugs to others who sold them. Regular trips to Amsterdam provided him with new supplies. Although locating new drug sources in Amsterdam was not difficult, it could be dangerous. For this reason the dealer seldom went there alone. Wholesome-looking athletic young women were his preferred type of carrier for bringing the drugs into Germany as police rarely examined their automobiles. The young women found the prospect of easy money attractive enough to risk arrest. The dealer's downfall came when his own consumption of drugs became so great that he no longer cared if police caught him or not.

Keyword(s): drug dealing; Germany

"Foraldrar kan påverka rokning [Parents can affect smoking]." Socialnytt, (Stockholm), no. 4, 1990, 21. [Call Number: HN571.S67]

Parents should influence their children to stop smoking; should not give permission to smoke at home; forbid it at the disco; and work to stop tobacco advertising according to the youths who were interviewed in a study for the Department of Welfare. An eight-page brochure gives the
arguments that parents can use against smoking. The message is that the child pays attention to what parents say and think, even if it is not always apparent—and even if the parents themselves smoke.

Keyword(s): smoking; parental influence; Sweden


Study evaluated the effectiveness of personal and social coping skills training, with generalization programming in the social environment of the school and home in preventing substance use in high-risk adolescents. In addition to providing a test of coping skills training with secondary prevention, this study was designed to remedy some of the design flaws identified in previous coping skills intervention studies. The flaws included lack of an attention or placebo control, failure to directly measure coping skills, and reliance on self-report measures. The findings of the study suggest that preventive intervention with high-risk youth has some positive effect on risk factors, although the differential efficacy of coping skills training with high-risk youth was not supported.

Keyword(s): substance abuse; adolescents; coping skills


As part of a long-term prospective study of unaided smoking cessation, extensive data were collected on the occurrence of the withdrawal syndrome through a one year follow-up.

Keyword(s): tobacco; withdrawal; symptoms

This article presents a portion of the research results of a long-term study on substance abuse among native American offenders and ex-offenders in the Nebraska Department of Corrections. The first part of the study established the extent of substance abuse among incarcerated Indians in general and the extent to which alcohol and drug use were related to criminal offenses in particular. The authors believe that the incorporation of indigenous elements or Indian spirituality into treatment is gaining popularity and is espoused by Native Americans as a critical criterion for selection of a treatment program; however, evidence for the increased effectiveness of dependence on exclusively indigenous approaches to alcohol rehabilitation is inconclusive.

Keyword(s): native Americans; substance abusers; criminals

Holmberg, Nils. "Kognitiv beteendeterapi och Minnesota-modellen [Cognitive behavior therapy and the Minnesota model]." Alkoholpolitik, (Helsinki) vol. 6, no. 4, 1989, 191-201. [Call Number: no call number]

Cognitive behavior therapy has become more common in recent years in Scandinavia as a means of treating alcoholism, as has the Minnesota model. The two methods have different theories of addictive behavior, but have some things in common with regard to methods of treatment. The first method is based on a social learning theory, while the Minnesota model sees alcoholism as a disease. Cognitive behavior therapy focusses on developing individually tailored skills on the part of the patient. The Minnesota model sees the establishment of a firm AA-type identity as the way to sobriety and a new life-style. The former treatment sees moderate controlled drinking as a respectable goal, while the latter unequivocally favors complete abstinence. The author sees an overly flexible model of behavior as a danger of the first treatment; the second method can provide too rigid a model for patients.
Keyword(s): alcoholism treatment programs; Scandinavia


This study documents the retrospective personal history statements of a group of 19 alcoholic and non-alcoholic adult female incest survivors. The purpose of this study was twofold. First, the perceptions of alcoholic and non-alcoholic incest-surviving women in three key areas of their lives were examined: (a) early life recollections; (b) sexuality; and (c) life forces since adolescence which motivated them to seek help in order to determine whether or not differences in their perceptions could be delineated which could pave the way for future research efforts in this area. Secondly, primary sources of descriptive information on and by female incest survivors which could assist helping professionals in the development of a more informed multidisciplinary approach to the treatment of alcoholism and incest were examined.

Keyword(s): alcoholism; females; incest


According to James S. Kolstad, Chairman of the National Transportation Safety Board, laws that allow police to immediately confiscate the licenses of motorists suspected of driving under the influence of alcohol are the most effective way to keep drunk drivers off the road.

Keyword(s): drunk driving; prevention; license suspension

Isenhart, Carl. "Further Support for the Criterion Validity of the Alcohol Use Inventory." Psychology of Addictive Behavior, (Seattle), vol. 4, no. 2, 1990, 77-81. [Call Number: none]
LITERATURE AND RESEARCH SUPPORT
ON DRUG ABUSE

Study was conducted to further investigate the criterion validity of the AUI by using two groups of alcohol abusers: those who reported their fathers had significant alcohol-related problems, and those who reported their fathers did not have alcohol-related problems. The literature clearly demonstrates that those individuals who have an alcohol-abusing parent or parents drink at an earlier age and experience more social and personal problems; have more alcoholic symptoms, less occupational stability, and more alcohol-related physical symptomatology; display more symptoms of alcoholism; experience more severe pathology; and demonstrate more dependent problems, drinking, and marital disruption. Results of the study provide further evidence of the validity of the AUI.

Keyword(s): alcoholism; treatment; parents


This paper examines the drugs-crime connection in relation to the "new" heroin users of the 1980s. An analysis of the criminal records of a sample of forty-six London-based heroin users shows that their annual rate of convictions more than doubled following the onset of regular heroin use. During in-depth interviews, the subjects reported financing their habits largely through "acquisitive crime". Week-by-week analysis of their self-reported crime and drug use over a six-month period also revealed a close relationship between drugs and crime. The personal and social characteristics of the now greatly expanded population of "new" heroin users clearly warrents a reconsideration of penal and treatment policies.

Keyword(s): heroin; crime; England


The study describes those characteristics which are associated with the "typical" drinkers of beer, distilled
spirits, wine, and wine coolers, as well as those traits which are associated with individuals who are heavier consumers of these beverages. The work expands upon previous literature by providing a description of the wine cooler drinker prototypes, and by comparing these prototypes to other drinker profiles. Both beer-drinking prototypes are composed mainly of less well-educated males who drink beer in circumstances unconnected with any mealtime setting. Wine drinkers are more often women, usually with education at or beyond the "some college" level, who typically drink wine in moderation with a meal such as dinner. Both prototypes of the distilled spirits drinkers are likely to be men, ages 45 or over, who are not currently married, who usually drink in a bar, before a meal, when they feel somewhat happy or calm. Wine cooler drinkers are much more heterogeneous, and hence less distinguishable than the other drinking prototypes. The heavier wine cooler drinker, however, is likely to be single, with 12 or 13 years of schooling.

Keyword(s): drinkers; american society; prototypes

Knop, Joachim. "Arv-miljoforskning ved alkoholisme [Hereditary-environmental factors in alcohol research]." Alcoholpolitik, (Helsinki) vol 6, no. 4, 1989, 202-208. [Call Number: none]

One school of research into alcoholism concentrates on the environmental factors that lead to alcoholism. This school often ignores, however, the important findings of research into the genetic aspects of alcoholism. Genetic alcohol research has found that genetics can play an important role in alcoholism. Studies of twins and adopted children have provided valuable data. Sons of alcoholic fathers, for example, are three to four times more likely than the general population to become alcoholics themselves. The author stresses the need of the two schools of research to work more closely together.

Keyword(s): alcoholism research; genetics

Kruse, Sysette Vinding; Winslow, Jacob Hilden; and Storgaard, Anette. Narkotikakontrol i Danmark (Drug control in Denmark). Monograph Series of the Danish Council on

In Denmark the concepts "narcotic drugs" and "psychotropic substances" as defined by the 1961 and 1971 conventions are embraced in a single legal term "euphoriant substances". Chapter 1 is a short historical outline of how the distribution of medicine has been regulated since the first order of 1672. The first proper act governing apothecaries was passed in 1913—it restricted access to trade, i.e., cocaine, morphine, and opium legally to apothecaries. In 1937 the first act governing physicians was passed. In Chapter 2 the legal basis for the drug control is described as it is today. According to a circular from the Chief Public Prosecutor, charges must be brought in case of violation of Section 191 of the Danish Penal Code where distribution of heroin and other drugs, apart from cannabis, is concerned. As for cannabis, it falls within the Danish Penal Code only where the amount exceeds 10-15 kilograms and it has been of commercial nature. The punishment for distribution is imprisonment. Arrest is ordered by the police and may be confirmed to 3 to 24 hours, whereas custody requires an order from the court and can only be executed when an offence is suspected which may result in imprisonment for 18 months or more. Telephone tapping is applied, as well as other forms of intervention into the privacy of communication, search of residence, rooms, secret compartments, or person, as well as sequestration of objects which are assumed to be significant as evidence. In 1986, police were given authority to use agents in the investigation of drug cases. That same year, use of anonymous witnesses was prohibited. In Chapters 3-6, special assignments in connection with the control of drugs by customs authorities, police, courts, and prisons, are described.

Keyword(s): Euphoriant Substances Act; Denmark

"Kvinnor och rokning i tva videofilmer [Women and smoking in two videotapes]." Socialnytt, (Stockholm), no. 1, 1990, 24. [Call Number: HN571.S67]

"Women discuss smoking" and "Doctor talks about women's smoking" are two videotapes produced by the Stockholm administrative division's parliament in cooperation with the Department of Welfare. The films are primarily meant
for nursing staff and are 16 and 20 minutes long, respectively. They may be shown at various occasions and can be used to generate discussion. The films can be ordered from LIC publishers, 171 83 Solna, telephone number: 08-757 60 00. Brochures about smoking—"Stop smoking," "No more," and "Narrow path," can be ordered free of charge from the Department of Welfare Distribution Center, 106 30 Stockholm.

Keyword(s): smoking; women; Sweden


A short scale of 37 items derived from the MMPI was administered to 210 young people who either used no drugs or non-opioids, used opioids but did not inject, and drug injectors. The short scale distinguished between non-users and users. Validation was attempted using 214 subjects who were either in drug treatment programs or alcohol treatment programs as well as appropriate control groups. The Drug Misuse Scale was able to distinguish between these groups. The MacAndrew Scale proved better at distinguishing subjects in alcohol treatment programs. However, the Drug Misuse Scale proved to be significantly better at distinguishing the drug misusers. It was suggested that the Drug Misuse Scale may prove a valuable clinical tool.

Keyword(s): drug addiction; prediction; MMPI

Lehto, Juhani. "Frihetsberovanden, vardtvang och fornekande av missbruksproblem [Deprivation of freedom, compulsory treatment and denial of abuse problems]." Alkoholpolitik, (Helsinki), vol. 6, no 1, 1989, 1-7. [Call Number: none]

Both Finland and Sweden can force alcoholics to undergo treatment. In Finland the treatment is used only in crisis situations and only a few dozen times a year. In Sweden obligatory treatment is more common and is used for those whose alcoholism has been of a long-term nature. Legislation effective in 1989 will cause the number of
those undergoing compulsory treatment in Sweden to climb above the level of 1,000 cases a year. The author, a Finn, writes that the Finnish policy is more successful, for in acute cases the need for treatment, even compulsory, is obvious even to the addict. In Sweden, however, many of those obliged to take treatment do not believe it necessary. This view on the part of the alcoholic renders treatment less effective.

Keyword(s): alcohol treatment programs; Finland; Sweden


This study is the first to examine the extended effects of alcohol and sedatives in family alcoholism history groups. Family history positive subjects displayed an increased intensity of withdrawal as well as an extended duration of withdrawal symptoms following ethanol and the high dose of secobarbital. This is the first laboratory demonstration of withdrawal differences as a function of family history following administration of equal doses of ethanol or sedatives to both family groups. Studies confirm a retrospective questionnaire study of FHP versus FHN college-aged males which found that FHP respondents reported more severe withdrawal symptoms than FHN respondents despite equivalent levels of reported ethanol use.

Keyword(s): alcohol; withdrawal; secobarbital effects


The word Junkfurt in the article’s title refers to Frankfurt's reputation as the worst center for drug addiction in Germany. As in Hamburg, there are an estimated 8,000 drug addicts in Frankfurt, where their presence is more concentrated and obvious. Addicts are seen throughout Frankfurth's parks and open spaces located
between the skyscrapers of the city’s financial district. City authorities hope to soon implement an extensive methadone program to alleviate the addicts’ misery and reduce a growing criminality. The methadone program will be decentralized around the province in which Frankfurt is located so that the concentration of addicts may also be lessened. The number of deaths in Frankfurt caused by drug overdoses is double that of last year. Authorities hope that their new program will slow the rate of increase.

Keyword(s): drug addicts; drug treatment; Germany


Article reviews methods of measuring the ethanol content of alcoholic beverages, and proposes a common system for research reports of alcohol consumption. The authors pay particular attention to the standard unit typically employed in four English-speaking countries, and provide conversion tables for researchers and educators who wish to use standard drink units, or to convert among units from one national context to another.

Keyword(s): drinking; international comparisons; drink units


The study examined coping strategies and self-efficacy in high risk for relapse situations of adolescent substance abusers. Self-generated coping responses of teens who remained abstinent 6 months following treatment for drug and alcohol abuse are compared with adolescents experiencing either isolated incidents of alcohol or drug use, or more severe relapses. The study intended to corroborate previous results showing differences across adolescent outcome groups in coping methods. The present study differs from previous work primarily in that it focuses on teen self-generated responses, thus examining
the convergent validity of the prior adolescent results, and examines self-efficacy in relation to outcome status. Coping strategies and self-efficacy were assessed by eliciting self-reported responses for two settings: a potential relapse situation which was perceived as stressful and in which the teen successfully abstained, and strategies typically used for coping with such high risk situations. Results are discussed in relation to the cognitive behavioral theory of relapse and to previous findings on the process of relapse in teen substance abusers.

Keyword(s): substance abusers; coping; relapse


Study is concerned primarily with constructing an initial ethnographic account of the family therapy treatment condition as discussed by the family members that participated in that condition. As such, this is a mini-ethnography. This study is not concerned with documenting and analyzing the broad range of lifeways of a group of people. Rather, it is limited to a discussion of the client’s construction of the therapy experience around focused domains of inquiry.

Keyword(s): drug abuse; adolescence; ethnography; family therapy


Study compares the characteristics of intravenous drug addicts from several locations in northern Italy in order to evaluate the prevalence of risk behaviors in different geographical and social areas. A preventive intervention was administered to intravenous drug addicts attending
detoxication centers by means of the addiction of counseling and HIV antibody testing to detoxication treatment. Subjects were followed up in order to evaluate the effects of such actions.

Keyword(s): addiction; heroin; Italy

"Ny grupp mot narkotika [A new group against drug addiction]." Socialnytt, (Stockholm), no. 1, 1990, 25. [Call Number: HN571.S67]

The government has instituted an action group against drug addiction, whose main task will be to obtain financing and to organize it to increase its usefulness. Activities will be started to arrest the development of addiction, especially among youth. Opportunities for junkies will increase in Sweden and a new treatment program is under way. The drug trade will be disrupted even at the level of the individual transaction, according to the government’s plans. The group will take the initiative for improved addict care and also work to develop cooperation among social services, schools, and police. Activities will also be developed where youth, parents, school personnel, free-time personnel, and organizations will work together against drug addiction. The group’s work will be finished by summer of 1991.

Keyword(s): drug addiction treatment; activity group; Sweden


The study employed an A-B-A design to examine the effects of short-term smoking cessation and the resumption of smoking on the intake of alcohol, coffee, and sweet-tasting high-fat foods. In addition, the consumption of soda and the amount of time spent watching TV were examined to determine the generalizability of results to consumption of other common dietary items and nondietary activities, respectively. Subjective mood and craving were assessed to determine the possible relationship between
negative affect following cessation and changes in consumption. Female smokers were examined because of reports in the animal literature that nicotine alters food consumption to a greater degree in females than males. Results showed increased intake of sweets and, to a lesser extent, alcohol after cessation which was reversed upon resumption of smoking. There were no significant changes across weeks in other substances. Findings indicated that smoking cessation may have significant effects on consumption of food and other substances—changes which themselves could influence disease risk.

Keyword(s): adolescents; smoking; cessation; foods

"Positivt om alkoholprogram [Positive about the alcohol program]." Socialnytt, (Stockholm), no. 1, 1990, 22. [Call Number: HN571.S67]

Most of the submissions towards the Swedish government's social program on alcohol policy are positive. The goal is to lower the consumption of alcohol by 25 percent by the year 2000, calculations based on 1985 when parliament made the decision. In any case these proposals will take longer to put into effect than the government foresaw. There is, for example, the question of increasing the age limit to 20 for being served alcohol at restaurants when most people wanted to increase it to 21. The control of what was served also was discussed. Criticism against the program concerns claims that it was not concrete enough, should have distinguished more clearly the monies allocated, and should have contained deeper analyses about how the alcohol culture could be changed in the long term.

Keyword(s): alcohol policy; consumption; Sweden


The most difficult drug addicts are those who have some sort of psychological disturbance in addition to drug addiction. The Social Ministry assigned the supervisory physician Jan Ramstrom, a member of the ministry's scientific council, to analyze the situation of the psychologically disturbed addict and to write a study. The
result is The Forgotten Addict (Social Ministry report 1989:33). The report shows that the number of addicts with serious psychological disturbances is significant and that conventional addict care can, in some cases, aggravate their problems. The paper is distributed by Allmanna Forlaget, Kundtjanst, 106 47 Stockholm.

Keyword(s): psychological disturbance; drug addiction; Sweden


Two new alcohol treatment programs were introduced or became much more common in Sweden in the 1980s: that of the Lewi Pethrus Foundation and the Minnesota model, a program based on the AA model. The two programs have some things in common: interest in the individual alcoholic rather than in general preventive strategies, and the use of laymen. Both programs see alcoholism primarily as a spiritual disease and both place much emphasis on external controls (family, group, workplace). They differ in that the Lewi Pethrus Foundation deals more with poor or unemployed alcoholics, while the Minnesota model concerns itself more with more affluent alcoholics.

Keyword(s): alcohol treatment programs; Sweden


The responses of 202 male and 95 female substance users to a Eysenck Personality Questionnaire taken during 21 months at a public-sector hospital facility were studied. Collectively, inpatients were more impulsive, introverted, and anxious than same-sexed normals on the main EPQ scales. The alcohol, cocaine, opioid, and polysubstance
users, and a residual mixed group differed on all EPQ scales. Cocaine users were the most impulsive, with alcohol and opioid users the least. The polysubstance and residual mixed groups were the most extroverted, with opioid users the least extroverted. The alcohol and residual mixed groups were the most anxious, and cocaine users the least so. Alcohol users earned the highest "lie" scores, with opioid users the lowest. When the residual mixed group was excluded from analyses the results were about the same.

Keyword(s): substance abuse; patterns; alcohol; cocaine; opioid; personal traits

Schlemmer, Thomas. "Ich war Grosshandler des Todes [I was a wholesaler of death]." Quick, (Munich), no. 21, 16 May, 1991, 98-101. [Call Number: AP30.Q5]

The article relates how an unemployed cook got involved in bringing cocaine to Germany. The German began by driving a South American drug dealer around Hamburg. The German gradually earned the man’s trust and was sent to Colombia because the drug bosses hoped he would help them widen their drug distribution network in Germany. He received four weeks of training from the Colombians. Arrested later in Germany, the cook became a valuable informant about drug trafficking. His information helped German authorities partially destroy the Medellin cartel’s cocaine distribution structure in Germany.

Keyword(s): drug traffic; Germany

Skretting, Astrid. "Hvor farlig er farlige stoffer? [How dangerous are dangerous drugs?]" Alkoholpolitik, (Helsinki) vol. 7, no. 3, 1990, 137-45. [Call Number: none]

The article looks at how the attitude of Norwegians toward illegal drugs has changed over the last twenty years. The source of the author’s comments are two polls conducted in Norway about how likely a user of illegal drugs was likely to become addicted. LSD was seen as the most dangerous drug in 1969, followed by marijuana and morphine. In 1989 all drugs were regarded as dangerous, with heroin, cocaine, and amphetamines seen as the most likely to cause
addiction. About 80 percent assumed that use of heroin over a period of time would result in addiction. A little over 70 percent thought the same about cocaine. Only 55 percent believed that marijuana was addictive. In both polls, alcohol was regarded as the least addictive substance. The author holds that Norwegians are now more aware of the dangers of illicit drugs than in 1969. Public debates were one cause for this.

Keyword(s): illegal drugs; Norway


According to experts gathered at the National Conference on Drunk Driving, dealing harshly with repeat offenders, monitoring the criminal justice system, and helping youths understand the dangers of alcohol are among the proven ways to reduce the number of deaths and injuries caused by drunk drivers.

Keyword(s): drunk driving; prevention


The article gives a history of Danish attempts to control alcohol consumption since the early decades of this century. Early methods were largely coercive; since the 1950s more liberal policies have been in effect. The results have been poor. Consumption, alcoholism, deaths, and sickness related to excessive use have risen. The creation of a common Europe at the end of 1992 will mean that Danish taxes on alcohol will decrease with an almost certain increase in consumption. At the same time education programs about the dangers of alcohol abuse have been curtailed because of Denmark’s economic problems. The future looks bleak, according to the author. He asks if moral sermons and old punitive methods will be reintroduced to stem the growing problem of alcoholism.
Keyword(s): alcohol policies; Denmark


The New York Longitudinal Study (NYLS), a prospective study investigating a large range of psychological and social variables from the beginning of infancy to early adulthood, can be used to investigate the development of patterns of, and consequences of, substance use. Individuals generally initiate substance use during adolescence. Substance use may be at its highest level during this time and in young adulthood. The period from adolescence to young adulthood is also a time when many developmental tasks are accomplished, for example, the completion of education, mate choice, and job market entry. Successful completion of these tasks, which may be associated with substance use, may in part determine adult psychological functioning. It is important that the patterns of substance use, and the outcomes of each pattern, be described and understood in terms of antecedent conditions, concurrent factors, and psychological adjustment at each stage of development. Implications for intervention in different stages of childhood and adulthood are discussed.

Keyword(s): human development; substance abuse; methodology


This paper examined the structure of drinking-related consequences in a sample of alcoholic women by submitting self-reported consequences to a series of exploratory factor analyses. Nine composites were constructed to represent the different domains of adverse consequences as they relate to social isolation, sexual behavior, early
and later symptoms or effects, motherhood, accidents, work, medical problems, and interpersonal relationships.

Keyword(s): alcoholic women; alcohol consumption; consequences

"Tva rapporter om narkotika [Two reports about drug addiction]." Socialnytt, (Stockholm), no. 1, 1990, 26. [Call Number: HN571.S67]

CAN, the Central Organization for Alcohol and Drug Education, has published two new reports: Dodligheten bland narkotikamissbrukare i de nordiska lander (Mortality rate among drug abusers in the Nordic countries). The studies show that the mortality rate is greatest after 10-12 years of drug abuse and can arise both from physical deterioration as well as the addict's break with his former life. Further, periods of abstinence are interrupted with risk-carrying lapses. How large the increased mortality rate is in a drug-related fatality varies in different studies, but the rate is stated to be highest among heroin addicts. Narkotikasituationen i Norden (Drug addiction in Nordic Countries), is a follow-up of an earlier report and describes developments up to and including 1988. Each country is represented alone. For further information contact: CAN, Box 27302, 102 54 Stockholm, telephone: 08-667 97 20.

Keyword(s): drug abuse; mortality rate; heroin; Sweden; Nordic countries


The study has two major purposes: (1) to provide additional descriptive data concerning the relationships of smoking to parents' education and students' educational aspirations, and (2) to provide preliminary evidence concerning the hypothesized causes of the inverse relationships between smoking and the education variables. Characteristics that are related to smoking and to parents' education or students' educational aspirations are identified and the extent to which these
characteristics may account for the observed inverse associations between smoking and the education variables are tested. Article established statistical associations but could not provide convincing evidence for specific causal relationships. Nevertheless, the findings provide suggestive evidence concerning the reasons why lower parental education and lower educational aspirations are associated with higher rates of smoking.

Keyword(s): teenagers; smoking; education; parents


Zurich has one of the most liberal attitudes towards the consumption of illegal drugs, but the number of seriously ill drug addicts in the city continues to climb. At the park Platzspitz in Zurich drug consumption has been tolerated by city authorities for several years and about 2,000 addicts assemble there each day to tend to their habits. The city distributes about 12,000 one-way needles to drug addicts daily, yet this policy was probably started too late for about 50 to 65 percent of addicts are HIV-positive. Methadone treatment is also common, but many addicts just mix it with heroin for a better "buzz". City authorities would like to send addicts back to their hometowns or even deport them. Some business groups are recommending stronger measures. Some addicts are worried themselves about the worsening conditions in the Platzspitz. Cocaine use is becoming common and with it a greater incidence of violence.

Keyword(s): drug consumption; drug abuse prevention measures; Switzerland


A sample of 67 physicians and 133 nurses with chemically-dependent significant others was surveyed to evaluate the effect on physicians and nurses of being closely involved
with one or more chemical dependent persons. The majority reported that the quality of their work was adversely affected by this association. Reduced ability to concentrate, absenteeism, errors, poor judgment, and patient neglect were reported. Most reported their professional education had not prepared them to recognize and assist people with chemical dependencies and half thought their professional education negatively influenced their ability to help. About half had attempted to treat the chemical dependent person themselves, sometimes giving medication and occasionally diverting drugs for this purpose. Most said their self-esteem and self-confidence were damaged by these relationships. Over one-third of the physicians reported being diagnosed as depressed and 12 percent had attempted suicide. There were few differences between physicians and nurses on the effects of being in a co-dependent relationship, although nurses and women were more likely to have chemically dependent parents.

Keyword(s): drug addiction; co-dependence; nurses; physicians


Authors examine four hypotheses about the associations among marijuana use, the disposition of introspectiveness, and psychological distress. The first hypothesis—that marijuana use is not associated with mental health—received mixed support. Amount and recency of use, the measures typically used in studies of marijuana use and psychological distress were not associated significantly with distress in this sample. Yet it was found that a significant association for BADEXP existed, which suggested that having at least one negative experience with marijuana was associated with negative effect.

Keyword(s): marijuana; mental health; treatment