Table of contents

1. TBI and Substance Abuse Correlates Within a Prison Therapeutic Community

2. Incorporating culture into substance abuse treatment: The associations among acculturation and acculturative stress and treatment outcomes for Latino adolescents

3. A mixed-methods investigation of alcohol use among immigrant sexual and gender minority Latinos in North Carolina

4. Cocaine self-administration: Adaptations to the glutamatergic system and consequences for offspring emotional control

5. Emotional Intelligence and Adolescent Perpetration of Emotional and Physical Abuse: Examining Peer Violence and Alcohol Use as Moderators

6. Adolescent Substance Use Screening Instruments: A Review of the Literature

7. Social Interaction Between Parents and Adolescents and Adolescent Predisposition to Substance Use

8. The examination of mixing alcohol and energy drinks among college undergraduates using the theory of planned behavior

9. Opioid analgesic prescribing and overdose mortality in North Carolina

10. The role of viewer orientation and consumption level in smoking cue reactivity

11. Perceptions of University and College Presidents Regarding Tobacco-Free Campus Policies
12. Alcohol use and American Indian/Alaska Native student academic performance among tribal colleges

13. Adult children of drug abuse: Levels of psychopathology in comparison to adult children of alcoholics and controls

14. Cardiovascular Diseases in Bangladesh and in the United States: The knowledge level of risk factors and association with smoking and obesity

15. An econometric analysis of cocaine use by methadone maintenance therapy patients

16. Journeys of transformation: A narrative inquiry into the spiritual experiences of individuals in recovery from alcoholism and addiction

17. The role of psychology in preventing opiate misuse in chronic pain treatment: An integrative literature review

18. A Team-Based Behavioral Economics Experiment on Smoking Cessation

19. The relationship of temporal discounting and working alliance to substance abuse treatment process in Hispanic adolescents

20. fMRI Correlates of Risky Decision-Making in Adolescent Alcohol Users: The Role of Abstinence

21. Acetyl radical in tobacco smoke: Detection, quantification and simulation

22. An Exploration of Alcohol Use in Karen Refugee Communities in the Context of Conflict-Related Displacement

23. The Influence of Gender and Alcohol Use on Depressive Symptoms Among Men and Women

24. Effect of a combination of gabapentin, flumazenil, and hydroxyzine on cravings and alcohol use in patients detoxed with carbamazepine
25. Labor market outcomes of individuals in recovery from addiction to alcohol

26. The alternative peer group: What can "winners" from this program teach us about recovery from adolescent substance use disorder?

27. The impact of substance abuse in high risk, rural Virginia counties

28. How mindfulness works: Identifying mediating variables in a mindfulness-based intervention on relapse in substance use disorders

29. The Sober Self: Discourse and identity of recovering alcoholics in the Western Highlands of Guatemala

30. The effects of sleep problems and depression on alcohol-related negative consequences among college students

31. The relation between mindfulness and perceived self-efficacy towards coping with negative affect in recovering alcoholics

32. An Assessment of Religion In the Substance Abuse Treatment Process

33. Role models' influence on smoking reduction

34. Effect of Cocaine Exposure on Estimates of Reward Value and Neurobiological Correlates

35. Investigating similarities and differences as measured by the DUREL and GSQ between three subgroups attending a local AA meeting to develop a profile of long term attendees

36. Alcohol, stress, and decision making

37. The effects of perceived coercion and empowerment on motivational processes for adults ordered to attend substance abuse treatment: A mixed methods analysis

38. Long-term Effects of Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders on Dentate Gyrus Synaptic Plasticity

40. Genetics, Drugs, and Cognitive Control: Uncovering Individual Differences in Substance Dependence

41. HIV, Sexually Transmitted Infection and Sexual Risk among Women who Use Methamphetamine

__________________________________________________________________________________________

Document 1 of 41

TBI and Substance Abuse Correlates Within a Prison Therapeutic Community

Author: La Point, Scott Richard


Abstract: More than two million individuals are presently incarcerated in U.S. prisons, with between a half million and 1.4 million reporting a history of traumatic brain injury (TBI). An estimated 20.6 million people identify as illicit drug users or meet criteria for a substance-related disorder. While previous research has assessed offenders in a prison population, this is the first known study that examined the problem of TBI and substance abuse within a prison therapeutic community (TC). In addition to determining the prevalence of TBI in a prison TC, this study investigated the relationship between the variables of TBI and substance abuse, and dependent variables of program compliance, ratings of physical and mental health, and cognitive processing speed. Of the 213 volunteer participants, 69.5% reported a history of TBI on a semistructured interview, while only 11.3% were identified in prison records. Results suggested that TBI and substance-use severity were not significantly related to TC performance ratings. There was a significant relationship between TBI severity and ratings of physical and mental health with a small effect size but not between substance-use severity and measures of
health. TBI severity was significantly related to performance on a trial of linear visuomotor tracking speed with a small effect size but not significantly related to performance on a second, more complex trial of visuomotor tracking speed. Substance-use severity was unrelated to performance on a trial of linear visuomotor tracking speed; however, it was unexpectedly associated with a higher level of performance on a second, more complex trial of visuomotor tracking speed with a small effect size. The study’s findings confirm the importance of screening for TBI within a prison TC. Keywords: traumatic brain injury, substance abuse, therapeutic community.


Subject: Clinical psychology; Criminology

Classification: 0622: Clinical psychology; 0627: Criminology

Identifier / keyword: Social sciences, Psychology, Traumatic brain injury, Substance abuse, Prisons, Therapeutic communities

Title: TBI and Substance Abuse Correlates Within a Prison Therapeutic Community
Incorporating culture into substance abuse treatment: The associations among acculturation and acculturative stress and treatment outcomes for Latino adolescents

Author: Wrona, Megan Colleen

Abstract: Substance use disorders are prevalent among adolescents and there is a need to develop and test empirically supported interventions that target these disorders specifically. However, to date, much of the empirically supported intervention research in this arena has neglected the needs of ethnic minority youth. Recent research efforts support the notion of cultural adaptation/accommodation (modifying interventions to increase cultural congruence) of standard interventions to better serve ethnic minority clients. However, few studies have examined the efficacy of cultural adaptations in direct comparison studies. Direct comparisons studies would allow for an examination of relative efficacy as well as moderating effects. These types of studies will help researchers determine when a cultural adaptation is likely to be most helpful for a particular client. This study aimed to understand the associations between acculturation and acculturative stress and treatment outcomes for Latino adolescents participating in a substance abuse treatment program. A total of 70 Latino adolescents participated in a randomized-controlled trial designed to directly compare an empirically supported, standard cognitive behavioral group-based intervention with a culturally accommodated cognitive
behavioral intervention. Adolescents participated in 12 weeks of active treatment as well as pre- and posttreatment assessments. Results provided evidence for relative efficacy of the culturally accommodated intervention, as adolescents in both treatment conditions reported significant decreases in their substance use. There were no significant differences between the two treatment conditions. In addition to examining relative efficacy, this study also examined for the presence of interaction effects between cultural variables and treatment outcomes. It was hypothesized that adolescents who were matched to the most appropriate intervention (i.e., less acculturated adolescent matched to accommodated intervention) would report the largest reduction in substance use. Results did not reveal any significant three-way interactions, indicating the specific cultural variables did not moderate treatment outcomes by treatment condition. Despite these null findings, future studies should continue to exam the role of cultural variables on treatment outcomes.


Subject: Educational psychology; Latin American Studies; Developmental psychology; Psychology; Clinical psychology
Title: Incorporating culture into substance abuse treatment: The associations among acculturation and acculturative stress and treatment outcomes for Latino adolescents

Number of pages: 111

Publication year: 2013

Degree date: 2013

School code: 0240

Source: DAI-B 75/01(E), Jul 2014

Place of publication: Ann Arbor

Country of publication: United States

ISBN: 9781303363542

Advisor: Burrow Sanchez, Jason

Committee member: Pompa, Janiece, Imel, Zac, Woltz, Dan, Kerig, Patricia

University/institution: The University of Utah

Department: Educational Psychology

University location: United States -- Utah
A mixed-methods investigation of alcohol use among immigrant sexual and gender minority Latinos in North Carolina

Author: Gilbert, Paul A.

Abstract: Background: Heavy alcohol use has the potential for multiple direct and indirect harmful effects; however, little is known about drinking patterns among immigrant sexual and gender minority Latinos. I conducted a mixed qualitative-quantitative study to investigate alcohol use among this population in North Carolina. Qualitative Study: I sought to identify and describe salient social stressors, coping strategies, and the role of alcohol use through 15 semi-structured interviews with foreign-born...
sexual and gender minority Latinos. Following Grounded Theory methods, I produced an inductive model of alcohol use. Drinking was fundamentally a social behavior, embedded in cultural, social, and individual contexts. Nearly half of participants reported at least one binges episode per month. Among stressors, being a sexual minority was indirectly linked to alcohol use through drinking venues (e.g., gay bars) and companions, and being an undocumented immigrant dissuaded drinking for that sub-set of participants. I confirmed inferences in four member-check interviews and three key informant interviews. Quantitative Study: Using cross-sectional survey data obtained in a study of HIV risk and protective factors among foreign-born sexual and gender minority Latinos (n=190), I tested theoretically derived hypotheses about the association of select stressors and social support with alcohol use (any drinking; drinking frequency; binges). Although 55% of participants reported no alcohol use, the majority of current drinkers reported at least one binge episode in the past 30 days. Ethnic discrimination was associated with any drinking and binges, consistent with a stress-reactive drinking. Social support moderated two relationships, consistent with the stress buffering hypothesis. Conclusion: Because current drinkers in both qualitative and quantitative studies reported high levels of binges, sexual and gender minority Latinos should be a priority population for alcohol risk-reduction interventions. There was some support for drinking as a coping behavior; however, drinking as a social behavior emerged as a second key dimension. Interventions that fail to account for drinking as a social behavior as well as a coping response are likely to have limited effectiveness. Further research is necessary to refine the conceptual model and better understand the relationships between social stressors, social contexts, and risky drinking among this population.

Subject: Behavioral psychology; GLBT Studies; Public health; Hispanic American studies

Classification: 0384: Behavioral psychology; 0492: GLBT Studies; 0573: Public health; 0737: Hispanic American studies

Identifier / keyword: Social sciences, Psychology, Health and environmental sciences, Drinking, Gay, Hispanic immigrants, Transgender, Alcohol use, Sexual and gender minority Latinos

Title: A mixed-methods investigation of alcohol use among immigrant sexual and gender minority Latinos in North Carolina

Number of pages: 205

Publication year: 2013

Degree date: 2013

School code: 0153

Source: DAI-B 75/01(E), Jul 2014

Place of publication: Ann Arbor

Country of publication: United States

ISBN: 9781303356353
Cocaine self-administration: Adaptations to the glutamatergic system and consequences for offspring emotional control

Author: White, Samantha Louise
Abstract: Cocaine abuse and relapse remain a major public health concern in the United States and worldwide for which there is currently no approved pharmacotherapeutic intervention. Rodent cocaine self-administration, extinction, and priming-induced reinstatement can be used to model human cocaine seeking. A growing body of evidence indicates that the transport and stabilization of calcium-permeable (CP) AMPA glutamate receptors to synapses in the accumbens, a process involving CaMKII, is associated with the reinstatement of cocaine seeking. Additional evidence indicates that the dorsal striatum contributes to aspects of cocaine addiction. Moreover, relapse to cocaine abuse has been connected to elevated levels of anxiety during withdrawal and anxiolytic agents decrease the latency for animals to self-administer cocaine. A growing body of evidence indicates that environmental information can be inherited. We have previously described a cocaine-resistance phenotype in the offspring of animals that have self-administered cocaine. The enhancement of cocaine's anxiogenic effects may contribute to reduced cocaine self-administration among male cocaine-sired rats. Here, a variety of behavioral, cellular, molecular, and electrophysiological techniques are used to examine how cocaine experience directly affects the glutamatergic system in the dorsal striatum and accumbens, as well as its indirect consequences for drug-naïve offspring. Acute exposure to cocaine in drug naïve rats increased CaMKII-mediated phosphorylation of GluA1-containing AMPA receptors in the DL striatum, an effect that was not observed during cocaine priming-induced reinstatement of drug seeking. The increased phosphorylation of CaMKII and GluA1 following acute cocaine may be a compensatory mechanism in the DL striatum. Accumbens shell CP-AMPAR receptor transmission, mediated through interactions of GluA1-containing AMPARs with accessory protein SAP97, is necessary for cocaine reinstatement. Consideration of GluA1 subunit accessory proteins as potential novel targets for pharmacotherapeutic interventions in cocaine craving and addiction is warranted. Male offspring of cocaine-experienced sires exhibit baseline anxiety-like behaviors that are unaltered by subsequent cocaine exposure and dysregulation of hippocampal cellular and molecular correlates of anxiety. This identifies impairments of male offspring emotional control due to sire cocaine exposure independent of the cocaine-resistance phenotype. Collectively, these findings advance our
knowledge of the direct and intergeneration effects of cocaine experience on the brain and behaviors.


Subject: Neurosciences

Classification: 0317: Neurosciences

Identifier / keyword: Biological sciences, Anxiety, Cocaine, Glutamate, Offspring, Reinstatement, Rodent

Title: Cocaine self-administration: Adaptations to the glutamatergic system and consequences for offspring emotional control

Number of pages: 169

Publication year: 2013

Degree date: 2013
School code: 0175

Source: DAI-B 75/01(E), Jul 2014

Place of publication: Ann Arbor

Country of publication: United States

ISBN: 9781303396977

Advisor: Pierce, R. Christopher, Jordan-Sciutto, Kelly L.

Committee member: Blendy, Julie A., Kalb, Robert G., Moron-Concepcion, Jose

University/institution: University of Pennsylvania

Department: Neuroscience

University location: United States -- Pennsylvania

Degree: Ph.D.

Source type: Dissertations & Theses

Language: English

Document type: Dissertation/Thesis

Dissertation/thesis number: 3594874

ProQuest document ID: 1443820782


Copyright: Copyright ProQuest, UMI Dissertations Publishing 2013
Emotional Intelligence and Adolescent Perpetration of Emotional and Physical Abuse: Examining Peer Violence and Alcohol Use as Moderators

Author: Howard, Janie J.

Abstract: A significant percentage of teens have experienced emotional and physical abuse in their intimate relationships (CDC, 2009). This is of particular concern because adolescence represents a vital period of development in which relationship and conflict resolution patterns can carry over into adulthood. Males and females seem equally likely to emotionally and physically abuse their partners (Foshee, 1996). In addition, adolescent alcohol use and engagement in violence with same sex peers are risk factors and may exacerbate the perpetration of emotional and physical abuse (Foshee, McNaughton Reyes, Ennett, Suchindran, Mathias, Karriker-Jaffe, Bauman, & Benefield, 2011; Foshee & Lutz McNaughton Reyes, 2009). Relationship violence models have found that adolescents who are at the greatest risk for dating violence appear to include intrapersonal factors such as difficulties with intimacy, sensitivity, dependency, and anger control problems, (Riggs & O'Leary, 1989; Wolfe, Wekerle, & Scott, 1997). Collectively, many of these intrapersonal factors have been conceptualized within the framework of Emotional Intelligence (EI), which has been studied in adolescents and adults within various contexts. Research with adults suggests that the lack of emotionally intelligent skills, such as misperception of emotions, lack of emotional awareness and assertiveness, poor problem solving skills, and impulse control, contributes to intimate partner violence (Swift, 2002; Winters, Clift, & Dutton, 2004). To date, however, the examination of emotional intelligence and the resolution of conflict within adolescent dating relationships has remained unexamined. The purpose of the current study was to extend the research on adolescent dating violence by
determining if there are relationships among emotional intelligence, alcohol use and engagement of peer violence, and the perpetration of emotional and physical abuse during conflict among adolescent dating partners. Using a correlational design, college aged participants age 18 through 20 completed an anonymous online retrospective survey. It was hypothesized that a high rate of dating violence perpetrated while attending high school would be negatively associated with emotional intelligence while controlling for gender. It was also hypothesized that alcohol abuse and physical conflict with their same sex peers will moderate the inverse relationship between past dating abuse and emotional intelligence by increasing the likelihood of perpetration. The results of the current study indicated that emotional intelligence had a negative relationship with physical violence, emotional/verbal abuse, and same sex peer violence. A subsequent analysis controlling for gender did not support the hypothesis that gender would not influence the relationship between EI and physical violence and EI and emotional/verbal abuse. Further, additional analyses revealed significant negative correlations between the main outcome variables (i.e., physical violence, emotional/verbal abuse, same-sex peer violence) and three factors of the Trait Emotional Intelligence Questionnaire, TEQI (i.e., emotionality, self-control and well-being). Alcohol use and same sex peer violence did not moderate the relationships among EI and physical violence and EI and emotional/verbal abuse. Strengths and limitations of the present study and directions for future research are discussed.

Links: [Online Resource]


Subject: Social research; Educational psychology

Classification: 0344: Social research; 0525: Educational psychology

Identifier / keyword: Social sciences, Education, Adolescent, Alcohol, Dating violence, Emotional intelligence, Peer violence

Title: Emotional Intelligence and Adolescent Perpetration of Emotional and Physical Abuse: Examining Peer Violence and Alcohol Use as Moderators

Number of pages: 106

Publication year: 2013

Degree date: 2013

School code: 0086

Source: DAI-B 75/01(E), Jul 2014

Place of publication: Ann Arbor

Country of publication: United States

ISBN: 9781303462634

Advisor: Froh, Jeff

Committee member: Shapiro, Terri, Tsytsarev, Sergei, Meller, Paul J., Camenzuli, Cheryl

University/institution: Hofstra University
Adolescent Substance Use Screening Instruments: A Review of the Literature

Author: Berry, Gregory

Abstract: Adolescence is a transitional stage where youth may become susceptible to threats of substance use, abuse, and even dependency. Moreover, substance use among adolescents continues to be a major
problem for the healthcare community at large. Because of the increasing prevalence of substance use among adolescents, drug use screening instruments are a viable means of early detection and should be used frequently. The earlier the substance use patterns are identified, the easier it becomes to prevent the progression to abuse and dependency. The best means to identify substance use among adolescents at an early stage is through substance use screening and assessment instruments. Unfortunately, practitioners may not screen for substance use as frequently as is clinically indicated. The research review analyzed the features and benefits of sixteen of the most commonly referenced adolescent substance use assessment and screening instruments noted in the literature. To provide further contrast, the screening instruments were matched to the requirements of most private practice settings, that is, the need for instruments that were reliable, valid, brief, and cost-effective. The review followed a thematic approach while funneling the concepts to build on the literature. Based on the findings, the ADI, CAGE, PESQ, PEI, and SASSI are five of the best adolescent screening instruments available based on the rating criterion selected. Of the remaining eleven instruments reviewed, nine were considered above average on the rating criteria. Two instruments received no score, one based on reliability and validity problems the other due to lack of available data. Recommendations also call for an increase in the frequency in administration of adolescent screening instruments for early detection of adolescent substance abuse.

Social Interaction Between Parents and Adolescents and Adolescent Predisposition to Substance Use

Author: Shivers, Candice

Abstract: Few studies have examined adolescent substance use, the relationship between parent and adolescent, and the family's communication patterns as they relate to adolescent substance use. This quantitative study examined the relationship between adolescent substance use and the communication from parent(s) or other care...
providers as it applied to adolescent substance use. Participants were those ages 12 to 17 who participated in the 2009 National Survey on Drug Use and Health. A non-experimental design was used to analyze data obtained from the 2009 survey. A chi-square test of independence was conducted to determine whether substance use prevention differed by the origin of substance use information (parents, peers, boyfriend/girlfriend, and teachers). Results of this test indicated that substance use prevention was highest among those who received information from their parents than it was from any other source. A simple linear regression was utilized to show the degree to which adolescents' association with substance-using peers explained the variance in adolescents' substance use. Results of this test showed that peer association with substance users increased the reported substance use (p = .001) among adolescents. These findings have implications for positive social change by alerting public health officials to the relevance of open communication and its effect on adolescent substance use to public. In doing so, officials may be better informed on the techniques to teach parents how to effectively communicate with their adolescents about substance use.


Subject: Behavioral psychology; Communication; Public health
The examination of mixing alcohol and energy drinks among college undergraduates using the theory of planned behavior

Author: Reddy, Supriya Gillella

Abstract: The purpose of this study was two fold. First, the study examined whether constructs from the Theory of Planned Behavior (TPB: Ajzen, 1985, 1991) play a role in predicting consumption of alcohol mixed with energy drinks (AmED) among college undergraduates. Second, the study also estimated the prevalence of AmED consumption and provided a better understanding of the theoretical and demographic variables associated with AmED consumption among a large sample of college undergraduates located at a public university in the Southeastern United States. The study used a cross-sectional study design (n=676) to administer a 39-item survey assessing alcohol use, energy drink (ED) use, and the consumption of mixing alcohol with energy drinks (AmED). As part
of this assessment, students responded to theoretical questions about AmED consumption in the last 30 days. Analyses exploring the univariate significance of theoretical and demographic predictors revealed that all of the TPB constructs were significant univariately. Additionally, the demographic predictors of class year and Panhellenic affiliation were also univariately significant (p < .05). However, when incorporated into a logistic regression model, the TPB constructs of behavioral intention and attitude were the only significant predictors (p < .05) of AmED consumption among undergraduate college students. Subjective norms and perceived behavioral control were no longer significant. Furthermore, logistic regression analyses also showed that the demographic variables of age, sex, place of residence, and Panhellenic affiliation also did not predict AmED consumption, while class year remained a significant predictor (p < .05) of AmED consumption. Lastly, a mediation analyses was conducted using logistic regression techniques. Results showed that behavioral intention is a complete mediator for the effect of subjective norms on AmED consumption and is also a partial mediator for the effect of attitudes on AmED consumption in the last 30 days. Despite the cross-sectional nature of this study, its primary strength was its application of theory to better understand AmED use among college undergraduates. Findings from this study have implications for future intervention development aimed at targeting preventive efforts among college populations.


Opioid analgesic prescribing and overdose mortality in North Carolina

Author: Dasgupta, Nabarun

Abstract: Mortality from drug overdose has risen since the 1990s. Composite International Classification of Disease (ICD-10) overdose definitions in state vital statistics surveillance may include deaths that do not involve controlled substances while missing deaths that do. We evaluated seven ICD-10-based definitions using North Carolina mortality
data from 2008 through 2011. Overdose deaths varied by definition, ranging from 734 to 1,202 per year. Up to 16.1% of deaths using the national definition showed no evidence of controlled substance involvement, however, additional deaths involving controlled substances were not identified. We propose a definition that includes deaths from substance use disorders, but removes deaths from pharmaceutical adverse events, resulting in 1,149 deaths per year from overdoses involving controlled substances. Strong associations have been observed between amount of opioids dispensed and overdose mortality. Yet, clinical trials consistently show safety of opioid analgesics at high doses. To explore this paradox we conducted a prospective cohort study among North Carolina residents in 2010 to quantify dose-dependent overdose risk in routine clinical practice. Dispensing data were matched to overdose deaths identified in medical examiner records. Incidence rates were estimated using regression models. Exposure of 1,133,957 person-years to opioid analgesics was observed, corresponding to 22.8% of residents. Incidence rates appeared to increase gradually at lower doses, but stayed elevated beyond 200 mg average daily milligrams of morphine equivalents. The dose-dependent effect was exacerbated by co-prescribed central nervous system (CNS) depressants; rates were ten times higher among opioid analgesic patients receiving benzodiazepines. Since 80% of patients were co-prescribed benzodiazepines, high dose opioid analgesic use during routine clinical practice was more risky than observed in trials that exclude patients receiving other CNS depressants. Exploring formulation impacts, incidence rates were ten times greater among those receiving combinations of extended-release (ER) and immediate-release (IR) opioid analgesics compared to those receiving only IR. At higher doses, for every 1,300 patients treated for a year with ER instead of IR, there would be one additional overdose death. As a society we urgently need to understand what level of prescribing would strike the correct balance between access to care concerns and inadequately trained physicians.

The role of viewer orientation and consumption level in smoking cue reactivity

Author: Flanagan, Cherisse Yungblut
Abstract: The fact that individuals with substance addiction are highly reactive to drug cues that they have paired with drug use is well established. Vulnerability to continued drug use or relapse is thought to occur when addicted individuals are exposed to those contextual cues. Exposure to those cues evokes a reactivity that forms a paradigm, cue reactivity, which has been widely used in scientific research to explore affective responses involved in addictive processes. However, an overview of recent work indicates that the reactivity evoked by drug stimuli may not be fixed, but rather appears to be modulated by a variety of contextual cues. The impact of contextual cues on craving in research and cue-exposure treatment remains without careful examination. The present work advanced a thesis that the systematic study of cue factors would permit a more thorough standardization of test stimuli and thereby increase consistency across laboratories examining cue reactivity in the substance abuse literature. Specifically, subjective affective and arousal responses to smoking cues were investigated in 54 nicotine dependent individuals. Data were gathered on reactivity evoked by 24 pictures depicting smoking stimuli modulated by two types of contextual information (consumption level and orientation) using the computerized Self-Assessment Manikin (SAM). Results suggested that first-person cues evoke more affective reactivity than third-person cues and provided new information on the pattern of reactivity based on orientation. Previous findings that beginning and end levels of cigarette consumption evoke a different pattern of reactivity in smokers were replicated. Further, results revealed an interaction between viewer orientation and consumption level such that smokers rated the first-person images of individuals beginning to smoke more pleasantly, and images of first-person terminal stimuli more aversively. These results underscore the importance of developing a universally available repository of addiction cues and suggest that addiction scientists need to be aware of these possible influences when choosing images in cue reactivity studies.

Perceptions of University and College Presidents Regarding Tobacco-Free Campus Policies
Abstract: The purpose of this study was to examine perceptions of college and university presidents with regard to tobacco-free campus policies. The specific aims of this investigation involved determining if presidents supported such policies, what barriers and benefits they perceived to implementing a tobacco-free campus policy, who presidents felt should have a role in establishing a policy, and what activities might help initiate a tobacco-free campus policy. A cross-sectional research design was utilized with randomly selected presidents from four-year higher education institutions. A total of 405 completed surveys were returned for a response rate of 51% (405/790). The majority of respondents were presidents or chancellors (78%). Additional characteristics included being white (88%), male (77%), a non-smoker (74%), and 61 years of age or younger (52%), with six or less years of experience at their current institution (54%). A majority (53%) of respondents indicated their institution was either in the Action or Maintenance stage with the Stages of Change theory. The most commonly selected tobacco prevention initiative presidents' were taking included appointing a campus wide task force addressing tobacco that was composed of administrators, faculty, staff and students (39%) followed by ensuring resources were budgeted to address tobacco related issues on campus (34%). The vast majority of presidents (90%) indicated they agreed or strongly agreed that advocacy by campus groups is necessary to establish a tobacco-free campus policy. Overall, the most commonly identified support barrier was "lack of a point person to champion the cause," with 37% of respondents selecting this as either a moderate or major barrier to implementing a tobacco-free campus policy at their institution. The most commonly identified institutional barrier selected was "enforcement issues" (68%). In examining benefits presidents' perceived if a policy was established on their campus, two items were most frequently selected: "minimizes secondhand smoke exposure" (81%) and "reduces prevalence of tobacco on campus" (81%). Differences emerged between institutions with a policy compared to those without an established policy. Specifically, presidents at institutions with a tobacco-free campus policy were over two times more likely to believe advocacy by campus groups was necessary to establish a policy (OR =
2.44; 95% CI 1.34 - 4.48), five times more likely to indicate less support barriers (OR = 5.25; 95% CI 3.32 - 8.32), and five times more likely to select less institutional barriers (OR = 4.80; 95% CI 2.97 - 7.77). Perceived benefits to establishing a policy did not differ by policy type. Presidents most commonly identified themselves (86%) as having a moderate or major role in establishing a tobacco-free campus policy followed by student affairs (77%) and study body (77%). When presidents were asked to determine how likely preselected activities may be in initiating a tobacco-free campus policy, the most commonly selected response dealt with creating drafts of potential policies for review (80%) and designating a committee for this task (79%). Results are encouraging for tobacco-free advocates pursuing policies on college campuses. Advocacy appears to be a necessary action in order to establish a policy and advocates would likely benefit from focusing on solutions to perceived barriers as opposed to educating on the benefits of such policies.

Subject: Education Policy; Public health; Health education

Classification: 0458: Education Policy; 0573: Public health; 0680: Health education

Alcohol use and American Indian/Alaska Native student academic performance among tribal colleges

Author: Cometsevah, Cecelia L.

Abstract: Student academic performance, persistence, and graduation among American Indian/Alaska Native students in higher education are very low compared to other racial groups. Studies have shown that American Indian students enter higher education with a lack of academic preparedness, financial challenges, lack of social skills development, and lack of role models needed to assist these students in completing their educational degrees. What remains unknown is whether or to what degree alcohol use by American Indian/Alaska Native students is a contributing factor in the low postsecondary success rates. The methodology involved a mixed methods approach among two tribal colleges. The findings concluded that there were no major differences between alcohol use and student academic performance and persistence and that there were no major differences between alcohol use and student graduation among two tribal colleges.
Subject: Community college education; Educational leadership; Native American studies

Classification: 0275: Community college education; 0449: Educational leadership; 0740: Native American studies

Identifier / keyword: Social sciences, Education, Tribal colleges, Indian, Native Alaskan, Native American, Academic performance, Alcohol

Title: Alcohol use and American Indian/Alaska Native student academic performance among tribal colleges

Number of pages: 197

Publication year: 2013

Degree date: 2013

School code: 0143
Adult children of drug abuse: Levels of psychopathology in comparison to adult children of alcoholics and controls

Author: Love Longman, Tiffany Rae


Abstract: Numerous researchers have observed that growing up with a parent who abuses alcohol has adverse effects that often continue into adulthood (Bush & Ballard, 1995; Hall & Webster, 2007a; Jacob & Windle, 2000; Plescia-Pikus, Long-Suter, & Wilson, 1988; Shroeder & Kelley, 2008). This population is referred to as Adult Children of Alcoholics (ACOA), and their adjustment is usually compared to Adult Children of Normal Parents (ACON). An area of research that has not been sufficiently studied is the effect of growing up with a parent who abuses illicit drugs. The purpose of this dissertation is to study this population, who will be called Adult Children of Drug Abuse (ACODA). Specifically, ACODAs were compared to ACOAs and ACONs on measures of psychopathology, life satisfaction and chaos during childhood. Eighty-eight participants completed the study, 11 of whom were ACODAs, 19 ACOAs and 56 ACONs. Parental substance abuse status was found to be a significant predictor of levels of psychopathology (i.e., Somatic Complaints, Anxiety, Schizophrenia, Borderline Features, etc.) on the Personality Assessment Inventory (PAI), with ACODAs and ACOAs having higher scores than ACONs. There were no statistically significant differences between the ACODA and ACOA groups on PAI subscales, but ACODAs had consistently higher mean scores. In regards to scores on the Satisfaction with Life Scale, no statistically significant results were observed; though not significant, ACODAs had the lowest life satisfaction, followed by ACOAs and ACONs. Parental substance abuse status was also a significant indicator of chaos present in the participants' childhood. The ACODAs had the highest Chaos Total scores, and the highest subscale scores on Financial, Neglect, Instability and Legal problems. ACOAs reported significantly more childhood abuse than the other groups.
The results also showed that levels of chaos present during childhood mediated the effects parental substance abuse status had on levels of psychopathology. Overall, this dissertation revealed differences between the ACOA and ACODA groups; specifically the ACODA group may be more negatively impacted due to higher levels of chaos present during childhood. Additional research on the ACODA population is needed to further explore the effects of parental drug abuse on adult children.


Subject: Clinical psychology

Classification: 0622: Clinical psychology

Identifier / keyword: Psychology, Adult children, Drug abuse, Environment, Personality assessment inventory, Psychopathology

Title: Adult children of drug abuse: Levels of psychopathology in comparison to adult children of alcoholics and controls

Number of pages: 109
Cardiovascular Diseases in Bangladesh and in the United States: The knowledge level of risk factors and association with smoking and obesity

Author: Khan, Rumana Jesmin


Abstract: Both in developed and developing countries cardiovascular diseases (CVD) are the leading cause of death among adult. The risk factor profile for CVD, specifically for coronary heart diseases (CHD) for the young and for the older people is not always similar. Risk factors may also vary in prevalence, distribution, strength, and pattern across the ethnic groups. We have addressed a few important aspects of these issues from the context of both the developed and developing world in this dissertation. Data from the National Health Interview Survey (NHIS) respondents from 1997-2004 (n=121,284) were linked to their death records through December, 2006 to assess the risk and burden of all heart disease (HD) and CHD mortality associated with smoking among younger adults (18-44 years) in chapter one. Cox proportional hazard ratios (HR) were estimated with necessary adjustment for sample weights and design effects. Smoking attributable fractions were calculated. After the adjustment for confounding factors, the risk of dying from all HD for both female current smokers and male current smokers were significantly higher than never smokers. This risk was almost similar when current smokers were compared to non current smokers. Like all HD, the risk of dying from CHD for both female current smokers and male current smokers were also significantly higher than non current smokers. The estimates showed that the risk was higher for CHD mortality than all HD mortality and it was also higher for female smokers than for male smokers. The mean estimate of all HD and CHD deaths in the United State
attributable to smoking during 1997-2006 for age group 18-44 years were 52,214 (15,381 female and 36,833 male) and 45,147 (11,609 female and 33,538 male) respectively. The aim of the second chapter was to examine the association of different measures of obesity (body mass index or BMI, waist circumference or WC, Waist to hip ratio or WHR and Waist height ratio or WHtR) with CHD in a Bangladeshi population. The study included 189 hospitalized CHD cases (133 men and 52 women) and 201 controls (137 men and 68 women). Logistic regression was done to assess the associations between obesity and CHD. The mean age was 53.1± 8.3 for men and 51.9 ± 8.4 for women. Both total obesity and abdominal adiposity were associated with development of CHD. After adjustment for confounders the odds ratio (OR) of CHD for men was 1.69 (95% CI, 1.24-2.32) per 1 standard deviation (SD) increase in BMI, 1.94 (95% CI 1.40-2.70) per 1 SD increase in WC, and 1.32 (95% CI, 1.01-2.16) per 1 SD increase in WHtR. The OR for women was 2.64 (CI, 1.61-4.34) per 1 SD increase in BMI, 1.82 (95% CI 1.12-2.95) per 1 SD increase in WC, 2.32 (95% CI, 1.36-3.96) per 1 SD increase in WHtR and 1.94 (95% CI, 1.23-3.07) per 1 SD increase in WHR. The third chapter examined the level of knowledge of modifiable risk factors of CHD in a Bangladeshi sample and determined the factors associated with a poor level of knowledge. Participants (n=410) were healthy adult family members of patients of the Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University, Dhaka. Knowledge of eight risk factors of CHD was assessed. Identifying five or less risk factors was regarded as having poor level of knowledge. Participants' mean age was 32.3 years. About 42% of them had a poor level of knowledge. Participants without education were almost three times (Adjusted OR or aOR: 2.8, 95%CI: 1.3 -7.2) and participants with primary education were four times more likely (aOR: 4.3, 95%CI: 2.1-8.7) to have poor knowledge compared to participants with college education. Lower income was also marginally associated with poor knowledge (aOR: 1.5, 95%CI: 0.9 -2.6). Though the age adjusted mortality from CHD has declined steadily in the last 50 years in U.S., for the younger age groups, the decrease in mortality rate in recent years has nearly ceased. Strong measures against smoking may prevent or postpone a substantial amount of premature deaths. Furthermore, we must consider the fact that there are variations in the risk factor profiles of CHD across population. Specifically, obesity related complex metabolic characteristics of South Asian people should be taken into account while devising any prevention program. We should always consider both total and abdominal obesity for screening of CHD. Since we found that people with low socioeconomic status had lower level of
knowledge about CHD risk factors, we also recommend to take the social and economic context of individuals into account for developing educational programs and preventive approaches.


Subject: Public health; Epidemiology

Classification: 0573: Public health; 0766: Epidemiology

Identifier / keyword: Health and environmental sciences, Bangladesh, Coronary heart disease, Obesity, Risk factors, Smoking

Title: Cardiovascular Diseases in Bangladesh and in the United States: The knowledge level of risk factors and association with smoking and obesity

Number of pages: 128

Publication year: 2013
An econometric analysis of cocaine use by methadone maintenance therapy patients

Author: Nichols, Ezekiel

Abstract: This dissertation uses proprietary drug screening data, illicit drug prices from the DEA STRIDE database, and national and local macroeconomic variables to measure the price responsiveness and treatment effectiveness of methadone maintenance therapy (MMT) on patients in a voluntary, methadone-treatment program in a rural Alabama county. This is done using conventional, myopic, and rational models of demand. The demand for illicit drugs is found to be sensitive to national drug prices as estimated from the Drug Enforcement Agency's System to Retrieve Drug Evidence (STRIDE), length of time in treatment, previous consumption, and the local unemployment rate. An important innovation in this paper is the use of temperature data from coca-plant-growing regions as an instrument for the cocaine prices taken from the DEA STRIDE database. Use of this instrument yields estimation results more in line with the predictions one obtains from economic theory. The estimation results imply that methadone maintenance therapy is a substitute for all illicit drugs under analysis. The implied price elasticity of cocaine use by MMT patients ranges from -0.0003 to -0.01284 and the unemployment elasticity of cocaine use is -0.00385.
Subject: Economics; Economic theory; Public health

Classification: 0501: Economics; 0505: Economics; 0511: Economic theory; 0573: Public health

Identifier / keyword: Social sciences, Health and environmental sciences, Rational, Addiction, Cocaine, Demand, Economics, Methadone

Title: An econometric analysis of cocaine use by methadone maintenance therapy patients

Number of pages: 99

Publication year: 2013

Degree date: 2013

School code: 0004

Source: DAI-A 75/01(E), Jul 2014

Place of publication: Ann Arbor

Country of publication: United States
ISBN: 9781303426476

Advisor: Cover, James

Committee member: Lee, Junsoo, Underwood, Shane, Elder, Harold, Riches, Daniel

University/institution: The University of Alabama

Department: Economics (Business)

University location: United States -- Alabama

Degree: Ph.D.

Source type: Dissertations & Theses

Language: English

Document type: Dissertation/Thesis

Dissertation/thesis number: 3596213

ProQuest document ID: 1448886387


Copyright: Copyright ProQuest, UMI Dissertations Publishing 2013

Database: ProQuest Dissertations & Theses Full Text

Document 16 of 41
Journeys of transformation: A narrative inquiry into the spiritual experiences of individuals in recovery from alcoholism and addiction

Author: Dallmann, Steven


Abstract: The purpose of this research was to study the role of spiritual experience in the recovery from alcoholism and drug addiction. The foundation for this investigation was the theoretical and factual history of the 12-step recovery model, with an emphasis on Jungian theory and the creation of Alcoholics Anonymous (AA). Utilizing narrative research, this qualitative inquiry delved into the stories of transformative spiritual experiences told by individuals currently in recovery. Eight individuals were asked to tell their stories about spiritual experiences that they believed had directly contributed to their recovery from alcoholism and addiction. From those stories nine themes were identified: journey; wholeness and fulfillment; body and breath; the present moment; community; spiritual practices; synchronicity and serendipity; love; and transformation. The themes were then discussed in context of the narrative content and the relevant literature. The findings (a) provide evidence that the modern day stories of some individuals in recovery reflect and support Jung's theory of alcoholism as a thirst for wholeness, as well as the experiences of the founders of AA and (b) offer specific insights about the role of personal spiritual experience in transformation and healing from addiction. Findings included the following: 1. Spiritual experiences are personal, highly varied, and often unique. 2. Similarities and continuity can be found between diverse spiritual experiences by way of thematic analysis. 3. Spiritual experiences occur in context, as part of a process. 4. Spiritual experiences can be viewed as resulting from a synergistic partnership between the individual and a higher power. 5. Transformation and healing that result from spiritual experience may not necessarily be restricted to recovery from alcoholism and addiction. 6. Spiritual experiences as expressed in this study and the 12-step community are examples of participatory spirituality. The findings point to possibilities for future study and provide valuable perspectives for clinicians, academicians, and others interested in the processes of recovery, growth and therapeutic change.
Journeys of transformation: A narrative inquiry into the spiritual experiences of individuals in recovery from alcoholism and addiction

Number of pages: 192

Publication year: 2013

Degree date: 2013

School code: 0392
The role of psychology in preventing opiate misuse in chronic pain treatment: An integrative literature review

Author: Travis, Bayla


Abstract: Chronic pain is a public health problem for which treatment is challenging (Watkins, Wollan, Melton, & Yawn, 2008). The comorbidity of mental health disorders and chronic pain has been well established (e.g., Dersh, Polatin, & Gatchel, 2002; Katon, Von Korff, Lin, & Lipscomb, 1990), as well as frequent patterns of opioid misuse in chronic pain patients (Manchikanti, 2007; Manchikanti, Singh, Pampati, Smith, & Hirsch, 2009). However, to date, the trimorbid dynamics of chronic pain, psychopathology and opiate misuse have been little examined in the professional literature. This integrative literature review considered the role of psychology in preventing opiate misuse in chronic pain treatment using an integrative literature review approach. Relevant literature identified in the databases of PsychINFO, MEDLINE and CINAHL (Cumulative Index to Nursing and Allied Health Literature), corresponding to the fields of psychology, medicine, and nursing, was systematically reviewed and analysed. This study synthesized four domains of literature in order to get a better understanding of the potential role of the psychologist in preventing opiate misuse in chronic pain patients. These domains were comprised of the comprehensive body of professional literature, to date, that has examined the trimorbid relationship between psychopathology, chronic pain, and opiate misuse; pseudo-addiction; the comorbidity of psychopathology and opiate misuse; and the cultural context in which these dynamics operate. Based on the strong support in the literature of a trimorbid relationship between chronic pain, psychopathology and opiate misuse, it was concluded that there is enough evidence to implement and track the effectiveness of early and aggressive psychological interventions. Recommendations for treatment include a fully integrated model of medical and psychological care, with ongoing collaboration to prevent, identify, and treat opiate misuse. It is recommended that future research involve an ongoing evaluation of this
model to gain greater understanding of the dynamics of the trimorbidity of chronic pain, psychopathology, and opiate misuse.


Subject: Clinical psychology

Classification: 0622: Clinical psychology

Identifier / keyword: Psychology, Opiate abuse, Chronic pain, Pain management

Title: The role of psychology in preventing opiate misuse in chronic pain treatment: An integrative literature review

Number of pages: 271

Publication year: 2013

Degree date: 2013

School code: 0392
A Team-Based Behavioral Economics Experiment on Smoking Cessation

Author: White, Justin S.


Abstract: Tobacco use is a leading cause of death worldwide, yet smoking cessation services are not widely available in many low-resource settings. Popular approaches also fail to help smokers to maintain self-control and motivation. The degree to which peer pressure promotes self-control in team-based health interventions remains largely untested. Moreover, peer pressure and cash incentives have rarely been mobilized in tandem. To this end, we conducted a randomized controlled trial in 42 villages in Thailand to test a novel intervention that combines commitment contracts for smoking cessation with team incentives that activate peer pressure. We randomly assigned 201 participants, 11% of all smokers in the study area, to a control group that received smoking cessation counseling or a treatment group that received counseling plus a commitment contract, team incentives, and text message reminders for smoking cessation. We find that, relative to the control group, the intervention increased biochemically verified smoking abstinence by 25% points at six months (three months post-intervention). Moreover, the intervention cost about $300 per marginal quitter, less than half that of common smoking cessation aids in Thailand. We find evidence that exogenously selected teammates had a large causal effect on each other's outcomes. The team effects are heterogeneous with respect to participants' ex ante quit predictions: the success of less confident smokers increases with a teammate's degree of self-confidence whereas the success of more confident smokers does not change. Further analyses indicate that heterogeneous teams result in higher aggregate quitting than do homogeneous teams. Our team commitment intervention may offer a viable cost-effective alternative to smoking cessation approaches in low-resource settings.

Subject: Behavioral psychology; Economics; Health sciences

Classification: 0384: Behavioral psychology; 0501: Economics; 0566: Health sciences

Identifier / keyword: Social sciences, Psychology, Health and environmental sciences, Team-based behavior, Smoking cessation, Tobacco, Self-control, Peer pressure

Title: A Team-Based Behavioral Economics Experiment on Smoking Cessation

Number of pages: 192

Publication year: 2013

Degree date: 2013

School code: 0028

Source: DAI-B 75/01(E), Jul 2014
The relationship of temporal discounting and working alliance to substance abuse treatment process in Hispanic adolescents

Author: Weidel, James John

Abstract: The association between impulsivity and substance abuse has important implications in the clinical substance abuse treatment field. Adolescents who are characteristically more impulsive by nature of their developmental may be more at risk for treatment failure. The inclination by which individuals devalue future rewards in favor of more immediate rewards with lower monetary values is a type of impulsivity that has received much attention in the substance abuse research field. Identified as temporal discounting (TD) or delay discounting, this phenomenon is not only a factor that influences substance abuse, but also may be a factor that leads to failure in substance abuse treatment. Another important factor that has been shown to influence treatment outcome is the therapeutic relationship between a provider and a client. The purpose of this study was to examine the relationship between TD, working alliance and treatment experiences among substance-abusing adolescents enrolled in outpatient drug abuse treatment. For this study, a descriptive within-subjects repeated measures design was used. Data was collected from a convenience sample of Hispanic adolescents 14-17 years of age meeting DSM-IV-TR criteria for substance abuse or dependence. Participants were recruited from a larger 60 month National Institute on Drug Abuse funded parent study that examined Culturally Informed and Flexible Family-based Treatment of Adolescents and Traditional Family Therapy among adolescents. Variables included participant age, working alliance, whether participants attended weekly therapy sessions for at least the first 5 weeks (retention), number of sessions in which subjects participated in therapy 8 weeks after enrollment (dosage), and the change in TD from the time of enrollment and (T1) to approximately 5 weeks after enrollment T2). Working alliance was measured at 5 weeks after initiation of therapy. It was hypothesized that TD would be inversely related to age, inversely related to working alliance, inversely related to treatment retention after 5 weeks of therapy, inversely related to the number of
therapy session in the first 8 weeks of therapy, and that TD would
decrease after 5 weeks of therapy. Statistical analysis including linear and
logistic regressions as well as analysis of variance was used. No
significant relationships were found between TD and the independent
variables of age, treatment retention, dosage, the change is TD from T1 to
T2, and working alliance. Although statistically significant findings were not
achieved in this study, the research has clinical relevance. Analyzing
treatment methodologies and differences in alliance and retention among
a Hispanic adolescent population provides data that has not heretofore
been reviewed. Impulsivity is linked to risk behaviors. Further research is
needed to identify how treatment methodologies may be refined to
address temporal discounting and impulsivity among Hispanic adolescents
thereby improving treatment retention and decreasing the substance
abuse to improve long term outcomes among this vulnerable population.

Links: http://RT4RF9QN2Y.search.serialssolutions.com/?ctx_ver=Z39.88-
2004&ctx_enc=info:ofi/enc:UTF-
8&rfr_id=info:sid/ProQuest+Dissertations+%26+Theses+Full+Text&rft_val
&rft.jtitle=&rft.atitle=&rft.au=Weidel%2C+James+John&rft.aufirst=James&rft.aulast=Weidel&rft.first=James&rft.date=2013-01-
01&rft.volume=&rft.issue=&rft.spage=&rft.isbn=9781303385810&rft.btitle=
&rft.title=The+relationship+of+temporal+discounting+and+working+alliance+to+substance+abuse+treatment+process+in+Hispanic+adolescents&rft.issn=

http://RT4RF9QN2Y.search.serialssolutions.com/?ctx_ver=Z39.88-
2004&ctx_enc=info:ofi/enc:UTF-
8&rfr_id=info:sid/ProQuest+Dissertations+%26+Theses+Full+Text&rft_val
&rft.jtitle=&rft.atitle=&rft.au=Weidel%2C+James+John&rft.aufirst=James&rft.aulast=Weidel&rft.first=James&rft.date=2013-01-
01&rft.volume=&rft.issue=&rft.spage=&rft.isbn=9781303385810&rft.btitle=
&rft.title=The+relationship+of+temporal+discounting+and+working+alliance+to+substance+abuse+treatment+process+in+Hispanic+adolescents&rft.issn=

Subject: Nursing; Psychology; Hispanic American studies
Classification: 0569: Nursing; 0621: Psychology; 0737: Hispanic American studies

Identifier / keyword: Social sciences, Psychology, Health and environmental sciences, Adolescents, Hispanic, Substance abuse, Temporal discounting, Treatment, Working alliance

Title: The relationship of temporal discounting and working alliance to substance abuse treatment process in Hispanic adolescents

Number of pages: 132
Publication year: 2013
Degree date: 2013
School code: 0125
Source: DAI-B 75/01(E), Jul 2014
Place of publication: Ann Arbor
Country of publication: United States
ISBN: 9781303385810
Advisor: Santisteban, Daniel A.
Committee member: McCabe, Brian E., Gonzalez-Guarda, Rosa M., York, Janet
University/institution: University of Miami
Department: Nursing
University location: United States -- Florida
Degree: Ph.D.
Source type: Dissertations & Theses
fMRI Correlates of Risky Decision-Making in Adolescent Alcohol Users: The Role of Abstinence

Author: Bazinet, Alissa Dyan

Abstract: A neurobiological model of risk-taking suggests that differential timing in the maturation of the brain networks associated with emotional processing and cognitive control may predispose adolescents to risky behavior, including alcohol and other substance use. Heavy alcohol use during adolescence has been shown to alter normative brain functioning, though it remains unknown whether alterations normalize with sustained abstinence or persist after cessation of use. The present study utilized fMRI to examine the effects of heavy alcohol use and short-term abstinence on adolescent neural functioning during a risky decision-making task. Heavy drinking adolescents and non-users completed three
neuroimaging assessments, spaced two weeks apart (baseline, +2weeks, +4weeks). Adolescents abstained from alcohol and other substances for the duration of the study, confirmed through regular urinalysis screenings. During scanning, participants completed a modified Balloon Analog Risk Task (BART) to inflate balloons by entering a fixed number of "pumps". Adolescents earned 1 cent/pump unless the balloon popped according to a predetermined value; a higher pump number represented a riskier choice. Relevant neuroanatomical regions of interest were identified for each phase of decision-making (assessment, anticipation, and evaluation of outcome) and between-group differences in blood oxygenated level dependent (BOLD) response were assessed at baseline. In addition, longitudinal analyses examined the main effects and interaction of Group and Time on BOLD response across the five-week period of abstinence.

At baseline, heavy drinkers showed less BOLD response in the right insula during anticipation and more BOLD response in the ventromedial prefrontal cortex during evaluation of negative outcomes, compared to non-users. These differences were no longer evident at either follow-up time point. However, significant main effects of Group and interaction effects (Group X Time) were observed in other regions. Averaged across time, heavy drinkers showed reduced BOLD response in the dorsolateral prefrontal cortex (DLPFC) during the assessment phase and the left insula during anticipation, and greater BOLD response in the left VMPFC during anticipation, compared to non-users. For non-users, BOLD response in the right anterior cingulate increased across time during the assessment phase, while for heavy drinkers, BOLD response increased across time in the right VMPFC/anterior cingulate during anticipation. Overall, these findings highlight differential neural functioning during risky decision-making in heavy drinking adolescents and non-users. While group differences in BOLD response observed at baseline were no longer apparent after two weeks of abstinence, other differences persisted across a five-week period of sustained abstinence. This pattern of results suggests that alterations in neural functioning commonly observed in adolescent alcohol users may result from a combination of acute changes related to use as well as pre-existing vulnerabilities. Conversely, some brain functioning abnormalities may reverse after longer periods of abstinence.

Subject: Neurosciences; Behavioral psychology; Clinical psychology

Classification: 0317: Neurosciences; 0384: Behavioral psychology; 0622: Clinical psychology

Identifier / keyword: Biological sciences, Psychology, Abstinence, Adolescence, Alcohol use, Decision-making, Fmri, Risk taking

Title: fMRI Correlates of Risky Decision-Making in Adolescent Alcohol Users: The Role of Abstinence

Number of pages: 119

Publication year: 2013

Degree date: 2013

School code: 0033

Source: DAI-B 75/01(E), Jul 2014
Acetyl radical in tobacco smoke: Detection, quantification and simulation

Author: Hu, Na

Abstract: Free radicals are present in cigarette smoke and can have a negative effect on human health by attacking lipids, nucleic acids, proteins and other biologically important species. However, because of the complexity of the tobacco smoke system and the dynamic nature of radicals, little is known about the identity of the radicals, and debate continues on the mechanisms by which those radicals are produced. In this study, acetyl radicals were trapped from the gas phase using 3-amino-2, 2, 5, 5-tetramethyl-proxyl (3AP) on solid support to form stable 3AP adducts for later analysis by high performance liquid chromatography (HPLC), mass spectrometry/tandem mass spectrometry (MS-MS/MS) and liquid chromatography-mass spectrometry (LC-MS). Simulations of acetyl radical generation were performed using Matlab and the Master Chemical Mechanism (MCM) programs. A range of 10-150 nmol/cigarette of acetyl radical was measured from gas phase tobacco smoke of both commercial and research cigarettes under several different smoking conditions. More radicals were detected from the puff smoking method compared to continuous flow sampling. Approximately twice as many acetyl radicals were trapped when a GF/F particle filter was placed before the trapping zone. Computational simulations show that NO/NO2 reacts with isoprene, initiating chain reactions to produce a hydroxyl radical, which abstracts hydrogen from acetaldehyde to generate acetyl radical. With initial concentrations of NO, acetaldehyde, and isoprene in a real-world cigarette smoke scenario, these mechanisms can account for the full amount of acetyl radical detected experimentally. This study contributes to the overall understanding of the free radical generation in gas phase cigarette smoke.
An Exploration of Alcohol Use in Karen Refugee Communities in the Context of Conflict-Related Displacement
Abstract: Refugees who are displaced due to political conflict often experience a range of traumatic events throughout displacement and resettlement including exposure to events such as imprisonment or gender-based violence, protracted periods of time in refugee camps or resettlement related stress. Refugees who are displaced across borders bring cultural beliefs and values with them, although often the structures that support culture such as family and community are disrupted due to displacement. All of these factors can influence patterns of alcohol consumption and the consequences of alcohol use. Traditionally, high levels of alcohol consumption in refugee communities have been explored using models of self-medication of trauma symptoms or acculturation (Ezard, 2011). There have been almost no studies conducted of refugee alcohol use that qualitatively explore refugees' perceptions and experiences of alcohol use from their own perspectives. This dissertation describes a qualitative that study drew from critical ethnographic and phenomenological methodologies to explore the experiences and perceptions of alcohol use in Karen refugee communities displaced by political conflict. I collected data through focus group and individual interviews (N=62) and participant-observation in two locations: refugee camps in Thailand and a resettlement community in St. Paul, Minnesota. Analyzing the data using domain analysis (Spradley, 1979), I found that both culture and displacement related traumatic experiences contributed to increased levels of problematic alcohol use and negative consequences of alcohol use after displacement. I also discovered that geographic location may have played an influencing role on patterns of alcohol use. Participants said that many cultural structures and patterns were disrupted during displacement and this disruption of culture led to increased problems related to alcohol. Finally, Karen participants described people with problematic alcohol use as people who had stopped thinking about community and family and had begun to think only of themselves, which is counter to traditional Karen ways of thinking communally. These findings contain knowledge that will contribute to the development of culturally relevant treatment programs that consider the cultural, historical and political factors that contribute to alcohol use in Karen refugee
communities as well as the ways in which communal cultural values impact both use of alcohol and quitting problematic alcohol use.


Subject: Social work; Public health

Classification: 0452: Social work; 0573: Public health

Identifier / keyword: Social sciences, Health and environmental sciences, Karen, Thailand, Minnesota, Alcohol, Conflict-related displacement, Qualitative, Refugees

Title: An Exploration of Alcohol Use in Karen Refugee Communities in the Context of Conflict-Related Displacement

Number of pages: 240

Publication year: 2013

Degree date: 2013
The Influence of Gender and Alcohol Use on Depressive Symptoms Among Men and Women

Author: Peters, Elizabeth A.


Abstract: This study investigated the extent to which gender influences self-reported prototypical and masculine-specific symptoms of depression in men and women and whether or not alcohol mediates this relationship. Secondly, this study evaluated the effectiveness of the Denver Comprehensive Depression Inventory (DCDI), in measuring prototypical and masculine-specific depressive symptoms in clinical and non-clinical samples of men and women. This paper summarizes the literature on gender differences in depression and the assessment of depression and gender, and outlines the current research on masculine-specific depression. It is argued that current assessment instruments identify prototypical symptoms of depression, as outlined in the DSM-IV-TR, but do not assess for masculine-specific symptoms of depression. Next, this paper outlines the methodology of the study, including participants, procedures, measures and data analyses, followed by the results and a discussion of the findings.

Subject: Counseling Psychology; Gender studies

Classification: 0603: Counseling Psychology; 0733: Gender studies

Identifier / keyword: Social sciences, Psychology, Alcohol, Depression, Gender, Masculine-specific, Men, Women

Title: The Influence of Gender and Alcohol Use on Depressive Symptoms Among Men and Women

Number of pages: 142

Publication year: 2013

Degree date: 2013

School code: 0061

Source: DAI-B 75/01(E), Jul 2014

Place of publication: Ann Arbor

Country of publication: United States

ISBN: 9781303463570

Advisor: Sherry, Patrick

Committee member: Green, Kathy, Gomez, Mary, Brisson, Daniel
Effect of a combination of gabapentin, flumazenil, and hydroxyzine on cravings and alcohol use in patients detoxed with carbamazepine

Author: Loscalzo, Emily
Abstract: Previous studies have examined the effect of a combination of gabapentin, flumazenil, and hydroxyzine, also known as the PROMETA protocol, on various behaviors in alcohol dependent individuals. A trend that these studies have shown is that individuals with high levels of alcohol withdrawal symptoms at baseline, as well as individuals with a prior history of alcohol withdrawal syndrome, showed a reduction in cravings and alcohol use after treatment with the PROMETA protocol. The purpose of this study is to examine the effect of the PROMETA protocol versus placebo on cravings and alcohol use specifically for patients with alcohol dependence who were first detoxed with carbamazepine. The results of the data analysis are meant to help determine whether the use of the PROMETA protocol after detoxification with carbamazepine is more effective at maintaining abstinence via a decrease in withdrawal symptoms, than detoxification with carbamazepine without the use of the PROMETA protocol following detox. A series of ANCOVAs were performed to determine if there was an effect of PROMETA versus placebo on alcohol use from baseline to the end of the study and the effect on cravings from baseline to end of study, immediately after detox to end of study. ANCOVAs were also performed to determine if there was a difference in effect between PROMETA and placebo groups in cravings during the midpoint of the study and the end of the study. Significant differences between active and placebo groups were found in the analysis of cravings at the midpoint of the study, when study participants were at the highest steady dose of gabapentin. This finding suggests a medication effect while participants are taking active medication, specifically indicating that participants experienced a decrease in cravings for alcohol while taking active medication. This result has implications for the benefits of the PROMETA protocol and for gabapentin as a maintenance medication. This pharmacological treatment may show promise in helping individuals to decrease their cravings for alcohol in order to maximize the benefits of psychosocial treatment.

Effect of a combination of gabapentin, flumazenil, and hydroxyzine on cravings and alcohol use in patients detoxed with carbamazepine

Subject: Clinical psychology

Classification: 0622: Clinical psychology

Identifier / keyword: Psychology, Alcohol dependence, Cravings, Flumazenil, Gabapentin, Hydroxyzine, Prometa

Title: Effect of a combination of gabapentin, flumazenil, and hydroxyzine on cravings and alcohol use in patients detoxed with carbamazepine

Number of pages: 96

Publication year: 2013

Degree date: 2013

School code: 1440

Source: DAI-B 75/01(E), Jul 2014

Place of publication: Ann Arbor

Country of publication: United States

ISBN: 9781303376726
Advisor: Ernst, William

Committee member: McCarthy, Kevin, Volpicelli, Joseph

University/institution: Chestnut Hill College

Department: Professional Psychology

University location: United States -- Pennsylvania

Degree: Psy.D.

Source type: Dissertations & Theses

Language: English

Document type: Dissertation/Thesis

Dissertation/thesis number: 3594071

ProQuest document ID: 1439437638

Document URL:

Copyright: Copyright ProQuest, UMI Dissertations Publishing 2013

Database: ProQuest Dissertations & Theses Full Text

Labor market outcomes of individuals in recovery from addiction to alcohol

Author: Aldridge, Arnie Paul
Abstract: The majority of the cost burden of Alcohol Use Disorders (AUDs) is due to alcohol's adverse impact on the labor market in the form of lost wages for those not employed and decreased productivity for those employed. In this study, I develop a model of employment, drinking, and treatment-seeking that is based on an economic model of individual behavior. The model is estimated using longitudinal data on individuals from COMBINE, a National Institute of Alcoholism and Alcohol Abuse and Drug Abuse (NIAAA) randomized control trial of two pharmacotherapies and a cognitive behavioral intervention for dependence. The first aim of this study is to estimate the causal effects of AUD outcomes on employment over a three-year period following the COMBINE trial. The second aim is to estimate the effects of employment outcomes on subsequent drinking. The third aim is to evaluate the role of ongoing therapy for AUDs. To this end, I develop a dynamic model that attempts to control for time varying and permanent individual heterogeneity and uses an identification strategy to reduce any bias from the endogenous relationships across these outcomes. Within this framework, I also evaluate several policy experiments related to the price of consumption goods and treatment as well as policies around treatment dosage. The results indicate that drinking behavior during treatment (in this case, the COMBINE trial) have large and lasting effects on subsequent drinking, though the effects stabilize over the long term. Full time employment over 90% of the period leads to a slight increase in problem drinking. A ten percent increase in gasoline prices leads to a 3.6 percentage points increase in the probability of abstinence (p=.003). A simulated experiment of doubling the prescription period for pharmacotherapy has an unequivocally positive effect on drinking outcomes. Here, abstinence increases by 4.6 percentage points (p 50% of the period (PDH) decreased by 2.6 pp (p=.005). These results improve our understanding of how trials for treatment of alcohol use disorders can be evaluated, particularly to understand how changes in alcohol consumption translate into employment outcomes and then used to inform policy decisions.

Subject: Mental health; Economics

Classification: 0347: Mental health; 0510: Economics

Identifier / keyword: Social sciences, Health and environmental sciences, Productivity, Addiction, Alcohol Use Disorders, Dependence, Employment, Labor market, Substance abuse

Title: Labor market outcomes of individuals in recovery from addiction to alcohol

Number of pages: 160

Publication year: 2013

Degree date: 2013

School code: 0153

Source: DAI-A 75/01(E), Jul 2014

Place of publication: Ann Arbor

Country of publication: United States
The alternative peer group: What can "winners" from this program teach us about recovery from adolescent substance use disorder?

Author: Nash, Angela


Abstract: Purpose Treatment for adolescents with substance use disorders (SUDs) can be successful, but first year relapse rates range from 60% to 85%. Environmental contexts greatly influence adolescents, yet few treatment models include the peers, a prominent influence on teen behavior. A novel approach to adolescent treatment is the Alternative Peer Group (APG), which integrates peers and fun into clinical practice to promote engagement in and support of recovery. The aims of this study were to identify how "successes" from one APG program perceive and describe the process of recovery; and to identify patterns and themes regarding elements that promote the recovery process for adolescents. Method A focused clinical ethnography was accomplished, involving prolonged immersion in the APG recovery community; in-depth interviews with recovering alumni; and focus groups. Data Analysis Data were analyzed using inductive thematic content analysis with comparison of findings across groups. Findings Participants describe recovery from adolescent SUD as a quest-like journey which entails a prolonged preparation phase; strategic relationships with recovering role models; and perceived paradox (a truth that seems contradictory e.g.: "surrender leads to control") Elements cited as key for promotion of the recovery process include unconditional love; belonging; fun; hope; time; structure; accountability; journey narratives; their higher power, the spiritual program of the Twelve Steps; and family support. Elements that delay or jeopardize the process include fear, premature removal from the program by parents, pain, and isolation or stigma. Conclusions Findings suggest engagement in sustained recovery from adolescent SUD requires much more time and investment in establishment of recovery assets than our current treatment system allows. The described formula for "success" in establishment of sustained adolescent recovery is consistent with Bronfenbrenner's Bio-ecological theory for human development. Further investigation of adolescent recovery oriented systems of care is recommended.
The impact of substance abuse in high risk, rural Virginia counties

Author: Woolridge, Charlette Tenise


Abstract: The purpose of this study was to examine the relationship between drug-related crimes in high-risk, rural Virginia counties (Brunswick County and Grayson County) and efforts to reduce them with a particular focus on a cost-benefit analysis of expenditures. Four independent variables were assessed in relation to drug-related crime: expenditures associated with (1) drug abuse prevention and (2) drug abuse treatment, (3) economic development, and (4) education. Drug abuse prevention and drug abuse treatment are traditional approaches to address the drug use and crime relationship, while economic development and education represent social determinants of health (economic and social factors that impact the health of people in communities). The literature suggests that strategies that build on traditional approaches to reduce substance use and addiction, while simultaneously addressing social determinants of health, are most effective at mitigating the drug use/crime relationship. The following demographic variables were also analyzed: unemployment rates, educational achievement, homeownership rates, median household income, and poverty rates. The theoretical framework used in this research was Paul Goldstein's tripartite framework for explaining the drug use/violent crime relationship (psychopharmacological violence, economic compulsive violence, and systemic violence). Exploratory, descriptive and explanatory research designs were employed for examining the relationship between drug-related crimes and amelioration efforts in the areas of drug abuse prevention/treatment, economic development, and education. The research used a variety of secondary data amassed by local, state and federal governments, including basic demographic information, homeownership rates, median household income, poverty rates, and unemployment statistics. For example, audit documents from both
Brunswick County and Grayson County, and the Virginia Tobacco and Indemnification and Community Revitalization Commission (VTICRC) were utilized to determine expenditures for the dependent and independent variables. The data collected from the secondary sources were reviewed and analyzed. The researcher found that drug abuse prevention was inversely correlated with drug-related crime expenditures and drug-related crimes for juveniles. In other words, drug abuse prevention expenditures predicted reductions in drug-related crime expenditures and drug-related crimes for juveniles. The researcher recommends that policymakers reprioritize limited funding to ensure maximum impact of reducing drug-related crimes and its consequences through drug abuse prevention policies and increased funding allocations.


Subject: Public policy

Classification: 0630: Public policy

Identifier / keyword: Social sciences, Substance abuse, High-risk, Rural drug abuse, Virginia
How mindfulness works: Identifying mediating variables in a mindfulness-based intervention on relapse in substance use disorders

Author: Steinman, Stephanie R.

Abstract: This study examined three variables rumination, cognitive/behavior (CB) flexibility, and self-compassion to determine if they mediate the relationship between mindfulness and relapse on substances. Seventy-one adults diagnosed with a substance use disorder participated in an 8-week Mindfulness-Based Relapse Prevention (MBRP) aftercare group. They completed a series of questionnaires regarding the three mediating variables before and at the conclusion of the group. They also completed weekly check-in questionnaires asking about what and how much (if any) substance use they engaged in during the week. Only eight participants used substances during the 8-week group and therefore analyses related to the mediating effect could not be completed. The MBRP group did increase mindfulness, CB flexibility, and self-compassion and decreased rumination. In addition, participants reported the problems cravings/urges caused in their lives decreased following participation in the MBRP group.
How mindfulness works: Identifying mediating variables in a mindfulness-based intervention on relapse in substance use disorders

Number of pages: 112

Publication year: 2013

Degree date: 2013

School code: 1503

Source: DAI-B 75/01(E), Jul 2014
The Sober Self: Discourse and identity of recovering alcoholics in the Western Highlands of Guatemala

Author: Pezzia, Carla

Abstract: In this dissertation, I focus on how political, economic, and cultural histories influence experiences of alcohol abuse and alcoholism recovery amongst indigenous community members in Panajachel, Guatemala. My research goals were twofold: 1) to document and understand the political, economic, and sociocultural processes that impact the prevalence of alcoholism, treatment options and experiences, and sobriety attempts among Panajachelense problem drinkers and 2) to use this information to contribute to ongoing efforts to expand and improve mental health outreach to problem drinkers in the area. I combine ethnographic and epidemiological methodologies within a critically engaged phenomenological framework to document the enduring influence of discriminatory discourses on the lived experience of alcohol addiction and recovery in a historically oppressed population, namely the Kaqchikel Maya. Utilizing ethnographic, epidemiological, and critical discourse analysis from data derived from fifteen months of fieldwork, I argue that national historical discourses that equated indigeneity with alcoholism continue to impact perceptions of alcoholic individuals at the local level. While both men and women are affected by alcoholism, national and local discourses typically focus on male drinking. Moreover, prevalence data I collected highlight how alcoholism disproportionately affects men in Panajachel. As such, the primary focus of this dissertation is centered on male alcoholic individuals in the process of recovery. I demonstrate how the phenomenological shift from an alcoholic identity to a sober self is influenced and constructed by historical political and contemporary social and economic processes amongst the Kaqchikel Maya in Panajachel. The difficult negotiation of sobriety arises from a state of disequilibrium between the external identity of "alcoholic" and the internal experience of the "sober self." The Sober Self is defined by a phenomenological shift in the natural attitude of the individual that radiates to those he is connected to within his lifeworld. Yet this transformation into
the Sober Self is riddled with political, economic, and social barriers that define the experience of alcoholism and impede the process of recovery. Discrimination toward alcoholic individuals poses significant barriers to recovery. Additionally, available treatment models in the region do not meet the needs of the typical alcoholic Panajachelense. The notion of the Sober Self expands upon emerging anthropological literature on self-transformation based in non-Americanized therapeutic processes for sobriety. This dissertation provides one of the first detailed portraits of the experience of alcoholism and recovery in indigenous communities within the Highlands of Guatemala. It builds upon previous anthropological work on alcoholism that limited discussion to the role of the church and Alcoholics Anonymous as primary mechanisms to achieve sobriety in the region. The work presented in this dissertation is meant to highlight the need for more comprehensive treatment programs in order to address the alcohol-related health, social, and economic issues found throughout the Western Highlands of Guatemala.


Subject: Cultural anthropology; Mental health; Public health
Classification: 0326: Cultural anthropology; 0347: Mental health; 0573: Public health

Identifier / keyword: Social sciences, Health and environmental sciences, Alcoholism, Panajachel, Guatemala, Kaqchikel Maya, Medical anthropology, Sobriety, Western Highlands, Panajachelense

Title: The Sober Self: Discourse and identity of recovering alcoholics in the Western Highlands of Guatemala

Number of pages: 247

Publication year: 2013

Degree date: 2013

School code: 1283

Source: DAI-A 75/01(E), Jul 2014

Place of publication: Ann Arbor

Country of publication: United States

ISBN: 9781303392368

Advisor: Fleuriet, K. Jill

Committee member: Cepek, Michael, Halvaksz, Jamon, Lanehart, Sonja, Wallace, James M.

University/institution: The University of Texas at San Antonio

Department: Anthropology

University location: United States -- Texas

Degree: Ph.D.

Source type: Dissertations & Theses
The effects of sleep problems and depression on alcohol-related negative consequences among college students

Author: Wattenmaker McGann, Amanda

Abstract: Previous literature provides an overview of the multiple relationships between alcohol use, protective behavioral strategies (PBS), alcohol-related negative consequences, depression, and sleep problems among college students, as well as differences by individual level characteristics, such as age, gender, and race/ethnicity. The purpose of this study was to examine the relationships between alcohol use measured by estimated Blood Alcohol Content (eBAC), PBS, depression, and sleep problems, as they explain the variance of alcohol-related negative consequences using the spring 2009 national aggregate data set of the American College Health Association National College Health
Assessment (ACHA-NCHA). This dataset was comprised of a random sample of undergraduate and graduate students from 117 U.S. colleges and universities (n=53,850). Reliability analyses, confirmatory factor analysis (CFA) and structural equation modeling (SEM) were used for model specification and evaluation. Model fit indices for the current study indicate that the model and the data in this study are a good fit, demonstrated by RMSEA = .044, 90% CI (.044, .044) and SRMR = .066. Findings suggest that an additive effect of eBAC, PBS, depression, sleep problems, and certain demographics explain 39% of the variance in alcohol-related negative consequences and greatly impact the amount of harm that college students may experience as a result of their alcohol use. Results from the current study may assist clinicians and health educators who want to improve the probability that they will be able help reduce negative consequences among college students when they drink alcohol. These staff may engage students in a conversation about risk reduction (e.g. one on one consults, campus-wide media campaign) and also provide support for conducting brief screenings about alcohol so that clinicians may be more effective in helping students to reduce alcohol-related negative consequences. The results from this study may also assist researchers in finding more relationships that account for some of the unexplained variance in this study. Interpreting these predictive relationships are important to the way that students are screened for alcohol problems on college campuses, as well as decisions that college students make about alcohol in the greater context of healthy lifestyle decisions. Future research could include repeating the analysis with each race/ethnicity separated out instead of as a dichotomous variable (white/non-white), conducting a similar analysis with each negative consequence instead of as a scale, developing a more complete sleep problems scale within the ACHA-NCHA with improved reliability, and a further investigation into the positive correlation between sleep problems and depression in order to explore other variables that mediate the relationship between depression and sleep problems among college students.

The relation between mindfulness and perceived self-efficacy towards coping with negative affect in recovering alcoholics
Abstract: Negative affect can be a highly potent trigger for relapse among those in recovery for alcoholism, whereas self-efficacy has been identified as an important factor for relapse prevention. Much research has attempted to identify factors and interventions that can enhance self-efficacy and improve the coping ability of those in recovery to manage negative affect. This study sought to determine whether dispositional mindfulness might be a useful tool in this regard, by investigating for a possible relationship between this variable and self-efficacy towards coping with negative affect. Additional variables (i.e., length of time abstinent, meditation frequency/duration, history of polysubstance abuse/dependence, and history of psychiatric co-morbidity) were also examined for possible relationships with these two constructs. Adult participants (N = 104) with a history of alcohol abuse/dependence were recruited via online support groups and websites that adhere to the principles of Alcoholics Anonymous (AA), to take an anonymous online survey consisting of: a demographic questionnaire, the Cognitive and Affective Mindfulness Scale-Revised (CAMS-R), and the Alcohol Abstinence Self-Efficacy Scale (AASE). Chi-square analyses, and independent samples t tests and one-way ANOVAs, were conducted to provide information regarding possible meaningful relationships between variables and differences between groups within variables. Results of this study lend some support for the assertion that those with higher levels of dispositional mindfulness may also have greater self-efficacy towards successfully managing negative affect. Findings also reveal some evidence for a positive relationship between length of time abstinent, and both mindfulness and self-efficacy. Caution should be taken, however, when drawing conclusions from these findings due to the disproportionate number of participants who reported doing extremely well in their recovery and having high confidence in their ability to abstain from alcohol use. Limitations of the study are discussed.
Subject: Clinical psychology

Classification: 0622: Clinical psychology

Identifier / keyword: Psychology, Addiction, Alcoholism, Mindfulness, Negative affect, Relapse prevention, Self-efficacy

Title: The relation between mindfulness and perceived self-efficacy towards coping with negative affect in recovering alcoholics

Number of pages: 191

Publication year: 2013

Degree date: 2013

School code: 6009

Source: DAI-B 75/01(E), Jul 2014

Place of publication: Ann Arbor
Country of publication: United States
ISBN: 9781303402814
Advisor: Rowe, Daryl
Committee member: Mitchell, Cary, Rush, Bruce
University/institution: Pepperdine University
Department: Psychology
University location: United States -- California
Degree: Psy.D.
Source type: Dissertations & Theses
Language: English
Document type: Dissertation/Thesis
Dissertation/thesis number: 3595199
ProQuest document ID: 1443847219
Document URL:
Copyright: Copyright ProQuest, UMI Dissertations Publishing 2013
Database: ProQuest Dissertations & Theses Full Text

An Assessment of Religion In the Substance Abuse Treatment Process
Abstract: The purpose of this qualitative case study was to examine the perceptions of substance abuse professionals regarding the role of religion in the substance abuse treatment process, and to identify perceived advantages and disadvantages of including religion in the substance abuse treatment process in a behavioral health center in a southern state. Perceptions of substance abuse professions were obtained from data collected from a twenty four item interview tool. Qualitative data was collected from audio taped interviews of ten substance abuse professionals employed for a behavioral health center in a southern state. The researcher categorized and analyzed all data compiled in the audio taped interviews by using content analysis. The transcripts were read and re-read to find emerging themes and to develop categories. The study concluded that there are both advantages and disadvantages relative to including construct of religion in the substance abuse treatment process, but advantages of religion in the process far outweigh the disadvantages. Additionally, findings showed that substance abuse professionals have both likes and dislikes of including religion in the substance abuse treatment process. The features of including religion in the substance abuse treatment process that substance abuse professionals like best primarily involved the nexus between religion and sobriety. The features concerning religion in the substance abuse treatment process that substance abuse professional like least include the idea that religion is very complex, controversial, and questionable as well as the many restrictions associated with religion that exist in the treatment process.
Subject: Religion; Counseling Psychology

Classification: 0318: Religion; 0603: Counseling Psychology

Identifier / keyword: Philosophy, religion and theology, Psychology, Substance abuse treatment, Religion, Behavioral health center

Title: An Assessment of Religion In the Substance Abuse Treatment Process

Number of pages: 161

Publication year: 2013

Degree date: 2013

School code: 1351

Source: DAI-A 75/01(E), Jul 2014

Place of publication: Ann Arbor

Country of publication: United States

ISBN: 9781303398704

Advisor: Walker, Charlie
Role models' influence on smoking reduction

Author: Lin, Phoebe S.
Abstract: Research on social influence has indicated that role models can motivate individuals to change their behaviors and strive for success in the domains of education, occupation, and health. Positive and negative role models have been shown as effective agents of social influence through different mechanisms. Although public health advocates argue that role models can influence smoking cessation, systematic research has yet to investigate the effects of social influence on quitting smoking. The present study investigated the effects of role model influence on smoking cessation. Participants read a story about one of four role models: positive health, negative health, positive social, and negative social role model. Participants then immediately reported willingness to reduce or cease smoking behaviors. These questions were repeated two weeks later. It was found that negative role models were more effective than positive role models in motivating individuals to stop smoking. The study shows important implications for future investigations examining social influence on health-relevant behaviors such that negative role models may be most effective at motivating young adults to reduce or refrain from negative health behaviors associated with detrimental outcomes.


Subject: Social psychology; Psychology
Effect of Cocaine Exposure on Estimates of Reward Value and Neurobiological Correlates

Author: Lucantonio, Federica

Abstract: Drug addiction is characterized by an inability to correctly adapt behavior in a changing environment. The orbitofrontal cortex (OFC) is implicated in such adaptive responding by signaling information about expected outcomes. Several studies have shown that this function may be disrupted by drug-induced neuroadaptations in OFC. A recent study has demonstrated that the OFC is also crucial for integrating information to imagine novel outcomes. This ability to signal an outcome never before received is fundamental for interpreting reality and make adaptive decisions in the present, but also for learning when those imagined outcomes are not received to improve decision-making in the future. Here, I explored whether cocaine exposure may alter this function. To address this question, I trained animals to self-administer cocaine, and then tested their performance in a Pavlovian over-expectation task. This task consists of three phases: conditioning, compound training, and extinction testing. In
conditioning, rats are trained that several cues predict reward. Subsequently, in compound training, two of the cues are presented together, still followed by the same reward. Typically, this results in increased responding to the compound cue. Subsequent test trials with the cues by themselves reveal a reduction in conditioned responding to the compounded cues. I found that prior cocaine self-administration impaired both the ability of imaging new likely outcomes and learning when those outcomes turned out to be incorrect. These data are consistent with a drug-induced disruption of OFC's role in outcome signaling but might also be explained in other ways. To test the hypothesis more directly, I recorded single unit activity in the OFC of cocaine-experienced rats. Consistent with the hypothesis, OFC signaling in cocaine-exposed animals did not reflect a real-time integration of the cue-evoked expectations for reward, necessary to generate novel estimates about future outcomes. These results are consistent with proposals that cocaine disrupts the normal ability of networks in OFC to signal estimates about future outcomes, normally used for both adjusting current behavior and driving learning. Such deficit results in inflexible behavior and impaired learning and it may account for the complex pattern of maladaptive behaviors associated with drug abuse.


Investigating similarities and differences as measured by the DUREL and GSQ between three subgroups attending a local AA meeting to develop a profile of long term attendees

Author: Kerns, Keesha Masean


Abstract: Alcoholics Anonymous groups are growing in popularity due to their cost effectiveness and history of dependability. Although the program clearly has the numbers to support its popularity, skeptics continually analyze its claims of effectiveness through research. While research pertaining to AA is diverse, very little is presented concerning factors that contribute to retention in the program. The primary purpose for this quantitative study was to investigate the similarities and differences in the various stages of participants of a sample attending a local AA program,
identify variables that contribute to retention in the AA sample, and to use Grounded Theory to develop a profile of long term attendees in the local AA program. This study analyzed the answers from an instrument that combined a demographics form used by the program Recovery for the Life, the Duke University Religion Index, and the Group Selection Questionnaire to determine the variables and characteristics of participants who attended and were retained in AA. Results indicated age and negative group demeanor were significant similarities for participants in the three groups of Newcomers, Chronic Relapsers, and Endurers and contributed to long term attendance in the local AA program. Results also indicated that age and negative group demeanor are inversely related to whether Newcomers and Chronic Relapsers have the potential to become Endurers. Discussion of the results and how they relate to the literature, implications for practitioners and recommendations for future research are also included.


Subject: Mental health; Behavioral psychology; Counseling Psychology
Title: Investigating similarities and differences as measured by the DUREL and GSQ between three subgroups attending a local AA meeting to develop a profile of long term attendees

Number of pages: 150

Publication year: 2013

Degree date: 2013

School code: 0418

Source: DAI-B 75/01(E), Jul 2014

Place of publication: Ann Arbor

Country of publication: United States

ISBN: 9781303512643

Advisor: Brown, Nina W.

Committee member: Williams, Mitchell, Schwitzer, Alan

University/institution: Old Dominion University

Department: Counseling and Supervision

University location: United States -- Virginia

Degree: Ph.D.

Source type: Dissertations & Theses
Alcohol, stress, and decision making

Author: Schwager, Andrea L.

Abstract: Alcoholism is enormously costly to both individuals and society, and alcoholics suffer from high rates of relapse. Both acute and chronic alcohol consumption contribute to impulsive choice, or the preference for immediate rewards, even when delayed rewards are more valuable. The research presented here is divided into two sections that address different aspects of the relationship between alcohol (ethanol) consumption and impulsivity. Although it has been established that acute ethanol administration causes impulsivity, the neural mechanisms underlying these effects have not been examined. Chapter 2 describes in vivo electrophysiology studies that investigated the effect of acute ethanol administration on neural encoding in the nucleus accumbens (NAcc) core
during decision making tasks. The NAcc mediates delay-based decision making and receives direct projects from the ventral tegmental area (VTA), which has widely been implicated in addiction. The data presented here show that increases in NAcc firing in response to reward-predictive cues encode the value of the anticipated reward, and ethanol impairs this encoding. Moreover, ethanol selectively suppresses operant (lever press)-related firing for delayed rewards. This suppression is accompanied by a selective increase in behavioral response latency when delayed rewards are anticipated. Both the loss of cue-evoked value encoding and the selective decrease in lever press-evoked firing suggest a neural mechanism by which ethanol-induced changes in NAcc encoding contribute to impulsivity. Acute stress contributes to relapse in humans and reinstatement in animal models, and one way in which this may occur is by causing organisms to become more impulsive, leading to a preference for immediate alcohol reward over the long-term benefits of abstinence. Chapter 3 describes behavioral pharmacology experiments that examined the effect of the pharmacological stressor yohimbine and three other noradrenergic receptor-specific manipulations (propranolol, guanfacine, and prazosin) on impulsive choice using a delay discounting task. Rather than affecting impulsivity per se, acute pharmacological stress promoted inflexible behavior at the expense of flexible, goal-directed behavior, while the other three manipulations had no effect on reward preference. Further studies are necessary to examine the extent to which these findings apply to alcohol-seeking behaviors.

The effects of perceived coercion and empowerment on motivational processes for adults ordered to attend substance abuse treatment: A mixed methods analysis

Author: Merrill, Tiffany Jo

Abstract: Substance abuse treatment agencies increasingly work with clients who are mandated to treatment by the criminal justice system. This trend has necessitated a better understanding of the impact of clients' subjective perceptions of coercion on motivation for treatment and recovery. The present study utilized a mixed methods approach to understand the impact of both perceived coercion and empowerment on
motivational processes for adults ordered by the criminal justice system to attend substance abuse treatment. Data were collected from 98 adults ordered to undergo assessment and treatment for substance abuse problems as the result of a drug-related offense. It was hypothesized that perceived coercion and empowerment would be negatively correlated. While these variables were negatively correlated, the value of the correlation was not significant. It was also hypothesized that perceived coercion and empowerment would predict motivational processes, including motivational readiness-to-change levels and whether or not motivation was internalized. Multiple and logistic regression analyses indicated that, as hypothesized, perceived coercion was a significant predictor of these processes: Higher perceived coercion predicted lower motivation levels and noninternalized motivation. Contrary to this hypothesis, however, empowerment was not a significant predictor of motivational processes. A grounded theory analysis of 11 participant interviews (from the original sample of 98 participants) resulted in the emergence of 6 themes that further developed the relationship among perceived coercion, empowerment, and motivation. The grounded theory model provided good validation of the statistical findings, suggesting that when participants spoke of feeling coerced into treatment, they spoke of a negative impact on motivation. However, the majority of interviewees, regardless of their feelings about the court order, had high expectations for treatment and anticipated addressing mental health issues and other "tools" of treatment. In further support of the statistical findings, interview participants also had a difficult time describing empowerment as impacting motivation. Instead, many participants suggested that as they worked toward recovery, which reflected a foundation of motivation, they often felt more empowered as a result.

Subject: Counseling Psychology; Psychology; Clinical psychology

Classification: 0603: Counseling Psychology; 0621: Psychology; 0622: Clinical psychology

Identifier / keyword: Psychology, Empowerment, Motivation, Substance abuse, Coercion

Title: The effects of perceived coercion and empowerment on motivational processes for adults ordered to attend substance abuse treatment: A mixed methods analysis

Number of pages: 204

Publication year: 2013

Degree date: 2013

School code: 0240

Source: DAI-B 75/01(E), Jul 2014

Place of publication: Ann Arbor

Country of publication: United States

ISBN: 9781303363238

Advisor: Morrow, Susan L.
Committee member: Burrow Sanchez, Jason, Butcher, Kirsten, Durrant, Lynne, Lundberg, Kelly J.

University/institution: The University of Utah

Department: Educational Psychology

University location: United States -- Utah

Degree: Ph.D.

Source type: Dissertations & Theses

Language: English

Document type: Dissertation/Thesis

Dissertation/thesis number: 3593474

ProQuest document ID: 1440392452


Copyright: Copyright ProQuest, UMI Dissertations Publishing 2013

Database: ProQuest Dissertations & Theses Full Text

Long-term Effects of Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders on Dentate Gyrus Synaptic Plasticity

Author: Helfer, Jennifer Lauren
Abstract: Developmental ethanol exposure causes both structural and functional changes in the brain that can result in cognitive and behavioral abnormalities. The hippocampal formation, an area of the brain strongly linked with learning and memory, is particularly vulnerable to the teratogenic effects of ethanol. Research in this thesis focused on uncovering the effects of developmental ethanol exposure on hippocampal function in adulthood, particularly synaptic plasticity (a putative neurobiological mechanism of learning and memory). The first experiment sought to determine the temporal vulnerability of hippocampal synaptic plasticity as a function of exposure to ethanol during a single trimester. Ethanol exposure during the 1st or 3rd trimester equivalent resulted in minor changes in synaptic plasticity in adult offspring. In contrast, ethanol exposure during the 2nd trimester equivalent resulted in a pronounced decrease in long-term potentiation (LTP), indicating that the timing of exposure determines the severity of the deficit. The second experiment was aimed at determining the effects of prenatal ethanol exposure (1st and 2nd trimester equivalent combined) on bidirectional synaptic plasticity. Prenatal ethanol exposure resulted in a profound reduction in LTP but did not affect long-term depression. These findings show that prenatal ethanol exposure creates an imbalance in bidirectional synaptic plasticity. The third experiment sought to determine if prenatal ethanol exposure alters the affect of acute ethanol exposure in adulthood on synaptic plasticity. Acute exposure to ethanol in adulthood attenuated LTP in control offspring. Conversely, the magnitude of LTP was not affected by acute ethanol application in prenatal ethanol offspring. These results suggest that prenatal ethanol exposure alters the physiological response to ethanol in adulthood. Together, the results from the experiments undertaken in this thesis demonstrate long-lasting alterations in synaptic plasticity as the result of developmental ethanol exposure. Furthermore, these results allude to a malfunction of neural circuits within the hippocampal formation, perhaps relating to the learning and memory deficits observed in individuals with fetal alcohol spectrum disorders.

Meth, Fear and Government: A Case Study of Political Pressure and Public Policy-Making in British Columbia

Author: Carter, Connie I.
Abstract: Between 2003 and 2007, concerns about the illegal drug crystal methamphetamine (meth) increased dramatically in British Columbia despite research data that indicated usage rates were low among the general youth and adult populations. This dissertation draws on the insights of social constructionist theories that challenge the assumption that social problems are the natural outcome of 'society's ills,' and explores the claims-making activities including public policy, that construct a 'social problem' like meth. This project draws on semi-structured interviews with members of citizen groups, policy-makers in the B.C. provincial government, representatives from health authorities and community-based services. It also includes textual analysis of key public policy and other documents. My analysis explores the narratives of illicit drug use that emerged from this data. The findings indicate that public policy officials and citizen groups held different perspectives about what kind of problem meth posed, as well as about the appropriate programs and policies government should use to respond to this drug. To problematize meth, citizen group members drew on long-standing emotionally driven claims informed by law enforcement and media, to shape meth as a uniquely addictive and dangerous agent with the potential to ensnare innocent victims from all walks of life. Public policy officials, on the other hand, insisted that governmental responses to meth must be similar to other prohibited substances, and should be evidence-based to avoid the influence of politics. These evidence-based responses, however, were shaped by values-based frameworks emerging from the marriage between neo-liberal ideas about governing and what Foucault calls 'governmentality'. The twin pressures of public outrage, and this marriage of ideologies, shaped a hybrid of governmental approaches to the meth 'problem' that illustrated the complex and contradictory forces at work inside state institutions and between state institutions and nongovernmental actors. Citizen groups pressured government using claims that bypassed scientific 'evidence' about drug use, in favour of frightening assertions about the need to protect children from the supposedly uniquely dangerous effects of this drug. These claims were used to gain support from politicians, resulting in new funding and program initiatives such as the Crystal Meth Secretariat that took as axiomatic a criminalized approach to drug use that excluded harm reduction measures. These claims depended upon and highlighted law
enforcement and media based claims about meth and illicit drug use. But in neither case did official government responses, or crystal meth groups scrutinize or challenge the health and social inequities that shape illicit drug use. Rather both governmental and citizen group responses focused on change at the individual level eschewing sociological insights about the social conditions that shape illicit drug use and its harms.


Subject: Public health; Political science; Public policy

Classification: 0573: Public health; 0615: Political science; 0630: Public policy

Identifier / keyword: Social sciences, Health and environmental sciences, British Columbia, Political pressure, Public policy, Methamphetamine

Title: Meth, Fear and Government: A Case Study of Political Pressure and Public Policy-Making in British Columbia

Number of pages: 257
Abstract: Why is it that only some people who use drugs actually become addicted? In fact, addiction depends on a complicated process involving a confluence of risk factors related to biology, cognition, behaviour, and personality. Notably, all addictive drugs act on a neural system for reinforcement learning called the midbrain dopamine system, which projects to and regulates the brain’s system for cognitive control, called frontal cortex and basal ganglia. Further, the development and expression of the dopamine system is determined in part by genetic factors that vary across individuals such that dopamine related genes are partly responsible for addiction-proneness. Taken together, these observations suggest that the cognitive and behavioral impairments associated with substance abuse result from the impact of disrupted dopamine signals on frontal brain areas involved in cognitive control: By acting on the abnormal reinforcement learning system of the genetically vulnerable, addictive drugs hijack the control system to reinforce maladaptive drug-taking behaviors. The goal of this research was to investigate this hypothesis by conducting a series of experiments that assayed the integrity of the dopamine system and its neural targets involved in cognitive control and decision making in young adults using a combination of electrophysiological, behavioral, and genetic assays together with surveys of substance use and personality. First, this research demonstrated that substance dependent individuals produce an abnormal Reward-positivity, an electrophysiological measure of a cortical mechanism for dopamine-dependent reward processing and cognitive control, and behaved abnormally on a decision making task that is diagnostic of dopamine dysfunction. Second, several dopamine-related neural pathways underlying individual differences in substance dependence were identified.
and modeled, providing a theoretical framework for bridging the gap between genes and behavior in drug addiction. Third, the neural mechanisms that underlie individual differences in decision making function and dysfunction were identified, revealing possible risk factors in the decision making system. In sum, these results illustrate how future interventions might be individually tailored for specific genetic, cognitive and personality profiles.


Subject: Neurosciences; Genetics; Public health; Cognitive psychology

Classification: 0317: Neurosciences; 0369: Genetics; 0573: Public health; 0633: Cognitive psychology

Identifier / keyword: Biological sciences, Psychology, Health and environmental sciences, Substance dependence, Addiction, Cognitive control, Genetics

Title: Genetics, Drugs, and Cognitive Control: Uncovering Individual Differences in Substance Dependence
Document 41 of 41

HIV, Sexually Transmitted Infection and Sexual Risk among Women who Use Methamphetamine

Author: Lorvick, Jennifer J.


Abstract: This dissertation examines the prevalence of HIV and sexually transmitted infections (STIs), sexual risk behavior and violent victimization in a community-based sample of women who use methamphetamine in San Francisco, CA (N=322). Methamphetamine use has grown rapidly in the United States since the mid-1990's. Nearly half of methamphetamine users are female, a proportion higher than for most other illicit drugs. Among gay and bisexual men, methamphetamine use has been linked to sexual risk behavior and increases in HIV and STI infection. To date, however, little research has been conducted about the sexual health and risk behaviors of heterosexual women who use methamphetamine. This work addresses the dearth of knowledge regarding sexual health (HIV, STIs) and sexual risk among heterosexual women who are active methamphetamine users, taking on three key issues. First, it assesses the prevalence of sexual risk behavior, HIV and STIs. Results point to high levels of risk behavior, but relatively low levels of HIV and STI infection. Second, this work examines the relationship between sex and methamphetamine use for women, using mixed methods (quantitative and qualitative). Findings suggest that women see the relationship between sex and methamphetamine in terms of pleasure rather than risk, and suggests that traditional risk behavior assessment approaches may not provide information sufficient to inform behavioral interventions. Third, this dissertation examines violence against methamphetamine-using women, and finds that suffering and violence go hand-in-hand, as women with the greatest subsistence difficulties also experienced the highest levels of non-intimate partner violence. This work regarding women who use
methamphetamine brings forward new knowledge about an understudied and vulnerable population, and contributes to a basis for developing effective public health responses to the needs of women who are active methamphetamine users.


Subject: Womens studies; Public health; Epidemiology

Classification: 0453: Womens studies; 0573: Public health; 0766: Epidemiology

Identifier / keyword: Social sciences, Health and environmental sciences, Gender-based violence, HIV infection, Methamphetamine use, Sexually transmitted infections, Women

Title: HIV, Sexually Transmitted Infection and Sexual Risk among Women who Use Methamphetamine

Number of pages: 69

Publication year: 2011
Degree date: 2011
School code: 0028
Source: DAI-B 75/01(E), Jul 2014
Place of publication: Ann Arbor
Country of publication: United States
ISBN: 9781303368639
Advisor: Morgan, Patricia
Committee member: Nuru-Jeter, Amani M., Constantine, Norman A., Thompson, Charis
University/institution: University of California, Berkeley
Department: Public Health
University location: United States -- California
Degree: Dr.P.H.
Source type: Dissertations & Theses
Language: English
Document type: Dissertation/Thesis
Dissertation/thesis number: 3593645
ProQuest document ID: 1441055846

Table of contents
1. Empowerment and effectiveness: A mixed methods study of coalition building within a statewide substance abuse prevention context

Document 1 of 1

Empowerment and effectiveness: A mixed methods study of coalition building within a statewide substance abuse prevention context

Author: Powell, Kristen Gilmore


Abstract: This study contributes to the literature by testing a conceptual model of the relationships between empowering organizational characteristics and individual empowerment and their impact on perceived effectiveness within coalitions implementing a substance abuse prevention framework. Excessive drinking among adolescents and young adults is a significant problem in the United States and contributes to a wide range of costly consequences, including motor vehicle crashes, suicide, interpersonal violence, and alcohol poisoning (SAMSHA, 2012). In addition to excessive drinking, an estimated 22.5 million Americans aged 12 or older, (8.7 percent), reported current use of illicit drugs in 2011, with marijuana use on the rise and the current most commonly used illicit drug (SAMHSA, 2012). The U.S. Department of Justice (2011a) estimated the economic cost of illicit drug use to society for 2007 was more than $193 billion. The present study adopted a mixed methods convergent parallel design, (Creswell & Plano Clark, 2011) which included analysis of secondary quantitative and qualitative data that were collected in 2011 for the evaluation of the adoption of the Strategic Prevention Framework (SPF) in New Jersey. Participants were drawn from a purposeful, non-random sample of staff and members within eleven New Jersey coalitions implementing the SPF (n = 138 survey participants; n = 20 interview participants). Using organizational and individual empowerment theories within the conceptual framework, the present study examined psychological empowerment and empowering organizational characteristics and their impacts on perceived effectiveness within
coalitions. This study included descriptive, path, and qualitative analyses. The path model showed a good fit to the data with the hypothesized pathways. Psychological empowerment and sense of community had direct, positive effects on perceived effectiveness. Direct effects of organizational characteristics on perceived effectiveness were found as well as indirect effects through their relationships to sense of community and psychological empowerment. Previous research on individual empowerment and organizational empowerment has not included the relationship to self-reported effectiveness. Practical implications include developing coalition training on the SPF with emphasis on organizational characteristics that foster members' empowerment, increase coalition effectiveness, and improve positive community impact.


Subject: Social work; Public health

Classification: 0452: Social work; 0573: Public health
Abstract: Developmental ethanol exposure causes both structural and functional changes in the brain that can result in cognitive and behavioral abnormalities. The hippocampal formation, an area of the brain strongly linked with learning and memory, is particularly vulnerable to the teratogenic effects of ethanol. Research in this thesis focused on uncovering the effects of developmental ethanol exposure on hippocampal function in adulthood, particularly synaptic plasticity (a putative neurobiological mechanism of learning and memory). The first experiment sought to determine the temporal vulnerability of hippocampal synaptic plasticity as a function of exposure to ethanol during a single trimester. Ethanol exposure during the 1st or 3rd trimester equivalent resulted in minor changes in synaptic plasticity in adult offspring. In contrast, ethanol exposure during the 2nd trimester equivalent resulted in a pronounced decrease in long-term potentiation (LTP), indicating that the timing of
exposure determines the severity of the deficit. The second experiment was aimed at determining the effects of prenatal ethanol exposure (1st and 2nd trimester equivalent combined) on bidirectional synaptic plasticity. Prenatal ethanol exposure resulted in a profound reduction in LTP but did not affect long-term depression. These findings show that prenatal ethanol exposure creates an imbalance in bidirectional synaptic plasticity. The third experiment sought to determine if prenatal ethanol exposure alters the effect of acute ethanol exposure in adulthood on synaptic plasticity. Acute exposure to ethanol in adulthood attenuated LTP in control offspring. Conversely, the magnitude of LTP was not affected by acute ethanol application in prenatal ethanol offspring. These results suggest that prenatal ethanol exposure alters the physiological response to ethanol in adulthood. Together, the results from the experiments undertaken in this thesis demonstrate long-lasting alterations in synaptic plasticity as the result of developmental ethanol exposure. Furthermore, these results allude to a malfunction of neural circuits within the hippocampal formation, perhaps relating to the learning and memory deficits observed in individuals with fetal alcohol spectrum disorders.


Title: Long-term Effects of Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders on Dentate Gyrus Synaptic Plasticity

Number of pages: 160

Publication year: 2012

Degree date: 2012

School code: 0244

Source: DAI-B 75/01(E), Jul 2014

Place of publication: Ann Arbor

Country of publication: United States

ISBN: 9780494947142

Advisor: Christie, Brian R.

University/institution: University of Victoria (Canada)

University location: Canada

Degree: Ph.D.

Source type: Dissertations & Theses

Language: English

Document type: Dissertation/Thesis