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The effects of prescription diet pills on the quality of life in adult women

Author: Panagakis, Peter


Abstract: An estimated 67% of the United States population is currently overweight and is at risk for numerous impairments. These impairments affect the quality of life of an individual. Appetite suppressants have been utilized as an effective means for reducing weight. However, it is unclear the impact appetite suppressants have on the perception of quality of life. Adult females (N = 30) who resided in Southern California and made the decision to seek medical weight loss services participated. Participant quality of life was measured at baseline by the Quality of Life Index (QLI), and was then measured again after six weeks following use of appetite suppressants. Results suggest that use of appetite suppressants was associated with improvement in overall quality of life t(29) = 11.48, p <.05).

Subject: Mental health; Clinical psychology; Physiological psychology

Classification: 0347: Mental health; 0622: Clinical psychology; 0989: Physiological psychology

Identifier / keyword: Psychology, Health and environmental sciences, Adult women, Prescription diet pills, Quality of life, Overweight, Appetite suppressants

Title: The effects of prescription diet pills on the quality of life in adult women

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Advisor: Jazayeri, Ali

Committee member: Harris, Mekel
Visualizing, thinking, and feeling through interactivity: Effects of interactivity on user engagement, attitudes, and beliefs toward anti-smoking messages

Author: Oh, Jeeyun
Abstract: This study attempts to reveal theoretical mechanisms by which interactivity features on an anti-smoking website influence individuals' attitudes and beliefs toward anti-smoking messages on the site. Interactivity is operationalized as modality interactivity (i.e., the degree to which users control the medium) and message interactivity (i.e., the degree to which the messages from the medium are contingent upon users' input). Three types of user engagement - imagery engagement (the ease with which participants can picture the effects of smoking in their mind), cognitive engagement (the degree to which participants engage in message elaboration), and emotional engagement (the degree of fear and arousal that participants feel while browsing the site) - are suggested as key mechanisms by which interactivity influences persuasion. A 3 (Message interactivity: High vs. Medium vs. Low) X 2 (Modality Interactivity: Slider vs. Control) fully factorial lab experiment was performed to test the persuasive effects of interactivity on the stimulus website (N = 167). Results showed that modality interactivity led to more positive interface assessment and greater cognitive absorption. These two outcomes, in turn, contributed to more favorable attitudes toward the website and even toward the anti-smoking messages. Modality interactivity also enhanced the feeling of presence and imagery engagement, which in turn, resulted in more favorable attitudes toward the anti-smoking messages and a perception of smoking as a less attractive behavior. As for emotional engagement, modality interactivity caused greater fear appeal, especially when there was no message interactivity on the website. The presence of modality interactivity tended to reduce the amount of message-related thoughts after browsing. In contrast, message interactivity enhanced message elaboration for participants, especially those with low involvement in the message topic. Theoretical and practical implications of these findings are discussed.

Advisor: Sundar, S. Shyam

Committee member: Schmierbach, Michael, Oliver, Mary Beth, Dillard, James P., Hardin, Marie

University/institution: The Pennsylvania State University

Department: Mass Communications

University location: United States -- Pennsylvania

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Document 3 of 26

Stop at the buzz: A single belief predicts alcohol consumption and alcohol-related harms among first-year college students.

Author: Croom, Katherine
Abstract: Underage drinking is a major public health concern, especially among first-year college students. In an attempt to ameliorate negative effects of underage drinking, some colleges and universities invite or mandate incoming first-year students to complete online alcohol prevention programs. A small but growing literature on the efficacy of commercial online alcohol prevention programs has produced mixed results. And although the content contained in many of these programs is based on existing theory (e.g. normative beliefs, protective behavioral strategies), very few studies have investigated these potential causal mechanisms to explain program-related observed or expected changes in drinking behavior. This study investigated both the effect of Alcohol-Wise®, an online alcohol prevention program, to modify the belief to stop drinking at the "buzz", and the relationship between this drinking-related belief and the alcohol consumption and experienced alcohol-related harms of first-year college students. At two college campuses, incoming students were randomly assigned to either a control or intervention group. Both study groups completed baseline surveys during the summer, with the intervention group also completing the Alcohol-Wise® program. Approximately 4-6 weeks into the fall semester, both study groups completed follow-up surveys. Baseline and follow-up surveys contained measures of basic demographics, beliefs related to drinking, alcohol consumption, high-risk drinking behaviors, and alcohol-related harms. Students in the Alcohol-Wise® intervention groups at both universities were significantly more likely than their control group counterparts to endorse the belief to stop at the "buzz" when drinking. The belief to stop at the "buzz" significantly predicted all self-report measures of alcohol consumption, high-risk drinking behaviors, and alcohol-related harms outcomes at both universities. The stop at the "buzz" belief was also examined as a potential mediator between the Alcohol-Wise® program and alcohol-related outcomes. Limitations and suggestions for future research are discussed.
Subject: Public health; Clinical psychology

Classification: 0573: Public health; 0622: Clinical psychology

Identifier / keyword: Psychology, Health and environmental sciences, Alcohol consumption, College students, Prevention programs, Underage drinking, Binge drinking, Alcohol abuse prevention

Title: Stop at the buzz: A single belief predicts alcohol consumption and alcohol-related harms among first-year college students.

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Place of publication: Ann Arbor
The Road to Recovery: A Neural Characterization of Cocaine Abstinence

Author: Bell, Ryan Patrick


Abstract: Cocaine addiction is a significant public health issue with an outsized effect on the individual and society at large. A principal reason for the immense social and personal costs associated with cocaine addiction is the difficulty in remaining abstinent. Utilizing diffusion tensor imaging (DTI) and functional magnetic resonance imaging (fMRI), current cocaine dependence has been associated with deficits in white matter integrity and atypical neural activation in multiple cognitive control regions. However, while the neurobiological and behavioral deficits associated with current cocaine dependence have been well-characterized, it is relatively unknown if these deficits persist after the cessation of cocaine use. To elucidate neurobiological functioning during cocaine abstinence, we conducted three experiments utilizing either DTI or fMRI methodology in cocaine dependent (CD) individuals at varying periods of abstinence. The results of these investigations show that as a group, abstinent CD individuals do not display the same neurobiological deficits as current users. We speculate that the absence of these deficits may be partly due to the intensive drug-treatment programs the participants were enrolled in. However, when we conducted subject-level examinations, we found that abstinent CD individuals displayed neurobiological functioning related to the duration of abstinence. We postulate then that continued abstinence may be responsible for an amelioration of neurobiological deficits or reflect preexisting differences that allow for extended abstinence. Additionally, we observed participant-level differences that were not a function of duration of abstinence leading us to speculate that recovery occurs at temporally different rates in some individuals. Overall, it appears that while a majority of recovering individuals do not display the neurobiological deficits associated with current cocaine users, there exists a subset of individuals that continue to display these deficits. We hypothesize that those individuals who continue to display neurobiological deficits will have the greatest risk of cocaine relapse.

The Dynamics of Alcohol Consumption in the Russian Federation: Implications of Using Price Related Policies to Control Alcohol Use

Author: Yashkin, Arseniy Pavlovich


Abstract: This dissertation models the dynamics of alcohol use in the Russian Federation with an emphasis on identifying policy implications most likely to be effective at controlling alcohol use. Utilizing data from The Russian Longitudinal Monitoring Survey, models of alcohol consumption are estimated using both myopic and rational specifications via ordinary least squares, fixed effects two stage least squares and, the focus of this study, two-step system generalized method of moments. Alcohol consumption is studied both as a composite good and as a distinct beverage category (wine, beer, and hard liquor). Furthermore, equations stratified by gender and rural status are included to better identify effects specific to relevant subgroups of the sample. Strong evidence of myopic addiction in both the overall sample and the stratified subgroups are identified. Even so, alcohol does seem to follow the law of demand within the myopic specification indicating that consumers will still react to changes in price. No evidence for rational addiction is found in either the complete sample or its subgroups. Results from the sample subgroups (male/female, urban/rural) were consistent with the overall pattern observed in the full sample, but differed in magnitude. This would suggest that, although alcohol consumption in individuals is affected by similar factors, regardless of gender or geography, the extent to which these individuals are affected differs. This reality would lend credence to "targeted" public health interventions for specific subgroups of individuals, rather than a one size fits all approach.

Risk Factors for Sexual Addiction Among Adult Children of Alcoholic Parents
Abstract: Adult children of alcoholic parents (ACOAs) who have been abused are said to be at risk for multiple addictions. Multiple forms of abuse are correlated to the onset of sexual addiction, which implies that ACOAs are at risk for sexual addiction. The problem is that there is a gap in the research because no study was found that examined the prevalence of sexual addiction among a sample of ACOAs. The purpose of this study was to identify risk factors for sexual addiction among a sample of ACOAs. The research questions focused on gender and abuse as potential risk factors for sexual addiction among ACOAs. The theoretical framework for this study included trauma theory and the disease model for sexual addiction. Two nonexperimental binary logistic regression and follow-up chi-square analyses were employed, using a homogenous purposive sample of 100 male and female ACOAs, by measuring sexual addiction using the Sexual Addiction Screening Test Revised. The results of this study indicated that the odds for sexual addiction among ACOAs who were sexually abused by problem-drinking parents were 6.3 (p = .006) times higher than ACOAs who were not abused and ACOAs who experienced emotional and physical abuse. More research is needed to examine why ACOAs who have been sexually abused are more at risk for sexual addiction. The implications for positive social change include increasing awareness for the need for prevention services for younger children of alcoholics so the disease of sexual addiction can be prevented. Preventing the disease of sexual addiction, in turn, could assist with preventing divorce, increasing job productivity, and decreasing the spread of sexually transmitted infections among ACOAs who have been sexually abused.
The Role of Tobacco Cessation Counseling in Physical Therapist Practice and Education

Author: Pignataro, Rose M.
Abstract: The goal of this research was to promote the use of evidence-based TCC guidelines in physical therapist practice and education by applying principles of knowledge translation as defined by the National Institute on Disability and Rehabilitation Research (NIDRR). According to the NIDDR, research should be framed so that knowledge gained is ultimately applied in a manner geared towards improving the lives of people with disabilities. Study 1 resulted in a perspectives paper which established a sound clinical rationale for the inclusion of TCC as a component of physical therapist practice. This rationale is based on the pathophysiologic effects of smoking on all systems of the body, and the potential for smoking cessation to enhance treatment outcomes in all areas described by the Guide to Physical Therapist Practice, including cardiovascular, pulmonary, neuromuscular, musculoskeletal, and integumentary health. The paper derived from study 1 also provided a template for implementation of the AHRQ clinical guidelines for TCC within the context of physical therapist patient assessment and management. Study 2 consisted of an assessment of the existing need for TCC training in entry-level physical therapist education, and examined the prevalence and scope of TCC training, as well as the opinions of physical therapy educators towards the inclusion of TCC in the academic and clinical environment. Methodology for Study 2 involved a cross-sectional survey of faculty at accredited entry-level physical therapist programs across the United States. Data were analyzed using frequency counts and percentages. Logistic regression was employed to assess factors that influence curricular inclusion of TCC training in entry-level physical therapist education, such as perceived barriers and facilitators to TCC in the clinical environment, and the perceived relevance of TCC within the physical therapist’s scope of practice and professional obligations. Study 3 involved pilot testing of a curricular blueprint for TCC training as a component of entry-level physical therapist education. Results of Study 3 demonstrated the feasibility and impact of TCC training for student physical therapists in producing positive changes in knowledge, skill, and intention to apply evidence-based TCC guidelines when working with physical therapy clientele. Results: Due to higher prevalence of smoking among people with disabilities, and the negative influence of tobacco use on physical therapy treatment outcomes, TCC is an important element in physical therapist practice. Barriers to the implementation of TCC clinical
guidelines in the clinical environment include limited training for entry-level physical therapists. A tailored TCC training program for student physical therapists was successful in improving knowledge, skill, and intention to apply AHRQ/USDHHS evidence-based TCC guidelines during subsequent clinical practice. Conclusions: There is a need for dissemination and adoption of evidence-based TCC guidelines in physical therapist practice and education. Study 1 resulted in a perspectives paper that described the scientific rationale for TCC as a component of physical therapist practice based on the detrimental impact of tobacco use on all aspects of rehabilitative care. Study 2 provided data highlighting the existing need for evidence-based TCC training in entry-level physical therapist education. Study 3 consisted of a pilot training program. Results of Study 3 supported the efficacy of a tailored curricular blueprint specifically designed to enhance the knowledge, skills, and intentions of student physical therapists towards the application of TCC guidelines as a component of future practice. (Abstract shortened by UMI.)


Subject: Physical therapy; Public health

Classification: 0382: Physical therapy; 0573: Public health
Abstract: Prescription drug abuse has reached epidemic proportions and trends indicate that the number of adolescents who abuse these drugs will continue to increase. Every adolescent appear to be at risk and this epidemic does not appear to be defined by known risk profiles for substance abuse. Nearly one in every five 12th grade students used prescription drugs for non-medical reasons at least once in lifetime according to the Monitoring the Future study. This is a significant public health problem as prescription drug abuse in the adolescence can continue into the adult life and puts adolescents at risk of substance abuse and other comorbidities. The purpose of this study was to identify individual, family, school and community level factors responsible for the initiation and maintenance of prescription drug abuse behaviors in Illinois 12th grade students. A cross-sectional study design was used with the secondary data on the 12th graders' prescription drug use from the 2010 Illinois Youth Survey. Multilevel logistic regression was performed to account for the multistage sampling and hierarchical structure of the data, using software such as HLM, STATA, and SPSS. Abuse of any prescription drug and of subclasses such as uppers, downers, steroids and other drugs were the dependent variables. Individual level variables
such as age, gender, race, socioeconomic status, having clear college/future plans, other substance/over the counter (OTC) drug abuse, depression, gambling, family rules about alcohol and drug use, perceived peer drug use; school level variables such as the percent of White students, students in the low socioeconomic status category, students reporting bullying, students reporting unsafe at school; and school district level variables such as community norms towards substance abuse, community activities, safety, location and availability of alcohol, tobacco and other drugs (ATOD) were examined for their influence on prescription drug abuse in Illinois 12th graders. Results indicate that Illinois 12th graders (11.4%) had a lower prevalence than the US prevalence (15.4%) in the year 2009. After adjusting for all the other variables in the multilevel logistic regression model, Illinois 12th graders with past year ATOD use (Odds ratio (OR): 6.095, 95% CI: 2.708,13.717), past year OTC drug use (OR: 6.081, 95% CI: 3.952,9.358), past year depression (OR: 2.381, 95% CI: 1.475, 3.844), and past year gambling (OR: 1.684, 95% CI: 1.069, 2.655) were found to have significantly higher odds of prescription drug abuse in 12th graders. Other individual level variables and all school/school district level variables were found to be not significantly associated with prescription drug abuse in 12th graders. Prescription drug abuse in Illinois 12th graders was significantly different from prevalence in US 12th graders and was found to be significantly associated with gender, past year ATOD use, OTC use, gambling, depression, and perceived peer drug use. Most of the variation in prescription drug abuse appears to be within the schools and school districts and only a little variation exists between schools / school districts. Despite some limitations, this study is significant as there aren’t many studies done to recognize the frequent drug abuse epidemics in the subpopulations. This study contributes to the existing literature on prescription drug abuse by reporting the risk and protective factors operating at individual, school and community levels in Illinois 12th grade students. Multilevel study design and statistical analyses also provide a framework for evaluation of prescription drug abuse prevention programs.
Subject: Public health; Developmental psychology; Epidemiology

Classification: 0573: Public health; 0620: Developmental psychology; 0766: Epidemiology

Identifier / keyword: Psychology, Health and environmental sciences, Prescription drug abuse, Adolescents, Substance abuse, OTC drugs, Bullying, Student safety

Title: Epidemiology of prescription drug abuse in Illinois high school students

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Country of publication: United States
Peer socialization to binge drinking in early adulthood: Effects of impulsivity, delinquency and childhood ADHD
Abstract: No prospective longitudinal studies have tested whether and how social networks contribute to alcohol-related outcomes for children with Attention-Deficit/Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD). The current study examined peer alcohol socialization in young adults with and without childhood ADHD. The presence of heavy and light drinking friends in the social network were examined as mediators of the association between adolescent behavioral dysregulation (i.e. impulsivity and delinquency) and young adult alcohol use (i.e. binge drinking and quantity/frequency) for individuals with, and without, childhood ADHD. Prediction from the number and proportion of drinking friends were tested to determine which operationalization explained more variance in young adult alcohol use. Participants were 94 individuals with childhood ADHD and 68 demographically-similar individuals without ADHD from the Pittsburgh ADHD Longitudinal Study. At age 25, but not in earlier adulthood or for quantity/frequency, individuals with ADHD reported less frequent binge drinking than individuals without ADHD. Number and proportion of drinking friends between ages 21 and 24 predicted age 25 binge drinking for both groups but only age 25 quantity/frequency of alcohol use for individuals with ADHD. The number/proportion of light-drinking friends was not protective against alcohol use for either group and alcohol use consumption in the social network did not mediate the association between behavioral dysregulation and alcohol use. Overall, alcohol use was prevalent in early adulthood for both groups. However, the stronger associations between alcohol-consuming friendships and quantity/frequency of alcohol use in the ADHD group suggests that individuals with ADHD histories are more strongly influenced by social networks conducive to alcohol use than individuals without ADHD. Moreover, higher density of alcohol-involved friendships, which may affect the proportion of social time allocated to drinking opportunities, rather than number of friendships involving alcohol, may be most important. Future research may be aided by methodological improvements to distinguish selection and influence processes, consideration of college attendance, vocational factors, and ADHD symptom persistence, and other facets of social influence such as quality of relationships and alcohol use in romantic partnerships.
Subject: Developmental psychology; Clinical psychology

Classification: 0620: Developmental psychology; 0622: Clinical psychology

Identifier / keyword: Psychology, Alcohol, Peers, Attention deficit hyperactivity disorder

Title: Peer socialization to binge drinking in early adulthood: Effects of impulsivity, delinquency and childhood ADHD

Number of pages: 99

Publication year: 2013

Degree date: 2013
Patterns of Anxiety, Stress, and Substance Use during Adolescence

Author: Colvin, Peter J.


Abstract: The goal of the current study (N = 1263) was to investigate the relationship between type of substance use (cannabis, alcohol, cigarettes), level of substance use (non-user, regular user), and anxiety (somatic anxiety, perceived stress) over time in an adolescent population. This study examined independent and joint contributions of anxiety in predicting adolescent drug use over two years. It was hypothesized that higher levels of baseline anxiety would predict higher levels of substance use two years later. Results showed that while somatic anxiety and perceived stress independently predicted higher levels of cannabis and cigarette use, only perceived stress predicted future use when examined together; neither perceived stress nor somatic anxiety predicted alcohol use. Our second goal was to investigate baseline levels and changes in anxiety over time as a function of adolescent drug use and level of substance use groups (non-users, regular users). The study used hierarchical linear modeling to test the hypothesis that regular users would show higher levels of baseline anxiety and decrease anxiety faster over time than non-users for all substances. Results showed that both somatic anxiety and perceived stress decreased over time for everyone. Adolescents who smoked cigarettes and marijuana regularly showed higher levels of baseline perceived stress and somatic anxiety than non-users. However, perceived stress decreased at the same rate for all three substances and all levels of use. Importantly, all differences in perceived stress at baseline and changes over time are unlikely to be clinically significant given the small statistical estimates. Somatic anxiety was heightened at baseline for any adolescents smoking cigarettes or cannabis regularly. Additionally, somatic anxiety decreased over time faster for individuals who were smoking cigarettes and cannabis regularly, suggesting that the anxiolytic effects of cannabis and cigarettes may be
effective at decreasing some aspects of anxiety. Level of alcohol use did not influence the baseline perception of stress but regular alcohol drinkers did show higher baseline somatic anxiety than non-users; regular drinking did not affect the decrease of perceived stress nor somatic anxiety over time. Potential explanations for the findings, study limitations, and suggestions for future research are discussed.


Subject: Developmental psychology; Psychology; Clinical psychology

Classification: 0620: Developmental psychology; 0621: Psychology; 0622: Clinical psychology

Identifier / keyword: Psychology, Adolescence, Drug use, Anxiety, Cannabis, Alcohol, Cigarettes

Title: Patterns of Anxiety, Stress, and Substance Use during Adolescence

Number of pages: 82

Publication year: 2013
Abstract: Alcohol use and abuse are significant concerns within adolescence and early adulthood. Although anxiety and depression frequently co-occur with alcohol use in adolescence and are postulated to be a pathway to alcohol problems (e.g., Chassin et al., 1993; Sher et al., 2005), prior work has predominantly focused on the so-called 'externalizing' pathway to alcohol use. One possibility is that the combination of both kinds of problems could be more pernicious than externalizing problems alone, but this has not been investigated. Furthermore, while the role of internalizing and/or externalizing problems on alcohol use could be exacerbated by the presence of neurobiological characteristics, the potential moderating role of factors such as the function of neural emotion-processing circuitry has been neglected. The current study examined the effects of both internalizing and externalizing disorders, symptom severity, and chronicity across development (between ages 8 to 17) on alcohol use and dependence at age 20. Also explored were the potential moderating effects of amygdala reactivity and functional connectivity measured during a face-processing paradigm at age 20. Study aims were tested within the context of a longitudinal study of 111 boys prospectively followed from early childhood to age 20. Although contrary to our hypotheses, results supported prior findings suggesting that internalizing symptomatology alone may be protective against problematic alcohol use/dependence. However, in combination with high externalizing problems or early onset of alcohol intoxication, high internalizing problems were related to alcohol use and dependence.
Across the majority of study observations, it was the comorbid internalizing/externalizing group that demonstrated the highest scores on alcohol outcome measures. Moreover, these effects were exacerbated for some of the alcohol use outcomes by the strength of the functional connectivity between the amygdala and the anterior cingulate cortex (BA 32 and BA 24), a limbic area involved in emotion regulation. Conceivably, the combination of both types of problems combined with difficulty controlling negative emotion creates a pattern of dysregulation that makes youth vulnerable to the effects of alcohol and leads them to problems with controlling their use. Differences between this study and prior literature are explored and limitations of the present study are discussed.


Subject: Neurosciences; Mental health; Behavioral psychology; Physiological psychology

Classification: 0317: Neurosciences; 0347: Mental health; 0384: Behavioral psychology; 0989: Physiological psychology
The Impact of Parenting Interventions on Family Functioning for Women in Residential Substance Abuse Treatment

Author: Hopsicker, Rachel J.

Abstract: This study examined the impact of a parenting intervention on child development, parenting ability, and family functioning in a trauma-informed residential substance abuse treatment program for women and their children. Recent research supports the inclusion of parenting interventions in residential treatment with this population of women, yet questions remain regarding what outcomes emerge as a result of these interventions. Factors associated with child development, parenting ability, and family functioning such as cumulative risks, abuse history, and severity of substance abuse were examined at intake, as were changes over time in these domains for program completers and non-completers. Data were obtained on 82 women and 107 children enrolled in an implementation of a multi-site study funded by the Substance Abuse and
Mental Health Services Administration. With respect to improved parenting ability and family functioning, results from this study suggest that women gained from being engaged in treatment regardless of whether they successfully completed the treatment program or left prematurely. A woman's abuse history accounted for deficits in family functioning upon entry into treatment; however, women with and without an abuse history were equally helped by treatment. Qualitative analysis of the participants' responses indicated that learning healthy parent characteristics such as patience, appropriate boundaries, and relationship consistency were the most helpful aspects of the parenting intervention. Implications for practice, policy, and research are discussed.


Subject: Developmental psychology; Psychology; Clinical psychology; Individual & family studies

Classification: 0620: Developmental psychology; 0621: Psychology; 0622: Clinical psychology; 0628: Individual & family studies
Abstract: Marijuana has been found to be the sole substance used by 57.3 percent of illicit drug users in the United States (NSDUH 2008). Taking this statistic into mind, it makes sense that individuals currently wed, divorced, cohabitating, or in some form of committed, romantic relationship would also be affected by the use of marijuana. While in today's society the process of mate selection and relationship formation is considered to be a rather private and personal affair, some aspects of relationships still have consequences for the greater society. The effects of failed pairings on the individuals involved can have numerous repercussions; such ramifications are only multiplied when children are present within the relationship. The purpose of this project was to gain an understanding of the interplay between marijuana use and relationships and to better understand the means and methods by which relationships and marijuana use change over time. The influence of one's personal,
committed relationships on the increase, decrease, initiation, or cessation of marijuana use is examined in this study. Through the use of qualitative, in-depth interviews with twenty-seven current and former users of marijuana, the underlying processes and events associated with the use of marijuana within relationships are better understood. According to the current research, marijuana can have both positive and negative repercussion on the romantic relationships of users. However, the most negative impacts on relationships tend to be seen when partners are unequally matched on their usage of the substance.


Subject: Behavioral psychology; Public health; Sociology

Classification: 0384: Behavioral psychology; 0573: Public health; 0626: Sociology

Identifier / keyword: Social sciences, Psychology, Health and environmental sciences, Cohabitating, Illicit drug use, Interviews, Marriage

Title: To have and to toke: A qualitative study of marijuana use and relationships
A Pilot Project to Develop a Tool to Assess Gain in Knowledge in Third Graders Participating in a Science Based Drug Prevention Education Curriculum

Author: Butler, Miriam

Abstract: Drug use and abuse presents a significant problem to individuals, families, and law enforcement in communities across the United States. Methamphetamine is a particular concern in one rural eastern Missouri county. Much work being done in this county by multiple agencies to decrease methamphetamine production and use. Little attention, however, has been focused on prevention in the elementary schools. Substance use and experimentation may begin as early as 12 years old or even earlier. By initiating a proven drug prevention education curriculum before children begin to experiment with tobacco, alcohol and illicit drugs, drug use may be delayed or prevented. Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS) grant funds have supported a collaborative initiative between the University of Missouri St Louis College of Nursing, Partners Responsible 4 Increasing Drug Education (PRIDE), the county Sheriff's Department, and the County Health Department. This community-based participatory action research process has focused on the implementation of the Brain Power! Junior Scientist Program developed by the National Institute on Drug Abuse. The purpose of this specific project was to create a pilot tool to evaluate the effectiveness of the Brain Power!
program by determining gain in drug-related scientific knowledge after the presentation of six learning modules for third graders in a rural eastern Missouri county elementary school. Data from pre and post tests demonstrated a gain in knowledge of information covered in the modules for the third graders in this project. Project benefits, limitations, barriers, challenges and implications for future research and application to practice are discussed.


Subject: Educational tests & measurements; Health education

Classification: 0288: Educational tests & measurements; 0680: Health education

Identifier / keyword: Education, Knowledge gain, Brain Power! Junior Scientist, Drug prevention education, Science-based
Predictors of nicotine drinking in C57BL/6J mice: An evaluation of the voluntary oral nicotine consumption method

Author: Dingman, Marc A.

Abstract: The voluntary oral nicotine consumption method is a potentially valuable way of modeling human tobacco use in mice. It allows mice to have constant access to nicotine yet not be forced at any time to consume the drug, features which appear to resemble human tobacco use. However, despite its use as a model of human smoking initiation, there are many issues about the interpretation of free-choice nicotine experiments that have yet to be resolved. For example, it is unclear to what extent mouse nicotine drinking is stimulated by the rewarding psychoactive properties of the drug. In order to gain a better understanding of the motivations underlying mouse nicotine drinking, I attempted to identify predictors of voluntary oral nicotine consumption in C57BL/6J (B6) mice. I reasoned that if influences other than drug seeking have a prevailing effect on mouse nicotine drinking, then the potential role of the reward value of nicotine in the behavior is reduced. In order to evaluate the voluntary oral nicotine consumption method as a model of human tobacco use, I assessed the import of these other potential
influences on nicotine drinking using commonly accepted parameters of validity. The first study investigated the effect of the availability of nicotine, concentration of nicotine solution, and prior experience with high or low concentrations of nicotine solutions on B6 nicotine drinking. It was found that adding a second nicotine bottle to a mouse's cage significantly increased nicotine consumption (doubling it in many cases). It was also observed that mice displayed less preference for nicotine solutions as the concentration of those solutions increased, yet mice consumed a larger daily dose from high-concentration nicotine solutions. Finally, it was found that previous experience with elevated concentrations of nicotine served to suppress intake at lower concentrations. This last result was confirmed in the second study, where it was found that adult and adolescent mice displayed suppressed consumption of a low concentration (25 \(\mu\text{g/mL}\)) of nicotine after voluntary consumption of a high concentration (200 \(\mu\text{g/mL}\)). Adolescent mice also displayed suppression of 25 \(\mu\text{g/mL}\) nicotine after voluntary consumption of a moderately-high concentration of 50 \(\mu\text{g/mL}\). Suppression in a subset of adult mice after exposure to 200 \(\mu\text{g/mL}\) persisted for up to 12 days. In the third study, voluntary oral nicotine consumption over a period of 20 days in adult B6 mice was observed. In a subgroup of mice, the association between initial orosensory response to nicotine in brief-access tests and long-term consumption of nicotine was examined. There was no association, but also there were no concentration-dependent changes in lick rate seen in the brief-access tests. It was found that voluntary oral nicotine consumption over a 20-day period was unstable unless position bias was taken into account, and that the degree of position bias displayed by B6 mice was itself a significant predictor of oral nicotine consumption. The results of these experiments suggest caution should be taken when attempting to employ voluntary oral nicotine consumption as a model of human tobacco use. They indicate that environmental influences (e.g. availability, drug concentration, prior exposure history) and habitual mouse behavior play a large part in determining the amount of nicotine B6 mice consume in a free-choice nicotine experiment, and thus the contribution of nicotine seeking to that consumption is unclear. Future work should strive to elucidate the role of the hedonic value of nicotine in mouse nicotine drinking.

Subject: Neurosciences

Classification: 0317: Neurosciences

Identifier / keyword: Biological sciences, Oral nicotine, Free-choice nicotine, Voluntary oral nicotine, 2-Bottle choice

Title: Predictors of nicotine drinking in C57BL/6J mice: An evaluation of the voluntary oral nicotine consumption method

Number of pages: 162

Publication year: 2013

Degree date: 2013

School code: 0176

Source: DAI-B 75/03(E), Sep 2014

Place of publication: Ann Arbor
Qualitative reports of Michigan medical marijuana patients and caregivers including reduced opiate use, dispensary operations, legal concerns, and marijuana strains

Author: Peters, David C., II
Abstract: After hundreds of years of use the medical properties of Marijuana have been marginalized in our society. Qualitative interview data was collected from medical marijuana patients and knowledgeable producers and activists in Michigan about their perceptions and observations on the medical use of marijuana. Patients consistently reported using marijuana to substitute or wean off prescription drugs. All patients and producers who were taking opiate narcotics claimed they reduced overall drug use, especially opiates, by using medical marijuana. Patients and caregivers also claimed medical marijuana was preferred over opiates, eased withdrawal from opiates, and in some cases was perceived as more effective at relieving pain. Other issues explored included the operation of the Michigan Medical Marijuana Act, the formation and operation of medical marijuana centers in the face of countervailing State and federal, opposition, and the varieties and effects of different strains of medical marijuana. Keywords: Medical Marijuana, State and Federal Marijuana Laws, Michigan Marijuana, Controlled Substances, Drugs, Qualitative Interviews
Processing of smoking and monetary rewards among chronic smokers: Characterization of neural response, moderation by abstinence, and association with smoking outcomes

Author: Sweitzer, Maggie M.

Abstract: Theoretical models suggest that chronic smoking may be associated with both hypersensitivity to smoking and related cues and
hyposensitivity to alternative reinforcers, and that these effects may be more pronounced during deprivation from smoking. However, neural responses to smoking and non-smoking rewards are rarely evaluated within the same paradigm, and current neuroimaging evidence on the effects of deprivation on reward processing is limited. Bias toward smoking reward in lieu of alternative rewards during abstinence could represent a fundamental mechanism contributing to relapse during a quit attempt. In this dissertation, I present a series of analyses to address three primary aims: 1) to characterize the neural response to smoking and non-smoking rewards among chronic smokers within the same paradigm, 2) to determine the impact of deprivation upon the neural response to both reward types, and 3) to evaluate the association between neural responses to both reward types and the choice to smoke in lieu of alternative reinforcement. Smokers each participated in two separate fMRI scans, one after smoking ad libitum and one following 24 hours of abstinence. A rewarded guessing task was conducted during each scan to evaluate BOLD response during anticipation and delivery of both smoking and monetary rewards. Following completion of both scans, smokers engaged in a quit attempt supported by contingency management, during which abstinence from smoking was reinforced with monetary reward. Results indicated that smoking and monetary rewards both activated the same reward-related circuitry, including ventral and dorsal striatum, anterior cingulate cortex, medial prefrontal cortex, and bilateral insula. Abstinence from smoking was associated with an increase in anticipatory activation to smoking reward and a parallel decrease in anticipatory activation to monetary reward in the same reward-related regions. Furthermore, preliminary analyses suggested that larger decreases in anticipatory activation to monetary reward in the right caudate were associated with higher likelihood of lapse during contingency management. Collectively, these results suggest that reward processing may be biased toward smoking reward at the expense of alternative rewards during abstinence—a bias which may directly impact smoking behavior during a quit attempt.

Subject: Neurosciences; Mental health; Behavioral psychology; Cognitive psychology

Classification: 0317: Neurosciences; 0347: Mental health; 0384: Behavioral psychology; 0633: Cognitive psychology

Identifier / keyword: Biological sciences, Psychology, Health and environmental sciences, Nicotine, fMRI, Caudate, Rewards, Striatum, Addiction, Chronic smoking

Title: Processing of smoking and monetary rewards among chronic smokers: Characterization of neural response, moderation by abstinence, and association with smoking outcomes

Number of pages: 172

Publication year: 2013

Degree date: 2013

School code: 0178
Abstract: The current study investigated the cognitive organization of alcohol expectancies using event-related potentials (ERPs). Building on previous behavioral and ERP paradigms, the goal of the current study was to quantify the relationship among alcohol expectancies using ERP indices of salience, congruence, and cognitive distance. The ERP components being evaluated fit perfectly into the alcohol expectancy theory and research; however, implementing specific paradigms to reliably measure individual differences in alcohol expectancies using ERPs has proven to be more elusive than originally thought. This study utilized established cognitive modeling techniques coupled with ERP responses to linguistic stimuli. In essence, this study provides an implicit measure of how particular types of words, in the context of alcohol, are categorized and integrated into individuals' expectancy frameworks. The study looked at two specific ERP components, the P300 and the N400, that have been shown to be sensitive to expectancy violations. In a sentence processing task the P300 was predicted to be related to individuals' alcohol expectancies and in a word pair task the N400 was predicted to index these expectancies. Results indicated that the P300 and N400 were both related to alcohol expectancies in the sentence task and the N400 was related to alcohol expectancies in the word pair task. While the results supported parts of the hypotheses, they were not unequivocal endorsements of the hypothesized relationships, perhaps highlighting the countervailing forces of salience and expectancy congruence. Furthermore, there were unexpected differences between males and females in the sample that interacted with the effect of expectancy on ERPs. In sum, prior research has highlighted individuals' expectations about alcohol as a mediator of biopsychosocial risk for alcohol use.
disorders (Goldman, 2002), and the results of this study provide a model for how ERP measures of expectancy could capture an aspect of individuals' risk based on reactions to expectancy related stimuli.


Subject: Neurosciences; Psychology; Clinical psychology

Classification: 0317: Neurosciences; 0621: Psychology; 0622: Clinical psychology

Identifier / keyword: Biological sciences, Psychology, Alcohol expectancies, Erp, N400, P300, Substance use

Title: Defining semantic space and degree of association using brainwaves: An erp investigation of alcohol expectancies

Number of pages: 80

Publication year: 2013
Alcohol, consent, sex: Reducing college students' risky behaviors utilizing an integrated orientation model

Author: Smith, Diane Dani


Abstract: College students are at high risk of experiencing serious problems related to physical and social health issues that include binge drinking, sexual assault, and contracting a sexually transmitted disease. Despite research reporting that many of these incidents co-occur on campuses, university prevention programs have failed to present the interrelatedness of these issues. The current study examined combining three topics into a single prevention strategy; excessive alcohol consumption, coercive sexual behavior related to alcohol, and unsafe sexual practices. This quasi-experimental, quantitative study examined an integrated orientation strategy focusing on changing student behaviors in these domains. The study was conducted at a small, independent campus in Southern California. A total of 1,487 students, ages 18 to 24 years of age, participated in this survey design study. A non-randomized control group consisting of 138 students was used. The model was found to have significant effects, the most salient being that students who received the intervention made less risky decisions than those who did not attend the program. This change was observed in all three behavior domains. Special attention was paid to athletes, members of fraternities and sororities, and LGBT students. For Greek students who received the intervention, alcohol risk decreased significantly. For athletes who received the intervention, scores decreased significantly in regard to alcohol use as it relates to consent. Multiple linear regressions revealed that the intervention was a strong predictor of engaging in less risky behaviors around the use of alcohol and around alcohol as it relates to
Recommendations for future research include replication of the present study on small and large campuses, comparison to single model instructional methods, investigation of models that address the needs of LGBT students, and the use of bystander intervention skills within an integrated model. Implications for theory, policy, and practice are presented and discussed emphasizing the need to choose integrated prevention strategies that will address individual campus needs and create a safer community for university students. Given the high rates of all three behaviors, campus administrators are urged to implement and enforce prevention programs and consistent policies.


Subject: Public health; Health education; Higher education

Classification: 0573: Public health; 0680: Health education; 0745: Higher education

Identifier / keyword: Health and environmental sciences, Education, Alcohol abuse, Risky behaviors, Integrated prevention program
Title: Alcohol, consent, sex: Reducing college students' risky behaviors utilizing an integrated orientation model

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Advisor: Lundberg, Carol

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Prevalence and Correlates of PTSD Among Substance-Abusing Offenders

Author: Calhoun, Ryan Shawn

Abstract: Posttraumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) prevalence rates for Substance Use Disorder (SUD) individuals, as well as incarcerated individuals, have been found to be particularly high relative to other populations (Cusack, Herring, & Steadman, 2013; Ehlers, Maercker, & Boos, 2000; Kessler et al., 1997; Kubiak, 2002; Kubiak, 2004; Ouimette, Finney, & Moos, 1999). Despite recommendations by previous researchers concerning patient treatment of PTSD among SUD individuals (Siedel, Gusman, & Abueg, 1994), treatment remains largely inconsistent when treating SUD individuals with PTSD in correctional settings. This study explored the prevalence of trauma and PTSD within an incarcerated therapeutic community (TC) population, and the performance of incarcerated offenders in relation to their PTSD and SUD status. Results suggest that the PTSD prevalence rate for offenders with a history of substance abuse was 19 times higher than rates in the general population of people in the United States, two times higher than the prevalence rates reported in samples of individuals with substance use disorders in the general population of non-incarcerated individuals, and four times higher than that of PTSD prevalence rates in a general prison sample. It was also found that offenders with a history of substance abuse and a diagnosis of PTSD experienced 3.7 times more traumatic events as compared to
offenders with a history of substance abuse who do not have PTSD. Results of the current investigation found no statistically significant association between scores on the 'medical problems' or 'psychological problems' scale of the ASI and PTSD, and program compliance ratings were not associated with PTSD. Keywords: posttraumatic stress disorder, substance abuse, therapeutic community


Subject: Clinical psychology

Classification: 0622: Clinical psychology

Identifier / keyword: Psychology, Posttraumatic Stress Disorder, Substance abuse, Therapeutic communities

Title: Prevalence and Correlates of PTSD Among Substance-Abusing Offenders

Number of pages: 157

Publication year: 2013
Abstract: Using data from the Arrestee Drug Abuse Monitoring (ADAM) program, and from the 2000 U.S. Census, this exploratory study examined drug market acquisition behaviors and how this behavior differs by drug type, user characteristics, and across locations. A descriptive and comparative assessment of drug markets and acquisition behavior revealed substantial differences within and across drug types. This wide variation was evident across drug market clientele and across locations, regardless of the measure considered. The analysis also demonstrated that this data can be used to identify drug buyers that may also be drug sellers. Hierarchical and K-means cluster analysis was used to develop a typology of drug markets, demonstrating it is possible to categorize drug markets based on particular characteristics of the drug transaction. The cluster analyses resulted in distinct market types for each of the five drugs, indicating drug markets are more varied than the open/closed dichotomy suggests. The study concludes that detailed drug market information is crucial to our understanding of drug markets and will help inform law enforcement approaches to drug markets.
Subject: Criminology

Classification: 0627: Criminology

Identifier / keyword: Social sciences, Drug markets, Arrestee Drug Abuse Monitoring, Drug acquisition

Title: Dynamics of drug markets: An examination of arrestee drug acquisition behavior

Number of pages: 327

Publication year: 2013

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Country of publication: United States

ISBN: 9781303577314

Advisor: Worden, Robert

Committee member: Worden, Alissa, Fader, Jamie, McLean, Sarah
California's Movement to Legalize Marijuana: Discursive Opportunity Structures in Prop 19

Author: Mascagni, Brooke Hannah

Abstract: In the 2010 midterm elections, California voters decided on Proposition 19, The Control, Regulate, and Tax Cannabis Act of 2010. The ballot initiative contested the criminal legality of cannabis use, yet it also challenged the social construction of the marijuana user. Leaders for and against Prop 19 employed familiar discourses embedded in political and cultural texts, such as legal documents, political speeches, public service announcements, and films. What discourses were available and how social activists interpreted their meanings is the subject of this study. I examine the ways that the symbolism of slogans such as the "War on Drugs" affected the choices of leaders for and against Prop 19. The units of analysis are the imagery and language employed by campaign leaders, representatives of social movement organizations (SMOs), marijuana reform activists, and professionals in law, criminal justice, and politics. Proponents of marijuana legalization argued that "just saying no" is flawed public policy, while opponents employed prohibitionist language to support U.S. drug laws. Other culturally-embedded discourses--such as public safety, individualism, the budget crisis, drinking-and-driving, the medical marijuana patient, and "stoners"--influenced the framing processes of both sides of the debate. I use direct and participant observation, document analysis, and interviews to analyze the discursive environment that shaped the proposition's path. I find that the pro- and anti-Prop 19 frames were not produced by strategy alone. Rather, the cultural environment facilitated or constrained leaders' choices, which ultimately affected what messages resonated with voters. California's Proposition 19 was not merely a political campaign with a definitive end. I therefore propose theoretically situating cannabis ballot propositions within the greater social movement that calls for ending the "War on Drugs." Studying the interplay of citizen-led initiatives and social movements broadens our understanding of how symbolic language mobilizes political action.

Subject: Political science

Classification: 0615: Political science

Identifier / keyword: Social sciences, Legalization, California, Cannabis, Discursive opportunity structures, Marijuana, Prop 19, Proposition 19, War on Drugs

Title: California's Movement to Legalize Marijuana: Discursive Opportunity Structures in Prop 19

Number of pages: 157

Publication year: 2013

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Country of publication: United States

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Advisor: Jennings, M. Kent
The effects of genetic ancestry and sociocultural factors on pulmonary tuberculosis susceptibility in northeastern Mexico

Author: Young, Bonnie N.
Abstract: Genetic and environmental factors contribute to variation in tuberculosis (TB) disease risk among individuals in the Americas, although the relative contribution of each of these factors remains unclear. Genetic ancestry may serve as a proxy for underlying genetic differences in TB risk between the European, Native American, and African groups that formed many populations in the Americas, but this has never been tested. Such tests are complicated by the fact that genetic ancestry and important potential social predictors of TB are usually confounded. The urban center of Nuevo León, the Monterrey Metropolitan Area (MMA), presents a unique setting to tease apart these predictors. The MMA has excessive rates of TB disease and drug-resistant TB, and it is heterogeneous with respect to potential social predictors of disease risk and genetic ancestry. This dissertation addressed three aims. First, we explored predictors of active TB in the MMA, including genetic ancestry, demographic, and socioeconomic characteristics. Second, we assessed the variability of genetic ancestry in the MMA to determine whether genetic ancestry could potentially capture genetic variants underlying disease risk in the parental populations. Third, we examined social and behavioral predictors of drug-resistant TB in the MMA. Data included detailed demographic and socioeconomic measures and 291,917 genetic markers from 194 individuals with latent TB infection and active pulmonary TB at the University Hospital in Monterrey. We found that diabetes, computer ownership, and marital status predicted active TB. Substantial variation in genetic ancestry was observed, but genetic ancestry was not a risk factor for active TB after controlling for socioeconomic variables. This result indicates that: 1) genetic components of TB disease risk do not vary in the parental populations that formed the MMA, 2) effects of genetic factors are low compared to social factors, or 3) power was too low to detect existing associations. Finally, we found that crack cocaine use predicted drug-resistant TB in this urban context. In conclusion, variation in TB rates across populations may be better understood by addressing population-specific social factors that have larger effects on active TB and drug-resistant TB susceptibility.

Abstract: In this dissertation, I will use a cross-disciplinary approach to evaluate the ethics of doping and performance enhancement in sport. I believe such an approach will help remove many myths and assumptions about the ethics of performance-enhancing substances (PESs) that have long stalled the debate. These myths emerged due largely to scholars misunderstanding or remaining unaware of research that existed beyond their individual "silos" of expertise. Subsequently, one central question regarding the ethics of PESs remains unsatisfactorily answered: are sporting organizations justified to prohibit athletes from using PESs? This question will be at the center of my dissertation. Yet I will not offer any final conclusions about the permissibility of drugs in sport, either. Indeed, I do not believe there are any. What I will claim, instead, is that sporting communities have no necessary grounds for rejecting PESs. Yet contingent reasons may exist justifying their decision to prohibit or regulate athletes' PES use. In order to provide appropriate context for my later claims, my first two chapters will examine the historical development of the doping attitudes from their nascent stages to the death of Knud Enemark Jensen at the 1960 Rome Olympic Games. These chapters provide the necessary context for the modern PES debate by showing how significant cultural movements such as the fascination with doping horses for gambling, muscular Christianity, temperance movements, amateurism, and notions of public health helped shape today's anti-doping attitudes. Following, my third chapter will turn to modern PESs and the science behind them. This chapter will help establish certain facts about performance enhancement such as performance gains, mechanisms of action and health risks which are important in ethical decision making. These scientifically grounded conclusions will help dismiss many myths as
well as shape subsequent evaluations of the arguments for and against prohibiting PESs. This evaluation will come in my fourth chapter, where I will thematically and critically review past literature discussing the ethics of banning PESs in sports. This review will show that little consensus exists regarding the justification for prohibiting PESs and new efforts towards understanding the ethics of PESs may be justified. In my final two chapters, I will use the cross-disciplinary evidence developed in the first half of my dissertation to establish new ways of viewing the PES debate. The first step, which I will address in chapter five, involves viewing the debate as two separate questions: what are the acceptable means for "performance enhancement" and why should sports ban "doping." In my sixth chapter, I use the cross-disciplinary information to inform a more rational evaluation of PESs, arguing that performance enhancing substances may either improve or harm wellestablished sporting tests. This, I will argue, renders any ipso facto rejection of enhancement unwarranted if not also irrational. I end with an epilogue that cautions against hastily altering the pharmacological landscape as certain issues still remain at work. Despite such issues, I acknowledge that specific PESs may potentially improve certain sports by opening new avenues for enjoyment. Thus I do not conclude that all PESs are necessarily wrong, but that sporting organizations can justifiably choose to ban or regulate athletes' use of such technologies principally for reasons not typically advanced in the current PES literature.


Spontaneous and hippocampally-evoked nucleus accumbens activity reflect stress related and acute cocaine related, long-term neuroadaptations within the reward system. In vivo electrophysiological research

Author: Penn, Yaron

Abstract: The pathologies of depression or addiction are likely to be mediated by dysfunction in several series of neural networks. Nevertheless, animal models has often used a simplistic 'localization of function' approach, focusing on abnormalities in specific regions rather than the on-going, real time, interaction between the regions. Such artificial distinctions were not sufficient to yield objective functional measures which in turn could be valid for diagnosis and treatment of reward-system related pathologies in humans. Both drug addiction and depression have been associated with neuroadaptations found at
molecular and cellular levels in reward-related brain regions. The brain reward circuit consists of specialized cortical and subcortical structural components that code for various limbic and cognitive aspects of reward and goal-directed behavior. The nucleus accumbens (NAcc) is a central component of the reward system. Convergence of innervations by excitatory limbic and cortical and dopaminergic structures, places the NAcc as the major site for integration of emotional salience, contextual constraints and executive/motor plans. In the current study we found the medial shell of the NAcc to exhibit global and local pathological network adaptations to chronic mild stress (CMS) and acute cocaine. In CMS animals, the spontaneous on-going LFP demonstrated both modulation of power-distribution and remarkable increase in patterned network activity. Network adaptations were also revealed in response to excitatory, AMPA dependant, hippocampal innervations. CMS resulted with synaptic potentiation of the vSub-NAcc pathway and increased GluR1 levels in the NAcc shell, suggesting a role for AMPA receptors, within the brain reward system in stress-induced depressive behavior. In contrast, the ability to sustain time-locked, hippocampally evoked, network response was strongly inhibited in 'negative' CMS exposure relative to animals exposed to 'positive' enriched environment (EE). That and more, we found evidence for short- and long-term plasticity in the vSub-NAcc pathway of CMS animals, but not in their control counterparts. The development of this pathology-related plasticity is probably due to abnormal balance of dopamine release. In did, transient elevation of tonic dopamine by systemic single cocaine injection induced immediate and delayed, long-lasting, neuroadaptations at the vSub-NAcc pathway. The single cocaine episode immediately attenuated both spontaneous NAcc network oscillations and vSub evoked response and in contrast, facilitated paired-pulse stimulations and cross-talk in the pathway. While the evoked response and paired-pulse facilitation recovered to baseline values within 70min, the attenuation in network oscillation and cross-talk facilitation lasted for 3 hours with no sign for recovery. That and more, single cocaine episode was sufficient to enable delayed long term plasticity in the vSub-NAcc pathway. High frequency stimulation in the vSub was found to induce LTP only in cocaine exposed animals with enough time elapsed from cocaine injection, suggesting the involvement of protein expression. These results provide incite on how cue-drug associations may establish in the NAcc, which in turn, may drive the buildup of addiction and cue-dependent relapse. Over all, we argue that stressful, depressive life-experience is associated with in-vivo, long-term functional adaptations in
the reward system. The individual animal's life experience history was found to leave its mark on the NAcc network activity, properties and response. Taken together with our life-experience dependent plasticity results, these adaptations are suggested to reflect part of the adverse functional mechanism which in turn, guide behavioral deficits in depression and addiction. Electrophysiological measurements are not constrained to specific animal-model, have limited effect on behavioral measures and could be compared across different animal models. These measures reflect the individual animal's current network-properties. Monitored along a specific behavioral animal model, our results suggest direct functional measures which could be utilized objectively to assess the effectiveness of variable therapeutic procedures.


Subject: Neurosciences; Mental health
Title: Spontaneous and hippocampally-evoked nucleus accumbens activity reflect stress related and acute cocaine related, long-term neuroadaptations within the reward system

In vivo electrophysiological research

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Advisor: Zangen, Abraham

University/institution: The Weizmann Institute of Science (Israel)

University location: Israel

Degree: Ph.D.

Source type: Dissertations & Theses

Language: English
Anthropological genetic analysis of human disease from evolutionary, population, and clinical perspectives

Author: Gray, Rebecca R.

Abstract: In this dissertation, I used genetic data from both humans and pathogens to explore the evolution and etiology of three diseases from temporally distinct perspectives. I employed an evolutionary framework to address the origin of syphilis, a population perspective to determine genetic components contributing to alcoholism in Native Americans, and a clinical perspective to study factors relating to the transmission of HIV-1 via breastfeeding. In the first study, I used sequence data from six genes from three subspecies of Treponema pallidum, the spirochetes that cause venereal syphilis, yaws, and endemic syphilis in humans, as well as two other Treponema species, to determine their evolutionary origin and relationships using phylogenetic and population genetic analyses. My data discriminate between key components of several of the leading theories of treponemal evolution, and provide new loci that are distinct among the
treponemes and can be used for diagnosis. Second, I genotyped ~1000 Native American individuals for markers in the alpha-synuclein gene (SNCA) and used sequence data from ~400 Native Americans from the alcohol dehydrogenase gene (ADH) and the aldehyde dehydrogenase gene (ALDH) to test for an association with substance abuse in these populations. I used both dichotomous and continuous measures of addition and several statistical tests to determine association. Despite the high power of the study, no significant association was detected. This may be the result of the past evolutionary history of Native Americans, who experienced a severe genetic bottleneck during the migration from Asia and may have lost variants that have been previously associated with substance abuse. I concluded that a focus on environmental causes and solutions may be most appropriate in these populations. Finally, I sequenced and analyzed the env gene of the human immunodeficiency virus type-1 (HIV-1) in breast milk and blood plasma from an HIV-1 positive woman who transmitted the virus to her infant via breastfeeding. This was the first longitudinal study of HIV-1 in breast milk, and major findings included the distinctiveness of the virus in milk during the first month post-partum, the compartmentalization of the virus over time, and the dynamic evolutionary pattern of the virus in the milk. These results provided information about the biological mechanism responsible for differential transmission risks associated with various modes of breastfeeding. Genetic anthropologists are equipped with the analytical tools to study the biological mechanisms of diseases and to incorporate information about the relevant underlying population structure and evolutionary history. This unique perspective allows genetic anthropologists to provide comprehensive clinical and policy recommendations based on genetic data. Finally, the multi-disciplinary approach employed by anthropologists can be valuable in ensuring that resulting applications of the data are culturally appropriate and provide maximum health benefits to communities in need.

Table of contents

1. The Effect of College Student Spirituality on Alcohol use and Sexual Behaviors: A Comparison of Faith-Based and non Faith-Based Institutional NCHA Data

Document 1 of 1

The Effect of College Student Spirituality on Alcohol use and Sexual Behaviors: A Comparison of Faith-Based and non Faith-Based Institutional NCHA Data

Author: Miller, Kristen S.
Abstract: College-aged individuals have a significant impact on national health. People in this age group have the highest rates of engagement in many risky health behaviors, such as binge drinking, substance use, and engaging in unprotected sexual activity. The American College Health Association (ACHA) has been actively involved in the study of college health behavior and the initiation of information and services to college health care providers for the past decade. However, little research has been done in this area on sub-populations of the overall college population. This study aims to assess the sub-population of students who attend a faith-based institution. This population is of particular interest due to the significant impact that, both internal and external, religiosity/spirituality have on health behaviors. Data were requested from institutions that have utilized the National College Health Assessment (NCHA-II) and also have identified themselves as Protestant or Other Christian. The data was aggregated and randomly sampled for comparison to a random matched sample from the national reference group. Comparative analyses found significant group differences in the levels of engagement in alcohol use, binge drinking, and number of sexual partners.

Committee member: Gathercoal, Kathleen, Seegobin, Winston

University/institution: George Fox University

Department: Clinical Psychology

University location: United States -- Oregon

Degree: Psy.D.

Source type: Dissertations & Theses

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Table of contents

1. The impact of counselor level of spiritual well-being on the morale, global symptoms, and global impairment of adolescents receiving treatment for substance use and/or other mental health disorders: A pilot study

Document 1 of 1

The impact of counselor level of spiritual well-being on the morale, global symptoms, and global impairment of adolescents receiving treatment for substance use and/or other mental health disorders: A pilot study

Author: Holland, Michael William
Abstract: In recent years there has been a movement towards a holistic perspective of human nature in the counseling leading to increased interest in the nature and role of spirituality in counseling and the counseling process. In the present study multiple regression analysis is used to determine whether Counselor Level of Spiritual Well-Being, or aspects thereof, namely, Counselor Level of Existential Well-Being and/or Counselor Level of Religious Well-Being, as measured by the Spiritual Well-Being Scale significantly impacts client outcomes, namely, Morale, Global Symptoms, and Global Impairment as measured by the Health Dynamics Inventory for adolescents receiving treatment for substance use and/or co-occurring psychiatric disorders. A significant relationship was found for only Counselor Level of Religious Well-Being alone and in combination with other variables and client outcomes on Global Impairment. Results and their implications as well as suggestions for further research are discussed.

An investigation of early response as a mediator in group psychotherapy for women with post-traumatic stress disorder and substance use disorders

Author: Sawaya, Jennifer Ann
Abstract: The depression, substance abuse, and bulimia psychotherapy literature has demonstrated that symptom improvement within the first 4-8 weeks of treatment bears a predictive relationship with long-term outcomes and that this information can be used for treatment planning purposes. However, little is known about the mechanisms through which early response is related to therapeutic change. Theoretical arguments maintain that early improvement reflects the effects of nonspecific factors and may mediate the oft-observed relationship between common factors, such as therapeutic alliance, and post-treatment outcomes. Early response to psychotherapy has not been studied among individuals with PTSD. Utilizing data from the Clinical Trials Network - Women and Trauma Study, the present study assessed the predictive validity of early treatment response among 353 women diagnosed with PTSD and substance use disorders. Participants were randomized to receive 12 sessions of Seeking Safety group psychotherapy or Women's Health Education over 6 weeks. It was hypothesized that early response mediated the relationship between helping alliance and subsequent trauma and substance abuse outcomes, and that subjects in Seeking Safety improved more rapidly. ROC curves were used to assess the validity of early response and to generate clinical cutoff values predicting an individual's likelihood of non-response during follow-up. Latent growth curve methodology was utilized to test the proposed mediation model. While subjects demonstrated early improvement in trauma symptoms, there was no early improvement in substance abuse symptoms. Trauma symptom severity and cumulative abstinence at the fourth week of treatment predicted response status up to one year following treatment with a fair to excellent degree of accuracy. The rates of early improvement in trauma symptoms showed near-significant differences between the two treatment groups (p = .06), suggesting that trauma symptoms improved more quickly among subjects in Seeking Safety. Early symptom improvement was not found to be a viable mediator of helping alliance and outcomes. Results diverged from previous findings regarding early response to substance abuse treatment, which may be attributable to study limitations. The current study is unique in that it supports the predictive validity of early improvement in PTSD symptoms among women with comorbid PTSD and addiction.
Subject: Clinical psychology

Classification: 0622: Clinical psychology

Identifier / keyword: Psychology, Early response, Post-traumatic stress disorder, Substance abuse, Substance use disorder, Trauma and addiction, Group psychotherapy, Women and trauma, Women and substance abuse

Title: An investigation of early response as a mediator in group psychotherapy for women with post-traumatic stress disorder and substance use disorders

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Advisor: Hien, Denise

University/institution: Rutgers The State University of New Jersey, Graduate School of Applied and Professional Psychology

Department: Graduate School of Applied and Professional Psychology

University location: United States -- New Jersey

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