The role of disordered eating and coping skills in female substance abuse recovery populations

Author: Brake, Kaile Nicole

Numerous studies have established a correlation between individuals who have been diagnosed with an eating disorder and substance dependency. But little is known about this relationship. In addition, much research has been done on what helps to sustain recovery with a heavy emphasis on the role of coping skills. However, little is known about the role of disordered eating as a maladaptive coping skill in recovery from substance abuse. The current study seeks to explore the relationship between disordered eating behaviors and coping skills. This will be examined through testing four main hypotheses in a correlational design with a target of at least 85 participants from drug and alcohol treatment facilities in the Sacramento, California area. This study explored the relationship between participants reported coping style and disordered eating tendencies. All participants were females who self-identified as being in substance abuse recovery. The findings suggest that a relationship between Planful Problem Solving coping skills and disordered eating tendencies (Drive for Thinness and Bulimia subscales) does not exist. This indicates that participants who use problem solving focused coping skills were not less likely to engage in disordered eating habits. Analyses demonstrate that a significant relationship exists between Escape Avoidance coping strategies and disordered eating tendencies. This finding suggests that participants who attempt to cope with stressful encounters by escaping, may utilize disordered eating habits to escape stress.

Links:
Title: The role of disordered eating and coping skills in female substance abuse recovery populations

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School code: 1634
Effective smoking cessation methods among smokers with diabetes in Nevada

Author: Kapella-Mshigeni, Salome


Abstract: Smoking and diabetes are preventable epidemics, yet the prevalence of smokers with diabetes is expected to grow. Smokers with diabetes have a significantly increased risk of serious health outcomes, and efforts to find effective smoking cessation interventions in this population are critical. The stages of change theory was used. This quantitative study was designed to test the relationships between smoking cessation method (counseling alone versus counseling and medication) and quitting smoking 6 months later for 720 smokers with and without diabetes who were users of the Nevada Quitline. The majority of the participants had not quit (67.5%). Quit rates did not differ between smokers with and without diabetes. Logistic regression analysis showed that individuals who received counseling and medication were 1.94 times as likely to quit compared to those who received counseling only. Factors associated with quit status differed in smokers with and without diabetes. Within individuals with diabetes, age was significantly related to quit status; for each increase of 1 year of age, the likelihood of quitting increased 1.03 times. In addition, Hispanics were 7.50 times more likely to quit smoking compared to Caucasians. However, age and race/ethnicity were not associated with quit status in individuals without diabetes. Findings from this study may bring positive social change by helping healthcare providers, public health practitioners, and scholars create effective smoking cessation programs to meet the needs of smokers with diabetes. If smokers with diabetes quit, they can reduce their risk for cardiovascular, nerve, and kidney damage, which could improve...
the quality and length of their lives, enriching them, their families, and their communities.

Links:

Subject: Social research; Health sciences; Public health

Classification: 0344: Social research; 0566: Health sciences; 0573: Public health

Identifier / keyword: Social sciences, Health and environmental sciences, Cessation, Counseling, Diabetes, Medication, Nevada, Smoking

Title: Effective smoking cessation methods among smokers with diabetes in Nevada
Abstract: The purpose of this mixed methods study was to examine the effect of a multiple high-risk behaviors prevention program applied comprehensively throughout an entire school-system involving universal, selective, and indicated levels of students at a local private high school during a 4-year period. The prevention program was created based upon the key elements of effective prevention programming (Tobler et al., 2000) and the need to address the growing variety of high-risk behaviors youth face today (Sussman et al., 2010). Quantitative survey data and qualitative interview data were collected and analyzed according to Collins, Onwuegbuzie, and Sutton's (2006) 13-step mixed methods research process. A methodological framework of pragmatism-of-the middle and communities of practice approaches under the umbrella of dialectical pluralism were used (Denscombe, 2008; Johnson, 2012; Johnson & Onwuegbuzie, 2004). In addition, three theoretical frameworks were utilized: (a) ecological systems theory (Bronfenbrenner, 1979), (b) social learning theory (Akers, 1973; Bandura, 1977), and (c) stages of change theory (Prochaska & DiClemente, 1982). Quantitative results indicated seven out of 15
high-risk behaviors statistically significantly decreased throughout the 4-year study when compared to the pretest year data six involved alcohol and drugs. However, many of the non-substance use high-risk behaviors targeted displayed erratic prevalence rate patterns. Qualitative results of the 12 students interviewed yielded 12 main themes (and three subthemes) regarding student experiences with high-risk behaviors and the school’s prevention efforts: (a) party school reputation (historically more lenient); (b) never used but know it is there; (c) primary focus on alcohol and drugs (drug testing as part of the program); (d) positive perceived effect of the program (drug testing effect); (e) complaints about programming; (f) choosing to engage with friends; (g) curiosity; (h) saying no because of parents; (i) seeing negative effects in others; (j) positive parental influence; (k) media influence; and (l) self-agency. The qualitative data validated the idea that the prevention programming placed heavier emphasis on alcohol and drugs than on other high-risk behaviors. Thus, the frequency and intensity of programming for non-substance use behaviors should be increased to at least equal that of the substance-use behaviors. KEYWORDS: School-based prevention, Multiple high-risk behaviors, High school, Mixed methods

Links:

Subject: Social research; School counseling; Health education

Classification: 0344: Social research; 0519: School counseling; 0680: Health education

Identifier / keyword: Social sciences, Education, Prevention, School-based, High-risk behavior, High school, Mixed methods, Multiple behaviors

Title: Effects of comprehensive, multiple high-risk behaviors prevention program on high school students

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Country of publication: United States

ISBN: 9781303770012

Advisor: Onwuegbuzie, Anthony J.

University/institution: Sam Houston State University
An experimental test of culturally specific versus standard smoking cessation messages targeting Hispanics

Author: Rodriguez Esquivel, Denise

Abstract: Culturally specific smoking cessation interventions have been recommended for racial/ethnic minority smokers in the U.S., though few cessation trials have focused on Hispanics. As a result, little is known about effective intervention delivery or factors that should be considered. The aims of this study were to test the
acceptability and efficacy of a smoking cessation intervention varying in cultural specificity and language. Participants (N = 222) were English-Spanish bilingual Hispanic smokers recruited from the community. A 2 (Language: preferred vs. less preferred) × 2 (Intervention type: standard vs. culturally specific) between-subjects experiment was conducted. Language preference was assessed, and participants were randomly assigned to one of four conditions: (1) culturally specific smoking cessation intervention, preferred language; (2) standard intervention, preferred language; (3) culturally specific intervention, less-preferred language; or (4) standard intervention, less-preferred language. The dependent variables measured intervention acceptability (intervention satisfaction, utilization, and content evaluation) and efficacy (readiness to quit, pros and cons of smoking, and smoking related knowledge). Hypotheses included: (1) a main effect of language, such that preferred language would result in greater acceptability and efficacy compared to less preferred language; (2) a main effect of intervention type, such that the culturally specific intervention would result in greater acceptability and efficacy compared to the standard intervention; and (3) an interaction effect, such that the culturally specific intervention in participants' preferred language would result in greater acceptability and efficacy than the standard intervention in participants' less preferred language. Acculturation was controlled for in all main analyses. Contrary to expectations, results indicated that the standard intervention led to greater satisfaction compared to the culturally specific intervention. However, as hypothesized, a main effect of language demonstrated greater intervention utilization in the preferred language conditions compared to the less preferred language conditions. A main effect of intervention type demonstrated greater cons of smoking in the culturally specific conditions compared to the standard conditions. A main effect of intervention type demonstrated a greater reduction in cigarettes per day at the two-week follow up in the culturally specific conditions compared to the standard conditions. Exploratory analyses were conducted to examine intervention effects in subgroups of the sample, by household income, generational status, and gender. These analyses revealed that content evaluation scores were highest for participants who earned more than $20,000 per year and received the intervention in their preferred language. Second, participants who earned more than $20,000 per year reported greater readiness to quit
than those who earned less. Third, there was a main effect of generational status on the pros of smoking: first generation immigrants had lower pros of smoking scores after the intervention compared to those who were U.S.-born. Fourth, there was a main effect of gender on knowledge: women had higher smoking-related knowledge scores after the intervention than men. Finally, self-reported cessation was greater in the preferred language conditions compared to the less-preferred language conditions. In conclusion, this is the first study to compare a culturally specific smoking cessation intervention to a standard intervention for Hispanic smokers, with treatment intensity matching. This study is an important step in demonstrating that cultural specificity can lead to changes in the appraisals of smoking and in behavior change, and it contributes to the literature in the development of interventions targeting this growing subgroup.

Links:
Developing a measure of ambivalence about drinking less alcohol: Psychometric properties and construct validity

Author: Rice, Samara Lloyd

Abstract: The resolution of ambivalence is an appealing explanation of how at-risk drinkers make changes in their alcohol consumption; however, limited research about this potential mechanism of change exists due to the lack of a specific measure of ambivalence about drinking less alcohol. An initial item pool measuring ambivalence was assessed in two different samples of at-risk drinkers, undergraduate college students participating in the study for research participation credit (N 1 = 129) and participants recruited from online sources (N 2
using an online web survey. Three different methods of measuring ambivalence were tested: a double-barreled items method, a difference score method calculated from the sum of items measuring both motivation to change as well as motivation to maintain the status quo, and an Emotion items method. Exploratory Factor Analyses (EFAs) revealed a single factor structure for all three scales, and internally-consistent scales were formed from a subset of well-performing items based on item-scale and factor analytic results. Convergent and discriminant validity correlations were also examined. This study introduces the Change, Ambivalence, Sustain, and Emotion Scales (CASES) for eventual use in investigating if the resolution of ambivalence is a mechanism of change in at-risk drinkers. Limitations and directions for future research are also discussed.

Links:
Abstract: High blood pressure is a prevalent precursor to cardiovascular disease. An estimated 3% of US adolescents have hypertension. In addition, prehypertension is predictive of hypertension in adolescents, with progression between these stages at approximately 7% per year. Tobacco use/exposure is strongly linked to cardiovascular risk and disease in adults. Further, rural communities have higher tobacco use prevalence and fewer community policies restricting tobacco use. Little is known about the effects of tobacco exposure on blood pressure and the mediating effects of inflammation (salivary C-reactive protein (CRP)) in rural
adolescents. The purpose of this study is to determine the relationships between tobacco exposures, inflammation, and blood pressure among rural adolescents ages 15-18 after controlling for age, gender, ethnicity, parental history of hypertension, socioeconomic status, pubertal stage, and weight status. A convenience sample of 148 adolescents ages 15-18 was recruited from two rural high schools (88 female and 60 male, all Caucasian). Adolescents were measured for blood pressure, weight status (BMI, waist circumference), tobacco exposure (self-report, salivary cotinine), and inflammation (salivary CRP). Self-report measures of tobacco exposure included the Uptake Continuum and Peer and Family Smoking Index. The study found 25% of adolescent males and 11.4% of adolescent females had elevated systolic blood pressures. A fifth of the sample (22%) had elevated salivary cotinine levels indicative of secondhand smoke exposure. Nearly half of the rural adolescents participants stated that their family members smoke cigarettes. Salivary cotinine levels had a significant association with smoking exposure by family members ($\chi^2 = 10.81, p = .001$), though not with smoking exposure by peers ($\chi^2 = 1.21, p = .271$). Age, gender, waist circumference and salivary cotinine were found to contribute to 36.4% of the variance in systolic blood pressure and 19.1% of the variance in diastolic blood pressure. No evidence was found to support inflammation as a mediator between tobacco exposure and blood pressure. Tobacco exposure and elevated blood pressure are contributors to cardiovascular risk. Prehypertensive blood pressure measurements during adolescence are predictive of hypertension. In adolescents, elevated blood pressure measurements accompanied by other cardiovascular risk factors, such as tobacco use/exposure, are of concern. As part of the effort to improve rural public health, the health of rural adolescents must be made visible. Key Words: blood pressure, tobacco, inflammation, adolescents, rural.

Links:
Risk Factors for Injection versus Non-Injection Drug Use Among Men in Kermanshah City, Iran in 2005: An Observational Study

Author: Alaei, Kamiar


Abstract: Background: Iran is one of the countries with the highest rate of opioid and heroin consumption in the world. Injection drug use (IDU) is a relatively new phenomenon in Iran, where opium smoking was previously more prevalent. This study aims to identify risk factors that differentiate drug users who become injectors from those who do not. Injection is associated with increased risk for HIV and hepatitis C virus (HCV), drug dependence, overdose, and other blood borne diseases. The aim of this study is to identify personal and social characteristics associated with injection among a sample of male drug users seeking drug treatment in Kermanshah, Iran.

Methods: This observational study compared IDUs and non-IDUs in a sample of 948 males who sought addiction treatment at a methadone clinic in western Iran between February 1, 2004 and August 31, 2005. Logistic regression was employed to assess the association of the independent risk factors associated with IDUs compared to non-IDUs in this population.

Results: The study population included 177 injection drug users (IDUs) (18.67%), and 771 non-IDUs. The unadjusted odds ratio indicated that drug users with the following characteristics were more likely to be IDUs: 1.) initiated drug use at a younger age; 2.) were born or lived in an urban area; 3.) obtained more education; 4.) were unemployed; 5.) were single; 6.) and/or had no children; 7.) started smoking before the age of 20; 8.) had one blood relative drug user; 9.) used drugs four times or more per day; 10.) ceased drug use while in prison; or 11.) began with or used other drugs like buprenorphine, heroin, or marijuana. The logistic regression analysis revealed that the following four risk factors out of aforementioned 11 variables remained associated with IDU in this sample: 1) younger age, 2) buprenorphine use (an opioid partial agonist which can be used as a substantial therapy for opioid users), 3) using drugs four times or more per day, 4.) and 4) history of drug use cessation in prison. The impact of these factors differed based on the initiation of drug use before or after 2000. Subjects that began...
using drugs prior to 2000 (before the ban on poppy in neighboring Afghanistan) faced different environmental risk factors for injection. Among subjects who began using drugs after 2000, drug users who were more educated were at greater risk for injection as compared to less educated drug users, while among those who began using drugs before the year 2000, education level did not have an impact on injection. Conversely, being forced to quit drugs in prison or in mandatory governmental camps was a risk factor for injection. This is because during their time in prison, people had less access to substantial therapy and harm reduction services to relieve withdrawal symptoms. This held for subjects who began using drugs prior to the year 2000, but not those who began using after 2000. Conclusion: Factors associated with injection are likely influenced by the interaction of personal, social and larger environmental factors. In this sample, IDUs were younger, used buprenorphine, engaged in a high frequency of drug use per day, and had a previous history of cessation in prison or government camps. Interventionists must be able to tailor care of drug users based on contextual factors, such as date of drug use initiation. However, knowledge about these factors can indirectly guide us to identify and assess other contextual factors that may have an impact on the significance of risk factors for injection. In this study, the time-bound contextual conditions (before/after 2000) under which an individual initiate drug use are key factors to be considered as the first step in any risk factor evaluation for injection. For instance, the significance of some social factors, such as level of education; or personal factors, like history of rehabilitation in prison; may be relevant during a certain time period due to impact of other environmental factors, such as level of access to provided educational program about negative impact of injection at schools, or availability of drug or substance therapy services inside prison. When working with the drug-using population, we must be careful not to group them in a single category. Identifying risk factors associated with injection can help design more effective strategies for this subgroup of drug users (non-IDUs) from becoming injection drug users (IDUs). One gains the ability to target these risk factors in order to prevent injection initiation, providing harm reduction to drug users who have yet to inject and are at the highest risk for injecting.

Links:
http://RT4RF9QN2Y.search.serialssolutions.com/?ctx_ver=Z39.88-
Title: Risk Factors for Injection versus Non-Injection Drug Use Among Men in Kermanshah City, Iran in 2005: An Observational Study

Number of pages: 93
Abstract: Cigarette smoking is the leading cause of preventable death in the United States. The global prevalence of cigarette smoking continues to rise despite considerable efforts to prevent the use of cigarettes. The most common causes of mortality attributable to cigarette smoking are cardiovascular disease, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, and lung cancer. The effects of cigarette smoking on the immune system are important contributors to the mechanism of cigarette smoke associated diseases. Cigarette smoking is also a significant risk factor for a variety of autoimmune diseases including rheumatoid arthritis, multiple sclerosis, and systemic lupus erythematosus. Increasingly, research into the inflammatory processes underlying chronic obstructive pulmonary disease has identified an important role for the adaptive immune system in disease progression. Some of the effects of cigarette smoking on the cells of the adaptive immune system in patients with chronic obstructive pulmonary disease are consistent with an autoimmune response. Definitively attributing a causative role to cigarette smoke in the development of an autoimmune process in patients with chronic obstructive pulmonary disease is prevented by the confounding effects of concurrent infections or cancer. This dissertation tests the hypothesis that chronic cigarette smoking is sufficient to trigger an autoimmune response that results in
pulmonary pathology in mice. In Chapter 2 I demonstrate that chronic cigarette smoke (CS) leads to the generation of T cells that cause antigen-dependent lung pathology. I also explore the mechanism whereby CS leads to aberrant T cell activation by testing the hypothesis that chronic CS exposure leads to a defect in the ability of regulatory T cells to suppress T cell activation. Finally, I characterize the functional effects of chronic CS exposure on CD4 + and CD8 + T cells. In Chapter 3 I observe that plasma from mice chronically exposed to CS is sufficient to cause alveolar destruction in CS-naïve recipient mice. I also investigate potential mechanisms responsible for the development of pulmonary pathology in recipients of plasma from CS exposed mice. This dissertation presents strong evidence that chronic CS exposure is sufficient to initiate both cell-mediated and humoral autoimmunity in mice. This provides proof-of-concept that autoimmunity may play a role in some CS-associated diseases such as chronic obstructive pulmonary disease and supports a causative role for CS in the development of CS-associated autoimmune diseases. The goal of this research is to provide better understanding of the development of CS-associated diseases in the hopes of informing new therapies when efforts to prevent cigarette smoking fail.

Links:
Subject: Toxicology; Surgery; Immunology

Classification: 0383: Toxicology; 0383: Surgery; 0982: Immunology

Identifier / keyword: Health and environmental sciences, Animal models, Autoimmunity, Chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, Cigarette smoking, Immunology, Lung

Title: Autoimmune Mechanisms in Cigarette Smoke-Induced Inflammation and Pathology

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Advisor: Borchers, Michael

Committee member: Choubey, Divaker, Panos, Ralph, Ridgway, William, Zinser, Glendon
Abstract: Alcohol use and abuse among college/university students continues as a major public health concern. One potential source of alcohol-related harm is the inability of students to estimate their current level of intoxication (gBAC). The current four field studies use breathalyzers to investigate student gBAC and the efficacy of a variety of BAC-feedback tools at promoting greater awareness of driving risks while under the influence of alcohol. The research was conducted across 89 nights spanning seven academic semesters from Fall 2009 to Fall 2012. Research tables were setup between the hours of 6:00pm and 2:00am at three locations near downtown bar establishments and one on-campus location near a late-night dining facility. Unique subject codes were created to track participants across multiple nights of participation. In total, 12,432 blood alcohol concentration (BAC) readings were collected from 10,225 unique individuals. Study 1 examined general epidemiology across all nights. The average BAC of drinking participants was .100 mL/L. Results revealed significant differences in BAC as a function of demographic and environmental factors. Additionally, it was found the average student was incorrect in estimating his or her BAC by .034 mL/L. Studies 2 and 3 examined the accuracy of BAC-estimation tools (i.e., nomograms, sobriety tests, and phone applications) and the efficacy of these tools to increase awareness of driving-related risks. On average, both nomograms and BAC-estimation phone applications were incorrect in estimating BAC by over .05 mL/L. Sobriety tests performed slightly better than chance at discriminating BACs of .08 mL/L. Participants receiving BAC-feedback had increased awareness of driving risk across levels of intoxication. Nomogram and breathalyzer feedback tended to promote healthier perceptions of external risk. Sobriety testing shifted the internal perception of feeling less safe to drive. No effect was observed for BAC-estimation phone applications. Study 4 found individuals who received breathalyzer feedback across multiple nights of the research were significantly more accurate at estimating their BAC. Specifically, individuals on the fifth night of participation were .017 mL/L more accurate at estimating their BAC as compared to the first night. Future research areas and policy implications are discussed.

Links: http://RT4RF9QN2Y.search.serialssolutions.com/?ctx_ver=Z39.88-
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Advisor: Geller, E. Scott

University/institution: Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University

University location: United States -- Virginia

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Database: ProQuest Dissertations & Theses Full Text
The Effectiveness of an Alternative Alcohol Taxation Method in a Middle-Income County: A Case Study of Thailand

Author: Sornpaisarn, Bundit


Abstract: Background: While specific taxation has been found to be effective in reducing alcohol consumption and its related harms in High-Income Countries, it theoretically encourages drinking initiation in Low- and Middle-Income Countries (LMIC) with a high prevalence of lifetime abstainers. This dissertation aims to systematically review the existing evidence of the effects of taxation in LMIC on alcohol consumption, alcohol-related harms, and the rate of drinker initiation, and to examine how changes in Thailand's Two Chosen One (2C1) taxation rates affect alcohol consumption, related harms and drinking initiation. Method: (1) A systematic review and meta-analysis that examines the effects of taxation policy on alcohol consumption, alcohol-related harms and the rate of drinker initiation in LMIC. (2) A quasi-experimental study using interrupted time-series analysis that examines the effects of alcohol taxation increases in Thailand on alcohol consumption and traffic fatalities. (3) An analysis of four consecutive national surveys on alcohol consumption behaviours to examine the effect of alcohol tax increases on drinking initiation prevalence in Thailand. Result: There were only 10 published studies that quantitatively examined the effect of alcohol taxation policy on consumption in LMIC. In LMIC the price elasticity of demand was -0.64 for all alcohol consumption, -0.50 for beer consumption, and -0.79 for consumption of other alcohol. No studies were found that examined the effects of taxation policy on alcohol-related harms and drinking initiation in LMIC. Thailand's alcohol taxation increase in 2009 was associated with a reduction in alcohol consumption (tax elasticity of -1.95) and in traffic fatalities (tax elasticity of -1.90). Increased taxation prevented drinking initiation among young people.
15 - 24 years of age during 2001-2011 in Thailand (tax elasticity of -0.40). Conclusion: Increases in taxation under the 2C1 taxation method were associated with decreases in alcohol consumption, alcohol-related harms and drinking initiation.

Subject: Public health

Classification: 0573: Public health

Identifier / keyword: Health and environmental sciences, Alcohol taxation, Alcohol tax, Thailand, Lifetime abstainers, Taxation, Alcohol-related harms, Drinker initiation
The effect of prenatal marijuana exposure on offspring marijuana use and cannabis use disorder in young adulthood

Author: Sonon, Kristen Elisabeth

Abstract: Marijuana is the most commonly-used illicit substance among pregnant women. Few studies have been conducted on the long-term effects of prenatal marijuana exposure (PME) on offspring. This dissertation examines the association between PME and offspring marijuana use and cannabis use disorder (CUD) in young adulthood. First, the association between PME and offspring frequency of marijuana use at 22 years of age was evaluated. PME was defined as a continuous measure of the average daily joints and frequency of use by the offspring was defined as no use, using less than three times per week, and using three times per week or more. An ordinal logistic regression model was used. Results showed that PME was initially significant but this association was attenuated to non-significance after adjusting for covariates. Childhood maltreatment, but not race or gender, moderated the association between PME and offspring use. PME was associated with offspring frequency of use at low levels of childhood maltreatment, but not at high levels of childhood maltreatment. Second, a path analysis was used to evaluate pathways from PME to frequency of marijuana use in offspring. Results showed a significant indirect path through early initiation of marijuana. There was also a significant indirect path through depressive symptoms and early initiation of marijuana. In addition, PME predicted early marijuana initiation but maternal
marijuana use during the offspring's childhood did not. Third, a path analysis was used to evaluate pathways from PME to CUD. Results showed a significant indirect path of PME on CUD through early initiation of marijuana. There was also a significant indirect path of PME on CUD through depressive symptoms in childhood and early initiation of marijuana. In summary, PME may create a biologic vulnerability in offspring. In addition, aspects of the offspring's environment also contribute to marijuana use and CUD in young adulthood. The findings of this dissertation are significant to public health. Healthcare professionals should encourage pregnant women to abstain from marijuana and public health programs should target youth to delay marijuana initiation.

Links:


Subject: Medicine; Public health; Epidemiology
An investigation of the neural substrates underlying the anxiogenic effects of cocaine

Author: Wenzel, Jennifer M.

Abstract: Cocaine self-administration is known to produce both positive/euphoric and negative/anxiogenic effects. While the rewarding effects of cocaine have been well documented, the neurobiology underlying its anxiogenic effects remains unclear. Our laboratory has employed two behavioral assays to study these opposing actions of cocaine: a runway self-administration test, and a modified place conditioning test. In the runway, the positive and negative effects of cocaine are reflected in the frequency of approach-avoidance conflict behavior that animals develop about entering a goal box associated with cocaine delivery. In the place
conditioning test, animals develop preferences for environments paired with the immediate/rewarding effects of cocaine but avoid environments paired with the drug's delayed/anxiogenic actions. The investigations detailed in this dissertation utilize both of these behavioral models in an attempt to understand the neurobiology underlying the negative/anxiogenic effects of cocaine. Four studies were designed and executed to address three broad aims: (1) to determine if the reward-related neurotransmitter dopamine plays a role in cocaine's negative effects, (2) to identify specific brain regions critical to the experience of cocaine's anxiogenic properties, and (3) to examine the role of neurotransmitter systems within identified structures in these properties. Altogether, the experiments detailed in this thesis do not support a role for dopamine in cocaine's anxiogenic effects, but, rather, outline a role for norepinephrine neurotransmission within the extended amygdala in the delayed/negative effects of cocaine administration.

Links:
Identifying novel targets in opioid addiction: Pre-clinical and clinical studies

Author: Jaremko, Kellie Marie

Abstract: Opioid dependence affects nearly 1% of the world's population and is a devastating global health problem without an effective curative treatment. As opioid dependence prevalence and mortality rates escalate, it is imperative that current recovery paradigms are optimized while simultaneous novel pharmacological
interventions are explored. To do so necessitates an enhanced understanding of both individuals vulnerable to relapse and novel neuroanatomical targets that regulate opioids. Ideal screening for drop-out prone individuals seeking opioid dependence treatment would be at intake due to the rapid drop off of compliant patients over the course of the first year of treatment. The clinical studies undertaken in this dissertation aimed to assess whether stress reactivity is a risk-factor for premature treatment discontinuation. Stress reactivity was assessed via perceived stress and post-traumatic stress disorder symptomatology at admission: creating a stress reactivity index (SRI). While stabilization on a constant dose of methadone in combination with continued opioid-free urine drug screens significantly predicted survival out to three months, the SRI, in addition to drug severity indices, served as earlier proxy measures. Together these assessments accounted for 13-30% of the variance across outcome measures with higher stress reactivity predicting inconsistent group therapy attendance, ongoing opioid use, poor stabilization, and fewer days until drop-out. Considering the strong impact of stress on recovery the preclinical studies were targeted in the rat locus coeruleus (LC)-norepinephrine (NE) system where environmental, emotional, and physical stress afferents converge on opioid sensitive addiction-related pathways. Within such neurons, adaptations in cell signaling cascades develop following opioid actions at the mu opioid receptor (MOR) and molecular and cellular adaptations to morphine exposure have been well characterized. Morphine has been shown to induce a re-distribution of Wntless (WLS), a MOR-interacting protein (MORIP), from cytoplasmic to membrane compartments in rat striatal neurons providing some insight into the mechanism of action of opioids. The co-localization of WLS and MOR specifically in the LC was confirmed via western blot analysis, in addition to immunocytochemistry with confocal microscopy that suggested a high rate of somatodendritic overlap of both proteins. Rats received saline, morphine or the opiate agonist [D-Ala2, N-Me-Phe4, Gly-ol5]-enkephalin (DAMGO), followed by sequential high resolution single and dual immunogold-silver electron microscopy that revealed a significant re-distribution of WLS to the plasma membrane, often in close proximity to MOR, following morphine treatment. The differential nature of addictive morphine-like substances and potential role of subsequent trafficking differences was implied by contrasting DAMGO treatment, where MOR and WLS
were predominantly localized within the cytoplasmic compartment of the neurons. These findings allow future work to build upon the therapeutic potential of MORIPs, like WLS, and may lead to a pharmacological adjunct for stress-vulnerable individuals entering opioid replacement therapy that could prevent relapse and improve overall treatment of opioid dependence.

Links:

Subject: Neurosciences; Psychobiology

Classification: 0317: Neurosciences; 0349: Psychobiology

Identifier / keyword: Biological sciences, Psychology, Locus coeruleus, Methadone maintenance, Opioids, Stress, Substance abuse, Mu opioid receptors
Title: Identifying novel targets in opioid addiction: Pre-clinical and clinical studies

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Advisor: Van Bockstaele, Elisabeth J., Sterling, Robert C.

Committee member: Viscusi, Eugene R., Trotti, Davide

University/institution: Thomas Jefferson University

Department: Neuroscience

University location: United States -- Pennsylvania

Degree: Ph.D.

Source type: Dissertations & Theses

Language: English

Document type: Dissertation/Thesis

Dissertation/thesis number: 3613204

ProQuest document ID: 1509130675
The effects of social and health consequences on the drinking cognitions and behavior of young people

Author: Kingsbury, John Harley

Abstract: Much research has investigated how emphasizing the social and health consequences of risk behavior influences health risk decision-making. However, little is known about the conditions under which each type of consequence is maximally effective. Two studies examined how the social and health consequences of drinking influence drinking cognitions and behavior within the context of the prototype/willingness model. Study 1 tested the prediction that social and health consequences would have independent effects on willingness and intentions to drink. High school students read vignettes that featured a peer who had engaged in excessive alcohol use and suffered either negative social consequences (e.g., vomiting at a party in front of an attractive member of the opposite sex), or negative health consequences (e.g., blacking out, alcohol poisoning). As hypothesized, results showed that social consequences were associated with lower willingness than intentions to drink, and health consequences were associated with lower intentions than willingness, but only among those with some drinking experience. Study 2 built on Study 1 by investigating whether the effects of social and health
consequences on drinking cognitions change as a function of how the consequences are framed. Participants (college students) again read vignettes in which a peer experienced social or health consequences of drinking, but the consequences were framed as either a loss (i.e., the negative consequences of drinking heavily; as in Study 1), or a gain (i.e., the positive consequences of not drinking heavily). Results indicated that social consequences framed as a loss, and health consequences framed as a gain were associated with lower intentions to drink heavily, but only among those who were high in heavy drinking experience. These studies provide evidence that social and health consequences may have differential effects on willingness and intentions to drink. Moreover, findings suggest that the relative influence of social and health consequences depends on a variety of factors including age, experience, how the consequences are framed, and processing mode. This research has implications for interventions aimed at reducing drinking behavior among young people.

Links:
The Impact of Personalized Feedback on Marijuana Use: Examining a Brief Intervention Delivered via the Internet

Author: Towe, Sheri Lynn

Abstract: Marijuana use remains the most commonly used illicit drug in the United States, and many people experience problems related to their marijuana use yet do not seek treatment. Web-based interventions for problematic marijuana use represent a potentially cost-effective and highly accessible way to reach a large number of adults who are ambivalent about changing their marijuana use, or are
concerned about seeking in-person counseling for their use. The goal of this online study was to evaluate the effectiveness of a brief web-based feedback intervention for adult marijuana users who reported at least some problems related to their marijuana use. Eighty-two adult college students who reported at least some problems related to marijuana use at baseline were randomized to one of two conditions to examine whether a personalized feedback report would impact marijuana use at follow-up relative to an education control group. Feedback reports were delivered to participants after completion of a baseline assessment battery, and participants were reassessed at one- and three-months post-baseline. Primary outcome variables were problems related to marijuana use and frequency of marijuana use. Main outcome analyses examined change over time by condition as well as possible moderating variables of Stage of Change and family history of problematic substance use. Both marijuana-related problems and marijuana use rates showed some indication of reduction over time at the one-month follow-up, but there were no significant interactions by condition indicative of differential change. These reductions were not sustained at three-months. Analyses across the final follow-up period were likely not significant due to low follow-up completion rates, as well as an overall lower-than-expected sample size. Study recruitment will continue for one additional year to increase sample size for future analyses, but at this time there was no clear evidence the personalized feedback intervention was effective.

Links:
Subject: Clinical psychology; Cognitive psychology

Classification: 0622: Clinical psychology; 0633: Cognitive psychology

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Advisor: Stephens, Robert S.
Interactive effects of drinking history and impulsivity on college drinking

Author: Adams, Zachary William

Abstract: The transition from adolescence into emerging adulthood is a particularly important developmental period for changes in alcohol
use and drinking related problems. Prior research has identified a number of distinct developmental alcohol use trajectories, which appear to be differentially related to young adult drinking outcomes. Another robust correlate of alcohol use and drinking problems in college is impulsivity. The aims of the proposed study were threefold: (1) identify distinct adolescent alcohol use trajectories, (2) examine the relations among these groups and various theoretically- and clinically-relevant outcomes, including alcohol use, drinking problems, and impulsivity in college, and (3) explore the possible role of impulsivity as a moderator of the relation between past use trajectories and college drinking habits and drinking problems. Results supported a four-group model of adolescent drinking including abstainers/very light users, late onset/moderate users, early onset/moderate users, and steep increase/heavy users. The abstainer/very light user group reported lowest levels of alcohol use and problematic drinking in college; the steep increase/heavy use group reported the highest levels of alcohol use and problematic drinking, on average. The influence of personality was strongest among early onset/moderate users in predicting college drinking patterns. At high levels of premeditation and negative urgency, members of this group were predicted to have heavier, more problematic drinking habits than even individuals in the adolescent heavy user group. Implications and future directions are discussed. KEYWORDS: Impulsivity, Alcohol Use, Adolescent Drinking Trajectories, Problematic Drinking, College Drinking

Links:
Neurophysiological correlates of moderate alcohol use in older adults

Author: Boissoneault, Jeffrey

Abstract: A moderate drinking lifestyle may help reduce the risk of cardiovascular disease, type 2 diabetes, and some types of cancer. However, the degree of risk associated with moderate drinking episodes is poorly understood. Impaired attentional and behavioral
function has been identified as a consequence of both aging and acute low-to-moderate alcohol administration, yet studies of the interaction between these factors are largely lacking. This project was conducted to address this gap. We hypothesized age and moderate alcohol administration would have independent negative effects on both attentional function and behavioral performance, but that older adults would be more susceptible to alcohol-related decrements than younger adults. In addition, we predicted older adults would show dissociation between subjective and objective measures of intoxication and neurophysiological and behavioral performance.

Fifty-two (52) younger (25-35 years old; 20 women) and 42 older (55-70 years old; 25 women) healthy community-dwelling subjects (Ss) completed laboratory testing. Ss were administered either placebo or a dose of alcohol targeted to a blood alcohol concentration of 0.04 g/dL or 0.065 g/dL. Following absorption, Ss completed a remember/ignore task requiring attentional enhancement to relevant stimuli and suppression of attention to irrelevant stimuli relative to a passive viewing condition. Amplitude and latency of several components of the event related potential (ERP) were assessed as well as accuracy and reaction time. Results indicated that both enhancement and suppression were intact in younger Ss across alcohol groups. Enhancement correlated positively with task accuracy for younger Ss. Older Ss did not show suppression and demonstrated enhancement under active alcohol that did not correlate with improved accuracy or reaction time. Furthermore, breath alcohol concentration but not subjective intoxication correlated with behavioral decrements in older but not younger Ss. These data provide new information about the acute effects of alcohol concentrations typical of a moderate drinking event on attentional function and working memory performance in older adults. Further study is necessary to determine whether older adults are at higher risk for moderate alcohol-induced injury or health-related consequences as a result of these effects.

Links:
Longitudinal test of a developmental model of early adolescent drinking

Author: Settles, Regan Elizabeth


Abstract: This paper reports on a longitudinal test of a developmental model of early adolescent drinking in which biological, personality, learning, and behavioral factors were hypothesized to transact with one another to influence drinking. The model was tested on 1906 children making the transition from elementary school to middle school across three time points: the spring of 5th grade, the fall of 6th grade, and the spring of 6th grade. In a transaction that has been referred to as Acquired Preparedness, individual differences in the trait positive urgency at the end of 5th grade were associated with increases in expectancies for social facilitation from alcohol at the start of 6th grade, which then predicted increased alcohol consumption at the end of 6th grade. Additionally, both pubertal onset and drinking in the 5th grade predicted additional increases in positive urgency, which then predicted subsequent increases in expectancies by the end of 6th grade. Multiple factors appear to transact to predict early adolescent drinking behavior. KEYWORDS: adolescent, alcohol, development, positive urgency, expectancies

Links:
Subject: Clinical psychology

Classification: 0622: Clinical psychology

Identifier / keyword: Psychology, Adolescent, Development, Expectancies, Alcohol, Positive urgency

Title: Longitudinal test of a developmental model of early adolescent drinking

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Behavioral mechanisms of drug action: Does cocaine alter reinforcer efficacy?

Author: Maguire, David R.
Abstract: The two main purposes of the present research were to examine (1) the role of drug-induced changes in reinforcer efficacy in modulating the effects of cocaine on operant responding and (2) the role that these changes might play in the development of tolerance. Study 1 was designed to provide a within-subject comparison of sensitivity of an operant response (key-pecking in pigeons) to effects of cocaine with sensitivity of feeding. Pigeons responded for brief access to mixed grains under an intermittent schedule of reinforcement. The effects of a range of doses of cocaine were compared across two general response categories, key-pecking and feeding, during three dosing regimens, acute administration, chronic (i.e., daily) administration, and withdrawal. When administered acutely, cocaine produced dose-dependent disruption in all measures. After chronic administration, tolerance developed in the feeding measures but to a lesser degree in the key-pecking measures. During withdrawal, sensitivity of responding to cocaine did not return to pre-chronic levels. Generally, there were instances where doses that disrupted feeding also disrupted key-pecking suggesting a role for cocaine-induced reinforcer devaluation in the rate-decreasing effects of cocaine on operant behavior. The effects of pre-session feeding were compared across key-pecking and feeding during two dosing regimens, chronic administration and withdrawal. Pre-feeding amount-dependently disrupted all measures to similar degrees; however, the effect of prefeeding was modulated by dosing condition. Responding was more sensitive to prefeeding while under chronic cocaine than during withdrawal. Study 2 was designed to examine the extent to which the food-hopper mechanism might assume aversive properties following cocaine administration and whether these putative aversive properties will affect preference for the hopper-delivered food. Pigeons responded on two operandas, each of which provided intermittent access to different food types delivered by different food sources, a noisy grain hopper and a silent pellet dispenser. The effects of acute and chronic cocaine administration were tested across several phases. Generally, the effects of the cocaine whether administered acutely or chronically were similar for responding on both alternatives. The results, therefore, suggest that feeder type plays little role in the rate-decreasing effect of cocaine on operant behavior.
Subject: Behavioral psychology; Pharmacology; Psychology

Classification: 0384: Behavioral psychology; 0419: Pharmacology; 0621: Psychology

Identifier / keyword: Psychology, Health and environmental sciences, Pigeons, Key-pecking, Cocaine, Feeding, Drug tolerance, Reinforcer efficacy

Title: Behavioral mechanisms of drug action: Does cocaine alter reinforcer efficacy?

Number of pages: 176

Publication year: 2011
An examination of risk and protective factors that predict substance use among subgroups of Hispanics

Author: Guerrero, Jaime
Abstract: The prevalence of substance use among adolescents and the various resultant negative effects makes finding strategies to reduce or eliminate it a health care priority. Reducing adolescent drug use requires understanding which groups are at greatest risk and why. However, because most research has been focused on Caucasian adolescents, little is known about Hispanic drug use. Using data from the National Longitudinal Study of Adolescent Health (Add Health), this study examined whether there are within-group differences among Hispanic adolescents in the degree to which risk factors (peer substance use and parental substance use), protective factors (religiosity and familism), and acculturation predict their alcohol, marijuana, and cocaine use. Predictors were taken from wave one of the Add Health data set and the outcome variables were taken from wave three, and hierarchical multiple regression was used to examine additive and multiplicative relationships among the variables. Participants were Mexican/Mexican American (n = 1,702), Cuban/Cuban American (n = 538), Puerto Rican (n = 633), and Central/South American (n = 403). The results revealed that there were subgroup differences. That is, certain variables were predictive for some subgroups and not others. Moreover, the relationships between the predictor and outcome variables varied by substance. Additionally, acculturation acted as a moderator for certain risk and protective factors with varying degrees of effect. This study reveals that a "one size fits all" theoretical or counseling approach in dealing with substance use among Hispanic adolescents is unlikely to be effective or informative. This study also argues for future research to investigate subgroup differences among Hispanic populations more fully. KEYWORDS: Acculturation, Adolescents, Hispanic, Substance Use, Research

Links:
Subject: Counseling Psychology; Hispanic American studies

Classification: 0603: Counseling Psychology; 0737: Hispanic American studies

Identifier / keyword: Social sciences, Psychology, Acculturation, Substance use, Adolescents, Research, Hispanic, Risk and protective factors

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