Predictors Of Sex/Drug-Linked Relapse Risk

Author: Baig, Amber

Abstract: Sexuality is an important area of recovery for substance users. Engaging in sexual behaviors while using substances is called sex/drug-linked behaviors, which results in sex/drug-linked relapse risk. The purpose of this study is to identify which variables of sex/drug-linked behaviors increases this relapse risk. The hypothesis of this study states that sex/drug-linked motivations, sex-negative attitudes, sexual functioning, shame, and risky sexual behaviors will strongly load on factors attributing to sex/drug-linked relapse risk. Results of the factor analyses indicated that sexual functioning, sex-negative attitudes, sex/drug-linked motivations, and risky sexual behaviors strongly loaded on factors attributing to sex/drug-linked relapse risk. However, when accounting for high psychological distress, shame became a significant variable. These five variables are associated with a higher risk of relapse and should be incorporated into treatment for recovering substance users. Clinicians should assess for these sex/drug-linked variables in clients and provide appropriate interventions to decrease risk of relapse.

Links:
How clients in Alcoholics Anonymous experience therapist self-disclosure: An exploratory study

Author: Zucker, Sarah A.
Abstract: Although there is research on therapist self-disclosure (TSD), it is typically analogue and uses non-client samples to rate and categorize transcripts or vignettes. No study to date has examined, in-depth, and from the client's perspective, how TSD may uniquely impact clients who participate in Alcoholics Anonymous (AA). AA highlights the importance of equality and the value of sharing "experience, strength and hope." AA is the biggest and most commonly utilized 12-step recovery self-help fellowship in the United States, and it encourages members to seek outside treatment if needed. Many of these clients do seek out individual therapy at some point in their recovery journey. This qualitative research study utilized grounded theory and the Constant Comparative Method to examine how individual therapy clients who also regularly participate in AA perceived TSD and the individual therapy process. The researcher conducted eight semi-structured interviews with participants who met the inclusion criteria. There were seven major themes pertaining to how clients experienced TSD and two major supplemental themes unrelated to TSD. The major themes that emerged from the study in relation to TSD specifically were: participants valued appropriately timed, general, and relevant TSD, participants valued self-disclosure when it was used to show empathy, concern, and to demonstrate that the therapist had faced similar challenges in the past, participants thought TSD could potentially reveal a disconnect between therapist and client, and that too much disclosure could be harmful to the therapeutic relationship. Potential limitations, implications for practitioners, and suggestions for future research based on the findings are discussed.

Links:
How clients in Alcoholics Anonymous experience therapist self-disclosure: An exploratory study

Number of pages: 127

Publication year: 2014

Degree date: 2014

School code: 1634

Source: DAI-B 75/07(E), Jan 2015

Place of publication: Ann Arbor

Country of publication: United States
Substance abuse treatment seeking of older adults
Abstract: Substance abuse and dependence are major problems for all ages, but they are increasingly observed in adults 50 and older. Many adults in this group do not seek treatment for their substance related disorder because they do not feel the need. There is a gap in the literature as the research is not clear on how these perceptions relate to other conditions. The purpose of this quantitative study was to examine the relationship between feeling the need for treatment, and physical and mental health conditions based on age. This study is based on the 6 constructs in the health belief model: perceived susceptibility, perceived severity, perceived benefits, perceived barriers, cues to action, and self-efficacy. The research questions in this study looked to see if the conditions predicted feeling a need for treatment and pursuing treatment in older adults, defined as 50 years and older. This secondary analysis utilized the 2011 National Survey on Drug Use and Health (NSDUH) dataset for 7,630 respondents with reported substance abuse or dependence. A logistic regression analysis determined if the conditions were predictors of treatment seeking behavior utilizing appropriate variables in the dataset. Results indicated that the only predictors of wanting treatment are reporting depression, anxiety, or STDs and in the age group of 49 and younger. Future research should concentrate on understanding why the older adult is less likely to seek treatment. Social change implications indicate finding ways to encourage adults in this group of the benefits of treatment, and the education of misusing alcohol, drugs, and other medications. The sober older adult could be a beneficial asset to younger people to share experiences and educate them on the dangers of substance related disorders.
Thinking It Can Get Better Makes It Better: Lay Theories of Prejudice and Substance Use Willingness among Undergraduate Students of Color
Abstract: Racial discrimination has been linked to substance use (SU) willingness, an immediate precursor to SU (e.g., Gibbons et al., 2010). Elucidating factors that buffer against the toll of discrimination is thus critical in reducing SU among racial minorities. The present study examined whether lay theories of prejudice, or the assumptions people make about the malleability of prejudicial attitudes (Carr, Dweck, & Pauker, 2012), moderate the effects of racial discrimination on SU willingness among a sample of young adult, infrequent substance users—a group for whom willingness is a particularly powerful predictor of behavior (e.g., Pomery et al., 2009). An entity theory entails the belief that prejudicial attitudes are stable over time; an incremental theory entails the belief that people’s prejudice can change. I hypothesized that entity beliefs would reinforce, and that incremental beliefs would weaken, the effects of discrimination on SU willingness. To test these predictions, I exposed students of color (N = 159) to entity or incremental beliefs about prejudice and subsequently included or excluded them in an online ball-tossing game. Afterwards, participants reported their willingness to drink alcohol, smoke cigarettes, and use other drugs. Results supported hypotheses in relation to alcohol, but not cigarette or other drug, willingness: Entity participants reported significantly greater willingness to drink alcohol if they were excluded (vs. included). However, for incremental participants, alcohol willingness was similar across exclusion and inclusion conditions, suggesting such beliefs may be protective against racial discrimination.

Links:
Abstract: Introduction: Gestational age at birth is one of the strongest predictors of infant mortality and morbidity. Preterm birth (PTB) remains a chronic public health issue in the United States and varies significantly across racial and socioeconomic class, yet remains poorly understood. Evidence regarding the association between maternal stress and spontaneous late PTB is mixed. The objective of this study was to estimate the strength of association between discrimination, prenatal anxiety and gestational age at birth of neonates delivered spontaneously at 34 weeks gestation or later in a population of low SES women. Methods: Study participants were recruited in their first or second trimester of pregnancy from the Women's Health Center at Lattimore. Participants completed the Perceived Stress Scale, Prenatal Distress Questionnaire and the Experiences of Everyday Discrimination Scale during their second and third trimesters of pregnancy. Birth data were obtained from participants' medical records. Medically indicated PTB and all births before 34 completed weeks were excluded from study results. We performed t-tests, ANOVA and linear regression to evaluate associations between prenatal anxiety, discrimination and gestational age at birth. Results: Between December 2011 and January 2013, one hundred and twenty-five women were enrolled in the study with complete data obtained for 98 women. We dichotomized discrimination and prenatal anxiety scores at the 70th and 75th percentiles, respectively, to establish high and low exposure groups. Mean gestational age at birth did not differ between those with high (276.6 days) and low (275.8 days) discrimination exposure (p=.681), nor between those with high (277.0 days) and low (275.7 days) prenatal anxiety exposure (p=.528). Neither discrimination nor prenatal anxiety was independently associated with gestational age.
at birth after adjustment for maternal age, race/ethnicity, marital status, smoking status, prior PTB and perceived stress. Discussion: Our findings do not support an association between prenatal anxiety or discrimination and gestational age at birth in this population of low SES women. A lower than expected incidence of spontaneous PTB and higher standard deviation in gestational age at birth in the study population limited our ability to detect an association between these psychological stressors and gestational age at birth.

Links:

Subject: Public health

Classification: 0573: Public health

Identifier / keyword: Health and environmental sciences, Discrimination, Gestational age at birth, Prenatal stress, Preterm birth
Title: Associations between prenatal anxiety, discrimination and gestational age at birth

Number of pages: 178

Publication year: 2014

Degree date: 2014

School code: 0188

Source: DAI-B 75/07(E), Jan 2015

Place of publication: Ann Arbor

Country of publication: United States

ISBN: 9781303807008

Advisor: Fernandez, Isabel D.

Committee member: Glantz, Christopher, O'Connor, Thomas G., Seplaki, Christopher L., Pesis-Katz, Irena

University/institution: University of Rochester

Department: School of Medicine and Dentistry

University location: United States -- New York

Degree: Ph.D.

Source type: Dissertations & Theses

Language: English

Document type: Dissertation/Thesis

Dissertation/thesis number: 3614998
The role of the intuitive function in addiction recovery

Author: Dakin, Cary Elizabeth

Abstract: This study examines the role of the intuitive function in addiction recovery. Addictive behaviors create an internal state dominated by imbalanced instinctual drives. The psychological manifestations are obsessive thoughts, anxiety, depression, guilt, shame, and a sense of isolation. This research explored how subtle unconscious influences like the intuitive function have a role in shifting this treacherous internal state. Intuition is a prominent spectrum function which bridges the unconscious and conscious by providing unexpected knowledge of unknown origins when none is consciously available, assesses potential of situations, and imparts understanding of how and when to carry out instinctual action (Jung, 1971/1976, 1948/1981a). Field research was conducted through a qualitative, intuitive, phenomenological methodology. Twelve participants in recovery from alcoholism were asked through conversational interviews about their experience of intuition in sobriety. The participants claimed intuition initiated, sustained, and enhanced their sobriety. They were able to distinguish the intuitive
function from the amplified state of need, obsessive thought, and angst. They reported synchronicities, dreams and intuitive influences were instrumental in the decision to stop drinking. In longer term recovery, the intuitive function was perceived when helping others, solving problems, learning self-care, and enhanced intuition was described as one of the biggest gifts of sobriety. This research contributes to the field of psychotherapy by discovering the important role of the intuitive function in addiction recovery. Recognizing and helping patients cultivate intuition facilitates the apprehension of addictive behaviors. Working with unconscious functions such as intuition helps those considering sobriety, as well as those in sobriety, to establish a relationship with their unconscious other than one based on addictive patterns. Developing the intuitive function in recovery establishes a conscious relationship to the primary process beyond impulsivity and curbs instinctual impulsivity.

Links:

Subject: Mental health; Psychology; Clinical psychology
Abstract: Forty to sixty percent of smokers attempt to quit annually. Without assistance by health-care providers, only 3 - 5% are successful with quitting. Smokers assisted by healthcare providers are 1.7 to 2.2 times more likely than those without assistance to remain a nonsmoker after 5 months. Advanced practice nurses (APRNs) can significantly improve their clients' quality of life and increase their life expectancy through tobacco cessation education. Guided by the transtheoretical model of change, the goal of this evidence-based practice study was to educate APRN students on smoking information and techniques to assist clients with quitting smoking in the primary care setting. The research question addressed whether the education program based on the Rx for
Change curriculum increases APRN students' knowledge, skills, and confidence in providing tobacco cessation training. Participants (n = 36) completed the Skills and Confidence for Smoking Cessation Tool and the knowledge of tobacco cessation survey prior to an education intervention. The participants again completed the Skills and Confidence for Smoking Cessation Tool and the knowledge of tobacco cessation survey upon completion of the educational intervention. Paired sample t tests were conducted to analyze the pretest and posttest results. As a result of the education program, APRN students demonstrated a perceived statistically significant increase (p < .05) in knowledge, skills, and confidence related to tobacco cessation education. By educating APRN students, these practitioners can begin forming clinical communities of nurses supporting social change with nurse-managed tobacco cessation education.

Links:
Abstract: Social learning models of alcohol use suggest that both distal-personal and current-environmental factors influence the degree to which a person views alcohol as a viable method to achieve a social or emotional goal. Little research has investigated the role of current-environmental factors in this determination. Over the past 30 years research has suggested that the attractiveness of a reinforcer within a given context is integrated into a single value, called incentive salience value. Furthermore, research has identified four behavioral and cognitive markers of incentive salience value. A series of items was developed tapping these markers of incentive
salience value to create an Incentive Salience Index (ISI). This scale was evaluated in a sample of 357 college students. Participants responded to the ISI as well as other measurements of psychological components of alcohol use online. Consistent with expectations, a single-factor solution effectively captured variance of the putative behavioral and cognitive markers. Furthermore, this scale contributed to the prediction of alcohol motive engagement over and above distal-personal factors. These results suggest that the ISI effectively measures incentive salience. The ISI also predicted alcohol use independently of motives, indicating that incentive salience describes an element of alcohol related value not adequately captured by motives.

Links:


Subject: Clinical psychology
Abstract: The purpose of this study was to examine the influence of psychosocial factors on drug court graduation among a medication assisted treatment drug court population. The extant research identifies drug courts as effective in reducing recidivism and relapse rates; however meta-analyses of the drug court literature reveal that there is little explanation as to why drug courts are effectual and especially for whom. This study examined trauma, mental health, and social support to determine predictive psychosocial factors of drug court participants while controlling for certain demographics. The analyses showed that social support was predictive, but failed to identify trauma or mental health correlates. Policy implications are discussed.
Subject: Law; Public health; Criminology

Classification: 0398: Law; 0573: Public health; 0627: Criminology

Identifier / keyword: Social sciences, Health and environmental sciences, Drug court, Mental health, Social support, Substance abuse, Trauma

Title: Predicting Successful Drug Court Graduation: Exploring Demographic and Psychosocial Factors among Medication-Assisted Drug Court Treatment Clients

Number of pages: 109

Publication year: 2014
Addiction to prescription drugs: An interpretative phenomenological analysis and constructionist study

Author: Hallinan, Thomas M.

Abstract: This study presents an interpretative phenomenological analysis of the experience of becoming addicted to prescription medications. In addition, a constructionist analysis of the cultural, sociopolitical, and historical aspects of addiction are examined. The modern concept of addiction did not begin to come into being until the late nineteenth century. The twentieth century saw the beginning of government regulation and restrictions on the prescription, possession, and use of pharmaceuticals. The latter half of the twentieth century saw not only the boom of the pharmaceutical industry, but the explosion of addictive disorder and the rise of the Twelve Step program for addiction. Addiction, as a culturally constructed phenomenon, is still a hotly contested issue, with extreme views on opposite ends of the spectrum, even among treating professionals. Prescription medication addiction, in particular, has been on the rise for several decades. Toward the exploration and understanding of prescription pill addiction six male participants were recruited and interviewed for the research data and an interpretative phenomenological analysis was applied to this data. The following superordinate themes emerged and were explored: early experiences with drugs, a perception of prescription drugs as safer than street drugs, a movement away from an ideal self, denial and avoidance, and a sense of powerlessness. In addition, cultural factors impacting the experience of the participants' addictions were investigated.
The lived experience of clients treated with buprenorphine for opioid withdrawal protracted depression

Author: Marcel, Samuel L.

Abstract: Opioid users detoxifying from opioid drugs are at risk of developing a substance-induced mood disorder that meets the symptomatic and duration criteria for dysthymic disorder or major depression. An opioid induced mood disorder such as depression may develop during the intoxication or the withdrawal state. During the withdrawal state, the depressed symptoms can be relatively protracted (Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders Fourth Edition-Text Revised (APA, 2000). One of the major problems in treating the opiate user with protracted depression is the lack of knowledge concerning the views of the opiate user while in aftercare. Buprenorphine, a semi-synthetic opioid derivate (a partial mu receptor agonist and kappa receptor antagonist), has the potential to act as an anti-depressive agent to help treat patients with opiate withdrawal symptoms such as protracted withdrawal depression (Kintz and Marquet, 2002). A purposeful sampling strategy, criterion sampling (studying participants who have a similar experience as related to the research question) was utilized to recruit and select participants for this research study (Patton, 2002; Marshall & Rossman, 2006). The sample for this study was seven former aftercare participants, four males and three females between the ages of 20 to 50 years old, treated with buprenorphine for opiate withdrawal protracted depression. A qualitative study was used to explore and develop a psychological structure of the lived experience of former aftercare participants treated with buprenorphine for
protracted depression related to opiate withdrawal. The qualitative approach selected to analyze this study was guided by the descriptive phenomenological method based on Giorgi’s model (Giorgi, 2009). Constituents that emerged from this study included feeling rejuvenated with a renewed outlook on life, buprenorphine viewed as a "miracle drug" that allowed the participants to refocus on family and social obligation, developing a positive attitude toward participation in aftercare, and abstains from opiates without the desire or craving to use. The understanding of the participants' lived experiences in aftercare can serve as a guideline for healthcare and addiction providers who are interested in developing a foundation for an integration program that will meet the needs of opiate users.

Links:


Subject: Psychology; Clinical psychology
Ethnopharmacology and stress relief: The spiritual experience of practitioners in the santo daime church

Author: Panneck, Justin

Abstract: The inability to effectively cope with stress brings about numerous physical and psychological disorders. Alternative methods of coping with stress are important to examine, but there is a lack of awareness and acceptance of non-Western spiritual practices within the general public and mainstream scientific domains. Due to limited research on the ritual use of ayahuasca as part of the means to cope and thrive in daily life, conventional assumptions about its status as an illegal substance negatively alters its interpretation as an effective therapeutic aid. This phenomenological study was an investigation of the spiritual experience of participants of the Santo Daime Church, a syncretic religious group that uses ayahuasca as their sacrament. The purpose of this study was to explore the experience of spiritual
guidance to enhance coping strategies and reduce stress. The theoretical lens of holism, which holds that individuals are best understood as a function of their social, physical, mental, emotional, and spiritual contexts, informed this study. From the population of approximately 60 local church members, 14 individuals volunteered to participate in semi structured interviews. The resulting transcripts were analyzed using the method of Interpretative Phenomenological Analysis to uncover themes within and across cases. Overall, 6 themes and 53 subthemes were identified. The 6 primary themes included: The Trial, Ecstatic Spiritual Communion, Supernatural Contact, Rapture, Macroscopic Kinship, and Enhanced Coping. The results of this study may impact conventional assumptions regarding the potential of mind-altering substances as effective therapeutic aids. Positive social change may result when health professionals consider expanded alternatives for therapeutic tools to help clients cope effectively with stress.

Links:
Just say know: How the parent movement shaped america's modern war on drugs, 1970-2000

Author: Dufton, Emily B.

Abstract: Between 1973 and 1978, a dozen states containing over a third of the nation's population decriminalized or legalized the possession of marijuana. Through the work of groups like the National Organization for the Reform of Marijuana Laws (NORML) and business groups catering to the growing field of marijuana consumers, pot and its surrounding culture swept the United States,
with head shops opening in local malls while movies and music celebrated the drug's use. In response to the increasing availability of marijuana, however, rates of adolescent marijuana use spiked. By 1979, 11 percent of high school seniors reported smoking pot daily. In response, a counterrevolution to marijuana's thriving "drug culture" formed among the nation's parents. The parent movement, founded by Marsha "Keith" Manatt Schuchard in the summer of 1976, rejected the common opinion that marijuana was harmless, and Schuchard emphasized that parents had a duty to take control of their children's environment and prevent their family from using drugs. Schuchard's platform, known as "parent power," was spread through meetings, media coverage, and educational forums and conferences, and thousands of desperate parents quickly joined the fold. By 1980, the movement had spread nationwide, with local parent groups in every state using education and consciousness-raising to further their message. By the time Ronald Reagan was elected to the presidency, the National Federation of Parents for Drug-Free Youth (NFP) had formed in nearby Silver Spring, Maryland. This national umbrella group engaged in political lobbying and organizing the over four thousand individual parent groups that had sprouted across the United States. It also aligned with Nancy Reagan when the first lady took on adolescent drug abuse prevention as her national platform. By 1983, members of the parent movement were involved in directing the course of federal anti-drug education, presenting at congressional hearings, influencing national media campaigns, and determining how to use the millions of dollars in federal and private funding that the movement was regularly receiving. In the wake of these massive national anti-drug efforts, rates of adolescent marijuana use plummeted. Despite this success, however, the movement died off by the early 1990s. This dissertation is the first complete history of the parent movement, as well as an examination of its most long-lasting effects. It posits two primary arguments: that the parent movement was responsible for placing children at the center of the nation's war on drugs, and that its history complicates the overly-simplified narrative of "America's right turn." It also exposes several of the hidden aspects of the movement's history, including the important contributions of non-white activists and the role that the parent movement, drug use and anti-drug prevention played in the nation's culture wars that took place during this time. Supported by interviews with parent activists as well as access to newsletters,
correspondence and other materials, this dissertation shows how intimately connected the parent movement was to the social and political environment of its time, and how its contributions to the nation's war on drugs continue to have deep ramifications today.

Links:


Subject: American studies; American history; Modern history

Classification: 0323: American studies; 0337: American history; 0582: Modern history

Identifier / keyword: Social sciences, Drug use, Marijuana, Parent movement, Social movements, War on drugs

Title: Just say know: How the parent movement shaped america's modern war on drugs, 1970-2000
Impact of Healthy Lifestyle Choices on Smoking Behavior Among College Students who Smoke Cigarettes

Author: Jenkins, Mitchell W.

Abstract: This dissertation examines the impact certain healthy lifestyle choices had on smoking behavior among college students who smoke cigarettes. Even with continued reduction in prevalence, cigarette smoking is still the leading cause of preventable death in America. With that in mind, it is important to continue to identify factors that relate to decreased tobacco usage. Secondary data from the American College Health Association's bi-yearly National College Health Assessment was used for this study. This assessment/survey encompasses college students' habits, behaviors, and perceptions regarding prevalent health topics. The sample for this study consisted of 14,515 college students who identified themselves as having smoked within the last 30 days. Fruit and vegetable intake per day, days per week of vigorous exercise, Body Mass Index, and exercisers trying to lose weight were the healthy lifestyle choices this study related to smoking behavior. It was found that 1) college students who ate zero fruits and vegetables per day were likely to smoke 2.31 more days per month than those who ate five or more per day, 2) for every day per week a smoker partook in vigorous exercise, they smoked 0.76 days fewer per month, 3) for every one
unit increase in participants Body Mass Index, an increase of 0.06 in days smoked per month can be expected, 4) College students who are not currently exercising to lose weight smoke 2.11 more days per month than those students who are currently exercising to lose weight. Overall, the majority of healthy lifestyle choices considered in this study significantly impacted the amount of days per month a college smoker, smoked cigarettes.

Links:


Subject: Behavioral psychology; Nutrition; Public health

Classification: 0384: Behavioral psychology; 0570: Nutrition; 0573: Public health

Identifier / keyword: Psychology, Health and environmental sciences, Cigarettes, College students, Nutrition, Smoking
Title: Impact of Healthy Lifestyle Choices on Smoking Behavior Among College Students who Smoke Cigarettes

Number of pages: 62

Publication year: 2014

Degree date: 2014

School code: 0011

Source: DAI-B 75/07(E), Jan 2015

Place of publication: Ann Arbor

Country of publication: United States

ISBN: 9781303795572

Advisor: Jones, Ches

Committee member: Gorman, Dean, Mink, Ed, Parish, Anthony

University/institution: University of Arkansas

Department: Health Science

University location: United States -- Arkansas

Degree: Ph.D.

Source type: Dissertations & Theses

Language: English

Document type: Dissertation/Thesis

Dissertation/thesis number: 3614382
The Influence of Community Context on Social Control: A Multi-Level Examination of the Relationship between Race/Ethnicity, Drug Offending, and Juvenile Court Outcomes

Author: Peck, Jennifer H.

Abstract: Studies of the association between race/ethnicity and juvenile court outcomes have found that minority youth often receive disadvantaged outcomes compared to similarly situated Whites, and that community context may condition this relationship. Sampson and Laub's (1993) revised conflict perspective is one theoretical model that can potentially explain the social control of youth throughout juvenile justice proceedings. One of the main propositions of Sampson and Laub's (1993) perspective is that communities characterized by underclass poverty and racial inequality will impose greater social control on youth referred to the juvenile court, especially Blacks and youth charged with a drug offense because they are perceived as a threatening population to middle-class values and standards. The current research drew upon Sampson and Laub's (1993) macrolevel theory of inequality and social control to examine the juvenile court outcomes of White, Black, and Hispanic youth from all counties in a Northeast state from 2000-2010. Hierarchical
generalized linear modeling (HGLM) was employed to examine the relationship between disadvantaged community characteristics (underclass poverty, racial inequality, ethnic inequality) and juvenile court outcomes; especially if race/ethnicity, drug offending, and type of drug offense (possession versus distribution) tempered these relationships. The results indicate that disadvantaged community characteristics did not directly impact the social control of youth, but individual and joint effects of race/ethnicity and drug offending resulted in greater social control for Black and Hispanic youth of various drug offending combinations. In particular, the effect of race/ethnicity on social control was greater for Hispanic youth compared to Blacks. Depending on the stage examined, the relationship between race/ethnicity, drug offending, and juvenile court outcomes were conditioned by disadvantaged community characteristics. Based on the findings, empirical and theoretical implications are provided that focus on the applicability of Sampson and Laub's (1993) perspective to more recent court outcomes, as well as prevention and intervention programs that focus on decreasing the presence of minority youth in the juvenile justice system. Directions for future research are highlighted to provide greater insights into the circumstances surrounding case outcomes and under what situations community context and race/ethnicity matter in the treatment of youth within the juvenile court.

Links:
Subject: Criminology; Ethnic studies

Classification: 0627: Criminology; 0631: Ethnic studies

Identifier / keyword: Social sciences, Disadvantaged communities, Juvenile justice, Minority youth, Racial inequality, Underclass poverty

Title: The Influence of Community Context on Social Control: A Multi-Level Examination of the Relationship between Race/Ethnicity, Drug Offending, and Juvenile Court Outcomes

Number of pages: 194

Publication year: 2014

Degree date: 2014

School code: 0206

Source: DAI-A 75/07(E), Jan 2015

Place of publication: Ann Arbor

Country of publication: United States

ISBN: 9781303816765
The Association of Self-Efficacy and Barriers to Smoking Cessation Among Chamorros
Abstract: Indigenous people have significant tobacco-related health disparity. Chamorros lack ethnic-specific data to determine associated factors of smoking and smoking cessation. Self-efficacy to avoid smoking during stressful and social situations significantly affects smoking cessation rates. Temptations or barriers to smoking cessation involve positive affect situations, negative affect situations and habit craving situations. Based on social cognitive theory and the health belief model, the present study examined the association of self-efficacy and temptation or barriers to smoking status, as well as the effects of gender, age, income, and education on this association. In a quantitative, cross-sectional study, 330 Chamorro adults who are current or former smokers from Guam and the Northern Mariana Islands completed the Self-Efficacy/Temptation Scale and a demographic survey. Logistic regression was used to examine the relationships. Findings indicate that self-efficacy, positive affect situations, negative affect situations, and habit/craving situations were significantly associated with smoking status. In all 4 models, age was a significant predictor, indicating an increased likelihood of being a former smoker with every unit increase in age. In all 4 models, education did not provide a significant contribution on smoking status. In 2 out of 4 models, income was a significant predictor. Further research using a larger sample size and varying analytical methods may additionally assess how these factors affect Chamorro smoking status. Implications for positive social change include informing the general population, health legislators, and public health officials, leading to efforts to reduce smoking among Chamorros, which could result in decreased smoking-related health disparities.
Implementation of the alcohol use disorders identification test to improve practice in a rural primary care clinic

Author: Thompson, Kayla Joy

Abstract: The purpose of the project was to improve patient care and the clinical practice at the Barnesville Area Clinic (BAC) by introducing the providers to a guided method of evidence-based alcohol screening and brief intervention (SBI) for primary care patients. Previously, less formal methods for alcohol screening were utilized. The AUDIT with AUDIT-C modification screening form, which was created by the World Health Organization (WHO), was implemented. AUDIT is supported as an appropriate evidence-based method by the U.S. Preventative Services Task Force. Interventions were guided by the WHO’s Brief Intervention Manual. The project was implemented in the Barnesville Area Clinic from June 2013 until August 2013. Thirty adult primary care patients, who presented for an annual physical exam, were offered the AUDIT screening form and brief intervention as indicated by individual scores. Of the 30 patients, six declined participation. Five participants filled out the screening tool, but did not complete the attached consent form. The remaining 19 participants completed the screening tool and consent form. Seventeen patients scored within Zone 1 (low risk) and two patients scored in Zone 2 (increased risk for alcohol misuse). No one scored in Zone 3 (high risk) or Zone 4 (alcohol dependence). The providers were surveyed on the perceived benefits and barriers of the project. Both providers strongly agreed the project was beneficial and the methods were easy to use. The impact on patient care varied, depending on individual results and willingness to participate in brief interventions. Barriers included suspected under-reporting of alcohol use, and patient resistance to discussing alcohol use. Despite the barriers, both providers felt that SBI methods could be utilized by the clinic in future practice. Recommendations for future research include offering SBI to broader patient populations at provider discretion to
include not only annual physicals but those with suspected substance use on an episodic basis. Another recommendation is to seek out research on screening and brief intervention or to develop a method of SBI for prescription abuse.

Links:


Subject: Nursing

Classification: 0569: Nursing

Identifier / keyword: Health and environmental sciences, Alcohol misuse, Audit, Brief intervention, Evidence based practice, Screening

Title: Implementation of the alcohol use disorders identification test to improve practice in a rural primary care clinic
Document URL:

Copyright: Copyright ProQuest, UMI Dissertations Publishing 2014

Database: ProQuest Dissertations & Theses Full Text

A Permanent Dragnet?: Drug Arrests, Violent Crime, and Durable Disadvantage in the Urban US

Author: Friedson, Michael Seth


Abstract: This dissertation analyzes changes in the drug arrest rates of approximately two-hundred United States cities, the largest by population in 1990, from around 1980, prior to the advent of crack cocaine and the accompanying increase in drug arrest rates, until 2008, when violent crime levels had experienced sustained and major declines in the urban US. Drug arrests are demonstrated to be an important research topic because of the contribution of drug law enforcement to record high US prison admission and incarceration rates, as well as possible disparate impacts of aggressive drug law enforcement upon poor and minority communities. The analysis focuses particularly on the changing relationship of drug arrest rates to urban violence levels and indicators of disadvantage. Also included in the dissertation are chapters analyzing the changing relationship of drug arrests to drug abuse as a public health problem, as indicated by drug-related emergency room hospitalization rates; the changing composition of drug arrest rates by race of arrestee, drug type, and seriousness (possession vs. distribution) of the offense; and changing patterns of drug usage with regard to the socioeconomic and demographic characteristics of users. Longitudinal multivariate
statistical techniques, including multilevel mixed effects modeling, are used to determine the static and dynamic urban characteristics associated with trajectories of change in municipal drug arrest rates, subsequent to their mid-1990s peak period. Changes in municipal violent crime levels are also modeled, from their early-1990s peak period onward, for the purpose of comparison. The central substantive question framing the inquiry concerns better understanding the tendency of drug arrest rates to remain elevated near their peak levels, through the 1990s and 2000s, even as urban violence levels, with which drug arrest rates were once strongly associated, precipitously and sustainably declined. The dissertation analyzes the unraveling of a previously tight nexus between municipal drug arrest rates, urban violence levels, indicators of drugs as a public health problem, and contemporaneous indicators of urban disadvantage, even as drug arrest rates have remained closely connected to--and indeed become a durable aspect of--long-term patterns of disadvantage in the urban US.

Links:
The Trajectory of Alcohol Use in Emerging Adulthood: Investigating the Roles of Alcohol Measurement and Educational Pathways

Author: Thompson, Kara

Abstract: Inconsistencies in alcohol use measurement across studies and broad conceptualizations of post-secondary education experiences of young adults impede the comparison of research findings and our understanding of age-related shifts in alcohol use during emerging adulthood. This dissertation uses data from the Victoria Health Youth Survey (V-HYS), a 5 wave longitudinal study.
following 662 Canadian youth across the ages of 12-27. Study 1 examined the longitudinal associations among four measures of alcohol consumption (frequency, quantity, frequency of heavy episodic drinking and volume) from ages 15-25 and compared the ability of these measures to predict alcohol-related problems in emerging adulthood. Levels and rates of change across alcohol dimensions were moderately associated over time. However, measures of alcohol involvement significantly differed in their average rate of growth and in the prediction of alcohol-related problems in emerging adulthood. Heavy episodic drinking and volume showed the strongest associations in developmental trends and were similarly predictive of alcohol-related problems. The findings from this study support using measures of heavy episodic drinking or volume for assessing alcohol use and alcohol-related problems during emerging adulthood. Building on Study 1, Study 2 compared the trajectories of heavy episodic drinking during adolescence and emerging adulthood among youth in four different educational pathways: two-year college students, four-year university students, transfer students, and terminal high school graduates. This study also examined whether individual level factors could account for group differences in heavy drinking among the education groups. Terminal high school graduates consistently had the highest levels of alcohol use over time compared to all three post-secondary groups. Two-year college students had significantly higher levels of heavy drinking than university or transfer students when they enrolled, but university students had the greatest increases in heavy drinking after enrollment. However, differences in heavy drinking between post-secondary groups were completely accounted for by variations in the age at the time of enrollment. Taken together, the current findings illustrate that enrolling in post-secondary education, regardless of the type of institution, is associated with an increase in the frequency of heavy drinking during emerging adulthood and that this increase is greatest for younger students. However, the rates of drinking never exceeded that of the terminal high school graduates over time. These studies illustrate that the conclusions drawn about alcohol use trends during emerging adulthood may be contingent on the alcohol consumption measure used and conceptualizations of educational experiences. The results of the current studies provide recommendations to researchers about which measures of alcohol involvement to select for inclusion in future studies, and inform the
optimal timing, targets, and contexts for alcohol prevention and intervention efforts during emerging adulthood.

Links:


Subject: Social psychology; Educational psychology; Clinical psychology; Higher education

Classification: 0451: Social psychology; 0525: Educational psychology; 0622: Clinical psychology; 0745: Higher education

Identifier / keyword: Psychology, Education, Post-secondary education, Latent growth modeling, Alcohol
Title: The Trajectory of Alcohol Use in Emerging Adulthood: Investigating the Roles of Alcohol Measurement and Educational Pathways

Number of pages: 117
Publication year: 2013
Degree date: 2013
School code: 0244
Source: DAI-A 75/07(E), Jan 2015
Place of publication: Ann Arbor
Country of publication: United States
ISBN: 9780499284297
Advisor: Stockwell, Tim
University/institution: University of Victoria (Canada)
Department: Psychology
University location: Canada
Degree: Ph.D.
Source type: Dissertations & Theses
Language: English
Document type: Dissertation/Thesis
Dissertation/thesis number: NS28429
ProQuest document ID: 1520449201
Abstract: Human structural magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) studies indicate that some neural regions such as the prefrontal cortex (PFC) and the amygdala continue to develop throughout adolescence into early adulthood. These studies have specifically shown that the volume of the PFC increases until puberty and then decreases until early adulthood. By contrast, the amygdala has been shown to increase in volume through the adolescent period. Using the rat as a model of these changes, our laboratory has previously found that both of these structures show a decrease in the number of neurons between postnatal day (P) 35 and P90, the equivalent adolescent period in the rat (Markham et al, 2007; Rubinow and Juraska, 2009). The studies described here were designed to further elucidate neuroanatomical changes in the brain during the adolescent period as well as investigate how intrinsic and extrinsic factors may disrupt this development. In chapter 2, adolescents and adults were compared in a behavioral task dependent on the medial prefrontal cortex (mPFC). Adolescents were able to perform the task. On certain delays (15s and 30s), however, they were consistently worse than adults indicating that behavior that depends on the mPFC is not
yet at adult levels. To identify further neuroanatomical changes in the mPFC and the basolateral amygdala (BLA), dendritic arborizations and dendritic spines were analyzed in chapter 3. These studies indicated a growth of dendrites and dendritic spines between P20 and P35 (prepuberty) in both sexes as well as both structures. After P35, the dendrites of the mPFC were shown to prune predominately in females, whereas in the BLA, dendrites slightly increased in length but significantly increased in the number of branches in both sexes. During this period of neuroanatomical change, adolescent rats were exposed to alcohol in a binge-like manner and then sacrificed in adulthood to quantify the number of neurons and glia. Results reported in chapter 4 revealed no significant differences in the total number of neurons in the mPFC. However there was a significant decrease in glia that occurred in the male mPFC. No differences were found in any measure in the BLA. In chapter 5, pubertal hormones were removed by ovariectomizing or castrating animals prior to puberty. Results showed that removal of the testes caused no effects in males but there were changes in the number of neurons and glia in females. It was found that females without ovaries during puberty had more neurons and a greater number of glia, thus eliminating sex differences. Taken together these experiments reveal further neuroanatomical changes in the mPFC and the BLA. Furthermore they highlight how pubertal hormones are involved in the adolescent development of the mPFC and the cellular effects of alcohol use within the adolescent period.

Links:
Cognitive avoidance strategies as a moderator of the relationships between hyperarousal, reexperiencing, and alcohol use in OEF/OIF active duty military personnel
Abstract: Research has provided considerable evidence that combat exposure can result in psychological problems. High rates of PTSD and alcohol misuse have been shown to be prevalent in OEF/OIF military personnel. Substantial research has provided strong evidence for the self-medication model of how alcohol use can provide symptom relief in individuals with PTSD. The current study explores how the cognitive avoidance strategies of thought suppression, rumination, and numbing are related to alcohol use in a sample of OEF/OIF active duty military personnel (N = 207). Specifically, the study examines the possibility that the avoidance strategies of thought suppression, rumination, and numbing moderated the relationships of hyperarousal and reexperiencing symptoms to reported alcohol use. Participants in the study completed an online survey of questionnaires including the PTSD Checklist - Military Version, the CAGE, and the Response to Intrusions Questionnaire. A simultaneous multiple regression analysis was completed and results indicated that thought suppression, rumination, and numbing did not moderate the relationships between reexperiencing or hyperarousal symptoms and reported alcohol use. However, there was a significant positive linear relationship between thought suppression, rumination, and numbing and reported alcohol use. A significant positive linear relationship was also found between hyperarousal symptoms and alcohol use. These results provide further support for the self-medication model, as well as the physiological and cognitive theories of self-medication. Overall, these findings have noteworthy implications for future research as well as for clinicians who treat military personnel with PTSD and alcohol related disorders.
Subject: Clinical psychology; Cognitive psychology; Military studies

Classification: 0622: Clinical psychology; 0633: Cognitive psychology; 0750: Military studies

Identifier / keyword: Social sciences, Psychology, Alcohol, Avoidance, Hyperarousal, Military, PTSD, Reexperiencing

Title: Cognitive avoidance strategies as a moderator of the relationships between hyperarousal, reexperiencing, and alcohol use in OEF/OIF active duty military personnel

Number of pages: 80

Publication year: 2013

Degree date: 2013

School code: 1569
Exploring the Differences in Drinking Motives among Adolescent Binge and Non-Binge Drinkers

Author: York, Catherine M.


Abstract: Alcohol use often escalates during the period of middle to late adolescence (ages 16 to 20; Brown et al., 2008), which can lead to binge drinking (defined as five or more drinks for males and four or more drinks for females during one drinking occasion). Binge drinking is one of the leading public health concerns for adolescents and may lead to several alcohol-related problems (Courtney & Polich, 2009). The primary goal of this study was to expand upon a motivational model of alcohol use (Cooper, Frone, Russell, & Mudar, 1995) to better understand how binge and non-binge drinkers may differ in their drinking motives, or reasons for drinking. This model was tested cross-sectionally and longitudinally using a sample of adolescents who may be considered at high risk for problem behaviors. Participants were 772 11th and 12th graders (59% female; 79% white) in a longitudinal study of the social and emotional contexts of adolescent smoking patterns; 430 of whom (55% female) met criteria as binge drinkers. Two sets of nested structural models were tested using path analysis for four groups created based upon gender and binge status (female binge drinkers, female non-binge drinkers, male binge drinkers, and male non-binge drinkers) and included five exogenous variables (depression, anxiety, novelty seeking, friend support, and problem-behavior network) and four endogenous variables (coping, enhancement, and social motives and alcohol-related problems). The first set examined cross-sectional, structural relations among model variables, and the second set examined the same variables longitudinally in which 15-month exogenous variables were entered predicting 24-month drinking motives and alcohol-related problems. Two models were tested for each group: one positing full mediation by drinking motives (i.e., the hypothesized cross-sectional/longitudinal model) and the other allowing for
estimation of direct paths suggested by AMOS modification indices to improve overall model fit. Multi-group analyses were conducted to determine significant differences between binge and non-binge drinkers for each gender. Finally, a series of moderated-mediation analyses were conducted to examine each drinking motive separately using bootstrap mediation techniques and multi-group analyses in AMOS to better explore significant differences in drinking motives between binge and non-binge drinkers. Overall, the current study found that depression, anxiety, novelty seeking, and socializing with a problem-behavior network was associated with alcohol-related problems both directly and indirectly via drinking motives, with some antecedents (i.e., anxiety, novelty seeking, and problem-behavior network) being associated with more than one drinking motive. There were also significant differences between binge and non-binge drinkers, as well as between males and females. Specifically, depression was indirectly related to alcohol-related problems via coping motives for non-binge drinkers, whereas anxiety was indirectly related to alcohol-related problems via coping motives for binge drinkers. In addition, the relationship between associating with a problem-behavior network and alcohol-related problems was mediated by social motives for all females but only for binge-drinking males. Finally, the meditational role of enhancement motives between novelty seeking and alcohol-related problems was found for all groups, regardless of binge status and gender. These results suggest that future interventions for adolescent drinking should be sure to incorporate strategies based upon each drinking motivation.

Links:
Exploring the Differences in Drinking Motives among Adolescent Binge and Non-Binge Drinkers

Number of pages: 105

Publication year: 2013

Degree date: 2013

School code: 0799

Source: DAI-B 75/07(E), Jan 2015

Place of publication: Ann Arbor

Country of publication: United States

ISBN: 9781303840128

Advisor: Mermelstein, Robin
Alcohol use disorders in Canada: Treatment access and effectiveness for rural adolescents

Author: Patton, Richard George
Abstract: In 1999, the Canadian government reported on their evaluation of substance misuse treatment and rehabilitation in Canada. It was found that substance use treatment programs consisted of a number of uncoordinated treatment services varying in type, scope, and focus, with few published studies, a mix of unpublished policy planning papers, and limited attention to treatment effectiveness. Rural Canadian adolescents were identified as a population particularly in need of substance misuse treatment services, and alcohol misuse in particular. The current review provides a discussion of problematic alcohol use in Canada, Canadian substance misuse treatment services, Health Canada's recommended best practices, patterns of alcohol use by adolescents, evidence-based practices for treating alcohol misuse, and advancements in treatment and research over the past 13 years for adolescents, and it attempts to assess rural Canadian adolescents' current access to empirically supported alcohol use disorder treatments. Review of the literature from the past 13 years revealed ongoing gaps in services since 1999. There have been few systematic studies focusing specifically on Canadian adolescent populations, and even fewer focusing on rural Canadian adolescents. Review of research within North America and other Westernized countries, including Great Britain and Australia, revealed that concerns regarding adolescent alcohol misuse are being addressed, and several potential areas of effective treatment/intervention have been implicated including 12-Step programs, school-based programs, brief intervention, and technology-based intervention. There remains little to no viable alcohol misuse treatment options for rural Canadian adolescents, despite this population having been identified as in need of services. Review of the literature suggests a continued need for research into effective, accessible, empirically-based treatments and interventions for rural Canadian adolescents. Specific recommendations for future directions of assessment, treatment, and research include: separate surveys of rural and urban adolescent drinking patterns, and improving consistency between measures and surveys; further examination of other treatment options such as assessment and brief intervention in emergency departments, school-based selective/universal harm reduction programs, technology-based treatments, and 12-Step programs.
The experiences of women entering methadone treatment for opioid use: An interpretive phenomenological inquiry

Author: Rubio, Melissa


Abstract: The United States is facing a momentous public health problem of prescription and illicit opioid use among women. Traditionally in health literature women have received less attention than men and this is especially true with regard to drug use. In terms of recovery from opioid use, treatment centers that use methadone as a pharmaceutical replacement for illicit opioids have been present in the US for decades, and women have been enrolling in treatment since its inception. However, there is little in the literature about the characteristics of these women, why they choose methadone treatment, and what their experiences are while in treatment. The study explores the experiences of thirteen women entering methadone treatment at a clinic in urban Fort Worth, Texas. Through the narrative descriptions of their history of drug use, reasons for deciding to get help, accounts of why they chose methadone and their experiences during their time in treatment are answered. An Interpretive Phenomenological qualitative research method was employed throughout to gather and understand the stories of women drug users searching for help. This method explores their beliefs about challenges, pitfalls and triumphs of recovery. Results from this study will add to the knowledge base about women and substance use disorders as well as women and change. Findings will help nurses and those in other disciplines to better understand the problem of opioid use among US women and assist women in traversing through the addiction journey.

Subject: Social work; Womens studies; Nursing; Clinical psychology

Classification: 0452: Social work; 0453: Womens studies; 0569: Nursing; 0622: Clinical psychology

Identifier / keyword: Social sciences, Psychology, Health and environmental sciences, Methadone, Opioid, Substance use, Treatment, Women

Title: The experiences of women entering methadone treatment for opioid use: An interpretive phenomenological inquiry

Number of pages: 152
Outcomes of methadone maintenance treatment for opioid-dependent patients with or without their elevated psychiatric distress being addressed

Author: Adamo, Jennifer


Abstract: Opioid dependence is a chronic relapsing disorder that often causes severe physical, social, and psychological harm. Methadone maintenance is the most widely used pharmacologic treatment for opioid dependence. Although methadone has been found to be an effective form of treatment, the high co-occurrence of mental and substance use disorders can make treatment more challenging and complex. If left untreated, such patients are likely to have worse treatment outcomes. Studies have shown that counseling in addition to methadone can enhance the treatment outcomes of patients, but little is known about whether addressing or not addressing a patient's psychiatric distress in treatment may impact treatment outcomes. The present study examined if (a) addressing a Methadone Maintenance Treatment (MMT) patient's psychiatric distress in treatment, and (b) if patients who receive more frequent counseling sessions devoted to addressing their psychiatric distress will be associated with improved outcomes in (a) substance use and (b) psychiatric distress over a 1 year period in a MMT program. Overall, the results showed that patients whose psychiatric distress was addressed in treatment did not show greater improvement in their psychiatric distress or substance use at 1 year in treatment.
Furthermore, the number of counseling sessions patients received had no significant impact on psychiatric distress or substance use.

Links:

Subject: Pharmacology; Social psychology; Clinical psychology; Physiological psychology

Classification: 0419: Pharmacology; 0451: Social psychology; 0622: Clinical psychology; 0989: Physiological psychology

Identifier / keyword: Psychology, Health and environmental sciences, Methadone maintenance, Opioid dependence, Psychiatric distress, Substance abuse, Treatment outcomes
The role of affective and behavioral economic factors in predicting response to a brief intervention for alcohol and illicit drug use in college students

Author: Dennhardt, Ashley A.

Abstract: Brief motivational interventions (BMIs) have been shown to be efficacious in reducing heavy drinking and drug use among college students; however, effect sizes are small and more research is needed to identify predictors of responsiveness to these interventions. Depression, distress tolerance, delay discounting, and the reinforcing efficacy of substances have been implicated in substance use and may predict problem severity. Further, preliminary evidence suggests that these factors may be important predictors of treatment outcomes, but few studies have examined these constructs in this manner. This study tested a novel intervention approach that involves a BMI plus a supplemental intervention targeting behavioral economic and mood-related variables (Substance-Free Activity Session; SFAS). Participants were 97 college students who reported one or more past-month heavy drinking episodes. After completing an alcohol and drug-focused MI, participants were randomized to either the SFAS or an Education control session. The combination of the MI
plus SFAS was associated with significantly greater reductions in drinking and drug use compared to the MI plus EDU at the 6-month follow-up. Across the two conditions, levels of depression were lower at 1 and 6 months post intervention and one measure of reinforcing efficacy was lower at 1-month followup suggesting a BMI may be effective at reducing depression and alcohol demand. Lower baseline proportion of reinforcement derived from substances and higher distress tolerance were predictive of better outcomes across conditions. Moderation analyses indicated that students with lower distress tolerance and higher discounting responded better to the MI + EDU session and students with lower discounting and reinforcing efficacy responded better to MI + SFAS. Changes in mood and behavioral economic variables did not mediate changes in substance use. These results suggest that a BMI + supplemental mood and behavioral economic session may be more effective overall in helping students reduce their drinking and drug use, but not necessarily through the targeted behavioral economic and mood-related mechanisms. So, although these variables may predict response to intervention, and students who vary in these domains may respond differentially to various interventions, more research is necessary to determine mechanisms of change in this novel intervention.

Links:
Conventional capital, criminal capital, and criminal careers in drug trafficking

Author: Wang, Wei

Abstract: Although the criminal career paradigm has explored various crime types, little effort has been conducted to systematically
examine the pattern of drug trafficking careers. Ethnographic studies on drug trafficking have proposed that different forms of capital have an impact on the patterns of drug trafficking careers. The effects of conventional and criminal capital, however, have been the subject of much less empirical attention. Drawing from information on the criminal careers of 182 incarcerated drug traffickers, this study examines the role of conventional and criminal social capital on three dimensions of the criminal career perspective: the timing of entry into the illicit drug trade, the entry positions as a type of criminal achievement that traffickers first obtain in the drug distribution chain, and the progression of trafficking careers. Results suggest that weak conventional capital (e.g. legitimate employment) is associated with the early onset into trafficking careers. An offer coming from a friend or family member to enter the trade and self-initiation trigger the early onset. High levels of both criminal human (skills) and criminal social (contacts) capital are linked to starting at the most prestigious positions in the trade. In addition, criminal social capital is the most important factor to predict the progression of trafficking careers, while legitimate employment negatively affects the progression. Limitations and policy implications are discussed. Keywords: criminal careers, drug trafficking, conventional capital, criminal capital

Links:

Title: Conventional capital, criminal capital, and criminal careers in drug trafficking

Number of pages: 155

Publication year: 2013

Degree date: 2013

School code: 0791

Source: DAI-A 75/07(E), Jan 2015

Place of publication: Ann Arbor

Country of publication: United States

ISBN: 9780499239440

Advisor: Bouchard, Martin

University/institution: Simon Fraser University (Canada)

University location: Canada

Degree: Ph.D.
Reliability and Validity of a Substance Craving Scale: Testing Invariance across Substances

Author: Mazza, Jessica

Abstract: Introduction Craving for alcohol or drugs has been studied for many years by scholars and clinicians in an effort to improve the efficiency of substance abuse treatment across individuals and settings. The reduction of craving has been conceptualized as a target of intervention in addiction treatment programs and post treatment relapse prevention programs. The purpose of this research was to develop a substance craving scale that is reliable and valid for use across substance use disorders. The scale was examined via the
Rasch model, an item response theory model that provides the analysis of data through use of a single, difficulty parameter. To date, there has been no Rasch analysis conducted of a substance craving scale that assesses cravings for all substances. Methods The current Substance Craving Scale was developed based on several of the prior validated, drug-specific scales that are used to measure substance craving. An additional craving item, used on the National Longitudinal Alcohol Epidemiologic Survey and a key basis of the DSM-V decision to add craving as a criterion, was also included in the final scale. Analysis of the data employed both Rasch and traditional test theory techniques. The measure was analyzed with a Rasch dichotomous model with Winsteps statistical software, and other techniques used SPSS statistical software. Analyses were performed to provide summary statistics of the data, to determine item fit, dimensionality of the measure, reliability, validity, and differential item functioning (DIF) for substance of choice. Results The results showed that all but one item on the measure were appropriate based on a preliminary item analysis, and the final psychometric analyses were conducted on the revised 11-item scale. The craving scale was found to be unidimensional, reliable for research purposes, and showed evidence of validity of construct. Most importantly, there was no significant differential item functioning by substance of choice. Discussion. Several items were discussed regarding their theoretical importance, and the validity and reliability of the scale were critiqued. Limitations of the study included homogeneity of the sample, hence reliability and validity of the Substance Craving Scale should be replicated in different samples, especially for those individuals entering substance treatment.

Links:
Examining the Association between Tobacco Use and Binge Drinking and the Effects of Tobacco Interventions on Binge Drinking Behaviors

Author: Stahre, Mandy Adele
Abstract: Background: Binge drinking is a significant public health problem. Although effective alcohol control policies exist, many have eroded over time or face strong political opposition to their implementation. Other mechanisms to reduce binge drinking need to be found. Tobacco and alcohol use share similar biological, personal, and environmental characteristics and research has shown that among alcohol dependent population reducing smoking can lead to decreases in alcohol use. Objectives: The purpose of this dissertation was to assess: (1) the extent that binge drinking and smoking are associated in a non-alcohol dependent population, (2) how this observed association may be modified by individual- and environmental-level factors, and (3) the effect of tobacco interventions on binge drinking. Methods: The first study examined the association between binge drinking and smoking behaviors using a representative sample of active duty military personnel. Additionally, multivariate logistic regression tested whether frequency of deployment and the perception of an alcohol promoting environment moderated the association between binge drinking and smoking. The second study assessed the effect of an individual-level tobacco intervention (health education versus motivational interviewing counseling) on binge drinking and average daily alcohol use in a group of African American light smokers over a six-month period. Generalized linear models assessed the mediation effect of smoking cessation on the relationship between counseling intervention and drinking. The third study used pooled-time-series analyses to assess the effects of two state-level tobacco control policies (tobacco taxes and smoking bans in bars) on state-level binge drinking behaviors from 1998 to 2010. Results: In the first study, binge drinking was found to be significantly higher among current smokers than former and nonsmokers. The frequency of deployment (but not the perception of an alcohol-promoting environment) moderated this relationship although effects varied by branch of service. In the second study, individuals randomly assigned to receive health education counseling decreased their binge drinking at week 8 of the study, but these results diminished within six months. Smoking cessation did not appear to mediate the relationship
between counseling type and binge drinking; however, individuals who quit smoking (regardless of counseling type) also decreased their binge drinking at week 8 of the study; these results were not significant at the end of the study. For the third study, neither tobacco taxes nor smoking bans in bars was associated with a decrease in binge drinking outcomes at the state level. Conclusions: Smoking and binge drinking are strongly associated in non-alcohol dependent populations and some evidence suggests that decreasing smoking leads to initial reductions in binge drinking; however, the evidence presented is not strong enough to advocate for a reliance on smoking interventions as a way to reduce and prevent binge drinking. Alcohol advocates need to continue to support and educate lawmakers about the effectiveness of alcohol control policies in order to reduce binge drinking.

Links:

An Examination of the Abilities, Risks, and Needs of Adolescents and Young Adults with Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (FASD) in the Criminal Justice System

Author: McLachlan, Kaitlyn E.
Abstract: Fetal alcohol spectrum disorder (FASD) comprises the continuum of permanent deficits caused by alcohol consumption during pregnancy, which may include brain injury, neurobehavioural impairment, growth restriction, and physical birth defects. Individuals with FASD experience numerous adverse outcomes, including high rates of involvement with the criminal justice system. This dissertation examined the psycholegal abilities, justice-system experiences, and risks associated with prospective offending in 50 youth with FASD. The reliability and predictive validity of three commonly used youth risk assessment tools were also examined. Results were contrasted with a second group of 50 justice-involved youth without prenatal alcohol exposure (PAE). Participants included 100 justice-involved youth aged 12 to 23. Participants completed a battery of measures including Grisso's Miranda Instruments, the Understanding Police Interrogation Questionnaire, the Fitness Interview Test-Revised, the Wechsler Abbreviated Scales of Intelligence, and the Wide Range Achievement Test--4th ed. Rating scales including the Structured Assessment of Violence Risk in Youth, the Youth Level of Service/Case Management Inventory, and the Psychopathy Checklist--Youth Version, were also completed. Youth with FASD demonstrated substantially more impairment in psycholegal abilities relevant to police interrogation and adjudication than participants in the comparison group. Intellectual ability and reading comprehension emerged as robust independent predictors of psycholegal abilities, though the FASD diagnosis also served as an independent predictor of youths' understanding and communication skills on the FIT-R. The two groups showed many similarities in legal experiences, including high rates of self-reported false confessions. Overall, the two groups demonstrated lengthy and serious offense histories. Youth with FASD showed earlier contact with the justice system and a higher volume of past offending, while comparison youth tended to be charged with fewer, but more serious offences. Youth with FASD recidivated earlier in the 3-month follow-up period and accrued more charges. They earned significantly higher continuous scores across risk assessment tools, and substantially more youth in the FASD group were rated as high or very high risk to reoffend. The risk assessment tools performed reasonably well in predicting general recidivism in youth with FASD. These findings are discussed in the context of current legal policy, clinical practice, and future intervention planning.
Title: An Examination of the Abilities, Risks, and Needs of Adolescents and Young Adults with Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (FASD) in the Criminal Justice System

Number of pages: 135
Adolescent risk taking, dopamine signaling, and cocaine self-administration: A vicious cycle

Author: Mitchell, Marci Rae

Abstract: In adolescence, poor decision making, risk taking, and drug use have been strongly linked; however the causal relationships among these factors are poorly understood. As causality is difficult to disentangle in humans, an animal model of risk taking was used to investigate causal relationships between adolescent risk taking and cocaine self-administration in rats. Specifically, a Risky Decision-making Task (RDT) that was developed in our laboratory was used to investigate whether risky decisionmaking is a pre-existing condition which may predict the propensity for drug use, and/or if elevated risk taking is a result of drug use itself. In addition, the RDT was used to determine if the relationships between risky decision-making are modulated by dopaminergic signaling in the prefrontal cortex and striatum, as these brain regions have been heavily implicated in mediating both risky decision-making and drug use. Findings from the experiments indicated that individual variability in RDT performance during adolescence significantly predicted cocaine intake (i.e., greater risk taking was associated with greater cocaine intake) and that cocaine self-administration rats exhibited greater risk taking compared to controls even after 6 weeks of abstinence. Moreover, lower striatal D1 and D2 receptor expression was associated with greater adolescent risk taking, and activation of D2 receptors in the ventral, but not dorsal, striatum biased choice behavior toward a more risk averse pattern. These data indicate that adolescent risk taking predicts acquisition of cocaine self-administration, and that cocaine self-administration can cause long-lasting elevations in risk taking. The findings that lower dopamine receptor expression in striatum was associated with elevated risk taking and that activation
of dopamine (especially D2) receptors in the ventral striatum biased choice behavior in the RDT toward greater risk aversion strongly suggest that D2 receptors play a causal role in both risk taking behavior and cocaine use. Together these findings provide support for a "vicious cycle" between risk taking and cocaine use which may be regulated by D2 receptors and might contribute to addictive processes.

Links:


Subject: Neurosciences; Developmental psychology; Clinical psychology

Classification: 0317: Neurosciences; 0620: Developmental psychology; 0622: Clinical psychology
An investigation of the common patterns of brain activation in response to addiction and media events

Author: Klahr, Nelson J.

Abstract: Functional MRI has now become the most efficient tool to study functions in the human brain. It is most often used to measure the Blood Oxygen Level Dependent (BOLD) signal that theoretically represents a corresponding proportional level of cognitive activity. Our research group applied this technique in several studies that involved a variety of different forms of addiction and emotional responses to related stimuli and cues. In separate paradigms, we asked participants to watch television commercials, drink a low dose alcoholic beverage, and rate their feelings towards pictures of smoking content while we scanned their brains looking for common patterns and locations of neural activation. The results obtained from each specific study showed that the behavioral data collected evidently reflect the hypothesized imaging data. More importantly, our reported findings also contribute in the efforts towards establishing a medical paradigm observed in patients afflicted with many different forms of addiction by illustrating the roles of the various components involved in modeling this neural network.
Title: An investigation of the common patterns of brain activation in response to addiction and media events

Number of pages: 108

Publication year: 2011
Abstract: This study explores specific sexual behaviors of college students and the role alcohol intoxication may play in the intention to participate in the behaviors and is presented as three individual manuscripts. A modified version of N. Krause's instrument development process was applied to create a behavior-specific instrument assessing oral, vaginal, and anal sex behaviors. The process included a review by expert scholars in relevant fields, cognitive interviews with the target population, piloting to assess measurement scales, and a formal investigation. Fifty preliminary measures were developed and assessed during the process, which resulted in 49 final questions. The piloted instrument resulted in a 17.75% response rate. Psychometric testing was conducted and the instrument was edited once more. The formal investigation resulted in a 20.8% response rate. The 3% increase in response rate was attributed to the addition of four $50 gift card incentives. The Theory of Planned Behavior was applied via a path analysis to determine the causal links between the constructs. Three models were developed, one for each sexual behavior: oral, vaginal, and anal. Overall results of all three models indicated Attitude Towards Behavior had the greatest impact on intention. Subjective Norm was also significant, while Perceived Behavioral Control did not significantly impact Intention or Behavior in terms of direct paths. A cluster analytic technique revealed three distinct risk groups. Low-risk members were in an exclusive relationship, reported less condom/barrier or contraceptive usage, and were least likely to be a victim of coercion/abuse. Though the medium-risk group had higher frequencies of sexual activity, it was characterized by more protective behaviors, such as higher proportion of condom/barrier usage. The high-risk group was primarily composed of those casually dating,
reporting more sexual partners and less condom/barrier usage. These results indicate an individual's effort to protect themselves from sexual-risk consequences is attributed to the duration and stability of the relationship. Results have medical screening and policy implications for drinking offenses and sexual assault. They provide a clearer understanding of the relationship between alcohol use and sexual activity and aid in the development of effective public health interventions.

Links:


Subject: Behavioral psychology; Public health; Health education

Classification: 0384: Behavioral psychology; 0573: Public health; 0680: Health education
Sojourning the narrative: In search of a model of restorative justice ministry to homeless, or those at risk of homelessness, chemically dependent adult males wishing to achieve and/or maintain sobriety

Author: Charlton, John E.

Abstract: Building upon a solid literature review, this research undertakes to put forward the notion of sojourning, within a restorative justice model of outreach ministry, which allows homeless, or those at risk of homelessness, adult male addicts to build a new, abstinence based, social network. Within this network, marginalised, chemically dependent individuals can go about re-storying their personal inner narratives so that their addiction no longer inhabits the central place in their thinking. Such a process is herein referred to as sojourning the narrative. This research utilises convenience based quota sampling in order to obtain thick descriptions from five addicts presently in recovery, who are interested in becoming founding members of this proposed restorative justice outreach ministry, so as to be able to discern what works for them when it comes to maintaining their sobriety. The resounding answer is that sobriety is fostered within a peer based self-help and support group which supportively holds one accountable for their actions.
Title: Sojourning the narrative: In search of a model of restorative justice ministry to homeless, or those at risk of homelessness,
chemically dependent adult males wishing to achieve and/or maintain sobriety

Number of pages: 167

Publication year: 2011

Degree date: 2011

School code: 1113

Source: DAI-A 75/07(E), Jan 2015

Place of publication: Ann Arbor

Country of publication: United States

ISBN: 9780499004789

University/institution: Providence College and Seminary (Canada)

University location: Canada

Degree: D.Min.

Source type: Dissertations & Theses

Language: English

Document type: Dissertation/Thesis

Dissertation/thesis number: NS00478

ProQuest document ID: 1520523617


Copyright: Copyright ProQuest, UMI Dissertations Publishing 2011
Knowledge management in public health: Examining the role of a web-based reporting system for tobacco control

Author: Gottlieb, Amy Sue


Abstract: The importance and use of data and information to make sound programmatic decisions are receiving increased attention as state and federal funding for public health programs grows tighter and as demands for accountability continue. This dissertation provides insight into fundamental questions regarding the utilization of a Web-based reporting system on knowledge management practices for Tobacco Prevention Programs and examines what happened in Texas after the merger of the Tobacco Prevention Program into the Substance Abuse Prevention Program. A phenomenological qualitative approach was used to explore meaning of actions and to identify common themes as they relate to information sharing and utilization of Texas' Program Management and Tracking System (PMATS). Twenty-four semi-structured interviews were conducted. First, core functions of PMATS are examined through the experiences of its end-users; and second, the impact of the merger on retention and use of PMATS within the Department of State Health Services is explored. Four themes were identified as they relate to core functions of PMATS, including its use as a codification system, its use to track performance measures, and its use for report generation and for programmatic decision-making. These four primary uses of PMATS remained the same pre- and post- merger, although how the systems were utilized during these periods differed. A central theme that permeated all interviews was the impact of the merger of the Tobacco Control Program into the Substance Abuse
Program on individual beliefs and attitudes (i.e., job security, low morale, etc.), on systems characteristics (i.e., feedback, internal reporting structures, etc.), and on organizational culture (i.e., training, leadership, etc.). Since entering into PMATS was contractually required, individual attitudes and beliefs did not impact its use. However, competing IT systems, lack of a champion, lack of knowledge and support by upper management, and lack of communication were identified as key influences on systems characteristics and on organizational culture, which ultimately contributed to the termination of PMATS. Both applied research and practice recommendations are discussed, including IT due diligence, creating a knowledge culture, and network analysis of information sharing practices.

Links:

Abstract: This dissertation draws on fieldwork with drug-using panhandlers and interviews with social service providers to examine drug addiction and panhandling as social issues significant to poor and gentrifying neighbourhoods. I provide ethnographic accounts of both of these phenomena, beginning with drug users' experiences of Vancouver's current harm reduction drug policy initiatives, such as the Insite supervised injection site and methadone treatment programmes. In the second half of the dissertation, I provide a similar account of panhandling in the rapidly gentrifying Gastown area of the Downtown Eastside. The dissertation draws on this empirical research to offer a social-theoretical framework for understanding panhandling and drug addiction as social issues with the capacity to provoke visceral, emotional reactions on the part of those who encounter them and those who are charged with regulating them. Characterizing this reaction as one of anxiety, I trace a series of anxieties which permeate discourses on panhandling and drug addiction, from concerns with the pleasures of drug users to anxieties over what poor people do with their money. The dissertation seeks to
resolve paradoxes within both of these social phenomena: How can we account for the anger, discomfort, and disgust that are provoked in people by issues that affect them so little? How can we explain people's implacability to drug policy that is so empirically sound? And how can we understand people's anxieties with panhandling encounters when the amounts of money concerned are so insignificant? Drawing a distinction between the manifest and latent content of these anxieties, I use psychoanalysis to argue that they cannot be understood without recourse to the unconscious. I argue that the discourses and public policy that concern drug use and panhandling are subtended by unconscious anxieties about the fouissance and the lack in the Other. Only when we consider the unconscious dimensions of these social phenomena can we understand the visceral, emotional reactions that panhandling and drug addiction regularly provoke. Keywords: Harm reduction; drug addiction; panhandling

Links:
