Drug-Using Sex Workers in the Streets of Valencia:
Risk in Context
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In order to characterize factors that affect sex work and their influence on risk practices, this ethnographic study carried out in a barrio in Valencia describes female sex workers who use illegal drugs, some who inject drugs and some who do not. A study conducted ten years earlier had shown that women in this setting who injected drugs had more irregular work habits, were less selective about their clientele, took more risks of HIV infection, and lowered their prices and lengthened their working hours when compared to women who did not inject drugs. The current study found most of these contrasts to continue, but, through observation and in-depth interviews, characterized drug-using female sex workers in terms of socioeconomic background and choice of drugs. In all cases, drugs had not motivated their entry into sex work as much as had intimate relationships. Choice of drugs appears to exert influence over risk as it occurs in sex work.

KEYWORDS. Female, male, sex work, ethnography, Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome (AIDS), intravenous drug use, use of condoms, sexual partners, drug dependence, sexual behavior

Addiction, Abuse, and Family Relationships:
Childhood Experiences of Five Incarcerated
African American Women
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Young, poor African American women are at high risk for victimization and stigmatization through multiple avenues, including childhood sexual abuse, drug use,
and incarceration. This study describes the childhood experiences of five imprisoned African American women who have extensive histories of drug addiction and criminal behavior. Through the use of personal interviews and qualitative analysis, the women’s childhood experiences are explored with attention to the themes of alcohol and drug use, sexual abuse, and mother-daughter relationships. Relational theory provides a conceptual framework for the analysis. Practice and policy considerations are discussed, with an emphasis on benefiting women with histories of abuse and addiction.

KEYWORDS. African American women, alcohol and drugs, addiction, child sexual abuse, incarceration, family relationships

Exploring the Relationship Between Race and Ecstasy Involvement Among a Sample of Arrestees
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Previous research has indicated that whites are disproportionately involved in the use of 3,4-methylenedioxymethamphetamine (MDMA or “ecstasy”). To date, however, no studies have explored the relationship between race and ecstasy possession and sale among adult criminal populations. To address this limitation, official arrest data were utilized from a sample of 1,216 arrestees charged with drug offenses between 1995 and 1999 in Orange County, Florida. Arrestees were divided into those whose primary charge was related to ecstasy possession (n = 331), those whose primary offense was related to ecstasy sale (n = 180), and those whose primary charge was unrelated to ecstasy (n = 705). Chi-square statistics and logistic regression were utilized to examine the relationships between race and the possession and sale of ecstasy. Arrestees charged with ecstasy possession and sale were significantly more likely to be white than their non-ecstasy-charged counterparts (95% and 93% vs. 46%, p < 0.001). Moreover, white arrestees were more than 20 times as likely to be arrested for an MDMA-related offense than non-white arrestees, holding all other variables constant. Policy implications are assessed in light of the current findings.

KEYWORDS. Ecstasy, race, arrest rates, substance use

Parental Style as a Possible Mediator of the Relationship Between Religiosity and Substance Use in African-American Adolescents
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Objectives: In both the general adolescent literature and African-American adolescent substance use literature, several facets of family relationships have been identified as protective factors for adolescent substance use. Two such factors are religiosity and parental style. The relationship of these variables, however, may not be direct in relation to adolescent substance use. There are gaps in the knowl-

edge base for African-American youths living in poverty that would benefit from further exploration.

Method: A sample of 2,317 African-American adolescents, living in metropolitan low-income areas and ranging in age from 9 to 19 years old were surveyed. An exploratory analysis was performed to determine if parental style was a mediator variable for religiosity and substance use.

Results: The results suggest that parental style is a mediating variable. Results were significant for several parental style and religiosity variables.

Conclusions: The parent-adolescent relationship is an important factor influencing adolescent substance use. Also, the influence of religiosity appears to be a significant factor in this relationship. This relationship should also be targeted when considering any intervention for treating these adolescents. Future research should be conducted in this domain.

KEYWORDS. African-American, adolescents, parental style, substance use

Family Functioning, Substance Use and Related Problem Behaviors: Hispanic vs. Anglo Runaway Youths
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Runaway youths represent a neglected clinical group, and few studies have examined ethnicity differences within this population. Substance use, family functioning and related problem behaviors were examined in a sample of Hispanic and Anglo runaway youths with substance abuse diagnoses (N = 145). Youths, aged 12-17, were recruited from two urban, southwestern runaway shelters. Within single-parent families, Anglo youths reported more marijuana use, and, regardless of family constitution, reported more tobacco use than did Hispanic youths. Overall, Anglo youths reported more externalizing problems and more conflicts tactics used in resolving disagreements with their primary caretaker while Hispanic youths reported higher depression and familialism scores. Given the differences found between Hispanic and Anglo youths, the findings argue that culturally sensitive interventions for runaway youths and families are warranted.

KEYWORDS. Adolescent, substance abuse, Hispanic youths, runaway, family functioning