A Conceptual Three-Dimensional Model for Evaluating Community-Based Substance Abuse Prevention Programs

Eric C. Albers
Linda K. Santangelo
George McKinlay
Steve Cavote
Stephen L. Rock
William Evans

Evaluators of substance abuse prevention programs are being asked to assess multiple and simultaneous interventions occurring in complex settings. The field of substance abuse prevention currently has no overarching conceptual evaluative framework for evaluating its programs. This paper presents a three-dimensional model for conceptualizing existing prevention programs, defining and measuring effects of prevention programs, and making a connection between those programmatic effects, and the interests of the funder. This paper describes the methodology and its use for promoting the efficiency and effectiveness of substance abuse prevention programs.

KEYWORDS: Substance abuse, prevention model, program evaluation, outcomes, youth
Compliance Among Adolescents During Drug Treatment

Mamie M. Wong
Yih-Iing Hser
Christine E. Grella

Research on adolescent drug treatment engagement is scarce; however, such research on adults suggests that successful engagement in treatment increases the likelihood of positive treatment outcomes. Compliance during drug treatment reflects treatment engagement. We examined self-assessed compliance (agreement with treatment goals, meeting treatment staff expectations, and following treatment staff instructions), behavioral compliance (staying for the duration of planned treatment), and their influences, among adolescents in treatment. Stepwise logistic regression showed that desire for help was significantly (p < .05) related to more compliance. Compared with those in residential treatment, those in inpatient treatment were more likely to agree with treatment goals, to follow instructions, and to stay for the planned duration of treatment; those in outpatient treatment were more likely to meet treatment expectations. Psychological maladjustment was related to less self-perceived compliance. We discuss the implications of these findings for adolescent treatment engagement.

KEYWORDS. Adolescents, treatment, compliance

Gateway Polydrug Use Among Puerto Rican and Dominican Adolescents Residing in New York City: The Moderating Role of Gender

Jennifer A. Epstein
Gilbert J. Botvin
Tracy Diaz

Most research of ethnic differences in adolescent drug use resorts to combining all Hispanic individuals into one group. This study focused on polydrug use among adolescents residing in an inner-city region by Hispanic ethnicity (Puerto Rican versus Dominican) and gender. Puerto Rican and Dominican students in 22 New York City middle schools participated. Sixth and seventh graders completed self-report questionnaires with measures of the three gateway drugs (cigarettes, alcohol, and marijuana) at baseline (N = 849) and at a one-year follow-up (N = 678). In the first year of middle school, gender moderated the effect of Hispanic ethnicity on lifetime polydrug use. Specifically, Dominican boys reported greater polydrug use than Dominican girls, but use was similar across gender for Puerto Rican adolescents. In the second year of middle school, this pattern extended to more serious levels of polydrug use as measured by current polydrug use and composite polydrug frequency. Consequently, both Hispanic ethnicity and gender mattered in determining adolescent polydrug use.

KEYWORDS. Hispanic ethnicity, gender, adolescent polydrug use

Psychosocial Predictors of Recent Drug Use Among Anglo and Hispanic Children and Adolescents

Mark A. Richardson
Michael D. Newcomb
Hector F. Myers
Robert H. Coombs

Drug use among children and adolescents continues to be a source of considerable national concern. Despite declining trends over the past 15 years, drug use is fairly high among school-aged children and adolescents and is again on the rise. The present study evaluates a social development model of psychosocial predictors of drug use in Anglo and Hispanic children and adolescents. Participants in this longitudinal study include 392 parent-child pairs who completed questionnaires and interviews at 12-month intervals. Structural equation models reveal that patterns and predictors of drug use are distinct for each sub-group, by age and ethnicity. Later drug use was primarily associated with prior use, exposure to parental and peer models of drug use, and family disruption. These findings are partially consistent with Social Development theory in that strong links to conventional social institutions and behavior appear to protect children and adolescents from significant investment in drug-using behaviors. These effects are not, however, necessarily influenced by association with peers or peer groups.

KEYWORDS. Adolescents, substance use, etiology, ethnicity