Release Among Adolescent Drug Abusers Following Treatment: The Role of Probable ADHD Status

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This is a report on a sample of adolescents drug abusers in treatment (N = 220) to estimate the degree in which probable ADHD status increases the odds of post-treatment alcohol, marijuana, and other drug relapse during the initial 6 months following discharge. Drug abusing youth with probable ADHD status exhibited 2.5 times the risk of post-treatment alcohol relapse when compared to youth without probable ADHD status while controlling for demographics, pretreatment conduct-disordered behavior, pretreatment alcohol use frequency, and treatment factors. A significant crude association between probable ADHD status and other drug relapse was not maintained when adjusted for pretreatment conduct-disordered behavior, pretreatment other drug use frequency, or treatment factors. Different conceptual models are offered to explain substance-specific associations between probable ADHD status and post-treatment relapse. The findings suggest that standard treatment approaches that do not directly address comorbid disorders may result in decreased post-treatment relapse rates among recovering youth with ADHD.

KEYWORDS: ADHD, adolescence, drug abuse, treatment outcome, comorbidity
Reliability and Validity of Self-Report Measures
to Evaluate Drug and Violence Prevention Programs
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The purpose of this paper is to outline the evaluation plan for the Minnesota D.A.R.E. Plus Project, a drug and violence prevention program for young adolescents, and to present the results of psychometric analyses on the measures that will be used in the assessment of the intervention program. The survey instrument was tested using different samples for each stage of its development. The main scale development sample included seventh grade students in urban, suburban and rural schools. The results indicate that the scales constructed are reliable and valid measures of young adolescents' drug use and violent behaviors, as well as interpersonal, social, and environmental factors related to these behaviors.

KEYWORDS: measurement, adolescents, alcohol, tobacco, marijuana, violence, psychometric

Examining Gender Differences in Adolescent Substance Abuse Behavior: Comparisons and Implications for Treatment
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This study investigates gender differences in adolescent substance abuse behavior, treatment effectiveness, and the associations between pre-, during-, and post-treatment groups of variables. Analyses were performed using 6-month post-treatment follow-up data from over two thousand subjects. T-test analysis showed that females exhibited more psychological difficulties, family-related problems, and sexual abuse experiences, whereas males exhibited worse school and legal problems before treatment. Females also showed better attendance in different or self-help groups and better treatment outcomes than males. Discriminant function analysis indicated that school problems, legal problems, lack of religious involvement, and substance abuse before treatment could differentiate abstinence status for females at 6-month follow-up. Substance abuse before treatment, length of stay, and parental participation in treatment could differentiate abstinence rates for males at 6-month follow-up. Limitations in applying research findings and implications for adolescent substance abuse treatment are also discussed.

KEYWORDS: Gender differences, adolescent substance abuse behavior, pre-treatment, during-treatment, post-treatment, and treatment outcome

Getting a Puff: A Social Learning Test of Adolescents Smoking
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This article is a description of a study that sought to examine the applicability of Ronald Reis's social learning theory. According to Reis's theory, differential associations with smokers, differential reinforcements for smoking, favorable definitions of smoking and the availability of role models (imitation) offer an explanation as to why adolescents smoke.

Using data collected by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS), National Center for Health Statistics, the responses of 1,640 adolescents between the ages of 11 and 19 were analyzed. Results from the logistic regression analyses indicated significant independent effects for differential association (B = .375), differential reinforcement (B = -.295), definitions (.359) and imitation (.425) on adolescents who had ever smoked (former smokers), while stepwise multiple regression procedures indicate that differential associations, differential reinforcements, and imitation help to explain 30% of the variance among adolescents who currently smoke cigarettes. This study also provides implications for theory and practice.

KEYWORDS: Social learning theory, cigarettes, smoking, adolescents

Transition to Independent Living and Substance Involvement of Treated and High Risk Youth
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National studies indicate that alcohol and drug involvement increases during transition from adolescence to young adulthood. The present study evaluated change in alcohol and drug use as youth move from living with their family of origin to independent living environments. Two samples of youth, those who had previously been treated for alcohol and drug problems (n = 102), and a sample of non-abusing youth (n = 70) with comparable sociocultural backgrounds and family history of alcohol dependence, were compared as they transitioned into their first independent living environment. There was a 35% decrease in the number of months drinking episodes across this transition to independent living, and a 46% increase in number of drinks per week. Drug involvement was less affected by this developmental transition, however a larger proportion of youth who had a history of substance problems reported use of drugs (31% vs. 49%) following transition to independent living. Both levels of exposure to substances in the new environments and peer substance use were significant predictors of post-transition substance involvement. Findings highlight significant changes in alcohol involvement in relation to this critical developmental transition of late adolescence and young adulthood.

KEYWORDS: Transition, independent living, substance abuse, high risk youth