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FROM THE EDITORS

ARTICLES

Cocaine Abusing Women Who Report Sexual Abuse:
Implications for Treatment
Amelia C. Roberts
Robert H. Nishimoto
Raymond S. Kirk

Four hundred seventy-three substance-abusing women were assessed for histories of sexual abuse. The results of bivariate analysis indicated that Sexual Abuse Survivors (SAS) had higher levels of depression, anxiety, and psychological distress. A greater number of SAS reported histories of emotional and physical abuse. They also had greater severity on ASI scales of alcohol, drug, medical, and family/social difficulty. Logistic regression analysis indicated that women who were survivors of sexual abuse were more likely to have histories of emotional and physical abuse, higher levels of addiction severity, and more family members who used drugs. Implications for research and treatment are discussed.

KEYWORDS. Sexual abuse, women, substance abuse, African-American

Dissociative Phenomena Among Recovering Heroin Users
and Their Relationship to Duration of Abstinence
Eli Somer
Ronit Avni

This study is an investigation of trauma and dissociation in 100 Israeli recovering patients with drug use disorder. The respondents showed more emotional, physical and
Substance Abuse, Homelessness, Developmental
Decision-Making and Spirituality: A Women’s Health Issue

Jeannie Ahearn Greene
Kim Ball
John R. Belcher
Catherine McAlpine

A qualitative methodology was used to examine the relationship between homeless women’s spirituality, substance abuse, moral reasoning and developmental decision-making. Findings indicated that a lack of development in spirituality and the ability to make decisions in childhood is related to homeless, addicted women’s inability to maintain abstinence and achieve social independence. Spirituality impacted decisions to abstain from substance abuse and increased the women’s social independence. Findings suggest that treatment needs to incorporate spirituality, family of origin, and the development of skills for independent decision-making. The authors propose that childhood maltreatment, homelessness and substance abuse impede spiritual development. Therefore, substance abuse treatment needs to include a focus on spirituality and moral reasoning in the recovery process.

KEYWORDS: Women substance abusers, homelessness, spirituality, developmental decision making

The Powerlessness of Control: A Unifying Model for the Treatment of Male Battering and Substance Addiction

Natti Ronel
Hadas Claridge

The high incidence of partner abuse among substance addicted men calls for a unified model of treatment. Grace Therapy is an approach for the treatment of male batterers based on the 12-Step Program of AA/NA. Clinical evidence relates the internal processes of male batterers and substance-addicted men to similar issues in which feelings of powerlessness arise. Powerlessness has three levels: behavioral, mental, and spiritual. By addressing the behavioral and mental levels, men can become abstinent by avoiding the situations, behaviors, and mental motives that lead them to violence and substance abuse. Recovery and healing occur within the spiritual level through a transformation of the men’s attitudes towards the world and themselves—a transformation from self-centeredness to God-centeredness, which produces a growing capacity within the men to care for others unconditionally.

KEYWORDS: Male batterers, Grace Therapy, domestic violence, 12-Step Programs, addiction treatment, treatment for substance abusing batterers

Attitudes of Social Work Students About Substance Abuse:
Can a Brief Educational Program Make a Difference?

Jack B. Stein

This study examined whether a brief educational program could modify attitudes of master’s level social work students about substance abuse. Study methodology involved a two-group pre-test and post-test quasi-experimental design. The Substance Abuse Attitude Survey, a standardized assessment instrument, was used to measure attitudes based on five distinct factors. No significant changes in student attitudes were found after participating in the educational session. Recommendations are offered for how social work schools may enhance their efforts to prepare students to effectively work with substance abusing clients and their families.

KEYWORDS: Drug abuse, attitudes, professional education

SPECIAL TOPICS

Welfare to Work for Substance Abusers: Is It Working?

Shona Q. Baum
Katherine Sessoms Jacobi
Margaret B. Kirsis

BOOK REVIEW

Harm Reduction Psychotherapy: A New Treatment for Drugs and Alcohol Problems, edited by Andrew Tatarsky
Reviewed by Katherine van Wormer

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The Voice of a Drug Addict in a Needle Exchange Program:
In a Caterpillar, Out a Dragon

David Fettig