FROM THE EDITOR

ARTICLES

Why Some Youth Don’t Use Alcohol: Protective Factors and Implications for Parenting Skills
Lloyd L. Lyter
Sharon C. Lyter

Historically, research on youth focused on risk factors associated with children who were already abusing alcohol and/or other drugs. The objective of this review of a 1986 study of 2,059 high school youth is to identify “protective factors” related to non-use or limited use of alcohol by high school students. In conformity with the strengths perspective, prevention protocols should include attempts to promote protective factors. Research evidence points to a model of rearing children that includes the parents and the community or “village,” joining together to maximize the children’s access to connections and bonds, order and discipline, and hopes and dreams.

KEYWORDS. Youth, alcohol, protective factors, parenting, prevention

Sense of Belonging in School as a Protective Factor Against Drug Abuse Among Native American Urban Adolescents
Maria Napoli
Flavio Francisco Marsiglia
Stephen Kulis

This article presents the results of a study conducted with 243 Native American students who were part of a multi-ethnic sample of adolescents attending middle
school in a large urban center in the Southwest region of the United States. Native adolescents who felt a stronger sense of belonging in their school were found to report a lower lifetime use of alcohol and cigarettes, lower cigarette and marijuana use in the previous month, lower frequency of current use of these substances, fewer substances ever used, and a later age of initiation into drug use than other Native students. Research implications are discussed in relationship to school environment, culturally-grounded prevention curricula, and school social work practice.

KEYWORDS. Native Americans, adolescents, drug use, school belonging

Methadone and Menopause: Midlife Women in Drug Treatment

Ellen Tuchman

As a rising number of midlife women receive methadone treatment, issues related to the menopausal transition take on increased importance. The similarity between many of the symptoms associated with opiate withdrawal, methadone and menopause (hot and cold flashes, sweats, fatigue, decreased libido, menstrual irregularity and insomnia), make it plausible these women and clinical staff attribute menopausal symptoms to other conditions of greater familiarity. The paucity of research, multiplicity of health problems and typically poor access to health care, further complicate the picture and underscore the importance of better integration of health care and social work intervention.

KEYWORDS. Methadone maintenance treatment, menopause, social work, women's health, addiction

Sex, Drugs, and Love Among the Middle Aged: A Case Study of a Serodiscordant Heterosexual Couple Coping with HIV

Cynthia Cannon Poindexter

HIV infection attributable to injection is growing, as is the incidence among heterosexual persons. Some of the people affected are over 50, and we can anticipate a growing number of older people with substance use and HIV as primary concerns. Therefore, we need to know more about the intersections of age, addictions, and HIV. This article uses narrative analysis to examine a research interview with an African-American woman and her African-American HIV-infected male partner in order to gain insight about how a middle-aged serodiscordant drug-affected couple might struggle and succeed in the face of HIV. Implications for social work, policy and research are provided.

KEYWORDS. HIV-positive, serodiscordant, aging couple, social workers, addictions, narrative analysis

Social Work Practice with the Elderly Substance Abuser

Jay L. Memmott

A surprising number of elderly people suffer from substance-related disorders. Many more are at risk for developing polydrug problems due to their misuse and
abuse of alcohol in combination with prescription medications and over-the-counter preparations. The purpose of this article is to update social workers on advances in geriatric addictionology by reviewing current epidemiological studies and extracting practice principles. Particular emphasis is placed on what the social work practitioner needs to know about screening elderly clients for substance abuse. The article concludes with specific recommendations to advance social work education and research in the field of addictions treatment.

KEYWORDS: Elderly, substance abuse, alcohol and drug abuse, alcohol dependence, polypharmacy, medication misuse

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