FROM THE EDITOR

ARTICLES

Applying an Ecological Framework to Understanding Drug Addiction and Recovery
Holly C. Matta

A new conceptual model of drug addiction and recovery, the Acculturation Model, is presented, with "addiction" and "recovery" understood as distinct socio-cultural phenomena with their unique prescribed behaviors, rituals, symbols, and language that serve to construct and consolidate a cultural identity. The model suggests that individuals in recovery from drug addiction will need to make cultural transformation in order to maintain sobriety. Examples of specific rituals that may help facilitate movement from addiction to recovery are discussed.

KEYWORDS: Culture, drug addiction, recovery, ritual, substance abuse

Providing Culturally Specific Substance Abuse Services in Refugee and Immigrant Communities:
Lessons from a Cambodian Treatment and Demonstration Project
Maryann Amedeo
Sonith Peou
Dorcas Grigg-Saito
Hedi Berke
Saly Pin-Riebe
L. Kay Jones

Several agencies interested in serving Cambodian immigrants established a substance abuse treatment demonstration project which included culturally specific...
elements such as: co-therapy done by a bicultural, bicultural Cambodian worker and a mainstream American social worker; formation of an advisory committee with Cambodian members; home visiting and family involvement; emphasis on traditional cultural values as motivator; integration of Buddhist philosophy; and use of compensatory for desocialization. In spirit of careful planning and tailored program accomplishment, the program initially received few client referrals. A follow-up process revealed several barriers, including stigmatization of substance abuse and few Cambodian providers with substance abuse training. Case vignettes and organizational and clinical recommendations are provided for community leaders and advisory groups working with other low-incidence refugee and immigrant populations.

KEYWORDS: Culturally specific, substance abuse treatment, refugee and immigrant populations, substance abuse treatment for Cambodians

An Ecological Assessment of Drug-Related Problem Situations for American Indian Adolescents of the Southwest

Scott K. Okamoto
Craig Winston LeCroy
Patricia Dustman
Bryndi Holmman-Marriott
Stephen Kilis

This study examined difficult situations related to drug and alcohol use as identified by American Indian youth in the Southwest. Fifty-two community-based interviews were developed from focus group data, and were administered to 71 American Indian youth. The means measured the frequency in which youth experienced specific drug-related situations, as well as the perceived difficulty in resisting drug use offers in those situations. The results indicated that the most frequent and difficult drug and alcohol situations occurred primarily with friends or cousins at their homes or after school. Implications for culturally specific assessment, prevention, and treatment are discussed.

KEYWORDS: American Indian, youth, drugs and alcohol use, survey, prevention

A Pound of Flesh: The Psychological, Familial and Social Consequences of Mandatory Long-Term Sentencing Laws for Drug Offenses

Carl Mazzu

Since the 1970s individual states in the United States have enacted mandatory long-term sentencing laws for drug offenses. These laws resulted in a 12-fold increase in prison population. The majority of people sentenced under these laws are nonviolent, first-time felony offenders with no or minimal drug use history. Based on open-ended qualitative interviews with 12 formerly incarcerated men and women sentenced for 15-20 years under these laws, the author describes the psychological, familial and social consequences of these mandatory long-term sentencing laws for drug offenses.

KEYWORDS: Mandatory sentencing, drug offenses, prison, incarceration, reentry, gender-specific reactions, psychosocial consequences

Physical Activity as a Helpful Adjunct to Substance Abuse Treatment

D J Williams
William B. Streeck

While limited research exists on the topic of physical activity as an adjunct to substance abuse treatment, a review of relevant multidisciplinary literature indicates a logical rationale for its potential benefits to recovery from addiction. This article provides an overview of common variables that contribute to addictive disease and summarizes the relationship of regular physical activity to improvements in many of these variables. The stages of change from the Transtheoretical Model (TTM: Prochaska & DiClemente, 1982; Prochaska & Velicer, 1990) are described in the context of effectively matching clients in substance abuse therapy to interventions that may include physical activity. Finally, important practical suggestions for implementing physical activity as a useful adjunct to substance abuse treatment are provided.

KEYWORDS: Physical activity, exercise, substance abuse treatment, addiction, treatment adjunct, transtheoretical model, stages of change

SPECIAL TOPICS: REFLECTIONS FROM THE FIELD

Group Treatment of Trauma for Women in a Therapeutic Community: An Interview with Alissa Mallow

BOOK REVIEWS

The Sociology of American Drug Use, by Charles E. Faupel, Alan M. Horowitz, and Greg S. Weaver
Reviewed by Michelle D. DiLauro

The Tobacco Dependence Treatment Handbook, by David Abrams, Raymond Nauera, Richard Brown, Karen Enmons, Michael Goldstein, and Peter Monti
Reviewed by Kathryn C. Shaffer

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How I Found Common Cause with Social Workers

Stanton Peele