Perceived Need for Substance Abuse Treatment Among White, Hispanic, and Black Juvenile Arrestees

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The primary purpose of this study was to examine racial/ethnic differences with regard to perceived need for treatment among a sample of White, Hispanic, and Black and using male juvenile arrestees (N = 96). Racial/ethnic differences among several predictors (frequent use of drugs, polysubstance use, self-reported dependency, prior treatment utilization) were also examined. Our results indicate that while racial/ethnic differences with regard to perceived need for treatment do exist, those within all racial/ethnic groups who admit dependency and/or have had prior treatment experience are more likely to perceive that they need treatment than those who do not. However, significant differences exist between Whites and the other two racial/ethnic groups with regard to self-reported dependency and prior treatment utilization. Implications for the study and recommendations for future researchers are presented.

KEYWORDS: Substance abuse treatment, juvenile arrestees, race/ethnicity

Engaging and Treating the Substance-Abusing Latina

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We asked Latinas in treatment how to facilitate their engagement. Qualitative analyses yielded the following lessons learned: (1) At first contact, take a nonauthoritarian approach sensitive to expectations of “expert” and “dignidad.” (2) At intake, be sensitive to cultural expectations of “personalismo,” “respecto,” and “dignidad.” F ace intacto no personal relationship can develop. When certifi-
Improving Employment Outcomes for American Indians and Alaska Natives with Alcohol Dependency:
Vocational Rehabilitation Strategies

Robert M. Schacht, PhD
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This Summary Report consists of (a) a brief overview of the research project, (b) a summary of results, and (c) recommendations for vocational rehabilitation programs. A training manual based on the results of this research is forthcoming.

KEYWORDS: American Indians, Alaska Native, alcohol, vocational rehabilitation

Cigars, Cigarillos, and Youth: Emergent Patterns in Subcultural Complexes
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In order to answer questions about discrepancies in self-reported tobacco use between youth from different subcultural categories, the authors set out to observe and characterize tobacco use among youth in two Florida counties. Their observations and interviews led to the identification of a pattern of tobacco use that had not appeared before in the literature on tobacco use, the emergent phenomenon of Black & Mild consumption, especially among African American youth. Teams of field workers conducted direct observations of tobacco use among youths between the ages of 11 and 13, recruiting them and their families into open-ended interviews to determine how youths in that age range initiate and maintain tobacco use. Observational notes and in-depth interviews (all transcribed to word processing files) provided the corpus of data on which the investigators based this study. In addition, information from additional sources, including informal interviews with store owners, rap videos, and games in other parts of the United States, helped to verify that patterns found in Miami had appeared throughout Florida and in many other parts of the United States. Initial observations took place in the environs of our middle school in southern Miami/Dade County, but additional observations and interviews that contributed to the study took place in sites near other schools, convenience stores, shopping centers, and city streets. African American, Hispanic, and white non-Hispanic young people between 11 and 15 years of age took part in this study, only after field workers obtained informed consent from their parents. Field workers conducted observations of approximately 250 youth in various settings in two counties in Florida, Miami/Dade and Alachua. They elicited 40 in-depth interviews, including one whole family interview and four focus groups. The interviews that contributed to this paper were four in-depth sessions with young African American males recruited at the middle school where key observations took place.

Field observations produced a pattern of tobacco use not characterized in the literature, in which a cigarillo called "Black & Mild" that contains between five and twelve times the nicotine of cigarettes has become the product of choice among African American and other youth. Young users of these cigarillos tend not to recognize them as tobacco and believe that they contain no nicotine. Further inquiry revealed that this pattern of smoking was widespread in various parts of the United States. Use of commercial cigarillos has become increasingly expensive, and minority youth with limited money may have sought products that deliver strong nicotine for not much money. Although more research will answer this question definitively, these results suggest that the emergence of Black & Mild and related products may help to explain patterns of response to large-scale studies of tobacco use in which African American youth report less tobacco consumption than other youth. Items on tobacco use in surveys administered among North American youth used reframing in terms of cigar smoking to reflect the cultural significance of Black & Mild and related products among African American youth.

KEYWORDS: Minority youth, cigar consumption, direct observation, in-depth interview

Compulsive Eating and Substance Abuse Factors Among African-American Community College Students

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This study examines the associations between compulsive eating and selected substance abuse factors. Respondents were incoming African-American community college students (N = 274). Instruments completed by the respondents consisted of the Compulsive Eating Scale, the Core Alcohol and Drug Survey, and Satisfaction With Life Scale. No strong associations were found between compulsive eating, satisfaction with life, and the substance abuse factors examined, including reported family history of substance abuse. However, strong positive associations were found between the age of first use and the frequency of use within the last year of tobacco, alcohol, marijuana, and cocaine.

KEYWORDS: African-American, college students, urban, substance abuse, compulsive eating, eating disorders

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