Psychosocial Aspects of Opiate Dependence Among Turkish Migrants in Germany

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The situation of migrants with substance abuse problems has hardly been explored by German addiction research. The few existing studies show that patterns of substance abuse may be culturally transmitted and that they are officially invalorization areas.

In this study, data on 161 consecutive opiate-dependent Turkish migrants were collected in an addiction treatment centre in Hamburg and analysed with the objective to identify (1) specific aspects of migration stress associated with substance abuse and (2) possible protective factors for migrants. Data was collected in the course of addiction, on general socio-demographic and migration-specific aspects and on assets of conflict.

The onset age of regular opiate use was 19.7 years; at first contact with addiction services, 27.2 years. The severity of dependence was significantly higher for individuals without parents, for individuals with previous imprisonment and for those with social and family conflicts.

Protective family structures and the later onset age at first consumption are indications for a feasible prognosis if suitable therapeutic interventions are applied. However, health care strategies need to address barriers to the access to care for migrants, in order to allow for earlier interventions.

KEYWORDS: Migration, Turkish, opiate dependent, family interventions.
Ethnic Differences in the Salience of Risk
and Protective Factors for Alcohol and Marijuana:
Findings from a Statewide Survey
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The purpose of the study was to distinguish risk and protective factors that predict adolescent alcohol and marijuana use across all ethnic backgrounds from those that predict use for particular ethnic groups. Analysis of data from the 2000 Florida Youth Substance Abuse Survey was conducted separately for the three major ethnic groups—whites, blacks, and Hispanics. The outcome measures were 30-day use of alcohol and marijuana and twenty-eight risk and protective factors were considered for inclusion into two logistic regression models as independent variables. Six variables were associated with all three ethnic groups’ alcohol use, two with whites and blacks, one with whites and Hispanics, four with whites only, and one with Hispanics’ use only. For marijuana, five variables were significant for all three ethnic groups, one for whites and blacks, one for whites and Hispanics, and three for whites only. These findings can be used to tailor adolescent drug prevention programs to specific groups, which should increase their impact.

KEYWORDS: Adolescent behavior, marijuana use, risk factors, substance-related disorders

Laying the Foundations of an Evidence Base on Drug Use
Amongst Black and Minority Ethnic Communities:
The Research Methods Used for an EMCDDA Project
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Drug use amongst Black and minority ethnic groups in the European Union (EU) is an under-researched and under-reported issue. To begin to build a knowledge base, questionnaires based on available information were constructed for each of the 25 EU countries and Norway. Potential informants were identified from a range of disciplines, not necessarily concerned with drug use. A total of 1,122 questionnaires were distributed and the response rate was 52.30%, a quarter of whom (290/1,122) either could not or would not participate. Several challenges confront progress, including the reluctance of potential informants to provide data on this sensitive issue, inadequate ethnic monitoring, and the development of links between researchers and Black and minority ethnic groups.

KEYWORDS: Black, minorities, ethnicity, drug use, knowledge base, research methods
Race/Ethnic Disparity and Correlates of Substance Abuse
Service Utilization and Juvenile Justice Involvement
Among Adolescents with Substance Use Disorders

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This study examines correlates of level of specialty alcohol/drug services care and juvenile justice system involvement for adolescents with substance use disorders. Participants were 40 adolescents 13-18 years of age randomly sampled from all youths active in at least one of five youth services centers in San Diego County, California. Adolescents were assessed using a structured diagnostic interview including the Diagnostic Interview Schedule for Children-IV and the Composite International Diagnostic Interview-Substance Abuse Module. Analyses examined effects of age, sex, race/ethnicity, mental health disorders, functional impairment, and type and number of substance use disorders in relation to specialty and non-specialty services. Non-Caucasian youths were less likely to receive the least restrictive services and more likely to be involved in juvenile justice settings. A number of SUDs (substance use disorders) were positively associated with outpatient, residential, and I/I (juvenile justice) services. Marijuana use disorder was positively associated and stimulant use disorder negatively associated with use of outpatient services. Ethnic disparities exist in relation to restrictions of specialty care and juvenile justice system involvement. Type of substance use disorder is also differentially associated with specialty care. Standardized assessment and treatment planning should be implemented across youth sectors of care in order to reduce racial/ethnic disparities and allow for appropriate services for youths with substance use disorders.

KEYWORDS: Adolescent, service utilization, juvenile justice, substance use, alcohol, drugs

Acculturation as a Risk Factor for Smoking
Among Asian American Adolescents:

Is the Association Confounded by Nationality?

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Background. Acculturation to the United States is associated with tobacco use among Asian American adolescents. Previous studies have not controlled for the possible confounding effects of national origin.

Methods. This study analyzed data from statewide surveys of 2,073 Asian American 10th grade California adolescents. Logistic regression analyses evaluated the independent effects of nativity and acculturation on past-month smoking.
Results. Consistent with previous studies, acculturation was a risk factor for smoking. When nationalities were added to the model, acculturation became nonsignificant and nationality became significant. Differences in smoking prevalence across groups were due to low smoking rates among Vietnamese-American and Chinese-American students and higher rates among Korean-American and Japanese-American students. Within each national subgroup, acculturation was not associated significantly with smoking.

Conclusions. Research on acculturative and smoking among Asian-American adolescents should consider national origin.

KEYWORDS. Tobacco, smoking, adolescence, Asian-American, acculturation