

# ABSTRACTS

## **The use of psychoactive substances in Israel – Further conclusions of the national surveys**

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The Israeli Anti-Drugs Authority has conducted drug use surveys among adults and adolescents (secondary school students) since 1969. This paper tries to examine some aspects of the picture that emerges from comparing certain aspects of these surveys.

The first aspect checked was the rate use of the various substances. An examination of the rates shows that while the rates for most substances increased since 1989, they remained fairly stable since 1995. The major exceptions were distilled spirits and cannabis, both of which were rising significantly and rather consistently. The second aspect examined was the persistence in use of the various drugs, a concept introduced as a population-level, research-oriented proxy for the "addictive potential" of substances. The analysis presented "hard drugs" (as a category) as the having the highest persistence, followed up by tobacco.

**Key words:** Addictions, smoking, deviance.

## **Psychoactive substance use among Arab adolescent dropouts in Israel**

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The current study examines the rates of legal and illegal psychoactive substance use among Arab adolescents who have dropped out of school, as well as the relationships between socio-demographic, interpersonal, cognitive, and personality characteristics and use rates. It is the first comprehensive study on substance use rates and trends focusing specifically on Arab adolescent dropouts.

attitudes towards drug abuse. The sample was composed of 155 high-school immigrants from the Former Soviet Union and 326 Israeli-born adolescents. The results of the self-report questionnaires indicated that the two groups had relatively low levels of positive attitudes towards drug abuse and alcohol drinking. The immigrants, however, were found to be somewhat more permissive. For the entire sample, and not only among the immigrants group, the likelihood of having less favorable attitudes towards drug abuse was significantly higher for those who scored higher on Sense of Coherence, Family Functioning and Sense of Family Coherence. The results are discussed in relation to the immigration experience of adolescents and their cultural transition.

**Keywords:** Attitudes towards drug abuse, adolescents, Russian immigrants.

### **The role of the family: Risk behaviors among children and adolescents**

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The family – parents and siblings – has a significant role in the development of the child personality and in the shaping of the child behavior. The article deals with the issue of intergenerational transmission of risk behaviors in particular the use of psychoactive substances and gambling. Intergenerational transmission ensues by three interrelated processes: (a) genetic; (b) socialization processes; and (c) modeling. The relative effects of various family figures – parents and siblings, their attitudes and behaviors, parenting styles – acceptance, rejection, control and autonomy, and family atmosphere are discussed.

**Key words:** Children and adolescents, family, parents, psychoactive substance use, gambling.

### **School-age children of parents with substance use problems: A review of literature**

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The article reviews the scientific literature that focused on school-age children offspring of parents with SUD (substance use disorder). Method: The review examined the target subjects, instruments, and the results

The sample consisted of 500 Arab adolescents, aged 12 and over, who have dropped out of school. The participants were from the Galilee, the Triangle, the Negev, and from mixed cities. They filled out comprehensive self-report questionnaires that assessed substance use and other factors.

Findings reveal that legal substances – alcohol and tobacco – have been used by 36% and 30% of the respondents, respectively, in the past year. Relationships between the research variables and use rates included the following: males reported higher rates of use than females, particularly in the case of legal substances; living in a stable family environment was linked with lower use rates; and lower religiosity was related to greater substance use. These and other results allow for a better understanding of the phenomenon of substance use among Arab adolescent dropouts and can be compared with other groups in the population, thus enabling the development of appropriate prevention and intervention programs, an important goal in light of the few programs that currently serve this at-risk population.

**Key words:** Drug use, psychoactive substances, dropouts, Arab adolescents.

### **Factors related to attitudes towards drug abuse and alcohol drinking: Comparing immigrants from the Former Soviet Union and Israeli-born adolescents**

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Immigration is a stressful experience for children and adolescents and is often associated with adverse health and behavioral problems. Following the great immigration waves of the 1990s, Israel has witnessed a growing rate of young immigrants who use alcohol and other drugs. However, the great majority of these young people were found to be “stress-resistant” and “drug-free”. Our study examined some of the protective factors that may account for less favorable attitudes to drinking and drug abuse among a sample of high school immigrants. Specifically, we focused on the protective role played by personal (Sense of Coherence) and familial (Sense of Family Coherence; Family Functioning Scale) measures on the hypothesized link between immigration, as a stressful process, and the

myth, the "moral panic" it stirs and its main targets in society: children and adolescents. While journalists and bloggers are the main advocates of the concept of Internet addiction, it is gaining additional support by parents and educators. In the paper, I argue that advocating Internet Addiction utilizes concepts stemmed in the medical and psychiatric discourse of disease and misery to create grounds for increasing social control over the Internet in general, and the online social activities of youth in particular.

**Keywords:** Internet addiction, youth.

### **Equine facilitated psychotherapy for at-risk adolescents: The influence on self-image, self-control and trust**

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This article describes the theoretical-conceptual frame of Equine Facilitated Psychotherapy (EFP) for adolescents at-risk, the unique components of this intervention, and its implementation in an evaluation study. The study was conducting in a residential treatment facility that serves adolescents at-risk. We examined the outcomes of EFP on self-image, self-control, trust and general life satisfaction of adolescents. A group of 14 residents were selected to the treatment group; they were compared to a match group of 15 residents who did not receive EFP. The treatment included a weekly individual EFP session over a period of seven months. The study found a trend of positive change in all four research parameters within the treatment group. Additional indications of the intervention's positive influence were also found and discussed.

**Key words:** Equine facilitated psychotherapy, adolescents at-risk, evaluation study, self-image, self-control, trust.

in each of the 10 scientific studies published from 1985 to the present (2005). Results: Generally, school-age children of parents with SUD demonstrated a variety of emotional, cognitive, behavioral, and social problems. Specifically, (a) CODs (children of opioid users) were in higher risk than COAs (children of alcoholics) for psychopathology and functional impairments; (b) Children of parents diagnosed as having SUD (particularly alcohol) along with anti-social personality disorder (ASPD) showed more negative psychosocial outcomes than children whose parents without ASPD.

**Key words:** School-age children of parents with substance use problems, alcoholism and family, drugs and family.

### **Gambling behavior among adolescents: theory and research**

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During the last two decades the accessibility to gambling increased in many western countries. There is an agreement between most of the researchers that today's youth are exposed to environment which gambling is widely available, socially approved and not perceived as harmful.

The interaction between adolescence – a developmental period in which adolescent experience many behaviors – and an environment that include many different kind of gambling may cause problems in some cases.

This article includes current review regards to gambling behavior generally and to gambling behavior among youth who leaves in western countries, particularly. The article deals with some theoretical and research issues that challenges other research thought.

**Keywords:** Gambling, adolescents.

### **Internet addiction: Pathology, myth and moral panic**

Jacob Hecht, *PhD, former director of training and human development in The Ministry of Welfare & Labor and an independent researcher in the area of digital culture, Israel*

The paper addresses the social construction of "Internet Addiction". Whereas the concept is ambivalent at best, and mostly rejected by the psychiatric establishment as well as by practitioners, it is widely applied in the press. The paper discusses the evolution of the Internet addiction

## Creative intervention with youth using psychoactive substances

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The paper describes a non verbal, experimental intervention with adolescents and their parents who were referred to the Al-Sam Clinic. All of the adolescents referred to the clinic were. The use of art enables to overcome and effectively cope with defenses that get in the way of the intervention. Applying various modes of art – drawing and painting, sculpture, story telling, and drama – provide a non threatening stage for the therapists as well as for the adolescents and their parents to explore their emotions and feeling regarding various topics and sensitive issues in their life.

**Key words:** Adolescents using psychoactive substance, art therapy, parent groups, symbol, metaphor.

### מפרסומי היחידה לטיפול בנפגעי אלכוהול והימורים עמותת "אפשר"



**מקראה על אלכוהול** – חוברת המרכזת 28 מאמרים בנושאים הבאים: אלכוהול חוק ומשפט, טראומה ואלכוהול, זוגיות בצל האלכוהול, שתיינות בני נוער. (50 עמ')

**שתיינות ואלכוהוליים בישראל** – חוברת ביבליוגרפיה ותקצירים, המרכזת מידע על 384 ספרים, חוברות, מאמרים, דו"חות ועוד, שנכתבו בארץ ובחו"ל בשנים 1970–1995, בנושא השתיינות והאלכוהוליים בישראל. (25 עמ')

**ילדי אלכוהוליסטים** – ילדים בסיכון – תיאור מצוקתם של ילדי אלכוהוליסטים, ניתוח הקשר הבין-דורי בתחום ההתמכרות והצגת תכניות התערבות וטיפול שונות. (30 עמ')

**אלכוהול ואלימות** – חוברת מיוחדת העוסקת בהסבר תופעת האלימות תחת השפעת אלכוהול, והצגת דרכי התמודדות וטיפול. החוברת מסכמת את יום העיון 1995. (20 עמ')

**אלכוהול ונהיגה** – מהדורה שלישית של חוברת ייחודית בה 5 מאמרים בנושא השפעת האלכוהול על הנהג ברכב, החוק ודרכי עקיפת המשטרה ועוד. (20 עמ')

**אלכוהול ורפואה** – 12 מאמרים בתחום האבחון והטיפול הרפואי בנפגעי אלכוהול. (20 עמ')

**אלכוהול והסברה** – חוברת בת 10 מאמרים המוקדשים לדרכי הסברה ומניעה לבני נוער ולמבוגרים בנושא ההתמכרות. (20 עמ')

**"הכול על אלכוהול"** – ביטאון היוצא לאור 4 פעמים בשנה ובו חומר עדכני ומעניין בכל הקשור לשתיינות ולאלכוהוליים. בימים אלו יצא לאור גיליון מס. 56 של הביטאון העוסק ב"שתיינות בפנימיות ובכפרי הנוער"

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