

# RESEARCH ROUNDUP

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## IBR Continues to Investigate Drug Treatment Outcomes for Criminal Offenders

The growing national trend toward drug treatment alternatives for people convicted of certain felony offenses has heightened the interest of researchers at IBR. The Institute's involvement with the criminal justice system began in early 1991 when IBR Director Dr. Dwayne Simpson, and Associate Research Scientist Dr. Kevin Knight were asked to develop an evaluation plan for treatment interventions used by the Tarrant County Substance Abuse Treatment Facility (SATF), a 140-bed facility located in Mansfield, Texas.

The SATF program is designed to route nonviolent, drug-related offenders into treatment rather than prison, and to chart their progress after the intervention. A recent report by Drs. Knight and Simpson, based on the first 348 probationers admitted in 1992, shows 95% completed the program. During the 4 months of treatment, probationers improved in important areas of psychosocial functioning, such as lower risk-taking behavior and hostility, and higher self-esteem and decision-making confidence. Posttreatment outcome data are not yet available, but most probationers reported increasingly positive

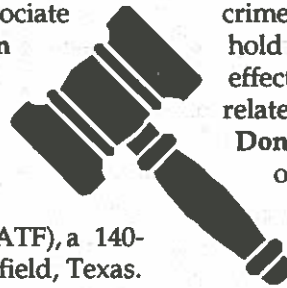
attitudes about their treatment while at SATF.

### *Future Focus*

Rehabilitation efforts such as SATF address national concerns about drugs, crime, and criminal recidivism, and hold promise for demonstrating a cost-effective strategy for reducing drug-related crime and reincarceration. Dr. Don Dansereau, Professor of Psychology at TCU, and Dr. Simpson are now seeking funding for a more rigorous 5-year research design to test and evaluate cognitive strategies for enhancing the major treatment components at SATF, and to follow-up probationers one year after intervention. The proposed enhancements include strategies for helping probationers engage in and progress through addiction recovery stages, professional guidance and support in recovery efforts, and life skills education.

The core element of the proposed cognitive strategies is node-linked mapping, which uses graphics and diagrams to help individuals visualize ideas, actions, and feelings in a way that enhances learning, motivation, and

See SATF Program on page 2.



## SATF Program (continued from page 1)

*This new project will significantly expand the study of cognitive-based enhancements and their application to intensive, residential treatment settings.*

decision-making ability. It has been found to be an effective counseling tool in outpatient treatment programs participating in IBR's DATAR project. If funded, this new project will significantly expand the study of cognitive-based enhancements and their application to intensive, residential treatment settings.

### State-wide Involvement

IBR research scientists are also collaborating with officials from the State of Texas to design an evaluation component for one of the largest efforts in the United States dedicated to providing treatment for substance abusing criminal offenders. In 1991, the Texas Legislature passed landmark

legislation which will establish 14,000 prison beds by 1995 to provide structured treatment, education, and work schedules in a setting modeled after the well-known therapeutic community approach. The program targets nonviolent chemically dependent adults in the criminal justice system, ranging from first-time offenders to those with long histories of incarceration and drug-related crime.

The comprehensive plan also includes mandatory community-based residential and nonresidential treatment following release from prison. Although extremely challenging, this massive project reflects a constructive posture for addressing social concerns about drugs and crime and is expected to have a national impact in future years. ♣

## Workplace Study Looks at Employee Drug Use and Attitudes

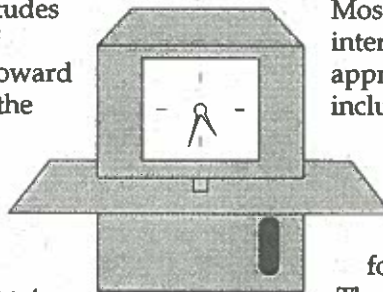
*Most employees endorsed strong intervention and rehabilitative approaches to substance abuse.*

The second phase of a 5-year study on the impact of drug and alcohol use in the workplace has been completed by IBR Research Scientist Dr. Wayne E.K. Lehman and Associate Research Scientist Dr. Angie Rosenbaum. A new report, based on the responses of 1,081 employees from a municipal workforce in a large Southwestern city, highlights findings on self-reported alcohol and drug use, job attitudes and behaviors, perceptions of coworker use, and attitudes toward substance abuse policies and the city's Employee Assistance Program (EAP).

Alcohol was the most commonly used drug among employees, with over 30% reporting at least one incidence of being drunk in the last year. Only 6% reported drinking at work or before work in the previous year, but 19% reported episodes of problem drinking.

Lifetime use of marijuana was reported by 27% of workers, and 19% reported lifetime

use of other illicit drugs. Only 5% reported using marijuana in the previous year whereas 6% reported using other drugs. Both alcohol and drug using employees were found to be much more likely than nonusers to have been late for work, to have had three or more unscheduled absences, and to have been involved in a job-related accident.



Most employees endorsed a strong intervention and rehabilitative approaches to substance use, including preemployment and random urine testing, referrals to treatment, and probation for offenders. Only 21% supported firing employees for substance abuse problems.

The long-term project will compare indicators of employee substance use, attitudes toward substance abuse policies, and organizational behaviors across two large cities, and will assess changes over time in each. ♣

## DATAR Study Looks at Family Issues and Client Functioning

A new DATAR study which looks at the family background of people addicted to heroin shows promise in predicting psychosocial functioning at the time of entry into treatment. The study, under the direction of IBR Associate Research Scientist **Dr. Danica K. Knight** and **Dr. David Cross** (Associate Professor of Psychology at TCU), analyzed questionnaires from 826 clients receiving methadone maintenance at DATAR treatment sites in Corpus Christi, Dallas, and Houston. Family background characteristics such as parental absence, support, and

conflict were assessed, along with preadmission measures of psychological and social functioning. The findings suggest parental absence alone does not predict adult adjustment. Rather, the effects of parental absence are mediated by the amount of support and conflict in the parent-child relationship. Receiving little or no support from mother and father figures, and experiencing moderate to high conflict with fathers in childhood and adolescence, appears to place clients at risk for poor psychosocial adjustment in adulthood. ♥

**Family background characteristics such as parental absence, support, and conflict were assessed.**

## DATAR Launches New Behavioral Intervention

A new behavioral approach designed to motivate clients to become actively involved in their treatment program during the first 90 days after admission is being piloted at DATAR's Corpus Christi site. The protocol, designed by IBR Associate Research Scientist **Dr. Grace Rowan-Szal** and IBR Director **Dr. Dwayne Simpson**, calls for new clients to be randomly assigned to either the motivational ("engagement") group or the control ("standard") group. Rewards, such as food

coupons and small prizes, will be given to the engagement group for attendance at counseling or group sessions and for drug-free urine screens. The standard group will receive no special reinforcement beyond "business as usual" for the clinic site. Attendance records and urinalysis results will be used to assess whether this approach helps to improve clients' engagement in the therapeutic process. ♥

## Upcoming DATAR Publications

Chatham, L.R., & Simpson, D.D. (in press). Delivering and evaluating outpatient treatment: Finding a practical balance. In F. Tims, B. Fletcher, J. Inciardi, & A. Horton (Eds.), *Innovative Approaches to Drug Abuse Treatment: Vol. II - Implementation Issues and Problems*. Westport, CT: Greenwood Press.

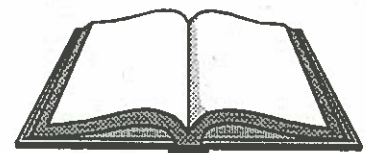
Dansereau, D.F., Joe, G.W., & Simpson, D.D. (in press). Node-linked mapping: A visual representation strategy for enhancing drug abuse counseling. *Journal of Counseling Psychology*.

Knight, K., Simpson, D.D., & Dansereau, D.F. (in press). Knowledge mapping: A psychoeducational tool in drug abuse

relapse prevention training for probationers. *Journal of Offender Rehabilitation*.

Simpson, D.D., Chatham, L.R. & Joe, G.W. (1993). Cognitive enhancements to treatment in DATAR: Drug Abuse treatment for AIDS risk reduction. In J. Inciardi, F. Tims, & B. Fletcher (Eds.), *Innovative Approaches to the Treatment of Drug Abuse: Vol. I - Program Models and Strategies*. Westport, CT: Greenwood Press.

Simpson, D.D., & Joe, G.W. (in press). Motivation as a predictor of early dropout from drug abuse treatment. *Psychotherapy*. ♥





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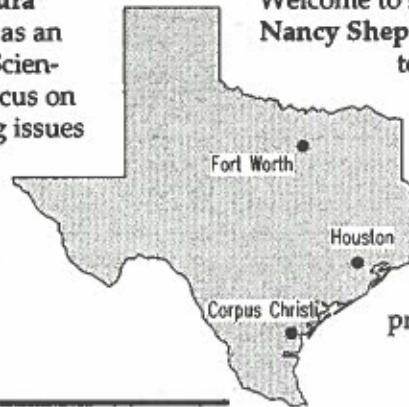
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# Staff Notes

## **Fort Worth**

Welcome to Dr. Sandra Dees, who joins IBR as an Associate Research Scientist. Dr. Dees will focus on research and training issues for *node-linked mapping* in the DATAR Project.



## **Corpus Christi**

Welcome to new DATAR counselor Nancy Shepard, and congratulations to data coordinator Gary Gelinas, who has been promoted to counselor. Welcome also to Ken Tillman who will have split duties as data coordinator and intake worker for the DATAR project.

## **Houston**

Welcome to Mary Alexander who joins DATAR as a counselor.



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