

RESEARCH ROUNDUP

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New DATOS research center funded

The experience of this team encompasses several large multisite evaluation studies over the past 25 years.

The National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA) has funded three teams of evaluation scientists to carry out a 5-year research program based on data collected for the Drug Abuse Treatment Outcome Studies (DATOS). The Institute of Behavioral Research (**Dr. Dwayne Simpson**, Principal Investigator) and the Drug Abuse Research Center at UCLA (**Dr. Douglas Anglin**, Principal Investigator) were selected as Field Research Centers. They will work closely with the Research Triangle Institute (**Dr. Robert Hubbard**, Principal Investigator), which has been collecting data from a national drug abuse treatment sample since 1989 as part of the initial phase of DATOS. Research Triangle Institute will act as the Coordinating Research Center and NIDA scientists **Drs. Frank Tims and Bennett**

Fletcher also will actively participate in the project. The experience of this team encompasses several large multisite evaluation studies conducted over the past 25 years including the Drug Abuse Reporting Program (DARP) and the Treatment Outcome Prospective Study (TOPS).

The initial phase of DATOS has focused on collecting intake, during-treatment, and follow-up data from approximately 10,000 adults treated at 99 programs located in 11 cities across the U.S. Data has been collected from methadone maintenance, outpatient drug free, long-term residential, and short-term inpatient treatment services. In addition to comprehensive assessments of client background and psychosocial

(See DATOS, page 2)

Project to study services for women and children

Also in this issue:

CETOP study enters second year 2

Research highlights 2

DATAR journal articles in 1995 3

TCU/DATAR forms manual revised 4

Scientists at IBR will manage the program evaluation component for a new Center for Substance Abuse Treatment (CSAT) grant awarded to the Salvation Army First Choice Program in Fort Worth. First Choice is an ongoing 12-month residential program for substance abusing women and their children. During the course of treatment, women live in small, private apartments on the First Choice grounds where they work on parenting and independent living skills. The funds provided by CSAT in the first year of the proposed 5-year project will allow the

program to add 10 new apartments/treatment slots, expanding services from 10 to 20 client families at a time (the average family includes the mother and 2 children). Because of identified community need, special outreach efforts will be made to help engage Hispanic women in treatment.

IBR Associate Research Scientist **Dr. Danica K. Knight** will serve as Project Manager for the evaluation research. In addition, she will oversee the implementation of several

(See NEW PROJECT, page 3)

CETOP study enters second year

Second phase focuses on motivation and transition into aftercare.

The Cognitive Enhancements for Treatment of Probationers (CETOP) project, a 5-year study designed to assess the impact of enhanced counseling and education approaches in a prison-based treatment program, will explore strategies for improving probationers' motivation for recovery during its second year. Counseling and educational enhancements include the use of node-link mapping, a tool for visualizing problems, solutions, and cause-and-effect relationships.

To date, approximately 260 residents have completed the 4-month treatment program with 135 participating in node-link mapping enhanced

counseling and 124 participating in standard counseling (controls). Although formal data analyses will not begin for a few months, preliminary results suggest that residents in the mapping condition participated more actively in counseling and education sessions in which maps were used. The project's second phase will focus on enhancing residents' motivation both at induction into treatment and at transition into aftercare. Enhancement tools for this phase will include specially designed board games, guided self-exploration maps, and cooperative mapping projects designed to provide focus, structure, and improved communication about recovery issues. ■

Research highlights

Hispanics, job outcomes, and substance use

In a study designed to measure whether or not Hispanic employees differ from non-Hispanics in their responses to self-report measures of personal drug and alcohol use and other indicators of job productivity, self-report questionnaires from 2 independent samples of municipal employees from large cities in the southwest were analyzed (N= 73 and N=901). Research

Assistant **Jamie Forst** found no differences between how Hispanics and non-Hispanics responded to questions about personal background, perceptions of job climate, substance use, and on-the-job productivity indicators, suggesting that cultural factors play a minimal role in employees willingness or reticence to answer workplace questionnaires. ■

Employees attitudes and substance use policy

In a recent study of workplace health and productivity issues, Associate Research Scientist **Dr. Joel Bennett** found that employee attitudes toward workplace substance abuse policies may be classified as satisfied, dissatisfied, anti-policy, pro-policy, or uninformed. Using samples of municipal workers from 3 southwestern cities, the study looked at psychological, social, and

health indicators of the attitude groups and found different profiles. In general, workers exposed to coworker substance abuse on the job were less likely to be satisfied with workplace policy. Training programs for employees that target specific attitude types are recommended to help strengthen policy goals and minimize problems. ■

(DATOS—continued from front page)

functioning, extensive records have been obtained concerning the treatment agencies and the service delivery process. One-year posttreatment follow-up interviews with clients were recently completed and a subsequent wave of 3-year follow-up interviews also is planned.

Details of the evaluation program are still being developed following an initial planning meeting

in October that included the Director of NIDA, **Dr. Alan Leshner**. The project is intended to focus the efforts of several experienced research teams on addressing questions about the effectiveness of community-based treatment programs serving individuals with a variety of drug-related problems. ■

DATAR journal articles in 1995

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(NEW PROJECT—continued from front page)

treatment enhancements for women including parenting workshops, assertiveness training, and HIV/AIDS prevention. First Choice Executive Director **Paula Hood** will oversee service delivery and program management, along with data collection. Families receiving treatment will participate in the evaluation study which will include intake and during-treatment data for the first year. These data include assessments of

drug use, psychosocial functioning, family functioning, criminal justice involvement, and general health. The evaluation plan will help identify and assess significant components of service delivery for drug dependent women and their children and will help determine the nature and progression of during-treatment changes and how these relate to program goals. ■

TCU/DATAR forms manual revised

A revised set of data collection forms has been developed for the Improving Drug Abuse Treatment, Assessment, and Research (DATAR) Project. The set includes a comprehensive range of instruments for addressing client needs and functioning at intake and throughout treatment, as well as for monitoring the delivery of outpatient services. The intake interview covers sociodemographic descriptions along with family and peer relations, health and psychological status, employment, criminality, and drug use information. In addition, self-ratings scales assess psychosocial functioning (such as self-esteem, depression, hostility, and risk-taking) as well as treatment motivation and readiness levels.

During the course of treatment, brief client and counselor records provide descriptions of counseling contacts (length of session, issues discussed, perceived benefits). In addition, there are instruments for detailed evaluations of treatment progress and process at 3-month intervals (by both clients and counselors). Monthly service delivery reports for use by program staff help track session attendance, medication activities, urinalysis results, and ancillary services for each client. These instruments have been assembled in the *TCU/DATAR Forms Manual* (Version 11/95) which is available on request. ■

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