



COLLEGE OF SCIENCE & ENGINEERING

INSTITUTE OF BEHAVIORAL RESEARCH

Research and News Worth Repeating

August 28, 2020

Substance Abuse

Polysubstance Use: A Broader Understanding of Substance Use During the Opioid Crisis

American Journal of Public Health - February 2020

The Survey of Key Informants' Patients (SKIP) Program database includes data from individuals who have entered treatment for an OUD at 270 participating treatment centers in 49 states and Washington, DC. Treatment centers were recruited by using the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration Behavioral Health Treatment Services Locator. Survey data from a national sample of 15,741 persons entering treatment from mid-2011 through 2018 for opioid use disorder showed that past-month illicit opioid use increased from 44.8% in 2011 to 70.1% in 2018, while the use of prescription opioids alone dropped from 55.2% to 29.9% and overall levels of opioid use remained high from 94.5% to 85.2%. These results demonstrate the importance of monitoring changes in polysubstance use along with opioid trends.

<https://search.proquest.com/docview/2345949440?pq-origsite=summon>

AR Gets \$4 Million to Help Residents Seeking Substance-Abuse Treatment

Public News Service - August 10, 2020

According to the CDC, nearly half of the state of Arkansas's reported drug overdoses involved opioids. Now, the federal Resources and Services Administration has awarded a \$4 million grant to help combat the epidemic. The funds will help the state expand telehealth services for individuals with substance abuse treatment as well as get the counseling and health care support they need.

<https://www.publicnewsservice.org/2020-08-10/alcohol-and-drug-abuse-prevention/ar-gets-4-million-to-help-residents-seeking-substance-abuse-treatment/a71094-1>

Maryland-Based Substance Abuse Treatment Provider Offering Scholarship for African Americans Struggling with Addiction

WJZ 13 - August 18, 2020

After battling 15 years of addiction, Jarryl, a patient in recovery and others like him are getting treatment through a Maryland-based scholarship. Amatus Recovery Centers' Social Justice Scholarship is offering \$750,000 to African Americans to cover the costs of care. It will help those who couldn't otherwise afford treatment access care from detox to outpatient treatment. After the high-profile death of George Floyd, Amatus, a substance abuse and mental health treatment provider decided to provide treatment to those in the African American community.

<https://baltimore.cbslocal.com/2020/08/18/maryland-based-substance-abuse-treatment-provider-offering-scholarship-for-african-americans-struggling-with-addiction/>

Involuntary Substance Abuse Treatment triples in Charlotte County

Sun Port Charlotte - August 22, 2020

In Charlotte County, Florida, the number of people admitted for involuntary substance abuse treatment has tripled since COVID-19 started. A Florida law called the Marchman Act allows families and friends to seek involuntary services for people who are substance impaired. Patients admitted under the Marchman Act are evaluated at Behavioral Health Centers without threat of arrest. In Charlotte County, this year, there have been 83 overdoses and 22 overdose deaths. In 2019 in the country, 140 adults were admitted to treatment under the Marchman Act and current trends predict about 350 adults this year.

https://www.yoursun.com/charlotte/involuntary-substance-abuse-treatment-triples-in-charlotte-county/article_a05d65a8-e329-11ea-a537-3bb688b8402d.html

Parents, family relationships influence adolescent substance abuse, UB study finds

UBNow - August 24, 2020

This study on Early Childhood Risk and Protective Factors Predicting Resilience against Adolescent Substance Use, led by researchers at the University of Buffalo School of Nursing and Department of Psychology, studied New York State birth records from 277 families', particularly those with fathers who had an alcohol problem. According to this study, "there was a higher proportion of children from alcoholic families that used substances as adolescents compared with those from non-alcoholic families. The researchers suggest new emphasis on prevention and interventions that not only focus on alcohol use reduction but also building successful parenting skills and family relationships.

<http://www.buffalo.edu/ubnow/stories/2020/08/livingston-adolescent-substance-use.html>

Technology & Behavioral Health

Development of a tailored, telehealth intervention to address chronic pain and heavy drinking among people with HIV infection: integrating perspectives of patients in HIV care

Addiction Science & Clinical Practice - August 2019

Chronic pain and heavy drinking commonly occur in patients with HIV. In this study, ten participants were recruited from a cohort of patients in HIV care at the Boston Alcohol Collaborative on HIV/AIDS in order to tailor a mobile-health, telehealth intervention of health information for such patients. Interviews with participants focusing on the influence of alcohol on HIV and chronic pain found that resilience in coping with HIV, autonomy in health care, coping with pain, stress, had implications for intervention tailoring. Participants reported that videoconferencing was an acceptable way to deliver the intervention.

<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC6714455/?tool=pmcentrez&report=abstract>

A multilevel mHealth Drug abuse and STI/HV preventive intervention for clinic settings in the United States: A feasibility and acceptability study

PLOS ONE - August 2019

The purpose of this study was to examine Storytelling 4 Empowerment (S4E), a multilevel mobile health app for drug abuse and STI/HIV prevention in clinical settings. S4E aims to improve drug use and HIV knowledge through tailored, interactive content. In this study, researchers recruited 20 youth and 6 clinicians from a youth-centered community clinic in Southeastern Michigan. The youth completed the SSE intervention and then met with their clinician for prevention and risk reduction session based on the youth's earlier responses. Clinicians and youth suggested that both acceptability and feasibility of the app was high and warrant examining the app's efficacy.

<https://search.proquest.com/docview/2278023449?pq-origsite=summon>

Assessing Risk Among Correctional Community Probation Population: Predicting Re-offense with Mobile Neurocognitive Assessment Software

Frontiers in Psychology - January 24, 2020

A self-scoring, risk assessment app run on a tablet computer was developed that uses neurocognitive testing taking less than 30 minutes to predict re-offense among correctional community probation populations. The NeuroCognitive Risk Assessment (NCRA) assesses multiple cognitive and decision-making traits such as impulsivity, empathy, aggression linked to reoffending. From 2017 to 2019, 730 probationers completed the NCRA in Harris County, Texas. Results showed that predictive validity of the NCRA was comparable to other commonly used risk assessments with the advantage of eliminating subjectivity and reducing time efforts.

https://www.frontiersin.org/articles/10.3389/fpsyg.2019.02926/full?utm_source=F-NTF&utm_medium=EMLX&utm_campaign=PRD_FEOPS_20170000_ARTICLE

A randomized controlled efficacy trial of an mHealth HIV prevention intervention for sexual minority young men: MyPEEPS mobile study protocol

BMC Public Health - January 15, 2020

This article describes a mobile health intervention MyPEEPS for sexual risk prevention in young men. The focus of the app is psychosocial, sexual health content and goal-setting through an activity called

“BottomLine,” in which participants are challenged to think of how much risk they are willing to accept. The main themes of the app are presented through a series of applied learning games, scenarios, and 21 mobile activities called “PEEPScapades.” It is being tested in a nationwide randomized controlled trial with diverse sexual minority cisgender young men aged 13-18 years old within four regional hubs (Birmingham, AL, Chicago, IL, New York City, NY, Seattle, WA).

<https://search.proquest.com/docview/2341531801/abstract/208A1885850046A4PQ/1?accountid=7090>

An AI algorithm to help identify homeless youth at risk of substance abuse

Science Daily - August 14, 2020

A new artificial intelligence algorithm could help determine susceptibility to substance use disorder (SUD) among homeless youth. Analyses on a dataset based on 1,400 homeless youth ages 18 to 26 in six US states, found that that adverse childhood experiences (ACES), which are identified as abuse/neglect and more emotional in nature, were more strongly associated with SUD than other experiences such as sexual abuse. PTSD and depression were also found to have stronger associations than other mental health disorders with substance use disorder. These findings can have policy impact because they help identify factors that policy planners should focus on.

<https://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2020/08/200814131014.htm>