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Contributions Solicitation for 2020 International Seminar on Juvenile Drug Abuse Prevention and Counseling

Dear scholars and experts:

Under the support of the Ministry of Education, Crime Research Center, National Chung Cheng University, Taiwan (NCCU) will hold the “International Seminar on Juvenile Drug Abuse Prevention and Counseling” at the NCCU International Conference Hall on October 20 and 21 (Tuesday and Wednesday), 2020.

Many domestic and foreign experts and scholars from the European Union, Japan, Australia, Singapore have been invited to release papers for the seminar. Senior officials from the ministries of the Central Government, experts and scholars from the academic community, city and county drug abuse prevention centers, supervisors of student off-campus life counseling agencies, instructors and city and county student affair and counseling officers, school security personnel and other representatives dedicated to drug problems and prevention nationwide have been invited to attend. It is expected that new research reports and practical suggestions pertaining to juvenile drug abuse-related issues can be proposed to improve the current juvenile drug abuse problems and recommendations can be proposed to serve as references for the government.

Six “juvenile drug abuse prevention and counseling” themed contributions will be solicited for the conference. Experts, scholars and researchers are welcome to actively contribute by sending the Chinese and English abstract of their local evidence-based research papers to the conference and the Crime Research Center. The contributions solicitation deadline is July 31, 2020. The conference will invite experts and scholars to convene a meeting to review the contributions. Excellent contributions will be selected and reported at the seminar, and review results will be announced before September 10. The date of full paper submission will be October 1. Experts and scholars are welcome to share their research feedbacks and contribute their part to reducing the harm of drugs.

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UNODC Reports

UNODC launches DrugHelpNet in Nigeria to provide over-the-phone assistance to Drug Users in Need

➤ Editorial Office

Nigeria, 14 April 2020 - Based on the 2019 Drug Use Survey in Nigeria, the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) estimates that there are more than three million Nigerians living with some sort of drug use disorder. Government imposed lockdowns as they are being implemented across most Nigerian States weigh particularly heavy on them. While access to drugs has become more difficult, accessing treatment and counselling services has become more difficult too. In addition, the self-imposed isolation can be experienced as particularly burdensome by those suffering from drug use disorders as well as their families.

In order to provide immediate and practical relief, UNODC within the framework of the EU funded Nigeria Drugs Project, partnered with 80 frontline health workers, including medical doctors, drug counsellors and allied professionals across Nigeria to provide over-the-phone assistance for drug users or families who need such services during the COVID-19.

The health professionals who enthusiastically responded to UNODC's request to establish this network have been trained and certified under the project in drug treatment using the Treatnet methodology and/or Universal Treatment Curriculum (UTC).

The 2019 Drug Use Survey in Nigeria revealed that there is a clear gap in meeting the needs for treatment and care for people with drug use disorders. Around 40 per cent among those reported that they had wanted to receive drug treatment but were unable to access such services. The vulnerability of the



drug use population is of grave concern, especially as the global community grapples to contain the COVID-19 pandemic and flatten the curve of infections.

Due to their poorer health profile, drug users are more vulnerable to experiencing COVID-19 more severely. In case they have pre-existing conditions, they will be at greater risk. Given the stigma experienced by drug users, they might be unable to access health care services at this time. In addition, during this period of lockdown, drug users can face drug-related health issues like withdrawals for which they might feel the need to talk to a health care provider. It is imperative therefore that the national responses to this public health emergency, takes drug users into consideration.

Drug users or their family members who experience distress during the lockdown and require advice whether medical or from a counsellor will be able to contact any of the doctors/counsellors in the geopolitical zones where they reside for advice. The distress could be related to drug or alcohol withdrawal, loss of appetite, inability to sleep, or more seriously, a psychotic episode that the user or their family is unable to manage during the lockdown.



Ensuring access to treatment services for drug users is key to achieving SDG3 – Good Health and Wellbeing and we must ensure that we Leave No One Behind by not excluding drug users from the COVID-19 response.

This paper is from: United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime

<https://www.unodc.org/unodc/en/frontpage/2020/April/unodc-launches-drughelpnet--a-network-of-nigerian-doctors--psychologists--nurses-and-counsellors-to-provide-over-the-phone-assistance-to-drug-users-in-need.html>



NIDA Reports

Addressing the Stigma that Surrounds

Addiction

➤ Editorial Office

Untreated drug and alcohol use contribute to tens of thousands of deaths every year and impact the lives of many more. Healthcare already has effective tools including medications for opioid and alcohol use disorder that could prevent many of these deaths, but they are not being utilized widely enough, and many people who could benefit do not even seek them out. One important reason is the stigma that surrounds people with addiction.

Stigma is a problem with health conditions ranging from cancer and HIV to many mental illnesses. Some gains have been made in reducing stigma around certain conditions; public education and widespread use of effective medications has demystified depression, for instance, making it somewhat less taboo now than it was in past generations. But little progress has been made in removing the stigma around substance use disorders. People with addiction continue to be blamed for their disease. Even though medicine long ago reached a consensus that addiction is a complex brain disorder with behavioral





components, the public and even many in healthcare and the justice system continue to view it as a result of moral weakness and flawed character.

Stigma on the part of healthcare providers who tacitly see a patient's drug or alcohol problem as their own fault leads to substandard care or even to rejecting individuals seeking treatment. People showing signs of acute intoxication or withdrawal symptoms are sometimes expelled from emergency rooms by staff fearful of their behavior or assuming they are only seeking drugs. People with addiction internalize this stigma, feeling shame and refusing to seek treatment as a result.

In a Perspective I published recently in *The New England Journal of Medicine*, I tell the story about a man I met who was injecting heroin in his leg at a “shooting gallery”—a makeshift injection site—in San Juan, Puerto Rico, during a visit to that country several years ago. His leg was severely infected, and I urged him to visit an emergency room—but he refused. He had been treated horribly on previous occasions, so preferred risking his life, or probable amputation, to the prospect of repeating his humiliation.

This highlights a dimension of stigma that has been less remarked on in the literature and that is uniquely important for people with substance use disorders: Beyond just impeding the provision or seeking of care, stigma may actually enhance or reinstate drug use, playing a key part in the vicious cycle that drives addicted people to continue using drugs.

Previously on this blog I highlighted research by Marco Venniro at NIDA's Intramural Research Program, showing that rodents dependent on heroin or methamphetamine still choose social interaction over drug self-administration, given a choice; but when the social choice is punished, the animals revert to the drug. It is a profound finding, very likely applicable to humans, since we are highly social beings. Some of us respond to social as well as physical punishments by turning to substances to alleviate our pain. The humiliating rejection experienced by people who are stigmatized for their drug use acts as a powerful social punishment, driving them to continue and perhaps intensify their drug-taking.



The stigmatization of people with substance use disorders may be even more problematic in the current COVID-19 crisis. In addition to their greater risk through homelessness and drug use itself, the legitimate fear around contagion may mean that bystanders or even first responders will be reluctant to administer naloxone to people who have overdosed. And there is a danger that overtaxed hospitals will preferentially pass over those with obvious drug problems when making difficult decisions about where to direct lifesaving personnel and resources.

Alleviating stigma is not easy, in part because the rejection of people with addiction or mental illness arises from violations of social norms. Even people in healthcare, if they do not have training in caring for people with substance use disorders, may be at a loss as to how to interact with someone acting threateningly because of withdrawal or some drugs' effects (e.g., PCP). It is crucial that people across healthcare, from staff in emergency departments to physicians, nurses, and physician assistants, be trained in caring compassionately and competently for people with substance use disorders. Treating patients with dignity and compassion is the first step.

There must be wider recognition that susceptibility to the brain changes in addiction are substantially influenced by factors outside an individual's control, such as genetics or the environment in which one is born and raised, and that medical care is often necessary to facilitate recovery as well as avert the worst outcomes like overdose. When people with addiction are stigmatized and rejected, especially by those within healthcare, it only contributes to the vicious cycle that entrenches their disease.

This paper is from: National Institute on Drug Abuse

<https://www.drugabuse.gov/about-nida/noras-blog/2020/04/addressing-stigma-surrounds-addiction>



Taiwan Research News

A Panel Study on The Effectiveness of Drug Abuser's Legal Treatments

Chi-Hwa Yang, Chien-Yang Lin, Yu-Chieh Chen, Yu-Shu Chen

There are various legal treatments for drug abusers in Taiwan. It is crucial to examine which legal treatment is more effective in reducing or delaying drug abuser's recidivism based on the objective empirical evidence. The purpose of the current study was to examine legal treatment effectiveness and observe the recidivism of 1,448 drug abusers releasing from different legal treatments by 14-year panel data. Results showed that the recidivism rate was 81.1% and the non-recidivism rate was 18.9% from 2000 to 2014. However, the cumulative non-recidivism rate increased to 55.5% after receiving seven different legal treatments. It is possible to prevent some drug abusers from recidivism through multiple legal treatments. Nevertheless, illegal drug use remained the largest proportion of recidivism, followed by property crime. As the number of drug abuser's legal treatments increased, the recidivism type was more concentrated on illegal drug use. In terms of survival time, it reached the peak of recidivism within two years after treatment. As times of legal treatment increased, the survival time decreased. Obviously, community treatment is more effective than compulsory abstention to reduce recidivism or delay recidivism. Compulsory abstention is better than imprisonment or mixed treatment model; rehabilitative measure outweighs penalty. Based on research findings, the policy implication and suggestion for drug abuser's legal treatment are discussed.



Analysis of the site-specific data of drug abuse in Kaohsiung city

Ling-Yi Feng, Ching-Yang Juan, Jih-Heng Li

Drug abuse-related hazards are universal problems. In order to enact appropriate prevention policies, our study aims to realize the current situation of substances abuse in Kaohsiung City. The various existing mechanism and database were integrated and analyzed in this study to explore and handle the local drug-related problems.

The data were collected from the associated departments of Kaohsiung City Government from 2011 to 2018 and analyzed via epidemiological and sociological methods to illustrate the trend and characteristics of drug abuse based on various aspects and indicators. Via our study, the results and suggestions could help Kaohsiung City Government make feasible and site-specific drug prevention policies.

In the supply and demand side, the most serious problem of drug abuse was still amphetamines. The abuse of opioids (heroin, opium, morphine, etc.) was under control in recent years while other drugs such as synthetic cathinones have been on the rise. On the injury side, the problem of HIV infection due to intravenous drug use has been controlled. In the case of drug abuse among adolescents, although the overall number of notifications has dropped, it may be related to the use of undisclosed or undetected NPS.

The following recommendations are made from the analysis results and references of various national data: the data of each department should be clearly defined; the prevalence rate should be estimated through other methods to infer the dark figure problem; other issues are also of importance, such as the lack of systematic medical treatment records for non-opium addicts, the emerging NPS and its countermeasures, research on drug-derived crimes. With all these efforts, a complete database related to substances abuse can be established.



Latest Conferences Information

➤ 編輯組

Conference	Host Organization	Date	Location
2020 Convention on Prevention and Consultation of Teen Drug Abuse	Education Center for Prevention of Drug Abuse ,National Chung Cheng University	October 20-21 2020	Chiayi, Taiwan Contact: deptcrc@ccu.edu.tw
House of Delegates Annual Meeting	AMA (American Medical Association)	June 6-10 2020	Chicago, IL Contact: media@nida.nih.gov
CPDD Annual Meeting	College on Problems of Drug Dependence (CPDD)	June 20-24 2020	Hollywood, Florida, USA Contact: media@nida.nih.gov
The 30th Annual International Cannabinoid Research Society Symposium on the Cannabinoids	International Cannabinoid Research Society(ICRS)	July 4-9 2020	Galway, Ireland Contact: media@nida.nih.gov
ISAJE Annual Meeting 2020	International Society of Addiction Journal Editors (ISAJE)	September 2-4 2020	virtual video conference format Contact: casyisaje@gmail.com
National Advisory Council on Drug Abuse	National Institute on Drug Abuse(NIDA)	September 10 2020	Rockville, MD Contact: media@nida.nih.gov