

Psychopathology and Substance Abuse: What Is Being Learned from Research in Therapeutic Communities

GEORGE DE LEON, PH.D.*

The pervasive use of drugs in the general population and the clearly established relationship between drug abuse and psychological disorder emphasizes the importance of diagnoses and treatment in both the mental health and the drug abuse service systems. Therapeutic community (TC) research findings on psychopathology are highlighted on the prevalence, trends, and impact of treatment, which indicate that TCs have evolved a potent model for modifying drug abuse behavior and reducing psychological symptoms. Although its success has been most evident with the primary substance abuser, the TC has much to offer the increasing numbers of dually diagnosed individuals who manifest their dysfunctionality both through drug abuse and psychological maladjustment.

The enculturation of the general population to drug use is reflected in a widening spectrum of individuals seeking admission to treatment for substance abuse problems. In particular, crack cocaine abuse has supplanted opioids as the main illicit drug abuse problem. In addition, there are significant increases in adolescents and females seeking treatment. Drug use at all levels of society has catalyzed a proliferation of treatment services in both the private and public sectors. Perhaps most evident is the range of psychological problems observed among admissions to all drug abuse treatment modalities.

Since its development in the early 1960's, studies of the therapeutic community (TC) treatment modality have yielded a substantial clinical and research literature concerning psychopathology among drug abusers. Indeed, the rehabilitative approach employed in most traditional TCs has been guided by its perspective of drug abuse as a whole person disorder, encompassing problems in all areas of psychosocial functioning (De Leon 1986). Nevertheless, relatively little of this literature is known among workers both within and outside of the chemical dependency field.

The present article briefly surveys the research on psychopathology among substance abusers in TCs, with a focus on the themes of psychological profiles, impact of treatment, current trends, and implications for treatment and research. In this broad overview of psychopathology in TCs, some specific limits and caveats should be underscored. First, the literature surveyed is not exhaustive and is confined mainly to studies of traditional TCs in North America, although exceptions are noted. Nor is it a critical review of the research undertaken in terms of design or methodological issues. These efforts may be found elsewhere (e.g., Jainchill 1989; Holland 1986).

Second, emphasis is placed on conclusions, supported by key findings; details of design or data are minimal, although illustrative figures are included. Third, methods of assessment of psychopathology vary, including case histories, clinical/psychiatric interviews, and standard test instruments. The findings reviewed are primarily from studies using the latter. While these may be less sensitive than other methods, they are psychometrically sound, are replicable in research designs, and generally do not contradict clinical conclusions.

Finally, much of this work has been completed in specific treatment programs, limiting generalization to all TCs or other treatment modalities. Nevertheless, the consis-

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Substance Abuse And Psychopathology

Ying-Ying Zheng



Substance Abuse And Psychopathology:

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Substance Abuse and Psychopathology Arthur Alterman,2014-09-01 **Substance Abuse and Psychopathology**
Steven M. Mirin,1984 **Psychopathology and Addictive Disorders** Roger Meyer,1986 Dr Meyer has gathered a distinguished group of academicians and clinicians who provide a comprehensive review of all the complex relationships

between substance abuse and psychopathology The recent escalation of research on the role of personality and psychopathology on addictive disorders and the understanding of the etiology diagnosis and treatment that the research has produced has been brought together in this timely contribution PSYCHOPATHOLOGY AND ADDICTIVE DISORDERS is a landmark text in an area of increasing importance It should be read by anyone who is interested in any aspect of the study or treatment of individuals with alcohol or drug problems The Existential Structure of Substance Misuse Guilherme

Messas,2021-02-01 This book contributes to one of the most challenging areas of mental health substance misuse Its focus is on the psychopathological experiences associated with it both the consequences of substance misuse and the existential vulnerabilities that lead to it even if such a clear cut distinction is rarely possible The work brings an innovative perspective to the issue as it draws on two scientific fields whose association has not yet been fully explored phenomenological psychopathology and substance misuse studies The association of these two perspectives could build a greater understanding of this important topic and be of practical help to a wide array of professionals in their clinical practice The structure of the book is inspired by this overall perspective Its division into three parts is designed to introduce the reader in a stepwise manner to the complexities of the theme based on the latest advances in the specific literature The broad objective of this work is therefore to offer a useful instrument for mental health clinicians psychiatrists psychologists nurses undergraduate students of these disciplines and all substance abuse workers **Substance Abuse** David McDowell, Henry I.

Spitz,2015-12-22 Designed as a one stop shopping tool for anyone interested in or affected by substance abuse this book provides detailed discussions that include the history chemistry biology epidemiology and salient characteristics of the most important and prevalent abused substances **Substance abuse treatment. Generalities and specificities.** Ana Adán Puig, Conrad Vilanou,2024-02-14 BASIC ASPECTS AND RESEARCH 1 Is addiction a chronic relapsing disease 2 In it for the long haul recovery capital addiction theory and the inter generational transmission of addictive behaviour 3 Self Medication and addictions 4 Promoting Best Practice in the drug addiction field the EMCDDA experience 5 Chronobiology and addiction implications for treatment and prevention SEX DIFFERENCES 6 Biological bases of sex differences in drug addiction 7 Female polydrug abuse and psychopathology Gender differences an overview 8 The impact of motherhood on recovery Lessons we can learn from the treatment journeys of mothers with problematic substance misuse issues THERAPEUTIC COMMUNITIES 9 Quality of life in therapeutic communities for substance abuse 10 The essential elements of treatment a European therapeutic communities perspective 11 MECETT the journeymen model transferred to staff training in TCs 12 The reasons for the rise and fall of the Bremberg empire SOCIAL AND POLITICAL FACTORS 13 The United Nations and drug demand reduction policies 14 Factors for effective long term recovery risk and challenges during the economic crisis in Greece 15 Getting regular early and brief alcohol interventions into primary care in rural New South Wales the origins of the Murdi Paaki Drug and Alcohol Network 16 Social exclusion and immigration new patterns of drug use among young marginal

migrants 17 Politics and ethics for a journal editor *Psychopathology: Substance Related and Impulse Control Disorders*
Gary Elliott, 2014-06-24 Seminar paper from the year 2013 in the subject Psychology Clinic and Health Psychology Abnormal Psychology Atlantic International University language English abstract The drugs mentioned in this paper each have their own specific effects on the user but they are similar in the manner in which they are used and the treatment used when working with the abuser A substance is a chemical compound that alters behaviour or mood when ingested This group includes alcohol nicotine caffeine heroin and cocaine along with chocolate and soft drinks The vast majority of users of the safe drugs are not perceived as addicts they can be equally as addictive and harmful to one's health There is a clear distinction between a user and an abuser of drugs Substance use suggests that the individual ingests the drug in moderate amounts that have no significant effect on their social educational or occupational functionality The drug has the ability based on the quantity ingested to create impaired judgement mood changes and lowered motor ability this result is referred to as intoxication Substance abuse as an extension of use is really defined on how the use of the drug affects the individual's relationships his work or education and whether it causes him to place himself or others in physically dangerous situations Barlow Durand 2005 Drug dependence is often described as addiction There is however some disagreement in how we best define substance dependence Woody Cacciola 1997 One definition would explain how the individual requires systematically greater quantities of the drug to experience the same level of intoxication tolerance and will behave negatively if the drug is not ingested withdrawal Franklin Frances 1999 An alternate view on substance dependence pertains to the behaviour that focuses on finding the required drug as a dependence indicator A different view of substance dependence focuses on the drug seeking behaviour Substance Abuse Joyce H. Lowinson, 2005 The premier text on substance abuse and addictive behaviors is now in its updated and expanded Fourth Edition with up to the minute insights from more than 150 experts at the front lines of patient management and research This edition features expanded coverage of the neurobiology of abused substances new pharmacologic therapies for addictions and complete information on club drugs such as Ecstasy New sections focus on addiction in children adolescents adults and the elderly and women's health issues including pregnancy The expanded behavioral addictions section now includes hoarding shopping and computer Internet abuse Includes access to a Companion website that has fully searchable text

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