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- Clinical assessment of substance use disorders
- Substance use disorder in adolescents: Epidemiology, pathogenesis, clinical manifestations and consequences, course, assessment, and diagnosis
- Approach to treating substance use disorder in adolescents
- Psychotherapies for substance use disorders
- Approach to treating alcohol use disorder
- Treatment of co-occurring substance use disorder and anxiety-related disorders in adults
- Pharmacotherapy for stimulant use disorders in adults
- Approach to treating opioid use disorder
- Psychosocial interventions for co-occurring schizophrenia and substance use disorder
- Infants of mothers with substance use disorder
- Co-occurring schizophrenia and substance use disorder: Epidemiology, pathogenesis, clinical manifestations, course, assessment and diagnosis
- Insomnia in patients with a substance use disorder
- Pharmacotherapy for co-occurring schizophrenia and substance use disorder
- Contingency management for substance use disorders: Efficacy, implementation, and training
- Screening for unhealthy use of alcohol and other drugs in primary care
- Cannabis use and disorder: Epidemiology, comorbidity, health consequences, and medico-legal status
- Co-occurring substance use disorder and anxiety-related disorders in adults: Epidemiology, pathogenesis, clinical manifestations, course, assessment, and diagnosis
- Approach to treating patients with borderline personality disorder
- Approach to treating attention deficit hyperactivity disorder in adults
- Substance use disorders in physicians: Epidemiology, clinical manifestations, identification, and engagement
- Approach to treating schizotypal personality disorder
- Psychosocial interventions for substance use disorder in adolescents
- Approach to treatment of stimulant use disorder in adults
- Contingency management for substance use disorders: Theoretical foundation, principles, assessment, and components
- Substance use disorders in physicians: Assessment and treatment
- Psychosocial interventions for stimulant use disorder in adults
- Substance abuse and addiction in HIV-infected patients
- Psychosocial treatment of alcohol use disorder
- Motivational interviewing for substance use disorders
- Perioperative uses of intravenous opioids in adults
- Pediatric bipolar disorder: Overview of choosing treatment
- Treatment of cannabis use disorder in adults
- Pharmacotherapy for opioid use disorder
- Mode selection for positive airway pressure titration in adult patients with central sleep apnea syndromes
- Risky drinking and alcohol use disorder: Epidemiology, pathogenesis, clinical manifestations, course, assessment, and diagnosis
- Psychosocial interventions for opioid use disorder
- Treatment of cannabis withdrawal
- Screening for unhealthy use of alcohol and other drugs in primary care
- Ethanol intoxication in adults
- Hepatitis C and alcohol
- Alcohol intake and pregnancy
- Risky drinking and alcohol use disorder: Epidemiology, pathogenesis, clinical manifestations, course, assessment, and diagnosis
- Approach to treating alcohol use disorder
- Overview of the risks and benefits of alcohol consumption
- Alcohol withdrawal: Epidemiology, clinical manifestations, course, assessment, and diagnosis
- Management of moderate and severe alcohol withdrawal syndromes
- Nonsuicidal self-injury in children and adolescents: General principles of treatment

**Drink Free Days 2018: campaign evaluation**
A full evaluation report for the Drink Free Days 2018 campaign has been issued.
**Source:** Public Health England

**Minimum unit pricing reduces sale of alcohol**
Alcohol sales in Scotland fell to a 25-year low in 2018, the year that MUP (minimum unit pricing) was finally implemented.
**Source:** BMA

**Alcohol’s harm to others**
An evidence review has been released which looks at the harm caused by alcohol to the people around those who are drinking.
**Source:** Public Health England

**British ‘get drunk’ more regularly than other nationalities**
British people who drink get drunk more regularly than other nationalities, according to the latest Global drug survey. Respondents in the UK reported getting drunk 51 times a year, compared to an average of 33 times.
**Source:** Drink and Drug News

**Inside Scotland’s first addiction recovery village**
Scotland’s first recovery village offers a rehabilitation programme to people dealing with addiction issues. 
**Source:** BBC News

Mental health and substance misuse: joined-up services

*A case study is available* on how joining up mental health, alcohol and drug misuse services in a Derby hospital provided better support for people with addiction and mental health problems.

**Source:** Public Health England

Misuse of illicit drugs and medicines: applying All Our Health

Evidence and guidance *is available to help health professionals* identify, prevent or reduce drug-related harm. **Source:** Public Health England

Pregabalin (Lyrica), gabapentin (Neurontin) and risk of abuse and dependence: new scheduling requirements from 1 April

As of 1 April 2019, pregabalin and gabapentin are controlled under the Misuse of Drugs Act 1971 as Class C substances and scheduled under the Misuse of Drugs Regulations 2001 as Schedule 3. Evaluate patients carefully for a history of drug abuse before prescribing pregabalin and gabapentin and observe patients for development of signs of abuse and dependence.

**Source:** Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency

Making substance misuse and mental health support more inclusive

*A case study has been released* on how a service for young people in North Yorkshire works with other agencies to focus on all their emotional wellbeing, substance misuse and mental health needs. **Source:** Public Health England

Funding released to help rough sleepers living with mental illness

Adults who are sleeping rough and living with mental illness or substance misuse will benefit from £1.9 million funding to improve their access to vital healthcare. **Source:** Department of Health and Social Care

Drug health harms: national intelligence

The *May 2019 briefing has been added* to the information on the health harms associated with drug use. **Source:** Public Health England

Drugs in syringes from six European cities: results from the ESCAPE project 2017

*A report has been released* which presents the results of an innovative method for gathering information on the substances used by people who inject drugs. In this pilot study, chemical analysis of the contents of used syringes collected from exchange sites reveals the drugs and drug combinations injected in the six participating European cities. This approach can provide local and timely information that can be used for city-level monitoring and interventions. **Source:** European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction

European Drug Report 2019: Trends and Developments

The *Trends and Developments report* presents a top-level overview of the drug phenomenon in Europe, covering drug supply, use and public health problems as well as drug policy and responses. **Source:** European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction

NDTMS criminal justice intervention teams dataset: proposed changes

Public Health England are inviting feedback on proposed changes to the criminal justice intervention teams dataset collected for the national drug treatment monitoring system. The consultation closes at 9:30am on 26 August 2019. **Source:** Public Health England

**NDTMS annual reports and methodology: proposed changes**
A consultation is open about changes to the national drug treatment monitoring system (NDTMS) annual reports format and the methodology for the young people's report. The consultation closes at 11:45pm on 25 August 2019. Source: Public Health England

Scotland's drug deaths set to top 1,000
New figures released later are expected to show that more than 1,000 people died as a result of drugs in Scotland last year. Source: BBC News

ACMD report: drug-related harms in homeless populations
An ACMD report has been issued which provides advice to the government on the factors that make the homeless population vulnerable to substance misuse harms and how these can reduced. Source: Advisory Council on the Misuse of Drugs

DrugFacts: marijuana
01 July 2019 - Publisher: National Institute on Drug Abuse
This US Document gives a plain-language research summary about marijuana, including how people use it, its effects on the brain and overall health, and treatment options

DrugFacts: marijuana as medicine
01 July 2019 - Publisher: National Institute on Drug Abuse
This US document offers facts about marijuana's viability as a legal medical treatment and about potential and approved treatments using chemicals derived from marijuana (cannabinoids).

The feasibility of delivering a traumaspecific intervention to women in a UK substance misuse service [PDF]
17 June 2019 - Publisher: Against Violence & Abuse (AVA)
This briefing summarises a study, which evaluated the feasibility of delivering an international trauma-specific intervention (Seeking Safety) within a UK community based substance misuse... Read Summary - More: Evidence Summaries

Effects of Cannabis Use on Sedation Requirements for Endoscopic Procedures
16 April 2019 - Publisher: Journal of the American Osteopathic Association
Review of 250 medical records from 1 endoscopy centre in US found that people who regularly used cannabis required an amount of sedation for endoscopic procedures that was significantly higher... UKMi comment - More: Primary Research

Does liberalisation of cannabis policy influence levels of use in adolescents and young adults? A systematic review and meta-analysis
10 July 2019 - Publisher: BMJ Open
Review (41 articles) suggests small increase in cannabis use (CU) among adolescents/young adults following legalisation of cannabis for recreational purposes, but studies characterised by very... Read Summary - More: Medicines Current Awareness - More: Systematic Reviews

ACMD report: ageing cohort of drug users
A report has been issued from the ACMD providing advice to the government on the changing age profile of people accessing drug treatment and the challenges faced by this cohort in the UK. Source: Advisory Council on the Misuse of Drugs
Number of older opiate users in treatment has tripled
The number of older opiate users in treatment in England has tripled in just 12 years, a report by the ACMD reveals. Source: Advisory Council on the Misuse of Drugs

ACMD report: Custody-community transitions
A report has been released from the Advisory Council on the Misuse of Drugs (ACMD) on how to reduce drug-related harms that occur when people move between custody and the community. Source: Advisory Council on the Misuse of Drugs

ACMD: avoid Friday prison release to prevent drug relapse and deaths
Prison services could reduce drug-related harms by avoiding releasing vulnerable prisoners on a Friday, the ACMD has advised the Home Secretary. Source: Advisory Council on the Misuse of Drugs

For references where there is a link to the full text please use your NHS Athens username & password to access https://openathens.nice.org.uk/

Scheduled care—As a way of caring: A phenomenological study of being cared for when suffering from alcohol use disorders
Author(s): Bové, Hanne Morkenborg; Lisby, Marianne; Norlyk, Annelise
Source: Journal of Clinical Nursing; Apr 2019; vol. 28 (no. 7-8); p. 1174
Publication Date: Apr 2019
Publication Type(s): Journal Article
Available at Journal of Clinical Nursing - from Wiley Online Library Medicine and Nursing Collection 2019 - NHS
Abstract:Aims and objectivesTo elucidate the lived experience of how patients with alcohol use disorders experience being cared for when admitted to acute medical units. Background Alcohol use is health damaging and is identified as one of the major avoidable risk factors, and alcohol use disorder is classified among the most harmful, debilitating disease categories. Patients suffering from alcohol use disorders are characterised by complex problems and health pictures spawned by chaotic lifestyles. However, the experience of the hospitalisation from patients’ perspective is poorly documented. Design The present study has a qualitative research design and is anchored in phenomenological and hermeneutical methodology, as described in reflective lifeworld research. Methods The data set consists of 15 in-depth interviews with patients suffering from alcohol use disorders admitted to an acute medical unit. A purposive sampling strategy was used, and the interviews were conducted as open dialogues. The study was reported in accordance with the consolidated criteria for reporting qualitative research. Results Being cared for when hospitalised was experienced as a two-stage process that changed throughout the hospitalisation from an experience of scheduled care experienced as caring to an experience of scheduled care experienced as non-caring. Four constituents further described the variable experiences: being in a safe haven, sharing a tacit but mutual goal, being in a chaotic space and being on your own. Conclusions The study showed that being met in an authentic presence by nurses was a powerful tool that helped ease the hospitalisation. Patients suffering from alcohol use disorders call for an intentional and distinctive attentiveness and authentic presence from the nurses throughout their hospitalisation. Relevance to clinical practice Our findings highlight that patients suffering from alcohol use disorders call for an intentional and distinct
attentiveness from nurses throughout the hospitalisation, where a possible transfer of attention is noticed and responded to in the care provided. **Database:** BNI

**FETAL ALCOHOL SPECTRUM DISORDER: NEW GUIDANCE**

**Author(s):** Anonymous  
**Source:** Community Practitioner; Apr 2019; vol. 92 (no. 3); p. 10  
**Publication Date:** Apr 2019  
**Publication Type(s):** News  
**Available at:** Community Practitioner - from ProQuest (Health Research Premium) - NHS Version  
**Abstract:** A new SIGN guideline has been introduced to help better identify fetal alcohol spectrum disorder (FASD). The guidance is the first in the UK to cover FASD. Around 3.2% of babies born in the UK are affected by FASD, which means that as many as 172,000 people could be affected in Scotland. FASD describes a range of lifelong harmful effects to a baby’s development when alcohol is consumed during pregnancy, including brain damage and physical issues such as poor growth. **Database:** BNI

**Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde: the strange case of the two selves of clandestine drug users in Scotland.**  
**Author(s):** McPhee, Iain; Holligan, Chris; McLean, Robert; Deuchar, Ross  
**Source:** Drugs & Alcohol Today; Jun 2019; vol. 19 (no. 2); p. 133-146  
**Publication Date:** Jun 2019  
**Publication Type(s):** Academic Journal  
**Available at:** Drugs & Alcohol Today - from Unpaywall  
**Abstract:** Purpose The purpose of this paper is to explore the hidden social worlds of competent clandestine users of drugs controlled within the confines of the UK Misuse of Drugs Act 1971, which now includes NPS substances. The authors explore how and in what way socially competent drug users differ from others who are visible to the authorities as criminals by criminal justice bureaucracies and known to treatment agencies as defined problem drug users. Design/methodology/approach This qualitative research utilises a bricoleur ethnographic methodology considered as a critical, multi-perspectival, multi-theoretical and multi-methodological approach to inquiry. Findings This paper challenges addiction discourses and, drawing upon empirical evidence, argues the user of controlled drugs should not be homogenised. Using several key strategies of identity management, drug takers employ a range of risk awareness and risk neutralisation techniques to protect self-esteem, avoid social affronts and in maintaining untainted identities. The authors present illicit drug use as one activity amongst other social activities that (some) people, conventionally, pursue. The findings from this study suggest that punitive drug policy, which links drug use with addiction, crime and antisocial behaviour, is inconsistent with the experience of the participants. Research limitations/implications Due to the small sample size (n=24) employed, the possibility that findings can be generalised is rendered difficult. However, generalisation was never an objective of the research; the experiences of this hidden population are deeply subjective and generalising findings and applying them to other populations would be an unproductive endeavour. While the research attempted to recruit an equal number of males and females to this research, gendered analysis was not a primary objective of this research. However, it is acknowledged that future research would greatly benefit from such a gendered focus. Practical implications The insights from the study may be useful in helping to inform future policy discourse on issues of drug use. In particular, the insights suggest that a more nuanced perspective should be adopted. This perspective should recognise the non-deviant identities of many drug users in the contemporary era, and challenge the use of a universally stigmatising discourse and dominance of prohibition narratives. Originality/value The evidence in this paper indicates that drug use is an activity often associated with non-deviant, productive members of the population. However, the continuing dominance of stigmatising policy discourses often leads to drug users engaging in identity concealment within the context of a deeply capitalist Western landscape. **Database:** CINAHL
Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde: the strange case of the two selves of clandestine drug users in Scotland.

**Author(s):** McPhee, Iain; Holligan, Chris; McLean, Robert; Deuchar, Ross

**Source:** Drugs & Alcohol Today; Jun 2019; vol. 19 (no. 2); p. 133-146

**Publication Date:** Jun 2019

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**Purpose**
The purpose of this paper is to explore the hidden social worlds of competent clandestine users of drugs controlled within the confines of the UK Misuse of Drugs Act 1971, which now includes NPS substances. The authors explore how and in what way socially competent drug users differ from others who are visible to the authorities as criminals by criminal justice bureaucracies and known to treatment agencies as defined problem drug users.

**Design/methodology/approach**
This qualitative research utilises a bricoleur ethnographic methodology considered as a critical, multi-perspectival, multi-theoretical and multi-methodological approach to inquiry.

**Findings**
This paper challenges addiction discourses, and, drawing upon empirical evidence, argues the user of controlled drugs should not be homogenised. Using several key strategies of identity management, drug takers employ a range of risk awareness and risk neutralisation techniques to protect self-esteem, avoid social affronts and in maintaining untainted identities. The authors present illicit drug use as one activity amongst other social activities that (some) people, conventionally, pursue. The findings from this study suggest that punitive drug policy, which links drug use with addiction, crime and antisocial behaviour, is inconsistent with the experience of the participants.

**Research limitations/implications**
Due to the small sample size (n=24) employed, the possibility that findings can be generalised is rendered difficult. However, generalisation was never an objective of the research; the experiences of this hidden population are deeply subjective and generalising findings and applying them to other populations would be an unproductive endeavour. While the research attempted to recruit an equal number of males and females to this research, gendered analysis was not a primary objective of this research. However, it is acknowledged that future research would greatly benefit from such a gendered focus.

**Practical implications**
The insights from the study may be useful in helping to inform future policy discourse on issues of drug use. In particular, the insights suggest that a more nuanced perspective should be adopted. This perspective should recognise the non-deviant identities of many drug users in the contemporary era, and challenge the use of a universally stigmatising discourse and dominance of prohibition narratives.

**Social implications**
It is envisaged that this paper will contribute to knowledge on how socially competent users of controlled drugs identify and manage the risks of moral, medical and legal censure.

**Originality/value**
The evidence in this paper indicates that drug use is an activity often associated with non-deviant, productive members of the population. However, the continuing dominance of stigmatising policy discourses often leads to drug users engaging in identity concealment within the context of a deeply capitalist Western landscape. **Database:** CINAHL

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**Alcohol complicates multimorbidity in older adults**

**Author(s):** Stewart, Duncan; McCambridge, Jim

**Source:** BMJ: British Medical Journal (Online); Jun 2019; vol. 365

**Publication Date:** Jun 2019

**Abstract:**

Attention to alcohol should be integral to routine care **Database:** BNI

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**Alcohol excess: time for a new positive and multifaceted strategy**

**Author(s):** Watson, Michael Craig; Lloyd, John

**Source:** BMJ: British Medical Journal (Online); Jun 2019; vol. 365
Alcohol sales fall in Scotland a year after minimum pricing took effect
Author(s): Christie, Bryan
Source: BMJ : British Medical Journal (Online); Jun 2019; vol. 365
Publication Date: Jun 2019
Publication Type(s): News
Abstract: Scotland introduced a minimum price of 50p a unit for alcohol in May last year after a six year legal battle with the drinks industry.1 Modelling carried out on behalf of the Scottish government indicated that higher prices of vodka, cider, and other drinks would reduce consumption and save almost 400 lives in the first five years of implementation. A report produced by NHS Health Scotland examined alcohol sales throughout 2018 based on data obtained from market research specialists Nielsen and CGA Strategy.2 It found that total alcohol sales in Scotland in 2018 fell to the lowest level since records began in 1994. Lucie Giles, public health intelligence adviser at NHS Health Scotland, said: “With the implementation of minimum unit pricing in May 2018, we’ve seen a substantial fall in the volume of alcohol being sold at very low prices, along with the biggest rise in the average price of alcohol sold through supermarkets and off licences in a decade.

Helen Salisbury: Alcohol excess—time for new measures?
Author(s): Salisbury, Helen
Source: BMJ : British Medical Journal (Online); May 2019; vol. 365
Publication Date: May 2019
Publication Type(s): Journal Article
Abstract: Alcohol is the UK’s leading cause of death among people age 15-49 and is a factor in more than 200 illnesses.3 In my surgery I regularly see lives and careers ruined by alcohol, families torn apart, and health destroyed. Many other patients function well enough in the world but still experience adverse effects in the form of high blood pressure and weight gain.

NICE plans new standard for fetal alcohol disorders
Author(s): Wise, Jacqui
Source: BMJ : British Medical Journal (Online); May 2019; vol. 365
Publication Date: May 2019
Publication Type(s): News
Abstract: The announcement came as a charity’s report showed that clinical commissioning groups are failing to commission services for people with neurodevelopmental disorders arising from exposure to alcohol in the womb.1 The Department of Health and Social Care informed the All Party Parliamentary Group on Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders (FASD) that the quality standard will be based on Scottish guidelines published in April.2 The MPs were discussing Crisis in Commissioning,1 the report published by the National Organisation for Foetal Alcohol Syndrome-UK (NOFAS-UK). Bill Esterson, chair of the All Party Parliamentary Group on FASD, told The BMJ, “The news that NICE is to develop a quality standard for FASD is cause for optimism, but it must be backed up by action to reduce the number. "The lack of appropriate diagnosis results in affected children not being able to access the right resources, which then results in longer term impact on the children’s learning [and] emotional and mental health."
Alcohol use: global target to reduce harm is likely to be missed as intake rises

Author(s): Mahase, Elisabeth
Source: BMJ : British Medical Journal (Online); May 2019; vol. 365
Publication Date: May 2019
Publication Type(s): News

Abstract: Last year a WHO report found that one in 20 deaths in Europe was due to alcohol use and that, despite falling consumption in the region, Europeans were still the biggest consumers in the world. The latest study, which looked at alcohol intake in 189 countries, also measured the prevalence of people who abstained from alcohol for life or were current or binge drinkers. Alcohol use will remain one of the leading risk factors for the burden of disease for the foreseeable future, and its impact will probably increase relative to other risk factors. Last year Ian Gilmore stepped down in protest from his role advising Public Health England after it partnered with the industry funded charity Drinkaware, a move that he said would undermine efforts to protect public health. Over 40 organisations spoke out in support of his concerns, including the BMA, the Faculty of Public Health, and the Royal Society for Public Health. WHO has since told its staff that it will not engage with the alcohol industry when developing alcohol policy or implementing public health measures.

Midwifery student’s perceptions of caring for substance-using pregnant women.

Author(s): Doleman, Gemma; Geraghty, Sadie; DeLeo, Annemarie
Source: Nurse Education Today; May 2019; vol. 76 ; p. 26-30
Publication Date: May 2019
Publication Type(s): Academic Journal

Abstract: Aim To identify undergraduate and postgraduate student midwives’ attitudes towards women using licit and illicit substances during pregnancy. Background Literature shows that globally, substance misuse during pregnancy is growing rapidly. Women who use substances during their pregnancy have specific healthcare needs and require midwives to demonstrate positive attitudes to improve appointment compliance and treatment completion. Methods A cross-sectional quantitative survey design was used. A total of 42 surveys were retained for full data analysis. Findings Of the 42 participants, 22 were undergraduate midwifery students and 20 were postgraduate midwifery students. The results revealed that both undergraduate and postgraduate students had positive attitudes towards women who used substances during pregnancy. Specifically, postgraduate students, with 1–2 years’ experience looking after pregnant women, had the most positive attitudes towards substance use in pregnancy. Conclusion This study revealed that undergraduate and postgraduate midwifery students have positive attitudes towards women who misuse illicit and licit substances, which is important for providing quality care upon qualification as a registered midwife. It is essential that midwifery students, who will go on to qualify as registered midwives, are non-judgmental and positive to ensure adequate antenatal care and regular antenatal attendance so maternal and fetal wellbeing can be better managed.
Specific healthcare needs and require midwives to demonstrate positive attitudes to improve appointment compliance and treatment completion. Methods A cross-sectional quantitative survey design was used. A total of 42 surveys were retained for full data analysis. Findings Of the 42 participants, 22 were undergraduate midwifery students and 20 were postgraduate midwifery students. The results revealed that both undergraduate and postgraduate students had positive attitudes towards women who used substances during pregnancy. Specifically, postgraduate students, with 1–2 years’ experience looking after pregnant women, had the most positive attitudes towards substance use in pregnancy. Conclusion This study revealed that undergraduate and postgraduate midwifery students have positive attitudes towards women who misuse illicit and licit substances, which is important for providing quality care upon qualification as a registered midwife. It is essential that midwifery students, who will go on to qualify as registered midwives, are non-judgmental and positive to ensure adequate antenatal care and regular antenatal attendance so maternal and fetal wellbeing can be better managed. Database: CINAHL

The role of critical moments in young offenders' drug-using trajectories.

**Author(s):** Beccaria, Franca; Rolando, Sara

**Source:** Drugs & Alcohol Today; Aug 2019; vol. 19 (no. 3); p. 197-207

**Publication Date:** Aug 2019

**Publication Type(s):** Academic Journal

**Abstract:** Purpose: The purpose of this paper is to explore the relationship between drug use and offending by using the concept of critical moments as an analytical tool. Design/methodology/approach: In total, 41 semi-structured individual interviews with young people (15–25 years) using drugs and in touch with the criminal justice system (CJS) were conducted. Findings: Analysing critical moments in young people’s drug use contributes to explaining some of the multiple, possible links between drug use and offending. Institutional factors emerged as important, as well as social and economic inequality. This was in particular clear when comparing students’ and immigrants’ trajectories. Research limitations/implications: Limitations are due to the difficulties in getting access to prisoners and young people in touch with the CJS and the possibility to meet them only once with time limits due to the setting. Practical implications: Prevention intervention addressed to this target group could take young people’s social contexts and everyday life situation into consideration. Social implications: To decrease both offending and drug use, structural measures aimed at decreasing social inequalities would be more effective than punishment. Originality/value: The study proposes a practical way to analyse narratives of young people who have experienced both drug use and offending and to show the importance of socially structured patterns without reducing the complexity of the topic. Database: CINAHL

Exploring patterns of alcohol misuse in treatment-seeking UK veterans: A cross-sectional study.

**Author(s):** Murphy, Dominic; Turgoose, David

**Source:** Addictive Behaviors; May 2019; vol. 92 ; p. 14-19

**Publication Date:** May 2019

**Publication Type(s):** Academic Journal

**PubMedID:** 30572207

**Abstract:** Aims: To explore patterns of alcohol misuse in a sample of treatment-seeking veterans compared to the UK Armed Forces personnel population and the general public. Furthermore, the present study investigated which variables were associated with alcohol misuse in this sample, and in particular what factors were associated with increased or decreased severity of alcohol misuse. Method: The present study investigated alcohol misuse in treatment-seeking veterans and compared it with the UK Armed Forces and the general public. In addition, it explored associations between sociodemographic, physical health and
mental health variables and alcohol misuse. Results: Results suggested that treatment-seeking veterans report different patterns of alcohol misuse compared to the UK Armed Forces and the general public. This group was more likely to report alcohol dependence and alcohol-related harm. They also reported higher levels of overall alcohol misuse than the general public. Mental health problems including PTSD, anxiety and depression, as well as anger, functional impairment and being single were all related to greater alcohol misuse. Being older and not in work were related to reduced alcohol misuse. Conclusions: These findings add further weight to the importance of ensuring appropriate support is provided to personnel leaving the Armed Forces. Treatment-seeking veterans have specific patterns of alcohol-related needs that should be addressed. Knowing more about the common alcohol-related problems in this group can help inform and improve mental health interventions. Findings on related variables will help in identifying those individuals who may be at most risk of alcohol-related problems.

Database: CINAHL

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**Participatory Learning – 1.5 hours CPD**

Our meetings take just 1.5 hours

3. We meet for the club and discuss the article in a small group, reflecting on points whilst working our way through the checklist. Participate in both sessions will count for a total of 3 CPD hours!

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