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ARTICLES:

- Licit and Illicit Use of Prescription Psychostimulants in Upperclassmen and Alumni.....7-26
Brynne Underhill & Su Langdon EdD

ABSTRACT

Use of prescription stimulants after college has not been well researched. In an online survey, current upperclassmen undergraduates (N = 96) and recent alumni (N = 337) reported licit and illicit use of prescription stimulants, perceptions of peer use, self-diagnosis of attention disorder, and plans for continued use. Post-graduate rate of use was significantly lower than undergraduate levels, though alumni reported significantly greater post-graduate use than they had expected in college and this alumni rate was also significantly greater than current students' predictions for post-graduate use. While college environment appears to be an ecological factor in prescription stimulant use, other factors, such as perceived peer use and self-diagnosis, also play a role. Educating undergraduates about long term and illicit stimulant use would be beneficial.

Key words: *prescription stimulants, illicit use, social norms, college students, alumni*

- A Social Norms Approach to Drug Prevention in Schools in Ireland: Results from a Pre Development Study.....27-46
Leigheann Ryan Culleton, MA, Dr. Marie Claire Van Hout & Michelle Foley

ABSTRACT

Research shows that social norms interventions, which aim to educate individuals and groups on their actual attitudinal and behavioural norms relating to alcohol, cigarette and drug use, incur some success in reducing positive attitudes to substance use and rates of substance use. The research aimed to investigate the extent of misperceptions relating to peer substance-taking attitudes and behaviours amongst a sample of school aged youth (n=80), and was undertaken as a pre development study to a large scale social norms initiative in Irish schools. The study found evidence for the existence of misperceptions relating to cigarette, alcohol or illicit drug use, with no significant differences pertaining to gender and school type. Attitudes to, and self-reported cigarette and illicit drug use, tended to be more conservative. Statistically significant differences were found between participants self-usage and peer usage of cigarettes, alcohol, cannabis and other illicit drug usage in the past 30 days. A statistically significant main effect for self-reported cannabis use and school type was found. Findings were used to guide the development of a culturally appropriate targeted social norms intervention.

Key words: *Social norms, misperception hypothesis, normative beliefs, substance use, schools*

- The Effect of a Birthday Card Intervention of 21st Birthday Celebratory Drinking Behaviors.....47-65
Ellen J. Bass, Susan E. Bruce & Douglas W. Lee

ABSTRACT

To combat hazardous drinking during 21st birthdays, a health-focused birthday card was mailed to 2,380 college students who later completed an online instrument to assess the campaign's impact. Students reported drinking more during their 21st birthday celebrations than on a typical weekend night. Men consumed more drinks, reached higher estimated blood alcohol concentrations, and tended to experience more negative consequences during 21st birthday celebrations. Students who overestimated their peers' 21st birthday drinking consumed more drinks and experienced more negative consequences than students whose perceptions were accurate or underestimates. Students who received the card before their birthday tended to drink less and experience fewer negative consequences during their birthday compared to those who received the card late.

Hazardous Drinking by First-Year College-Athletes: The Differential Roles of Drinking Motives,
Alcohol Consequences, and Season Status.....66-84
*Edward Wahesh, Jeffrey J. Milroy, Todd F. Lewis,
Muhsin M. Orsini & David L. Wyrick*

ABSTRACT

College student-athletes and first-year students are two undergraduate populations at risk for heavy-episodic drinking and alcohol-related negative consequences. In this study, 63 (56% female, 62% Caucasian) first-year student-athletes completed a preliminary questionnaire assessing demographic characteristics, athlete-specific drinking motives, alcohol-related negative consequences, and season status. Scores of five or more on the AUDIT-C defined the at-risk subsample. Participants who met the criteria for hazardous drinking (n = 19) reported higher levels of alcohol-related negative consequences and drinking motives. A logistic regression, with these variables, successfully distinguished between the two groups. Sport-related coping, and positive reinforcement drinking motives, emerged as the most robust predictors of hazardous drinking. Implications for screening, prevention, and brief intervention strategies for first-year student-athletes are discussed.

Key words: *college student-athlete, First-year student, drinking motives, alcohol use*