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2001 Monitoring the Future Survey Released: Ecstasy Use Slows

The Monitoring the Future Survey, conducted by UMSARC members, Johnston, O’Malley, Bachman and Schulenberg from the University of Michigan’s Institute for Social Research has tracked 12th graders’ illicit drug use and attitudes towards drugs since 1975. In 1991, 8th and 10th graders were added to the study. The 2001 study funded by the National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA) surveyed more than 44,000 students in 424 schools across the nation about their lifetime use, past year use, past month use, daily use of drugs, alcohol, cigarettes and smokeless tobacco. The rise in ecstasy use by American teenagers slowed from 2000 to 2001 according to the annual Monitoring The Future Survey released today by the Department of Health and Human Services. The survey found that the rise in use of MDMA (ecstasy) in teenagers seen over the past 2-3 years slowed from 2000 to 2001 among students in grades 8th, 10th and 12th. In addition, rates of heroin use decreased notably among 10th and 12th graders and a gradual decline in use of inhalants continued in 2001 with a significant decrease occurring among 12th graders.

Meet Patrice Flax: U-M Alcohol and Other Drugs Campus Initiatives Coordinator

Patrice Flax, holding the new position in the University of Michigan’s Division of Student Affairs, will coordinate education and prevention initiatives for students in the area of alcohol and other drugs. The appointment of Patrice Flax is the result of a recommendation of the multidisciplinary Binge Drinking Committee Report of 1999, and the Division of Student Affairs Task Team on Alcohol and Other Drugs Report completed in June 2000. Included in her responsibilities as the Alcohol and Other Drugs Campus Initiatives Coordinator, is to further research and programmatic efforts on other researchers on campus who would be interested in collaborating on grant funded opportunities.
**UMSARC Investigators Funded for Study of Cocaine and Chest Pain**

Dr. Jim Edward Weber (University of Michigan) and Dr. Brenda Booth (University of Arkansas) were recently awarded a 4-year, $2.1 million NIDA RO1 to study cocaine using chest pain patients who present to the emergency department. The study, entitled “Cocaine and Chest Pain in the ED: Services and Outcomes” has four specific aims: 1) to define the epidemiologic taxonomy of cocaine users who present to the ED with chest pain, 2) to identify types of service use, including drug treatment, linkages to primary care following index ED visit, as well as patterns of service use, 3) to identify access barriers to engaging in treatment, and 4) to measure one-year outcomes and key socio-demographic and clinical characteristics of cocaine-using individuals.

To date, only longitudinal data with small samples have measured continued drug use and repeated episodes of chest pain among cocaine users. Dr. Weber developed the clinical pathway for cocaine-using chest pain patients at Hurley Medical Center in Flint, MI, and conducted the preliminary research on which much of this study is based. Dr. Weber and colleagues recently validated a clinical decision rule which allows for safe ED discharge of cocaine-using chest pain patients after a brief observational period.

Dr. Weber is an Assistant Professor of Emergency Medicine at the University of Michigan and a faculty member of the University of Michigan Injury Research Center and Substance Abuse Research Center.

**UMSARC Fellows Present Their Work**

Luke Bergmann, Ph.C., MSW, Sean Esteban McCabe, Ph.D., MSW and Daniel Rosen, Ph.D., MSW, three NIDA funded trainees at the Substance Abuse Research Center presented their research during a symposium at the Sixth Annual Conference of the Society for Social Work and Research. The symposium, Innovative Methodologies: The Application of Social Work and Social Science Theory and Methods in Substance Abuse Research was organized by Dr. Beth Reed, an UMSARC member, and featured the works of Bergmann, McCabe and Rosen as well as other Social Work students. Bergmann’s paper, Challenges and Triumphs in Conducting Ethnographic Research with Drug Dealing Youth in Detroit, focused on his multi-dimensional ethnographic research conducted over an 18-month period with drug dealing youth in three Detroit neighborhoods. In his paper, Bergmann highlighted the pragmatic difficulties that research with such a population involves and outlined the logistical and substantive benefits of an ethnographic approach. McCabe’s paper, Understanding Risk Factors for Heavy Episodic Drinking: A Web-Based Survey Approach illustrated how a web-based survey can enhance our understanding of risk factors for heavy episodic drinking among undergraduate students. McCabe discussed data from a 1999 web-based study (N =2,041) of alcohol and other drug use conducted at U-M. The web-based survey yielded a response rate of 68% and compared to a traditional mailed survey produced comparable data, with a higher response rate and at a much lower cost. Rosen presented his paper, Using Geographic Information Systems to Evaluate Access to Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services, work that represented a collaboration with Scott Allard (Syracuse University) and Richard Tolman (U-M).

In this paper, Rosen discussed how spatial analysis may be used to improve our understandings of access to mental health and substance abuse service for low-income mothers. By mapping service providers and service recipients with geographic information systems (GIS) software, it is possible to see gaps in coverage or access. Specifically, Rosen and his colleagues examined data from the Mothers’ Well-Being Study (MW S) and a survey of service providers in the three county Detroit metropolitan areas to understand spatial patterns in access to care. African-American MW S respondents who were living in the central city areas of Detroit were less likely to receive services for mental health or substance abuse problems than white MW S respondents living in the suburban areas around Detroit.
The University of Michigan Substance Abuse Research Center

announces

A National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA)
Pre-doctoral and Post-doctoral
Interdisciplinary Training Program

The University of Michigan Substance Abuse Research Center is accepting applications for pre-doctoral and post-doctoral fellows for the 2002-03 academic year beginning July 1, 2002. The purpose of the training grant is to prepare researchers and scholars to expand their work beyond traditional disciplinary boundaries.

The Substance Abuse Research Center is comprised of over 90 individuals from 29 departments at the University of Michigan who have significant interest in the study of alcohol, nicotine, and other drugs. The Center exists to stimulate the study of psychoactive substance abuse of all kinds and to extend the knowledge regarding substance abuse prevention.

Program components include: Research with two faculty mentors, an interdisciplinary pro seminar, course work, training in ethical conduct of research and research communication, a dissertation for pre-doctoral fellows and independent research for post-doctoral fellows. The pool of potential faculty mentors is comprised of established investigators working on projects involving behavioral, biological, psychosocial, or public health aspects of alcohol, nicotine, and other drugs. Research interests range from cellular investigations to policy development and evaluation. (Fellowships are for two years contingent on satisfactory completion of the first year).

Pre-doctoral applicants must have a bachelor’s degree in a relevant discipline, have the promise of academic excellence, significant interest in research related to alcohol, nicotine and other drugs, and (by June 2002) have successfully completed their preliminary exams in a doctoral program at the University of Michigan. Applicants must work with two faculty mentors from different disciplines. The 12-month NIH stipend for 2002-03 will be $18,156. Funding is also available for tuition, travel, and other training related expenses.

Post-doctoral applicants must have earned a doctorate within the past eight years in an appropriate field such as: M.D., Dr.P.H., J.D., D.O., PsyD., D.D.S., Pharm.D., D.N.S., or D.S.W. and have demonstrated research productivity and academic excellence as well as an interest in research related to alcohol, nicotine, or other drugs. The 12-month stipend for 2002-03 will be $31,092-$48,852 depending on years of post-doctoral experience. Health insurance and a dental assistance plan are provided. Funding is also available for travel and other training related expenses.

Applications will be reviewed beginning April 1, 2002. An Application packet is available from the Substance Abuse Research Center. Applications must include a goal statement, an outline of the proposed research program and the names of potential mentors. A list of the Substance Abuse Research Center members is included in the application packet. Also required with the application form: transcripts, curriculum vitae, three letters of recommendation, and a doctoral advisor form for evidence that the doctorate has been completed.

For further information and an application packet, contact the University of Michigan Substance Abuse Research Center, 475 Market Place, Suite D, Ann Arbor, MI 48108-1649; Telephone (734) 998-6500; Fax (734) 998-6508; E-mail: rachelha@umich.edu or visit our Web Site at http://www.umich.edu/~umsarc.

The University of Michigan is an affirmative action, equal opportunity employer. Applicants must be U.S. citizens or permanent residents. Women and individuals from underrepresented minority groups are encouraged to apply.
Communication Skills Workshop for Scientists

April 3, 2002 from 8:00-4:00

Michigan League, Michigan Room

This all-day workshop is one of the first in a new series of workshops funded by the National Institute on Drug Abuse to the Addiction Science Research and Education Center in the College of Pharmacy at the University of Texas, Austin. These workshops are designed to educate graduate and postdoctoral students (young faculty, if interested) about basic and applied communication skills that will help them in their profession. Instructors will focus on how to present information effectively, and how such instruction can help students give better scientific presentations, lectures and talks about new drug research to the public.

The workshop will be facilitated by Drs. John Daly and John O’Neill from the Addiction Research and Education Center. These researchers have significant training in presenting communication skills. The morning session will focus on what it takes to make an effective presentation — how to make what you say interesting and memorable. While most people don’t make that many presentations, the ones they do have consequence. In this session participants will learn, among other things: (1) how to prepare good oral presentations, (2) how to design and use visuals, (3) how to deliver presentations with impact, (4) how to handle difficult audience members, and (5) how to overcome stage fright and cope with other problems communicators face. The program will focus not only on speeches but also on how to deliver effective conference presentations as well as instructional units.

The afternoon session is a hands-on training experience aimed at improving message development, enhancing communication with lay audiences and bridging to a CORE message. Creative ideas are offered on how to gain community support for an individual’s work and that of fellow scientists. The facilitator will also demonstrate practical ways to use the material learned in Session One. This session will include practice sessions aimed at developing or improving verbal communication skills as well as handling antagonistic questions (or anti-science radicals).

Snacks, lunch and beverages will be provided.

The total cost is $10.00 for all U-M faculty and students and must be paid at the door. Registrants unaffiliated with the University will be charged $100 for enrollment.

YOU MUST REGISTER IN ADVANCE!!

Registrants are expected to stay for the entire workshop. For further information regarding registration, please contact Rachel Kemp (rachelha@umich.edu) at the Substance Abuse Research Center.
The abuse of alcohol and other drugs remains the number one public health problem for institutions of higher education in the United States and it poses a most serious threat to the intellectual, psychological and physical development of traditional-age undergraduate college students. Alcohol and other drug use among college students have been shown to increase the probability of negative consequences, both primary and secondary. Since 1999, national studies projected that the proportion of college students abusing several drugs, including ecstasy, would increase in 2001 (e.g. Johnston et al., 2001). Given this projection, and along with the support of several key groups at the University of Michigan, researchers at the University of Michigan’s Substance Abuse Research Center advocated for survey data of student substance use. U-M researchers wanted to determine the prevalence of current alcohol and other drug use on campus as well as evaluate ongoing and new prevention efforts.

In 2001, the U-M Substance Abuse Research Center in collaboration with the research firm, MSInteractive conducted the 2001 Student Life Survey. Following approval from the University of Michigan’s Institutional Review Board, the study was fielded for a one-month period during March and April of 2001. The internet-based study, funded by the University of Michigan, used random samples of undergraduate students and included a survey questionnaire asking about student life including attitudes, behaviors, and perceptions regarding alcohol and other drugs. With help from the University Registrar Office, a random sample of University of Michigan students was sent an invitation either via e-mail or US mail requesting their participation in the survey. As an incentive, students were given a gift card to purchase books and other academic materials. The final sample was representative of the undergraduate student population (n=21,152) and consisted of 3,671 students.

To date, the results of the 2001 Student Life Study have provided important advisory information to various academic units, administrators in the Employee Assistance Programs, Student Affairs, University Housing, Department of Public Safety, Health Services and Counseling and Psychological Services. These preliminary results have also helped the University anticipate changes in the frequency, duration and quality of alcohol and other drug problems on campus and to respond proactively. Some of the specific aims of the 2001 Student Life Study included but were not limited to: (1) evaluate ongoing prevention and intervention efforts, (2) compare students at the University of Michigan with national trends, (3) assess negative consequences associated with alcohol use (e.g. drunk-driving, missing class, sexual assault, etc.), (4) examine attitudes of self, friends and peers towards substance use and abuse, (5) compare and contrast subgroups of students based on class year, gender, living arrangement, etc., and (6) analyze trends at the University of Michigan by comparing cohorts of students over time. The following are summary statements derived from the 2001 Student Life Survey.

Most undergraduate students at the University of Michigan reported alcohol and other drug use as a problem on campus. Not surprisingly, alcohol was the most often used drug among undergraduate students at the University of Michigan with 86% of undergraduate students reporting alcohol use in the past year. Other drugs most often by undergraduate students were nicotine, marijuana and ecstasy; similar to national data, ecstasy use among U-M students appears to be increasing.

There were several prevention and intervention efforts evaluated by the 2001 Student Life Study. Overall, there is a strong relationship between living arrangements and alcohol and other drug use at the University of Michigan. The random samples of undergraduate students living in University residence halls (n=1,536) represents one of the largest known of its kind from a single institution. One of the more recent programmatic interventions at the University of Michigan is the addition of the substance free room option for students. This study found that in addition to less drinking there were less problem behaviors associated with alcohol and other drugs among students residing in substance free residence hall rooms. Our data revealed that substance-free rooms contain fewer primary consequences (e.g. consequences suffered by students who drink such as getting hurt or injured as a result of drinking) and fewer secondary consequences (e.g. consequences associated with other’s drinking such as sleep disturbances and vandalism). However, analyses also revealed that there was a strong “selection effect” in that students who select substance-free rooms also report less drinking prior to coming to the University of Michigan. It is clear that substance-free rooms give some promise to parents and students seeking living arrangements that are less impacted by alcohol and other drug use. However, it remains unclear what the impact of offering substance free rooms to all incoming undergraduate students would have given selection effects and the range of options students currently have regarding their living arrangements.
MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Substance Abuse Research Center (UMSARC)
at the University of Michigan

Name:
Degree: Rank and/or Title:
Department and Discipline (Primary Appointment):
School/College/Unit:
Other Appointments:
Campus Address:
Campus Telephone: Campus Fax:
Unique Name and E-mail Address:

Description of current principal role in substance abuse field (indicate approximate percentages of effort if appropriate):
☐ Research ☐ Training ☐ Other (Please Specify)
☐ Teaching ☐ Counseling
☐ Clinical/Service Delivery ☐ Student

Please provide the following information that will be included in the membership directory to inform other members of your experience and interest.

1. A brief description of your current work (e.g., ongoing research, teaching activities, job description, clinical role, student major, career plans).

2. A brief summary of your previous experience or background in the area of alcohol, tobacco and other drugs that is not covered in item #1.

3. 2-3 phrases or sentences describing your areas of interest in the substance abuse field that are not covered in item #1, including (where relevant) research, teaching, clinical, counseling, policy, service delivery, etc.

4. Key words that could be used in electronic searches to identify your work:

The success and vitality of UMSARC depends on individual member participation in some fashion. The following is a list of the types of participation possible. Please indicate which activities would be of most interest to you.

☐ Governance (Executive, Administrative or Other Committee) ☐ Organizing or Leading Seminars
☐ Teaching/Training Students & Fellows ☐ Proposal Writing
☐ Identifying a Center-Based Project ☐ Collaborating on a Project
☐ Seminar Participation ☐ Other (Please Specify)

Please check here if you are interested in affiliate membership only. Affiliate (non-voting) membership is available to individuals who do not wish to be active in the Center but want to be kept informed of the Center activities. Affiliates will receive information about Center events.

Please return this application with a copy of your curriculum vitae (you are also invited to provide 2-3 articles which reflect your work) to: Substance Abuse Research Center, 475 Market Place, Suite D, Ann Arbor, MI 48108-1649. Application also available on our web site: www.umich.edu/~umsarc.