

Summary of Research

Determinants of Use and Addiction to Inhalants Among Youths

in Bangkok Metropolis and Yasothorn Province in Thailand

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The purposes of this research are to study the addictive behavior of the inhalers studied, and to identify variables which determine initial use and addiction to inhalants among youths. Conceptual framework from the Theory of Problem Behavior was used.

The sample comprised 298 inhalers and 298 non-inhalers, 56 parents of inhalers, and 46 community leaders. Data was collected using an interview technique. Independent variables consisted of attachment to friends, number of friends using addictive substances, attachment to the family, self-esteem, coping styles, contranormative belief, sensation seeking personality, family cohesion, amount of addictive substance used in the family, level of parental control in the family, level of control in the school, and emotional support in the family. The dependent variables were: use and non-use of inhalants, positive attitude towards using inhalants, and self efficacy of not using inhalants. Additional information about :how parents of the addicts reward and punish their children, aspects of the community in which the addicts lived, and suggestions from the community leaders for prevention of the problems were gathered using structured interviews. The data was analyzed using content analysis, MANOVA, stepwise Discriminant Analysis, and Canonical Correlation Analysis as well as basic descriptive analysis.

The important findings are as follows:

1. The inhalers prefer the canned glue inhalant to other inhalants. They report that the reasons for initial inhalants use are need for excitement, and peers pressure. They report the increase of time use for each consumption. They also report the multiple addictive substance use.
2. The important indicators of initial use of inhalants among youths in Bangkok are number of friends using addictive substance, family related self-esteem, and sensation seeking personality. Additional information from the interview with the parents indicates that they usually reward the good behaviors by money and material things. In addition, when the children exhibit bad behaviors, parent use physical punishment.
3. The important indicators of initial use of inhalants among youths in Yasothon province are number of friends using addictive substance, amount of addictive substances used in the family, family cohesion, sensation seeking personality, and contranormative beliefs.
4. The important correlates of positive attitude towards using inhalants are attachment to friends, contranormative beliefs, sensation seeking personality, and family related self-esteem. The important correlates of self-efficacy of not using inhalants are: problem-oriented stress coping style, family cohesion, level of control in the school, and number of friends using addictive substances.
5. According to the community leaders, activities for prevention of the drug problems are: providing knowledge about drug, facilitating activities such as sports and games in the community, help seeking employment, and set rules against drug dealers in the community.

The findings from the present investigation regarding roles of the family suggest the followings:

1. The family should help create and preserve the self-esteem of children.
2. The family should avoid using addictive substances.
3. The family should have appropriate control to shape and guide the children about how to use their free time with friends.
4. The family should try to understand and help the adolescent to control and cope with their sensation seeking personality.
5. Schools should have rules and regulations for good and bad behaviors as well as monitor them.

The findings from this study regarding the addicts suggest the following implementations: To help lessen the addiction to inhalants, we should decrease their positive attitude towards using inhalants and increase self-efficacy of not using inhalants. In addition, we should be aware of their correlates such as attachment to friends, contranormative beliefs, sensation seeking personality, family related self-esteem, and emotional oriented coping style. This variables may be used as an mediator or moderator when researchers design an intervention.