Temple University Substance Abuse Research Exchange

TREATMENT, PREVENTION, PUBLIC HEALTH, LAW AND PUBLIC POLICY

- Epidemiology of substance abuse and related behaviors
- Evaluating and improving alcohol and drug abuse treatment
- Prevention needs in the community
- Organizational factors in treatment
- Treating substance abusers in the criminal justice system
- Prevention among at-risk juveniles and other youth
- Substance abuse and mental health
- Smoking cessation
- Using research to influence public policy in substance abuse treatment and prevention
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Faculty and Departments:
Belenko (Criminal Justice), Collins (Public Health), Eyrich-Garg (Social Work), Hantula (Psychology), Hiller (Criminal Justice), Ho (Pathology & Immunology), Liu-Chen (Pharmacology), McCloskey (Psychology), Mennis (Geography & Urban Studies), Patterson (Public Health), Rawls (Pharmacy), Rutledge (Public Health), Stahler (Geography & Urban Studies), Steinberg (Psychology), Tedaldi (Medicine), Unterwald (Pharmacology), Ward (Pharmacy), Welsh (Criminal Justice), Zibalese-Crawford (Social Work)

Funders:
NIDA, NIAAA, PA Dept. of Health, March of Dimes, Center for Substance Abuse Treatment, CDC, National Institute of Justice, Office of National Drug Control Policy, City of Philadelphia, Robert Wood Johnson Foundation
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Special Areas of Focus:
- Substance abuse and HIV risk
- Treating Substance abusers in the criminal justice system
- At-risk Juveniles and other youth
- Second hand smoke exposure reduction
- Health disparities among substance abusers
- Homeless populations
- Organizational and neighborhood factors
Pre-Clinical Laboratory Research with Treatment Implications:

Development of new compounds and novel drug targets for reducing drug addiction, dependence, and/or relapse.

- Plant-derived compounds with novel activity at dopamine receptors
- Drugs that act on cannabinoid receptors
- Inhibitors of the glycogen synthase kinase 3 signaling pathway
- Compounds related to β-lactam antibiotics that reduce brain glutamate levels
Some Key Findings:

Effects of Substance Use
- Dr. Gould—nicotine, ↓ hippocampal function, and ↓ learning
- Dr. Eisenstein—Opioids and cannabinoids result in immunosuppression

Prevention
- Drs. Steinberg & Chein—Presence of peers ↑ adolescent risk-taking

Treatment
- Drs. Stahler & Mennis—Tx attendance and rehospitalization are related to neighborhood characteristics
- Dr. Welsh—prison-based drug tx can ↓ recidivism by 11%