

ARTICLES:

- Effects of Training on Social Work, Nursing and Medical Trainees' Knowledge, Attitudes and Beliefs Related to Screening and Brief Intervention for Alcohol Use14 - 35
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ABSTRACT

Indiana University's Schools of Social Work, Nursing and Medicine formed a consortium to advance education for Screening Brief Intervention and Referral to Treatment (SBIRT). Trainees participated in SBIRT training and completed data collection before, immediately after, and 30 days after a face-to-face training. The study explored participants' perceptions about the training and the likelihood of implementing SBI in practice, including attitudes and beliefs that may be predictive of SBIRT utilization in clinical practice. Results show the training targeting SBI and MI behaviors may improve participants' self-reported competence with SBI. This improvement was consistent and strong in all programs. The study results also provided a preliminary indication that the training affected participants' perception of time utilization and compensation for performing SBI.

Keywords: *knowledge, attitudes, beliefs, SBIRT, training*

- West African Transnational Immigrants' Perspectives on Alcohol Consumption.....36 - 50
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ABSTRACT

Background: It is a common belief that alcohol consumption can lead to chronic ailments. While research shows that the prevalence of alcohol consumption among immigrants is associated with acculturation, there is a gap in the research with respect to examining alcohol consumption patterns within subgroups of immigrants such as transnational immigrants. The purpose of this study was to elucidate perceptions of alcohol consumption amongst West African transnational immigrants. To our knowledge, there is a paucity of studies exploring this avenue in the arena of immigrant health.

Method: We conducted a pilot study with focus groups in Chicago with 14 West African transnational immigrants (7 men and 7 women) from Ghana and Nigeria. The following inclusion criteria determined participation in the focus group: men and women aged 25 years old or older, who had lived in the US for at least 2 years, who had ties with friends or relatives back home and who communicated regularly through different means with those friends or relatives. We used the PEN-3 model as a theoretical framework for categorizing the recurrent themes.

Result: Using one dimension of the PEN-3 model (i.e. Relationships and Expectations), participants shared that alcohol consumption has some medicinal value. We also found a gender bias associated with alcohol consumption. Participants commented on alcohol consumption as a way of socializing, though they highlighted that social settings (e.g. parties) allowed access to liquor without limitations. They asserted also that the influence of spiritual beliefs and religion discourage alcohol consumption.

Keywords: *transnational immigrants, alcohol consumption, African racial disparity, binge drinking, PEN-3 model.*

- Social Support Influences on Substance Abuse Outcomes among Sober Living House Residents with Low and Moderate Psychiatric Severity.....51 - 70
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ABSTRACT

Social support and psychiatric severity are known to influence substance abuse. However, little is known about how their influences vary under different conditions. We aimed to study how different types of social support were associated with substance abuse outcomes among persons with low and moderate psychiatric severity who entered Sober Living Houses (SLHs). Two hundred forty-five individuals entering 16 SLHs were interviewed at baseline and 6, 12 and 18 months. The Brief Symptom Inventory assessed psychiatric symptoms and the Important People Instrument and a modified AA Affiliation Scale assessed social support. Social support variables predicted substance abuse outcomes for persons with low and moderate psychiatric severity. However, they were the strongest and most consistent predictors for the low severity group.

Keywords: *Social Support, Sober Living House, Recovery Home, Mental Health, Psychiatric Severity, Brief Symptom Inventory*

ABSTRACT

The purpose of this study was to examine the way in which college students perceive binge drinking on college campuses in order to better understand the impetus behind this undesirable behavior. A survey administered on-line prompted undergraduate students to identify whether or not they perceived binge drinking to be a problem on college campuses, along with requesting an explanation for their response. Upon analysis of the qualitative data, five major categories of defining the behavior as problematic or not emerged: social norms, peer pressure, impact on academics, impact on health and impact on decision-making abilities. Many responses also provide examples of modeling and moral disengagement, both constructs of Bandura's Social Learning Theory, in the conceptualization and resulting behaviors of binge drinking reported by participants.