

BOOK REVIEWS

Drug Abuse Prevention with Multiethnic Youth, by Gilbert J. Botvin, Steven Schinke and Mario A. Orlandi (Eds.). Thousand Oaks, Calif.: Sage Publications, Inc., 1995, 359 + x pages, \$25.95 (paper).

Drug Abuse Prevention with Multiethnic Youth, which grew out of a conference (June 1993) sponsored by Cornell University Medical Center and the National Institute on Drug Abuse, explores a timely and critical topic. Indeed, adolescent drug abuse is front-page news. Recent national surveys have documented an increase in the use of both illegal and legal substances by adolescents. The book's focus on all drug usage, including alcohol, cocaine, marijuana and tobacco, is one of its major strengths.

Drug use is especially problematic among minorities, who are more likely to carry the additional burdens of poverty and racism. While some prevention programs have demonstrated positive outcomes for minority youth, especially informational campaigns and some of the school-based drug education programs, further efforts are needed to improve drug prevention evaluation research. This volume addresses the existing gaps in prevention research, specifically in theory, methods and measurement.

The book is divided into three sections: (1) definition and measurement issues, (2) differences and similarities in drug use prevalence rates among racial/ethnic groups, and (3) models of effective drug abuse prevention programs for multiethnic youth.

Chapters 1-3 clarify the use of the terms *race*, *ethnicity* and *ethnic identity*. These terms are often used interchangeably, without much thought about the differences between the narrowly defined construct of race, which is based on phenotype (i.e., skin color and facial features), and the much broader construct of culture, which includes the influence of language, shared history, beliefs and attitudes. The authors highlight the controversy about using race as a variable to predict or explain drug use and the need to expand the research focus to include more measures of socioeconomic factors. They also focus on the difficulty of conducting research without reliable and valid measures of ethnicity and ethnic identity. The lack of empirical measures for these constructs is a major challenge for the field.

Too little effort is made to synthesize the large amount of data presented on drug prevalence rates, ethnic differences and etiology. The best parts of the second section of this volume are the literature review on risk and protective factors that limit drug use, presentation of the influence of acculturation on drug abuse and the discussion of the patterns and paradoxes in ethnic group differences. Of special interest are findings of lower drug use among some minority groups as compared with whites.

The chapters that focus on promising approaches to drug abuse prevention for multiethnic youth provide the most practical aspects of the book. The authors' approach to adolescent drug abuse prevention is comprehensive, and they highlight successful programs in schools, communities, homes and churches. Included are excellent literature reviews of the family's influence on adolescent drug use and of the recent efforts to develop community programs for successful minority drug abuse prevention efforts. This section is well written and organized, and contains a wealth of practical information presented in concise tabular and graphic formats.

To summarize, this volume is an excellent reference for researchers in drug prevention, public health professionals, and students in related service and public health areas. Ethnicity is an important factor in substance abuse by adolescents. Sensitivity to this issue has major significance in the development of effective intervention strategies. The lack of valid and reliable measures of ethnicity remains a major challenge for all public health professionals who seek to reduce and prevent drug abuse among minority youth. The model drug abuse prevention programs for African Americans, Asian Americans and Latinos presented in this text provide both the theoretical and the practical information necessary to start, conduct and evaluate high-quality intervention research in minority communities. However, as the authors of these chapters note, conducting research with minority communities is a challenge. Pervasive mistrust of research in many minority communities is a legacy of racism, and this affects efforts to intervene in communities of color. Overcoming this legacy by including community groups in the planning and oversight of research projects and making sure that the community benefits from all research endeavors is the most important lesson presented in this book.

FRANCES A. STILLMAN, ED.D.
*Welch Center for Prevention, Epidemiology,
and Clinical Research
Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine
Baltimore, Md.*

Introduction to Alcoholism Counseling: A Bio-Psychosocial Approach (2d ed.), by Jerome D. Levin. Washington, D.C.: Taylor & Francis, Inc., 1995, 280 + xv pages, \$59.95 (cloth), \$24.50 (paper).

As in the first edition, this book is intended to provide counselors and counseling students, as well as "the general reader, the recovering person, and the family and friends of the alcoholic," (p. xiv) current information about the field of alcoholism. That it does. This second edition, expanded by