Juvenile Drug Abuse

Name:

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Drug use among young people has been a serious global issue that has resulted in a lot of research being conducted to understand the causes, factors, and solutions to the global problem. Juvenile courts are overflown as many adolescents spend the better part of their lives in this police custody due to drug abuse. Juvenile drug abuse is a major area of concern in criminal justice, and this paper focuses on various juvenile drug abuse reviewed articles.

A study conducted by Kandel and Logan talks about fluctuations in delinquent activities associated with the onset and offset in juvenile illegal drug dealing and abuse. The authors critically examine the fluctuations that are evident in the type and the delinquency rate as an onset function, continuation, and discontinuation of illegal drug dealing and abuse among young people. The study involved male urban adolescents aged between thirteen and fifteen years and was followed up for up to six years of data waves. The initial involvement rate of property offenses increased the onset of illegal drug abuse. In contrast, previous involvement of both person-related and property offenses increased the onset risk of drug dealing (Kandel & Logan, 1984, p. 664). It was clear that the onset of illegal drug dealing and use was related to increasing person-affiliated offenses. Drug dealing initiation was uniquely associated with an increased frequency of property offenses such as fraud and theft.

Brounstein (1989) examines the relationship between inner-city youths and other kinds of crimes committed. He analyzes the role of drug use in the commission of criminal activities, the association of crime and drug procurement, and the possible factors that clearly distinguish between individuals as being a function of involvement level in drug trafficking, drug usage, and involvement in criminal activities. Drug trafficking and usage were both related to various criminal activities, and the involvement of a drug type was related to the type of crimes reported. The heaviest drug users who were made youths were more likely to commit property crimes than nonusers, and drug traffickers were significantly more likely to commit crimes than those that did not sell drugs (Brounstein, 1989, pg. 92). These adolescents who used and sold drugs were more likely to commit various criminal activities against property and persons at an exceedingly higher rate. It was found that most youths get involved in criminal activities completely independent of drugs.

Belenko and Dembo (2003) explain how the juvenile drug courts (JDC) came forth in response to the perceived need for effective intervention in the cycle of substance abuse-delinquency. The drug and alcohol influx offenders, positive experiences with adult drug courts, and lack of other juvenile justice system intervention played a key role in driving the interest of adapting the drug court model for juveniles. The article provides an overview of the juvenile justice system and substance abuse by describing the current programs and proposes a model planning, implementation, and evaluation of the juvenile drug courts based on adolescents' drug use and treatment (Belenko & Dembo, 2003, p. 291). The juvenile drug courts effectiveness has been limited by the lack of empirically sound juvenile drug courts and science-based models. The authors propose a model designed to establish new JDCs that maximize the local resources by delivering the best research-based interventions to families and youths impacted by drug abuse and delinquency.

The article "Resilient Youth" by author Smith et al. is a study conducted to identify factors that prevent high-risk youth from taking part in drug use and delinquency. The authors were able to identify that factors that were family functioning based cumulatively acted as an important link in identifying the high-risk youths. The cumulative risk factors positively contributed to the significant association to both drug use and delinquency later (Smith et al, 1995, p. 221). The study identifies that close to sixty percent of high-risk individuals were resilient to substance use and delinquency. The authors were critical in analyzing and examining the protective factor level that could distinguish between resilient and non-resilient youths.

Regarding delinquency, the authors found that children's attachment to parents and parents' attachment to children, parental supervision, child's self-esteem, and prosocial behavior significantly distinguishes between resilient and non-resilient youths. The dependent Variable was the factors responsible for criminal activities due to juvenile drug and substance abuse. It was found that protective factors cumulatively and significantly act on resiliency (Brounstein, 1989, p.99). Therefore, the resiliency area in criminology is among the rare groundbreaking loci of research in recent years, and indeed the study is a significant contribution to the literature.

Researchers such as Cotto et al. have conducted studies on Gender Effects on Drug Use, Abuse, and Dependence. The authors' objective of conducting the study was to assess gender differences by basing substance abuse and dependence rates among the users. This is because gender has increasingly been studied for protective and risk factors underlying drug abuse and addiction. The study based on the National population survey sample focused and examined youths aged twelve to seventeen years and the commonly abused drugs (Cotto et al., 2010, p.409). The overall rates for substance abuse were higher for males than females. However, the pattern and mode of abuse and dependence differed among users. Understanding the differences that exist in the pattern of drug abuse and the types of drugs most abused is very important. It helps establish appropriate and effective interventions and programs for drug prevention and treatment.

Hypothesis: Higher criminal rates due to juvenile drug dealing and abuse.

Null hypothesis: Male youths are more into criminal activities than female youths.

Independent Variable: juvenile drug abuse

Dependent Variable: criminal activities

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