Welcome to the June 2015 Addiction Research Bulletin
June 2015

Welcome to the June 2015 Addiction Research Bulletin (ARB). Matua Raki brings you this resource, in conjunction with dapaanz, to help offer some insights into recent addiction research activities that have relevance to New Zealand.

We hope the ARB will help you be aware of, understand, appreciate and critique addiction research. Please feel free to share it with others.

If you would like to publicise an event, piece of research, award or activity, or contribute to this publication in any way, contact: klare.braye@matuaraki.org.nz.

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6th Addiction Research Symposium

Much of this bulletin will be dedicated to the research disseminated at the annual Addiction Research Symposium held on 22 April 2015 in Auckland.

Our appreciation goes to SHORE and Whariki Centre, Massey University, for hosting the event; the collaboration with the Universities of Auckland, Massey, Victoria and Otago for their ongoing support; HPA for offering financial assistance and Matua Raķi for organising the event. The intent of these symposia is to provide:

- New Zealand addiction researchers the opportunity to meet and share their work
- research students (PhD, Masters) to present to their peers with support from colleagues
- networking and discussion about issues of common interest to addiction researchers, including potential collaboration.

Copies of presentations and information regarding these symposia can be found at: www.matuaraki.org.nz/supporting-workforce/research-workforce
The 2015 National Addiction Research Symposium attracted more than 70 researchers, academics, students and addiction practitioners from all over New Zealand. With perspectives from academia and practice, and the mix of topics and methodologies, the meeting proved to be an inspiring, cross-disciplinary forum for information exchange on the latest addiction research.

Summary of the day
The meeting was the sixth in the series of annual research symposia organised by Matua Rakiriki in collaboration with the Universities of Massey, Auckland, Otago and Victoria. The event was originally initiated by the University of Auckland and provides a forum for New Zealand addiction researchers, research students and practitioners to share their work, network and develop relationships across the academic and practice sectors. This year the event took place on 22 April 2015 at SHORE and Whariki Research Centre, Massey University, Auckland. It provided a snapshot of recent addiction research in New Zealand.

Ethics of the industry-sponsored research
The Symposium was opened with an analysis of the global alcohol industry and what methods the industry implements to influence public policies around the world presented by Professor Sally Casswell, Director of SHORE and Whariki Research Centre. One of the issues raised in this opening presentation (problems around funding academic research by the industry) was further elaborated by another keynote speaker, Professor Peter Adams, University of Auckland. Professor Adams argued that accepting money from alcohol, tobacco and gambling companies is a “dangerous consumption” from an academic’s perspective and should be avoided. The problem provoked a heated debate with contrasting ethical and utilitarian arguments raised from the audience.

Debate on legal drugs of abuse and addictive behaviours continued during session two and three, with presentations on alcohol, substance use and gambling from graduate students and researchers.

The challenge of new psychoactive substances
Dr Paul Quigley, Capital & Coast District Health Board Emergency Department, opened a group of presentations on the topic of new psychoactive substances (NPS), with a focus on a complicated relationship between the rise of NPS and illegal drug markets. He compared drug-related emergency department (ED) figures in Western Australia and New Zealand to point out differences between drug use patterns in the two countries, and moved on to analysing a common problem: emergence and spread of NPS.

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Discussion on public response to the NPS phenomenon in New Zealand continued in the last, fourth session of the day, with perspectives from public health and law. Presenters analysed practical challenges in implementing New Zealand’s unique legislation for a regulated legal high market for NPS, the Psychoactive Substances Act (PSA) and what impact the legal market for these products had on consumption of legal highs and other drugs during the interim regime.

Improving treatment interventions
A number of symposium presentations shared research findings which could be used to inform or potentially improve treatment interventions. The presentations employed different perspectives and methodologies: qualitative, quantitative, biological and kaupapa Māori.

Dr Bronwyn Kivell discussed her work on the development of new ligands to assist in the treatment of drug dependence.

Drs Sam McBride and Giles Newtown-Howes presented their initial findings of patient’s perspectives of the benefits of interdisciplinary

This resource is supported by Matua Rakiriki.
disulfram clinics. Karen Renner discussed a text message intervention aimed to reduce alcohol-related harm. Klare Braye highlighted the pharmaceutical industry’s role in ‘promoting’ opioid use and some of the ‘unintended consequences’ following restrictions to accessibility felt by long-term opioid users. Rachel Tester emphasised the mismatch between service user and service provider perspectives of addiction recovery and what was understood by ‘recovery’. Mino’ake Kapuaahiwalani-Fitzimons addressed some of the gaps in literature regarding the developmental and cultural needs of rangatihī Māori in residential treatment settings. Rebecca Grieg pointed to the physical, mental and substance use status of people attending charity meal providers. Jessica Gu drew on the relationship between problem gambling and AOD use and Dr Stuart Mundy- McPherson extracted data from the National Gambling Study.

Presentations were accompanied by a poster session featuring topics of problematic mobile use, implementation of a substance use screening and brief intervention (SBI) package into a mental health setting, therapeutic relationships in community-based addiction services and the role of self-control in smoking cessation.

For abstracts of all presentations visit www.matuaraki.org.nz/supporting-workforce/research-workforce

Useful research websites

Health and Disability Ethics Committees
HDEC’s function is to secure the benefits of health and disability research by checking that it meets or exceeds established ethical standards.

Find out more at http://ethics.health.govt.nz/

Centre for Addiction Research (CFAR)
CFAR (University of Auckland) is dedicated to providing timely, relevant and independent research to help inform policy and practice in relation to substance misuse and the treatment of addictive consumptions.

Research is available at www.fmhs.auckland.ac.nz/en/faculty/cfar/our-publications.html

Social and Health Outcomes Research and Evaluation (SHORE) and Te Rōpū Whāriki (Whāriki)
SHORE and Whāriki (Massey University) are multi-disciplinary research groups undertaking policy and community research and evaluation on a variety of health and social topics.

Publications and current projects can be viewed online at www.shore.ac.nz

Gambling and Addictions Research Centre
The Gambling and Addictions Research Centre brings together research that improves New Zealanders’ understanding of how gambling and addictions affect society, and enhances policy and professional practice.

Find out more at www.niphmhr.aut.ac.nz/

University of Otago
The Mental Health and Addiction Research Centre (MHARC) brings together the research activities of the Mental Health Clinical...
Research Unit, the National Addiction Centre and the Gene Structure and Function Laboratory.

Find out more at http://spar.co.nz/research/centres/otago005628.html

Community Research
Community Research gathers research about New Zealand’s tangata whenua, community and voluntary sector, creates a hub to share ideas and advocates for good practice methods in community research.

Find research, information about researchers and toolkits at www.communityresearch.org.nz/

Health Promotion Agency
Find a number of recent research publications at the Health Promotion Agency website: www.hpa.org.nz/research-library/research-publications

National Register of Research and Implementation Projects
This Research Register is a comprehensive source of information on recent tertiary education research and implementation projects, currently conducted in New Zealand.

Find out more at http://akoaotearoa.ac.nz/research-register

Family Violence Clearing House
The New Zealand Family Violence Clearinghouse is a national centre for research and information on family and whānau violence in Aotearoa New Zealand. It is based at the School of Population Health, University of Auckland.

More can be viewed at: https://nzfvc.org.nz/

Research review

God, family and money: Pacific people and gambling in New Zealand

Pacific people living in New Zealand are less likely to participate in gambling activities than the general population but those who do gamble are at greater risk of being problem gamblers. This exploratory study of focus groups investigated Pacific people’s thoughts about gambling. The results suggest that some Pacific people draw a distinction between ‘community’ and ‘commercial’ types of gambling, that gambling is understood by some to be an easy way in which to make money, and also that familial and church obligations can motivate gambling behaviour. These findings inform possible unique features of gambling in Pacific cultures in New Zealand and internationally.

http://www.tandfonline.com/doi/abs/10.1080/14459795.2014.998252

The prevalence, correlates and reasons for using electronic cigarettes among New Zealand adults

There is strong interest in the use of electronic cigarettes (e-cigarettes) globally. This paper reports population-based data on ever-use and current use of e-cigarettes among New Zealand adults. The paper also extends previous international studies by exploring the reasons for trying e-cigarettes, ever users’ recall of brand(s) they have ever tried, and current users’ recall of their current brand.

Compared with other countries, New Zealand has a high rate of ever-use. Among current smokers, one in two had tried an e-cigarette. However, progression to regular use appears to be rare. The finding that 18% of current e-cigarette users could not name their current brand highlights the importance of investigating users’ knowledge of e-cigarettes in general and assessing the factors that influence brand choice such as advertising, price, and accessibility.


‘Oh they drink here harder I think’: young people and alcohol consumption at three New Zealand secondary school formals

The New Zealand media sensationalises the issue of teenage drinking. This article explores the alcohol
consumption patterns of year 13 students on the night of their school formal and adults’ permissive attitudes towards their own and young people’s alcohol consumption, highlighting how drinking is almost necessary for socialisation in a New Zealand context. The majority of student participants reported that they drank in moderation on the night and some were intolerant of intoxicated peers.

This poses a challenge to New Zealand media depictions of the school formal and after party as ‘drunken affairs’. This article concludes with suggestions for how schools can create safer after parties which may reduce the chances of young people engaging in ‘risky’ drinking behaviours at such events.

http://www.tandfonline.com/doi/abs/10.1080/13676261.2014.933201

Synthetic cannabinoid withdrawal: A new demand on detoxification services


The harm associated with use of synthetic cannabinoids has had a direct impact on the utilisation of specialist alcohol and drug services in Auckland, New Zealand. This study reports on the characteristics and treatment course of clients attending a detoxification service for support with synthetic cannabinoid withdrawal in Auckland, New Zealand. Many clients with synthetic cannabinoid withdrawal symptoms required intensive support including medication and admission to an inpatient detoxification unit. Clients withdrawing from synthetic cannabinoids were the third largest group of clients admitted to inpatient detoxification services in Auckland, New Zealand, between May 2013 and May 2014.


Events

MHS Conference 2015

This conference, held 25-28 August 2015 in Canberra, Australia, will provide opportunities for discourse and dialogue in terms of best practice in the mental health services arena. What is best practice and how does it relate to mental health services? MHS 2015 will explore questions that may lead to interesting dialogue on just how best practice is translated into reality.

Find out more at: http://www.mentalhealth.org.nz/home/events-calendar/event/1/themhs-conference-2015-

Cutting Edge Conference

The Addiction Practitioners’ Association (dapaanz) invites you to Nelson 2-5 September for the 20th Cutting Edge Conference. This is the annual gathering of the addiction treatment sector, embracing not only treatment practitioners but those who work in brief interventions, primary care services, smoking cessation, public health and mental health. The conference is supported by the Health Promotion Agency and the Ministry of Health. The theme this year is “It’s All About Whānau”.

More information can be found at: http://www.cmznz.co.nz/cutting-edge-2015/

Australian Mental Health Outcomes and information Conference

The 5th Australasian Mental Health Outcomes and Information Conference will be held 11-13 November 2015 in Queenstown. The theme for the conference will be “Rising to new heights”.

Email training@tepou.co.nz to register your interest in attending and you will join the mailing list to stay informed of all further conference announcements.


The National Drug Trends conference

This will be held in Sydney in October. The annual conference will present first findings of the Illicit Drug Reporting System and Ecstasy and Related Drugs Reporting System, and will feature a number of presentations from national and international experts and the Police.

Watch out for programme details, venue and online registration on the NDARC website: https://ndarc.med.unsw.edu.au/
National Cannabis Conference
The third National Cannabis Conference will be held in Melbourne on 7-9 October 2015.
For more details see www.assbi.com.au and the website of the National Cannabis Prevention and Information Centre: https://ncpic.org.au/

Healing Our Spirit Worldwide – the Seventh Gathering Hamilton, New Zealand November 2015
The next global Gathering for Healing Our Spirit Worldwide will be hosted by Te Rau Matatini. This will take place 16-19 November 2015 at The University of Waikato, Hamilton, New Zealand.
This is an important opportunity for indigenous people worldwide who have an interest and commitment to the health and healing of indigenous communities, especially healing from the effects of substance abuse issues, to come together in a cultural and spiritual community.
Find out more at www.HOSW.com.

Blogs of interest
In each edition we highlight recent blog posts which readers may find interesting.

Early career researchers and librarians swap pain points and share ideas on advancing research
Early career researchers and librarians were brought together to share some of the issues they face as well as their viewpoints on what would make collaboration easier. This resulted in a lively conversation, some of which centred on the ‘tortuous process of getting from research to publication’.
Find out more at: http://exchanges.wiley.com/blog/2015/03/18/early-career-researchers-and-librarians-swap-pain-points-and-share-ideas-on-advancing-research/

Early career researchers and the pressure to publish
Young researchers face many challenges in the process of building an international reputation. At the same time, these challenges and opportunities guide them in becoming future leaders.
Find out more at: http://exchanges.wiley.com/blog/2014/09/19/early-career-researchers-and-the-pressure-to-publish/

Improving PhD completion rates: where should we start?
Doctoral attrition rates are high in North America: an estimated 40% to 50 percent of candidates never finish. Though these rates have been relatively stable over time, the issue is of growing concern given recent increases in PhD enrolment.
Read more at: http://exchanges.wiley.com/blog/2015/05/12/improving-phd-completion-rates-where-should-we-start/
Cutting Edge, the national addiction treatment conference

Abstracts

Practitioners, researchers, policy makers are invited to submit an abstract that addresses the conference theme “It’s All About Whanau”. The theme picks up on the importance of family in the experience of addiction, in its healing and how to intervene with the unwell family. Family can be taken in its widest meaning and allows for an emphasis to be placed upon those who are most interested in the wellness of the presenting client.

Abstracts may be submitted for 3-4 hour workshops, 20 minute oral presentations or for a poster presentation (2m x 1m).

Submitting abstracts

• Abstracts to be a maximum of 250 words.
• A short professional biography of less than 100 words is also required.
• Abstracts must be received by 5pm Monday 25 May 2015

The New and Emerging Researchers award

An award for the best research presentation by a ‘young or emerging’ researcher at this year’s Cutting Edge Conference will be presented. Oral presentations and posters are eligible. The prize includes a cash award of $300.

The dapaanz award

The 2015 dapaanz award for the best presentation on a matter of treatment will be awarded to a poster entry relating to the unwell family. Family can be taken in its widest meaning and allows for an emphasis to be placed upon those who are most interested in the wellness of the presenting client.

Have your say!

We hope you find the Addiction Research Bulletin useful. We look forward to receiving your articles, feedback or suggestions for future editions. Is there something we’ve missed? Your views are important to us.

Email: klare.braye@matuaraki.org.nz or call 04 381 6473.
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