

Alcohol Research Digest – March / April 2008

Dear Colleagues,

Here is the latest issue of Alcohol Research Digest, a resource featuring alcohol-related articles from peer reviewed academic journals and research-oriented reports, newsletters, and resources from a variety of Canadian and international sources. All sources were published within the months of March and April of 2008 and include at minimum, a link to an online abstract. If a link becomes broken, please copy and paste it directly into your web browser. Going forward, this service will be provided in a bi-monthly format (released every 2 months).

PLEASE NOTE: Some websites require a free or paid subscription to view resources. Some articles are available on-line for a limited time only.

We hope you will use Alcohol Research Digest to inform your work. Please take a few moments to browse through the titles and read/print those most relevant to you.

Material was selected based on potential relevance and usefulness to program planners, health promoters, policy-makers, researchers and others active in the substance use and misuse prevention fields (specifically alcohol) across Ontario.

We encourage you to download any articles you find interesting, in accordance with copyright rules posted on individual sites. If you wish to view an article but encounter an out-of-date link, please contact the source directly, or send a document request to the CAMH Library, <mailto:library@camh.net>, Fax: (416) 595-6601. Please include a full citation with your request. There may be a cost associated with this service.

To view past issues, please visit
www.apolnet.ca/resources/pubs/respapers/ResQtlyHome.html.

The Alcohol Policy Network (APN) is a program of the Ontario Public Health Association, and is funded through the Ontario Ministry of Health Promotion. For more information about this electronic mailing list, or APN please visit
www.apolnet.ca/AboutUsHome.html.

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1. Alcohol Advertising

Nothing to report

2. Impaired Driving / Road Safety

ALCOHOL-RELATED FATAL CRASHES AND PRIOR DWI

Research Summary, Join Together, April 23, 2008

Drinking drivers involved in fatal crashes are more likely than sober drivers to have a previous conviction for driving while impaired (DWI), according to recently released data from the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA).

<http://www.jointogether.org/news/research/summaries/2008/alcohol-related-fatal-crashes.html>

DRINKING DRIVERS INVOLVED IN FATAL CRASHES FOUR TO EIGHT TIMES MORE LIKELY TO HAVE A PRIOR DWI CONVICTION

Research Summary, CEASAR Fax, April 21, 2008

Drinking drivers involved in fatal crashes are more likely than sober drivers to have a previous conviction for driving while impaired (DWI), according to recently released data from the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA).

<http://www.cesar.umd.edu/cesar/cesarfax/vol17/17-16.pdf>

3. Demographic Groups

a. Youth and Young Adults

TYPE OF PARTY ATTENDED BY COLLEGE STUDENTS ASSOCIATED WITH LIKELIHOOD OF HIGH-RISK DRINKING

Research Summary, CEASAR Fax, April 28, 2008

High-risk drinking among college students is related to the types of parties they attend, according to a recent web survey of undergraduate students attending two large urban universities.

<http://www.cesar.umd.edu/cesar/cesarfax/vol17/17-17.pdf>

MANY STUDENTS BINGE TO CELEBRATE TURNING 21, STUDY FINDS

Research Summary, Join Together, April 11, 2008

Alcohol Research Digest – March / April 2008

Interviews with college students found that a shocking 34 percent of male drinkers and 24 percent of females said they had celebrated their 21st birthday by consuming 21 or more drinks.

<http://www.jointogether.org/news/research/summaries/2008/many-students-binge-to-celebra.html>

U.K. STUDY PROBES POVERTY, VIOLENCE, AND UNDERAGE DRINKING

Research Summary, Join Together, March 28, 2008,

Up to 40 percent of teens living in poor areas of England drink alcohol, and weekly drinkers also were likely to be involved in violence, according to researchers at Liverpool John Moores University.

<http://www.jointogether.org/news/research/summaries/2008/uk-study-probes.html>

MODEL YOUTH DRINKING PREVENTION PROGRAM LESS EFFECTIVE IN URBAN COMMUNITY

Research Summary, Join Together, March 19, 2008

A model prevention program that worked well in rural communities did not achieve the same results in curbing drinking among middle-school students in an urban area, a new study finds.

<http://www.jointogether.org/news/research/summaries/2008/youth-drinking-prevention-less.html>

See also: **OUTCOMES FROM A RANDOMIZED CONTROLLED TRIAL OF A MULTI-COMPONENT ALCOHOL USE PREVENTIVE INTERVENTION FOR URBAN YOUTH: PROJECT NORTHLAND CHICAGO**

<http://www.blackwell-synergy.com/doi/abs/10.1111/j.1360-0443.2007.02110.x?prevSearch=allfield%3A%28komro%29>

PARENTAL MONITORING YIELDS REDUCTION IN TEEN DRINKING RATES

Research Summary, Join Together, March 13, 2008

Teens whose parents kept closer tabs on them during high school tended to drink less as high-school seniors.

<http://www.jointogether.org/news/research/summaries/2008/parental-monitoring-yields.html>

See also: **HIGH SCHOOL DRINKING MEDIATES THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN PARENTAL MONITORING AND COLLEGE DRINKING: A LONGITUDINAL ANALYSIS**

<http://www.substanceabusepolicy.com/content/3/1/6/abstract>

STUDY FINDS SIGNIFICANT EARLY DRINKING IN CHICAGO SCHOOLS

Research Summary, Join Together, March 12, 2008

A study of more than 4,000 sixth-graders in Chicago schools found that 17 percent said that they had used alcohol within the past year, and that those who reported drinking were more likely to get into fights, shoplift, and get into trouble in school.

<http://www.jointogether.org/news/research/summaries/2008/study-finds-significant-early.html>

See also: **SIXTH GRADE STUDENTS WHO USE ALCOHOL: DO WE NEED PRIMARY PREVENTION PROGRAMS FOR "TWEENS"?**

<http://heb.sagepub.com/cgi/content/abstract/1090198107308374v1>

ALCOHOL AND OTHER DRUG USE AMONG FIRST YEAR COLLEGE STUDENTS

Virginia Ross, William DeJong, The Higher Education Center for Alcohol and Other Drug Abuse and Violence Prevention, March 2008

Although any new undertaking is exciting because of the opportunities it may bring, the transition to college life also brings new pressures and uncertainties.

<http://www.higheredcenter.org/pubs/factsheets/first-year.pdf>

b. Older Adults

MIDDLE AGED DRINKING, SMOKING LINKED WITH EARLIER ALZHEIMER'S

Research Summary, Join Together, April 16, 2008

Researchers found an apparent link between heavy drinking or heavy smoking by people in their 40s and the development of Alzheimer's disease decades later.

<http://www.jointogether.org/news/research/summaries/2008/middle-aged-drinking-smoking.html>

4. Alcohol Controls / Liability

WOULD 'TWEENS' BENEFIT FROM ALCOHOL PREVENTION PROGRAMS

Research Summary, Medical News Today, April 5, 2008

Article examined a large study of six grade students across a metropolitan area, to see which factors distinguished young alcohol users from nonusers, including even their stated intentions regarding future alcohol use.

<http://www.medicalnewstoday.com/articles/102725.php>

See also: **SIXTH GRADE STUDENTS WHO USE ALCOHOL: DO WE NEED PRIMARY PREVENTION PROGRAMS FOR...**

<http://heb.sagepub.com/cgi/rapidpdf/1090198107308374v1>

5. Health and Safety

a. Pregnancy / Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (FAS/FASD)

PRENATAL SUBSTANCE USE MAY AFFECT CHILD BRAIN SIZE

Research Summary, Join Together, April 15, 2008

A new study suggests that a mother's substance use during pregnancy, especially a combination of substances, may result in a smaller brain for her child.

<http://www.jointogether.org/news/research/summaries/2008/prenatal-substance-use.html>

b. Low / High Risk Drinking / Harm Reduction

MODERATE DRINKING INCREASES BREAST CANCER RISK

Research Summary, Join Together, April 14, 2008

Even moderate alcohol consumption increases the risk of a common form of breast cancer in post-menopausal women, according to research presented at the American Association for Cancer Research 2008 annual meeting in San Diego.

<http://www.jointogether.org/news/research/summaries/2008/moderate-drinking-increases.html>

ALCOHOL & MARIJUANA HAVE HIGHEST RATES OF CONTINUED USE IN THE YEAR AFTER INITIATION; HEROIN & CRACK COCAINE HAVE HIGHEST RATES OF DEPENDENCE

Research Summary, CEASAR Fax, April 14, 2008

Substance use trajectories in the year after initiation vary greatly by substance, according to a recent analysis of data from the National Survey on Drug Use and Health.

<http://www.cesar.umd.edu/cesar/cesarfax/vol17/17-15.pdf>

RESEARCHERS FIND LINGERING MEMORY PROBLEMS RELATED TO BINGE DRINKING

Research Summary, Join Together, April 4, 2008

U.K. researchers say that teens who binge drinking can suffer from memory impairment even days after they stop drinking alcohol.

<http://www.jointogether.org/news/research/summaries/2008/researchers-find-lingering-mem.html>

GENE STUDY CONCLUDES THAT DRINKING MAY RAISE BLOOD PRESSURE, HYPERTENSION RISK

Research Summary, Join Together, March 24, 2008

U.K. researchers who compared individuals with a certain genetic mutation that impairs alcohol metabolism -- thus discouraging drinking -- to the general population found that those without the mutation and who consume about three drinks daily have much higher blood pressure.

<http://www.jointogether.org/news/research/summaries/2008/gene-study-drinking.html>

See also: ALCOHOL INTAKE AND BLOOD PRESSURE: A SYSTEMATIC REVIEW IMPLEMENTING A MENDELIAN RANDOMIZATION APPROACH

<http://medicine.plosjournals.org/perlserv/?request=get-document&doi=10.1371/journal.pmed.0050052>

HEAVY DRINKING LINKED TO MORTALITY RISK

Research Summary, Join Together, March 21, 2008

Men who consume more alcohol on drinking days are at increased risk of death even if their average amount of alcohol over time isn't excessive, according to researchers who said that drinking quantity and frequency influence mortality more than average consumption over time.

<http://www.jointogether.org/news/research/summaries/2008/heavy-drinking-linked.html>

See also: **PROSPECTIVE STUDY OF ALCOHOL CONSUMPTION IN THE UNITED STATES: QUANTITY, FREQUENCY, AND CAUSE-SPECIFIC MORTALITY**

<http://www.blackwell-synergy.com/doi/abs/10.1111/j.1530-0277.2007.00595.x>

STUDY: STARTING TO DRINK IN MIDDLE AGE IMPROVES HEART HEALTH

Research Summary, Join Together, March 10, 2008

A new study says that non-drinkers who began moderate consumption of alcohol in middle age reduced their risk of developing cardiovascular disease by 38 percent.

<http://www.jointogether.org/news/research/summaries/2008/study-starting-to-drink-in.html>

See also: **ADOPTING MODERATE ALCOHOL CONSUMPTION IN MIDDLE AGE: SUBSEQUENT CARDIOVASCULAR EVENTS**

[http://www.sciencedirect.com/science?_ob=ArticleURL&_udi=B6TDC-4S07S6Y-C&_user=10&_coverDate=03%2F31%2F2008&_rdoc=11&_fmt=summary&_orig=browse&_srch=doc-info\(%23toc%235195%232008%23998789996%23682326%23FLA%23display%23Volume\)&_cdi=5195&_sort=d&_docanchor=&_ct=27&_acct=C000050221&_version=1&_urlVersion=0&_userid=10&md5=1022bcf2e83f8435c4dc5ca2d7cab50a](http://www.sciencedirect.com/science?_ob=ArticleURL&_udi=B6TDC-4S07S6Y-C&_user=10&_coverDate=03%2F31%2F2008&_rdoc=11&_fmt=summary&_orig=browse&_srch=doc-info(%23toc%235195%232008%23998789996%23682326%23FLA%23display%23Volume)&_cdi=5195&_sort=d&_docanchor=&_ct=27&_acct=C000050221&_version=1&_urlVersion=0&_userid=10&md5=1022bcf2e83f8435c4dc5ca2d7cab50a)

MODERATE ALCOHOL USE CAN CAUSE HYPERTENSION

Research Summary, Join Together, March 5, 2008

Consuming three alcoholic drinks daily -- a level considered to be moderate drinking -- can result in significant elevation of blood pressure, according to a new study by researchers at the U.K.'s University of Bristol.

<http://www.jointogether.org/news/research/summaries/2008/moderate-alcohol-use-can.html>

See also: **ALCOHOL INTAKE AND BLOOD PRESSURE: A SYSTEMATIC REVIEW IMPLEMENTING A MENDELIAN RANDOMIZATION APPROACH**

<http://medicine.plosjournals.org/perlserv/?request=get-document&doi=10.1371/journal.pmed.0050052&ct=1>

c. Crime / Violence / Injury Prevention

SUBSTANCE ABUSE ACCOUNTS FOR LEVEL OF VIOLENCE IN CITY

News Release, The Source, March 14, 2008

A new ranking of the most dangerous cities in Canada has landed Thunder Bay near the top of the heap.

<http://www.tbsource.com/localnews/index.asp?cid=105742>

d. Addictions Treatment

ARIPIPAZOLE FOR ALCOHOL ADDICTION

Research Summary, Join Together, April 18, 2008

A preliminary study of aripiprazole, currently used to treat bipolar disorder as well as schizophrenia, suggests that the drug has potential for treating alcohol dependence.

<http://www.jointogether.org/news/research/summaries/2008/aripiprazole-for-alcohol.html>

SUBSTANCE USE AND DEPENDENCE IN FIRST YEAR AFTER INITIATION

Research Summary, Join Together, April 16, 2008

Substance use trajectories in the year after initiation vary greatly by substance, according to a recent analysis of data from the National Survey on Drug Use and Health.

<http://www.jointogether.org/news/research/summaries/2008/substance-use-trajectories.html>

EXTENDED-RELEASE NALTREXONE WORKS PARTICULARLY WELL FOR ABSTINENT PATIENTS WITH DEPENDENCE

Research Summary and Comments, Join Together, March 2008

Many patients with alcohol dependence do not receive the full benefits of treatment because they do not adhere to it. In part to address issues with adherence, extended-release (ER) naltrexone, which is released over a month after one injection, was developed.

<http://www.jointogether.org/news/research/tprb/march08/levy.html>

See also: **EXTENDED-RELEASE NALTREXONE WORKS PARTICULARLY WELL FOR ABSTINENT PATIENTS WITH DEPENDENCE**

http://www.bu.edu/aodhealth/issues/issue_jan08/saitz_omalley.html

6. Workplace

SAMHSA ANNOUNCES AVAILABILITY OF NEW DRUG-FREE WORKPLACE KIT

News Release, Medical News Today, April 30, 2008

The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) has developed a Drug-Free Workplace Kit, suitable for all sizes of workplaces.

<http://www.medicalnewstoday.com/articles/105830.php>

7. Influencing Policy

COLLABORATION BETWEEN PRACTICE, POLICY AND RESEARCH IN LOCAL PUBLIC HEALTH IN THE NETHERLANDS

Maria W.J. Jansena et al, Health Policy, May 2008

The collaboration between policy, practice, and research in local public health was studied in a multiple case study.

[http://www.journals.elsevierhealth.com/periodicals/heap/article/S0168-8510\(07\)00274-6/abstract](http://www.journals.elsevierhealth.com/periodicals/heap/article/S0168-8510(07)00274-6/abstract)

8. Practitioner Resources

SUBSTANCE ABUSE UNITS SET UP IN SASKATCHEWAN CORRECTIONAL FACILITIES

Press Release, Government of Saskatchewan, April 24, 2008 Corrections, Public Safety and Policing will spend \$225,000 to further the development of in-facility treatment units to deal with substance abuse among inmates.

<http://www.gov.sk.ca/news?newsId=f3c2b45b-9fbd-464c-b0c9-6d40f6e1a905>

9. Other

NEW FINDINGS ON ASIAN ALCOHOL-PROTECTION GENE

Research Summary, Join Together, April 29, 2008

Only certain East Asian populations have a high prevalence of a gene that protects against alcohol over consumption, and researchers speculate that some event must have occurred over the past few thousand years to make this genetic protection advantageous.

<http://www.jointogether.org/news/research/summaries/2008/new-findings-on-asian-alcohol.html>

See also: **ETHNIC RELATED SELECTION FOR AN ADH CLASS I VARIANT WITHIN EAST ASIA**

<http://www.plosone.org/article/info%3Adoi%2F10.1371%2Fjournal.pone.0001881>

CELLS BLOCK COLLAGEN PRODUCTION, REVERSE CIRRHOSIS

Research Summary, Join Together, March 31, 2008

Artificial molecules developed by Japanese scientists have been shown to block collagen production by liver "stellate cells," reversing the damage caused by liver cirrhosis.

<http://www.jointogether.org/news/research/summaries/2008/cells-block-collagen-productio.html>

DRINKING DOESN'T MAKE YOU FORGET YOUR TROUBLES, RESEARCHERS SAY

Research Summary, Join Together, March 3, 2008

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Not only can't you drink your troubles away, but ethanol actually reinforces memories, according to Japanese scientists.

<http://www.jointogether.org/news/research/summaries/2008/drinking-doesnt.html>

See also: **ETHANOL ENHANCES REACTIVATED FEAR MEMORIES**

<http://www.nature.com/npp/journal/vaop/ncurrent/abs/npp200813a.html>

REPORT ON DRINKING AMONG MEDICARE RECIPIENTS

Research Summary, Join Together, March 6, 2008

Nine percent of Medicare beneficiaries aged 65 or older drink excessively, whereas 65 percent don't drink at all and 26 percent drink moderately, according to a new report.

<http://www.jointogether.org/news/research/summaries/2008/report-on-drinking-among.html>

See also: **UNHEALTHY DRINKING PATTERNS IN OLDER ADULTS: PREVALENCE AND ASSOCIATED CHARACTERISTICS**

<http://www.blackwell-synergy.com/doi/abs/10.1111/j.1532-5415.2007.01539.x>

FY2009 FEDERAL DRUG CONTROL BUDGET RELEASED; PREVENTION CONTINUES TO RECEIVE DWINDLING PROPORTION OF FUNDING

Research Summary, CESAR Fax, March 10, 2008

Prevention continues to receive a declining share of the federal drug control budget, according to the *National Drug Control Strategy FY2009 Budget Summary* released earlier this month by the Office of National Drug Control Policy (ONDCP).

<http://www.cesar.umd.edu/cesar/cesarfax/vol17/17-10.pdf>