

alcohol abuse. Using the alcohol and drug section of the Structured Clinical Interview for DSM-III-R—Patient Version, researchers conducted psychiatric interviews. Alcohol and drug use was rated using 5-point clinician-rating scales, clinical interviews, longitudinal community observations, and information obtained from the housing staff, and the patients' family members and friends. Outpatient and inpatient records were reviewed to confirm remissions.

A case manager visited patients at least weekly; housing supports, antipsychotic medications, and other services were part of the program as well. All of the patients received individual behaviorally oriented substance abuse counseling. One patient attended self-help groups such as Alcoholics Anonymous, but he failed to attain remission.

Eleven patients did, in fact, attain remission; one other patient used alcohol only once during 6 months but had become abusive during that episode. Three patients failed to abstain from marijuana abuse. The mean abstinence lasted 26.5 months.

The authors admit that the rural setting, with its isolation from other drugs, such as cocaine, may have contributed to this success rate. However, they also emphasize that all of these patients denied their addictions at baseline. Therefore, these patients were similar to other schizophrenics in the community. Based on these results, the researchers recommend that other larger groups implement similar components in their treatment programs.

Drake RE, McHugo GJ, Noordsy DL: Treatment of alcoholism among schizophrenic outpatients: 4-year outcomes. *Am J Psychiatry* 1993; 150:328-329.

Selected minority women's knowledge, perceived risk factors for AIDS

Researchers intended to describe AIDS-related knowledge, perceived risk factors, and actual risky behaviors of a nonrandomly selected group of minority women who were living in homeless shelters or enrolled in drug rehabilitation programs (or both). Specifically, this group included 1173 women from the Los Angeles area: 78% were African-American and 22% were Latina. Their mean age was 32.5 years. Of all of these women, 52% were single, 54% were never married, 89% were unemployed, and 85% were born in the United States. Overall, the women reported a mean education of 12 years.

This survey found that differences based on ethnicity and level of acculturation did exist in AIDS-related knowledge, perceived risk of acquiring AIDS, and risky behaviors. Low-accultured Latinas reported a low-perceived risk; they were least likely to engage in illegal drug use and to have multiple sex partners. High-accultured Latinas reported prevalent intravenous drug use, while African-American women reported participating more in high-risk sexual activity.

These findings indicate the need for culturally sensitive AIDS

prevention programs for women. Furthermore, while this survey uncovered a relatively high knowledge of AIDS, awareness alone did not prevent these women from engaging in risky behaviors. Therefore, researchers emphasize the need to evaluate other factors, such as lack of resources and survival issues, when addressing the spread of the human immunodeficiency virus infection.

Nyamathi A, Bennett C, Leake B, et al: AIDS-related knowledge, perceptions, and behaviors among impoverished minority women. *Am J Public Health* 1993;83:65-71.

(continued on page 454)

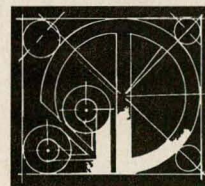
SURGICAL RESIDENTS/FELLOWS

Clinical residency/fellowship positions available in adult and pediatric cardiothoracic surgery.

- Large volume of cases
- New Jersey license required
- Excellent salary and benefits

Please contact:

Lynn B. McGrath, MD
Chairman, Dept. of Surgery
(609) 893-6611, Ext. 359



**Deborah Heart
and Lung Center**
200 Trenton Road
Browns Mills, NJ 08015