

*New literature reviews,  
meta-analyses, and  
evidence-based resources*

### NATIONAL POLICY

■ **ILLICIT DRUGS POLICY: USING EVIDENCE TO GET BETTER OUTCOMES.** Royal Australasian College of Physicians and Royal Australian and NZ College of Psychiatrists, 2005. Supply reduction measures cause 'collateral' harm yet are better funded than safe and effective treatment and harm reduction interventions. *Copies: www.racp.edu.au.*

■ **PREVENTING HARMFUL SUBSTANCE USE: THE EVIDENCE BASE FOR POLICY AND PRACTICE.** Stockwell T. et al, eds. John Wiley, 2005 **DS** Essays cumulatively supporting a reconfiguration of national policies on alcohol, tobacco and illicit drugs.

### ALCOHOLISM MEDICATIONS

■ **PHARMACOTHERAPIES FOR RELAPSE PREVENTION IN ALCOHOL DEPENDENCE.** Gowing L.R. Drug and Alcohol Services South Australia, 2005.

Acamprostate best for abstinence, naltrexone for preventing heavy drinking, limited evidence for disulfiram. *Copies: www.dassa.sa.gov.au.*

■ **OPIOID ANTAGONISTS FOR ALCOHOL DEPENDENCE.** Srisurapanont M. et al. The Cochrane Database of Systematic Reviews: 2005, 1. Naltrexone should be accepted as a short-term treatment. *Copies: www.thecochranelibrary.com.*

■ **PATIENT-TREATMENT MATCHING WITH ANTI-CRAVING MEDICATIONS IN ALCOHOL-DEPENDENT PATIENTS: A REVIEW ON PHENOTYPIC, ENDOPHENOTYPIC AND GENETIC INDICATORS.** Ooteman W. et al. J. Substance Use: 2005, 10(2-3), p. 75-96 **AC** Which patients do best with drugs such as naltrexone and acamprostate.

### DUAL DIAGNOSIS

■ **SUBSTANCE ABUSE TREATMENT FOR PERSONS WITH CO-OCCURRING DISORDERS.** Treatment Improvement Protocol (TIP) Series 42. [US] Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, 2005. Expert consensus on good practice. *Copies: www.ncadi.samhsa.gov.*

■ **SCREENING, ASSESSMENT, AND TREATMENT PLANNING.** [US] Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration [et al], 2005. Briefing encapsulating evidence and expert consensus on initiating and planning treatment. *Copies: www.cocce.samhsa.gov.*

■ **INTEGRATED VERSUS NON-INTEGRATED MANAGEMENT AND CARE FOR CLIENTS WITH CO-OCCURRING MENTAL**

**HEALTH AND SUBSTANCE USE DISORDERS: A QUALITATIVE SYSTEMATIC REVIEW OF RANDOMISED CONTROLLED TRIALS.** Donald M. et al. Social Science and Medicine: 2005, 60(6), p. 1371-1383 **DS**

Deals with the key issue of whether integrating addiction and mental health treatment improves outcomes.

■ **ANTIDEPRESSANT TREATMENT OF CO-OCCURRING DEPRESSION AND ALCOHOL DEPENDENCE.** Pettinati H.M. Biological Psych.: 2004, 56, p. 785-792 **AC** Antidepressants relieve depression but have little impact on drinking.

■ **TREATMENT OF DEPRESSION IN PATIENTS WITH ALCOHOL OR OTHER DRUG DEPENDENCE: A META-ANALYSIS.** Nunes E.V. et al. Journal of the American Medical Association: 2004, 291(15), p. 1887-1896 **DS** Suggests delaying antidepressants until after a short period of abstinence or until addiction treatment has started to disentangle primary from drug-induced depression.

■ **TREATMENT OF DEPRESSION IN PATIENTS WITH OPIATE DEPENDENCE.** Nunes E.V. et al. Biological Psychiatry: 2004, 56(10), p. 793-802 **DS** Implications as above.

### MOTIVATIONAL INTERVIEWS

■ **MOTIVATIONAL INTERVIEWING: A SYSTEMATIC REVIEW AND META-ANALYSIS.** Rubak S. British J. General Practice: 2005, p. 305-312 **AC** Synthesises studies comparing against usual clinical advice or counselling.

■ **MOTIVATIONAL INTERVIEWING.** Hettema J. et al. Ann. Rev. Clinical Psychology: 2005, 1, p. 91-111 **AC** Meta-analysis finds best evidence relates to substance use especially when motivational interviewing is a prelude to main treatment and done without following a manual.

### TREATMENT OTHER

■ **BENEFITS OF DRUG TREATMENT: A CRITICAL REVIEW OF THE EVIDENCE FOR POLICY MAKERS.** Belenko S. et al. Alcohol & Drug Problem Association of North America, 2005. Which treatments for which patients result in the greatest net cost-savings. *Copies: www.adpana.com.*

■ **SUBSTANCE ABUSE TREATMENT: GROUP THERAPY.** Treatment Improvement Protocol (TIP) Series 41. [US] Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, 2005. Expert consensus on good practice. *Copies: www.ncadi.samhsa.gov.*

■ **THE ROLE OF THE THERAPEUTIC ALLIANCE IN THE TREATMENT OF SUBSTANCE MISUSE: A CRITICAL REVIEW OF THE LITERATURE.** Meier P.S. et al. Addiction: 2005, 100, p. 304-316 **DS** Good early worker-client relationship consistently related to improved engagement in alcohol/drug treatment.

■ **EFFICACY OF ACUPUNCTURE FOR COCAINE DEPENDENCE: A SYSTEMATIC REVIEW AND META-ANALYSIS.** Mills E.J. et al. Harm Reduction Journal: 2005, 2(4).

Pooled results from seven studies show no evidence that acupuncture helps patients stop using cocaine. *Copies: www.harmreductionjournal.com.*

■ **THE EFFECTIVENESS OF VOCATIONAL SERVICES FOR SUBSTANCE USERS IN TREATMENT.** Magura S. et al. Substance Use and Misuse: 2004, 39(13-14), p. 2165-2213 **DS** Focuses on competitive employment as an outcome.

### HARM REDUCTION

■ **SUPERVISED INJECTION FACILITIES (SIFS).** FAQs. Canadian Centre on Substance Abuse, 2004. Useful concise briefing on working methods and impacts. *Copies: www.ccsa.ca.*

■ **PRISON NEEDLE EXCHANGE: LESSONS FROM A COMPREHENSIVE REVIEW OF INTERNATIONAL EVIDENCE AND EXPERIENCE.** Lines R. et al. Canadian HIV/AIDS Legal Network, 2004. Country by country review concludes that prison services should trial exchange schemes. *Copies: www.aidslaw.ca.*

### PREVENTION

■ **SCHOOL-BASED PREVENTION FOR ILLICIT DRUGS USE.** Faggiano F. et al. The Cochrane Database of Systematic Reviews: 2005, 2. Social skills lessons delay drug use. *Copies: www.thecochranelibrary.com.*

■ **PREVENTION AND REDUCTION OF ALCOHOL MISUSE. EVIDENCE BRIEFING.** Mulvihill C. et al. Health Development Agency, 2005. UK review of reviews finds support for anti-drink driving regulations and enforcement and brief interventions. *Copies: www.publichealth.nice.org.uk.*

■ **DRUG PREVENTION WITH VULNERABLE YOUNG PEOPLE: A REVIEW.** Roe S. et al. Drugs: Education, Prevention & Policy: 2005, 12(2), p. 85-99 **DS** UK Home Office analysts review studies of intervening with children at high risk of drug problems.

■ **RANDOM DRUG TESTING OF SCHOOL-CHILDREN. A SHOT IN THE ARM OR A SHOT IN THE FOOT FOR DRUG PREVENTION?** McKeganey N. Joseph Rowntree Foundation, 2005. Assesses UK policy and practice and international evidence. Finds substantial risks and little evidence of benefit. *Copies: www.jrf.org.uk.*

### DRINK DRIVING

■ **EFFECTIVENESS OF SCHOOL-BASED PROGRAMS FOR REDUCING DRINKING AND DRIVING AND RIDING WITH DRINKING DRIVERS.** Elder R.W. et al. American Journal of Preventive Medicine: 2005, 28(5 suppl.), p. 288-304 **AC** Systematic review finds that interactive lessons can help children avoid travelling with a drink-driver.

■ **EFFECTIVENESS OF DESIGNATED DRIVER PROGRAMS FOR REDUCING ALCOHOL-IMPAIRED DRIVING.** Ditter S.M. et al. Am. J. Preventive Medicine: 2005, 28(5 suppl.), p. 280-287 **AC** Casts doubt on the effectiveness of incentives and campaigns for drinkers to arrange for a sober driver.

■ **BEST PRACTICES. TREATMENT AND REHABILITATION FOR DRIVING WHILE IMPAIRED OFFENDERS.** Health Canada, 2004. Supports treatment/education programmes for drink-drivers; reinstatement of license should be dependent on programme completion. *Copies: www.healthcanada.ca.*

### CRIMINAL JUSTICE

■ **THE EFFECTIVENESS OF CRIMINAL JUSTICE AND TREATMENT PROGRAMMES IN REDUCING DRUG-RELATED CRIME: A SYSTEMATIC REVIEW.** Holloway K. et al. Home Office, 2005. Meta-analytic review finds that therapeutic communities and drug courts have the strongest record. *Copies: www.homeoffice.gov.uk.*

■ **ADULT DRUG COURTS. EVIDENCE INDICATES RECIDIVISM REDUCTIONS AND MIXED RESULTS FOR OTHER OUTCOMES.** US Government Accountability Office, 2005. Mandatory treatment and testing supervised by specialist drug courts reduces crime while offenders are in the programme. *Copies: www.gao.gov.*

■ **QUASI-COMPULSORY TREATMENT OF DRUG DEPENDENT OFFENDERS: AN INTERNATIONAL LITERATURE REVIEW.** Stevens A. et al. Substance Use and Misuse: 2005, 40(3), p. 269-283 **DS** Research on legally coerced treatment originally published in English or four other European languages. *Related report also at www.kent.ac.uk.*

■ **THE ROLE OF POLICE IN PREVENTING AND MINIMISING ILLICIT DRUG USE AND ITS HARMS.** Spooner C. Commonwealth of Australia, 2004. Report for the Australian government on how policing can mitigate or amplify drug-related harm. *Copies: www.ndlrf.gov.au.*

### SOURCES

- AC** Apply Alcohol Concern, phone 020 7928 7377, or write to Alcohol Concern, 32-36 Loman Street, London SE1 0EE, England.  
**DS** Apply DrugScope, phone 0870 774 3682, e-mail info@drugscope.org.uk or write to DrugScope at address above.  
**BS** Available through bookshops.