“By 1980 [after fifteen years], compulsive eating was gone from my life. There has never been another binge. This leads me to doubt the 12-step gospel that the particular form of one’s addiction is an incurable disease that one must expect to bear till death. Addiction, in general, I believe, is definitive of the human condition. I equate it with the word often translated as ‘craving’ in the second noble truth. [First noble truth: Suffering pervades life. Second noble truth: The cause of suffering is craving.] The forms of addiction are legion and transformable. They are a major part of what we study when we ‘study the self.’” —Zen practitioner Linda Hess


From the publisher: “The key to ongoing freedom from alcoholism or any other kind of addiction is right before us, here and now, in the ordinary and perfect present moment. The problem is that addictions are often the result of our efforts to escape living in the present in the first place. Bill Alexander’s unique approach uses mindfulness, story, and meditation to help alcoholics and others learn to come back to the moment and to find healing there.”


On the author’s gaining control over addiction to alcohol, cocaine, and food through Yoga and meditation.


“By treating mind and body with approaches like acupuncture, yoga, and massage, people are achieving the inner balance necessary to let go of their bad habits.”


“In both Zen and 12 steps, we let go of self in order to reclaim our real self.” The author is a recovered alcoholic and the author of the book *The Zen of Recovery*, Los Angeles: Jeremy P. Tarcher/Perigee, 1993.


Abstract: Early in recovery many alcoholics have a difficult time remaining abstinent from alcohol. Anxiety and the obsession to drink often overwhelm them. A self-help group, Alcoholics Anonymous (AA), offers a 12-step guide assisting people in remaining sober, calming the anxiety, and eliminating the obsession to drink. Sustained sobriety, AA teaches comes by practicing the steps, especially 11 and 12. Step 11 suggests that through prayer and meditation a person can have a spiritual awakening and subsequent growth. Step 12 encourages the alcoholic to carry the message to those who are still suffering. Certain prayers are suggested, but not any particular type of meditation. This has not been thoroughly researched. This research used a meditation specifically designed to lessen the obsession to drink. Five AA subjects sober at least six months, were led in one session of the meditation and five AA subjects listened in one session to relaxing music. All ten had an open-ended interview to discover their perception of the session. Blood pressure, pulse rate, galvanic skin resistance (GSR), and perceived spirituality were measured before and after the meditation or music was introduced. Using either method there was no significant decrease in blood pressure in the ten subjects. The meditators’ pulse rates decreased more than the music listeners did. Neither the galvanic skin resistance nor perceived spirituality changed significantly in the one session for either the meditation or music participants. The open-ended interview process revealed all ten people thought the session had a positive effect on them and would use it again. Further study would involve the recommended forty-day practice of the meditation suggested for maximum benefit and comparing that to those just listening to relaxing music.


Abstract: A wakeful, hypometabolic state accompanies the practice of a relaxational, meditation technique called Transcendental Meditation. This state is characterized by decreased oxygen consumption, carbon dioxide elimination, respiratory rate and minute ventilation, with no change
in respiratory quotient. Arterial blood pH and base excess decrease slightly while arterial blood lactate markedly decreases. Systolic, diastolic, and mean arterial blood pressures remain unchanged. The electroencephalogram shows an increase in intensity of slow alpha waves and occasional theta wave activity. These physiologic changes differ from those occurring during sleep and are hypothesized to represent activation of an integrated hypothalamic response, which is associated with decreased sympathetic nervous system activity. A previously reported retrospective investigation noted decreased drug abuse and alcoholic intake associated with the practice of meditation. A portion of these same data are again reported.


“This meditation can totally reorganize the brain secretions . . . The head motion puts a pressure on the brain ducts to recirculate the spinal fluid into the blood stream. The circulation in the spinal fluid and meridians is often blocked at the base of the neck. This is particularly true of those who have used drug like marijuana.”


“The pressure exerted by the thumbs [in this meditation] triggers a rhythmic reflex current into the central brain. This current activates the brain area directly underneath the stem of the pineal gland. It is an imbalance in this area that makes mental and physical addictions seemingly unbreakable . . . The imbalance in this pineal area upsets the radiance of the pineal gland itself. It is this pulsating radiance that regulates the pituitary gland. Since the pituitary regulates the rest of the glandular system, the entire body and mind go out of balance. This meditation corrects the problem. It is excellent for everyone but particularly effective for rehabilitation efforts in drug dependence, mental illness, and phobic conditions.”


“This kriya develops willpower and gives the capacity to understand the elements of your personality.”
Addiction; Cocaine habit; Drug damage to nerves; Heroin convulsions; Marijuana brain. In Alice Clagett and Elandra Kirsten Meredith, eds., *Yoga for Health and Healing: From the Teachings of Yogi Bhajan*. Santa Monica, Calif.: Alice Clagett, 1994, pp. 46, 59, 63, 74, 82.


**BINGE EATING.** See “Eating Disorders” bibliography.

**A bit of spirituality to water down spirits.** *Indian Express*, 18 Jul 2002

“Can spiritual intervention bring about miracles which government officials can’t? The state government is trying to find out. Having failed in its endeavour to reduce addiction to liquor and tobacco-related products through its various programmes, the Prohibition Department of the Maharashtra government has now turned to spirituality. The minister concerned, Dr Dashrath Bhande, has directed the district collectors to seek the help of kirtankars and provachankars (those who deliver spiritual discourses through sermons or songs) to popularise de-addiction throughout the state. These de-addiction ambassadors will be given numerous benefits including free travel by the state transport buses for the said purpose. In addition, their efforts will be lauded through block, district and state-level annual awards which includes a citation and Rs 10,000 in cash. The minister has already presented the state-level Vesanmukti Seva Puraskar (De-addiction Seva Award) early this week to well known provachankars Gagangiri Maharaj, Baba Maharaj Satarkar, Pundalik Maharaj Bhosale and Satyapal Maharaj Chincolikar. All of them deliver early morning discourses on television’s popular channels.”


Abstract: A reminder that the five precepts— the most elementary guidelines of moral conduct offered by the Buddha—enjoin us not merely from drinking alcohol to excess, but from drinking any amount of alcohol. Clarity of mind and moral judgment are fundamental to the practice of Dhamma; alcohol easily undermines both.


The use of hashish decreased significantly, while self-acceptance, psychological stability, and ability to make positive adjustments increased significantly.

Browne, G. E., D. Fougée, A. Roxburgh, J. Bird, and H. D. Lovell-Smith. Improved mental and physical health and decreased use of prescribed and non-prescribed drugs through the
Transcendental Meditation program. Age of Enlightenment Medical Council, Christchurch, New Zealand; Heylen Research Centre, Auckland, New Zealand; and Dunedin Hospital, Dunedin, New Zealand, 1983. Collected Papers v3.247.

Findings: Improvements in physical and mental health correlated with duration and regularity of practice of the Transcendental Meditation technique. Decreased use of alcohol. Decreased use of cigarettes. Decreased drug abuse. Decreased need for anti-hypertensives, drugs for heart disease, sleep medications, tranquillisers, anti-depressants, anti-asthmatics, anti-histamines, analgesics, and drugs for hypertension, asthma, and heart disease.

**Buddhist 12 Steps.** URL: http://www.buddhist12steps.com/.


“This half-day retreat is designed for men and women who are actively involved in a 12-step program. In the privacy of the yurt at Green Gulch, we will explore the ways in which Buddhist teachings can support us in our daily lives. Meditation instruction and opportunities for sitting and walking meditation will be provided, and we will close with a 12-step meeting.”


Abstract: The purpose of this article is to examine the parallel in yoga, addiction, and the therapeutic process. Chemical dependency is a self-destructive process that weakens and unbalances the individual physically, emotionally, and spiritually. Yoga is a three-fold process that can rebuild these aspects of self, serving to counteract further progression of the disease. Yoga and meditation can be effective in helping the patient regain his/her vital center of energy, satisfaction and stability while making positive changes in their lives. Emphasis is placed on how the application of yoga in conjunction with treatment can accelerate the rehabilitative process.

Includes case histories.


Abstract: Twelve-step programs have stressed the importance of spiritual practices for over four decades. The spiritual principles embodied in the twelve-step programs may be key in their success of recovering addicts/alcoholics with an overall recovery rate of 34%. A literature search revealed little available data on spiritual principles and practices and their effects on long-term recovery from substance abuse. This study compared two groups of recovering addicts, those with one year of recovery and those with less than one year and a history of relapse. Spiritual practices were measured using a five-point Likert scale questionnaire. The results of the study indicated a relationship between spiritual practices and long-term recovery from substance abuse.

Examined the impact of MMPI Ego Strength (Es) level on the size of Pearson correlation coefficients computed between scores for post-treatment alcohol use and MMPI scores on standard and research scales and indices in 54 alcoholics (aged 22-64 yrs). Subjects completed a 4-wk inpatient treatment program that used psychotherapy, education, exercise, yoga, and relaxation training.


“Contains helpful guidance on overcoming addictions of all kinds.”

_________. How to work with addictions. Transcript. Portage, Mich.: Great Path Tapes and Books. (Complementary to the audiotape *On Not Scratching the Wound*.)


“Inspiring summary of much of Pema’s teaching. In questions and answers, there is guidance on working with addictions.”

_________. *Thinking as an Addiction: So, You Feel Funny Labeling Thoughts?* Audiotape. Portage, Mich.: Great Path Tapes and Books.

**Chodron, Venerable Thubten.** Leading ourselves out of addiction. Article available online: http://www.thubtenchodron.org/Prison_Dharma/Leading_Ourselves_Out_of_Addiction.html.

“Ven. Chodron was asked to speak to both the counselors and the clients of a drug rehab center. In preparation, she asked one of the incarcerated men with whom she corresponds to describe his experience of getting clean. The personal experience of someone who has gone through it sheds more light on the situation than years of theory. The following is extracted from what he wrote . . .”

**Chotok, Ngawang, with Jindati Doelter.** Reversing the energy of addiction. *Mandala Magazine*, Jan – Feb 1966. Article available online.


**COMPULSIVE EATING.** See “Eating Disorders” bibliography.


“Psychologist Paul C. Roud starts off his substance abuse prevention class at Granby Junior-Senior High School by running a wooden pestle around the edge of a Tibetan singing bowl, filling the library with a soothing, metallic sound.

“‘As the sound fades, bring your focus to your body,’ Roud said to the dozen eighth-graders relaxing on the library’s carpeted floor. ‘Notice the air leaving your chest and your nose.’

“He guided them into a meditative state, getting them to pay attention to different parts of their bodies and their breath.

“‘This state of relaxation can be yours whenever you want it . . . You can achieve this state on your own at any time,’ Roud said.

“Roud went on to explain many people use drugs and alcohol, because they cannot stand what they are feeling and want to change their state of consciousness.

“This is the second year the psychologist has taught transcendental meditation to eighth graders at the school.

“Research has shown students are prone to start using drugs and alcohol between eighth and ninth grade, according to student assistance counselor Charlene M. Korza, who said that is why the course is offered to all eighth graders at the school.

“The class also includes sessions on yoga led by school psychologist Ira Band.

“‘It’s relaxing. It’s fun to get away from the stress of school,’ 13-year-old Amanda E. Kershaw said of the class, which meets once a week. Kershaw said she has done some of the meditation and yoga she learned in the class at home.

“A psychologist with River Valley Counseling Center Inc. in Holyoke, Roud said learning to meditate or use yoga shows people how to get through a feeling, and also that life and feelings keep changing, he said.

“‘It’s about empowerment,’ Roud said of meditation.

“Korza said the course was developed and paid for through a Safe and Drug-free Schools and Communities grant from the federal Department of Education.
“Roud said there is considerable research that shows meditation reduces stress and that the school system is very enlightened by allowing its students to learn meditation and yoga.”

**Cool Waters.**

Integrates Buddhism and the 12-steps approach.

**Crews, Nick.** Taking it to the streets: Yoga center brings therapeutic approach to inner-city. *Yoga for Everybody*, Jul 2004, pp. 18-19.

On Nikki Myers’s CITYOGA Center for Yoga and Health in Indianapolis, Indiana, which offers a Yoga for Recovery classes to individuals in 12-step recovery programs (Myers is a recovering former substance abuser herself). For more information, see www.cityyoga.biz.


On Bikram Yoga teacher Michael Harris’s recovery from alcohol addiction with the help of Yoga.


**Dealing with our addictions.** A special section exploring the complex connection between spirituality and addictive behavior. *Yoga Journal*, Nov/Dec 1988, pp. 43-55, 101-103, 112. See also follow-up letters to the editor in the Mar/Apr 1989 issue, pp. 6-8.


**Desai, Amrit.** *A Yogic Perspective on the 12 Steps* audiotape. 1994.

“Having failed in its endeavour to reduce addiction to liquor and tobacco-related products through its various programmes, the Prohibition Department of the Maharashtra government has now turned to spirituality.

“The minister concerned, Dr Dashrath Bhande, has directed the district collectors to seek the help of *kirtankars* and *provachankars* (those who deliver spiritual discourses through sermons or songs) to popularise de-addiction throughout the state. These de-addiction ambassadors will be given numerous benefits including free travel by the state transport buses for the said purpose.

... 

“‘Today, all forms of addiction in the state stand at an estimated 70 per cent. This is extremely alarming. After due thought I feel that state policy, however strict, will not help. Only spirituality will,’ admitted the minister.”


Abstract: 82 psychiatric inpatients hospitalized for acute care were interviewed about their use of complementary and alternative medicine (CAM) modalities. The clinical diagnoses of respondents included Depressive Disorder (61%), Substance Abuse (26%), Schizophrenia (9%), and Anxiety Disorders (5%). Analysis indicated that 63% used at least one CAM modality within the previous 12 mo. The most frequently used modality was herbal therapies (44%), followed by mind-body therapies such as relaxation or mental imagery, hypnosis, meditation, biofeedback (30%), and spiritual healing by another (30%). Physical modalities such as massage, chiropractic treatment, acupuncture, and yoga were used by 21% of respondents. CAM therapies were used for a variety of reasons ranging from treatment of anxiety and depression to weight loss. However, most respondents indicated they did not discuss such use with their psychiatrist or psychotherapist.


Margaret Konopacki is responsible for the development of the Yoga program at Gatehouse and is in the process of developing a “12-step” Yoga system to be offered exclusively to Gatehouse residents. Gatehouse is a residential treatment center for young adults.


Abstract: This article reviews 24 studies on the benefits of Transcendental Meditation (TM) in treating and preventing misuses of chemical substances. Studies cover noninstitutionalized users, participants in treatment programs, and prisoners with histories of heavy use. All the studies showed positive effects of the TM program. Some of the survey-type studies were unable to exclude the possibility of self-selection or responder biases. However, longitudinal, random-assignment studies with objective measures also showed positive results. Taken together, these and other studies indicate the program simultaneously addresses several factors underlying chemical dependence, providing not only immediate relief from distress but also long-range improvements in well-being, self-esteem, personal empowerment, and other areas of psychophysiological health.


Yoga meditation was found to be beneficial for patients with a short history of illness, and flooding was effective for those with a long history.

Goenka, S. N. Freedom from addiction. Article available online: 

Goldberg, L. S., and G. Meltzer. Arrow-dot scores of drug addicts selecting general or yoga 

Recent studies had suggested that drug addicts are receptive to relaxation and meditation 
techniques as therapeutic modalities. They further suggested that Yoga therapy might alleviate 
psychosomatic disorders. As a previous investigation had shown that articular treatment 
modalities may be selected by certain personality types, it was considered valuable to specify 
further the selection of varying treatments in relations to personality attributes. Addicts therefore 
selected either a Yoga therapy program (10 subjects) or a general therapy programs (12 subjects). 
Significant differences were expected between groups on the Arrow-Dot Test and differences in 
number of requests for detoxification by 22 subjects at a private methadone clinic. The Yoga 
therapy approached consisted of relaxation techniques, yoga exercises, and mantra chanting. The 
general therapy approach focused on re-evaluation of personal and interpersonal goals.

Analysis by one-way analysis of variance showed no significant differences between groups. 
Thus the hypothesis that differing personalities may select particular treatments was not 
supported. However, although almost perfect attendance for 6 months in both groups suggested a 
high motivational level for all subjects, requests for detoxification came from 50% of the subjects 
in the Yoga group but only 16.6% of the subjects in the general therapy group. Requests for detox 
may therefore indicate selecting Yoga therapy to be associated with greater motivation toward 
rehabilitation.


On smoker and Yoga teacher Adele Copeland’s “Yoga for Smokers” classes. For more information, 
call 503-391-0567.

“Copeland believes that her positive attitude toward her habit negates whatever damage smoking 
does to her body . . . Though none of Copeland’s students have given up smoking altogether, they 
have all cut back, lost weight, and increased their lung capacity through practicing breathing 
exercises and meditation.”


Green, L., M. Fullilove, and R. Fullilove. Stories of spiritual awakening: The nature of spirituality 


“Can a therapy concocted of herbal medicine and spiritual practice cure hard-line drug addiction? A 
monk in Thailand has been doing just that for 20 years with an extraordinary 70 per cent success 
rate.”

prepublication excerpts at: http://www.kevingriffin.net/.
The author “investigates sobriety and mindfulness as complementary practices. The method of sobriety is the 12 Steps of Alcoholics Anonymous; the methods of mindfulness are the techniques of the Vipassana tradition in which Griffin trained.”


Brief article about a Soviet physician planning to open a drug and alcohol treatment center in Russia using Yoga and the 12-Steps Alcoholics Anonymous program.

**Harmony Place.** Malibu, California. URL: http://www.harmonyplace.net.

Harmony Place is housed on an 8-acre country estate atop a green hilltop in Malibu just steps from the Pacific Ocean. “The secluded and idyllic grounds connect clients to the spirituality of nature and help heal the soul. The facility operates 24 hours a day, 7 days a week with an expert team of dedicated professionals fully licensed and certified by the State of California, Department of Alcohol and Drug Program. Programs at Harmony Place include: Intervention, Clinical Program, 12-step program, Dual Diagnosis, Detoxification, Group Therapy, Family Therapy, Individual Therapy, Equine Assisted Psychotherapy, Yoga, Art Therapy, Relapse Prevention, Spirituality and After Care/Alumni.”


“The title has two meanings: living in a big city I had to create a backyard of my own in my little apartment. The second meaning is more psychological and spiritual: I had to clean my karma. After twelve years of drug abuse I had to change my life and start all over again . . .”


**Hathaway, Harmon.** Drug addiction. Available online at the American Yoga Foundation website: http://alignment.org/drugs.htm.

**Hatha yoga for illicit drug use.** This study received a grant from the National Institutes of Health (NIH) in 1994. Please contact NIH for further information.

**Heroin addicts get yoga lessons [in the U.K.].** *This Is London*, 30 May 2002. Article available online: http://www.thisislondon.co.uk/dynamic/news/story.html?in_review_id=599586&in. Summarized by Hindu Press International, 14 Jun 2002: “Jailed heroin addicts are being taught yoga and acupuncture as part of a unique rehabilitation program. Many who commit crimes to support drug habits are being given the holistic sessions to relieve stress and wean them off their addictions. Prisoners being rehabilitated back into the community and convicted criminals on probation are taking part in this trial program currently offered in Leicestershire and Rutland. Assistant chief officer of Leicestershire and Rutland Probation Service, Paul Hindson, said the program has proven a great success so far. He said: ‘I have not come across any other schemes in the country that have the range of interventions that we have. A drug user comes with a multitude of problems and we have a multitude of ways to deal with those problems. Some things we do are
standard process across the country, like group sessions and developing life skills. But we also have a number of alternative methods like yoga and acupuncture.”


Abstract: The purpose of this study is to explore in depth the lived experience of participating in yoga during an individual’s recovery from drugs or alcohol. Yoga is a potential alternative to traditional approaches to addiction and recovery. Eight subjects were interviewed using a phenomenological, open-ended interview method. They were individuals who were able to articulate their experience clearly, no longer perceived themselves to be actively addicted to drugs or alcohol, and who voluntarily used yoga during recovery. At the beginning of each interview, subjects were asked, “please describe for me, in as much detail as possible, your experience of using yoga during your recovery.” In order to offset the researcher’s bias that it would be a positive experience, subjects were also asked, “were there any negative associations to participating in yoga during your recovery?” The findings of this study are presented in Chapters 3 and 4. Individual depictions that give the reader the opportunity to hear each interviewee’s experience in her own words make up Chapter 3. Chapter 4 presents common themes derived from phenomenological data analysis methods. Three aspects of being in recovery as discussed by subjects are (1) alcoholism in the family of origin, (2) perfectionism and other alcoholic personality traits, and (3) the impact of Alcoholic’s Anonymous (AA). Three aspects of using yoga during recovery are (1) the role of the yoga teacher, (2) addiction to yoga, and (3)yoga as a reflection of mental or emotional states. Specific areas of life affected by using yoga during recovery were (1) physical, (2) mental or emotional, (3) spiritual, and (4) relationships. Parallels between yoga and recovery, as discussed by subjects, were (1) slow but long lasting changes, (2) intangibility or subjectivity of the experience, and (3) discipline or structure. Finally, there are themes regarding contraindications of using yoga during recovery. Although there are clinical studies, theoretical and philosophical writings, as well as practical guides written to address the population of people using yoga during recovery from drugs or alcohol, there is not a body of literature that focuses on the lived experience of those individuals. It is the researcher’s intention that others considering using yoga during their recovery from drugs or alcohol will benefit from this study.


From the website: “This training is intended for master’s level therapists in the areas of speech-language pathology, physical therapy, occupational therapy, mental health and other related disciplines who have a strong interest in providing holistic, movement based therapy. At the end of the six month training, the student will have the necessary tools, perspective and direct experience to provide effective and rewarding yoga based therapy.

“With six hours of weekly direct observation of and participation in Integrated Movement Therapy sessions, bi-weekly meetings with instructors, direct instruction in the areas yoga, language and learning, mental health, as well specific disorders, our training program is comprehensive and demanding. Because it is also highly individualized, it is unmatched in quality . . .”

“You will come away from this training with the knowledge, spirit and confidence to effectively use a yoga based therapy approach in your work. You will understand and be able to implement
each of the six core principles of Integrated Movement Therapy, and will have plenty of ideas for creatively incorporating them into your therapy sessions. You will gain an understanding of a yoga based, wellness, perspective and be able to see your students in a new light. You will learn about specific disorders, including autism, ADHD, stroke, addiction, depression, Parkinson’s Disease, anxiety and head injury, and how to use a yoga based approach with them.”

**About Integrated Movement Therapy:** “Integrated Movement Therapy™ is a holistic therapy approach for people of all ages, from infancy to adulthood. Using yoga based movement and breathing techniques, Master’s level therapists address the unique challenges of people with special needs in a calm, supportive and nurturing environment . . .

“Integrated Movement Therapy (I.M.T.) was developed by Molly Kenny, founder and director of the Samarya Center, combining her experience and background in speech-language pathology, mental and behavioral health, and yoga. I.M.T. has been used successfully to promote wellness and positive self-image in individuals with autism spectrum disorders, Asperger’s Syndrome, AD(H)D, Prader-Willi syndrome, dyspraxia, depression and anxiety, as well as with stroke survivors, individuals experiencing profound grief, those recovering from illness or injury, and adults living with auto-immune diseases . . .

“The I.M.T. approach is based on two overarching philosophies: that the student is already perfect and whole, and that the student and teacher are both unlimited in their abilities to heal. Supporting these beliefs is an empirically sound, brain-based therapy in which the therapist combines skills from conventional Master’s level training with yoga philosophy and practice to help the student reach his or her highest potential for a rich and peaceful life.

“Integrated Movement Therapy was developed to capitalize on the positive effects of movement generally and yoga specifically, and to directly affect frontal lobe efficiency, thereby increasing physical and cognitive functioning and improving therapeutic outcomes. I.M.T. has six core principles: Structure and continuity, Physical stimulation, Social interaction, Language Stimulation, Self-calming (attention/concentration/focus), and Direct self-esteem building. Each of these principles corresponds to specific areas of challenge, and therefore has specific positive effects in the therapeutic environment.

“At its most deconstructed level, Integrated Movement Therapy works because it addresses each aspect of the individual using a highly structured, multi-modality teaching method. However there is another integral aspect to this approach that, in the end, is truly the heart of this therapy and why it works. Yoga based therapy by definition, should have a spiritual and philosophical bent that separates it from conventional clinical interventions; that is, a focus on the divine being that exists within each individual, no matter how distracting the external manifestations of the diagnosis might be. Integrated Movement Therapy works on the principle that encouraging and developing the self-esteem of the individual is the single most important factor in increasing skills in all areas. To this end, in our therapy we focus on what is right, the goodness or divinity of the individual, and write our goals and develop specific therapy programs to increase these positive aspects.”


“Another researcher at this institute, Dr A Vedamurthachar, found this exercise proving effective at the de-addiction unit as well. The 30 alcoholics, who agreed to participate in the study, were found to have reduced levels of depression and anxiety, he said.”


This prospective study of high school and college students found that the use of marijuana, hashish, wine and beer, and “hard liquor” decreased significantly in subjects practicing the Transcendental Meditation technique and decreased more in those regularly practicing.


“Several individuals in the study stand out in my mind. Once couple who had been patients at a methadone clinic requested to be de-toxified from the drug during the time that they were taking Yoga classes. They felt that their taking the classes was directly related to their desire to stop using methadone. This couple attended all classes that were offered and both of them became gainfully employed following their detoxification from methadone.

“Another subject was so amazed by his sudden release from chronic headaches that he expressed himself in such a way as to imply that he had indeed experienced a miracle . . . this subject remained free of headaches by continued practice of relaxation techniques and exercises for reducing neck tension.

“Another patient managed to stop smoking and he attributed this to the Yoga classes. He found that the breathing exercises were very helpful to him when he was undergoing his withdrawal from nicotine. He also felt that his ability to stop smoking was directly related to his experience
with Yoga. Several women who had gained weight as a result of methadone found that they began to lose weight with the practice of Yoga . . .”

__________. Yoga can help the ex-heroin addict ease off of methadone. Yoga Journal, 1982, 3(4).


Abstract: The efficacy of relaxation training as a treatment for alcohol and drug abuse is reviewed, and directions for future research derived. Such use of relaxation procedures, notably progressive muscular relaxation and meditation, has been widespread and is premised on the assumptions that substance abuse is causally linked to anxiety and that anxiety can be reduced by relaxation training. However, the evidence suggests that such precipitating anxiety is limited to interpersonal-stress situations involving diminished perceived personal control over the stressor, and that alcohol and other drugs are often consumed for their euphoric rather than tranquilizing effects. Consequently, the empirical support for the effectiveness of relaxation training as a treatment for substance abuse in general is equivocal. As well, the existing outcome studies suffer from numerous methodological and conceptual inadequacies. In cases of demonstrated effectiveness, increased perceived control is a more plausible explanation than is decreased anxiety.


As reviewed by Belleruth Naparsek in the 17 September issue of Health Journeys Newsletter: “When psycho-educational groups were compared to groups that taught progressive relaxation and visualization in an outpatient chemical dependency treatment program, both interventions showed similar improvement on the 76 subjects in the study. Both groups met for 6 one-hour sessions over the space of 3 weeks.

“Pre- and posttest instruments used to compare levels of emotional arousal, self-efficacy, and coping resources were State-Trait Anxiety Inventory (STAI), the Situational Confidence
Questionnaire (SCQ), and the Coping Resources Inventory (CRI)

“T-tests revealed that there were significant pretest/posttest improvements (p < .05) for both groups on almost all the dependent measures. However, there were impressive differences among those subjects who achieved greater degrees of relaxation and increased involvement in the imagery session.

“The researcher concludes that although there has been little empirical research to evaluate the effectiveness of psycho-education treatment provided by chemical dependency treatment programs, the findings support that psycho-education treatment and relaxation/imagery training produce positive treatment effects; and that it appears that combining the two interventions may yield even stronger results, with perhaps imagery being the intervention of choice in some cases.”


Investigated the types of physical activity programs (PAPs) offered in substance abuse treatment facilities. . . PAPs, such as bowling, adventure, and relaxation/yoga, were also offered by a few facilities.


A marked reduction in anxiety and drug use was measured in subjects after they began the practice of the Transcendental Meditation technique, and the effect was cumulative over time.


About 3HO’s program.


Abstract: Research literature on the use of yoga within substance misuse treatment is reviewed with the data containing empirical evidence of outcome, descriptions of practice and valued reason. A general overview of yoga is given followed by a closer look at four different treatment settings. Specific yoga techniques used within the detoxification and rehabilitation process are presented together with an examination of breath control, relaxation and meditation, postures, diet and chanting. Results strongly suggest that yoga produces positive motivational change towards rehabilitation by people currently misusing substances and is a quick, effective and cost efficient
method of detoxification. Reports that yoga used in conjunction with counseling and group work acts as a catalyst in the healing process are supported.


Abstract: Intravenous drug users often have many health conditions in addition to their drug addiction, yet may be isolated from conventional sources of care. They have never before been examined for their use of complementary and alternative medicine (CAM) therapies. Our purpose was to study the prevalence and predictors of CAM use among persons with a history of intravenous drug use through a cross-sectional survey of intravenous drug users examining their utilization of health services, including CAM therapies. A total of 548 persons with a history of intravenous drug use, recruited from a needle-exchange program and a methadone maintenance clinic, both in Providence, Rhode Island, participated. Overall prevalence of any CAM use in the past 6 months, frequency of use of individual named CAM therapies and domains, and demographic and clinical characteristics associated with CAM users, reasons for CAM use and self-perceived effectiveness of CAM were also measured. Of the 548 participants, 45% reported use of at least one CAM therapy. The top three therapies—religious healing, relaxation techniques, and meditation—were all from the mind-body domain. Having a higher education and lower self-rated health were the two strongest predictors of CAM use, followed by having a regular doctor or clinic, being white and younger. There was a high level of self-perceived effectiveness of CAM therapies (4.1 on a scale of 1-5), and CAM users were likely to use CAM for reasons related to their addiction.


Argues that the release of stress and tension in the nervous system and the physical and mental well-being produced thereby are apparently responsible for the very encouraging reduction in drug abuse among meditators.


“To the compulsive smoker Yoga offers a way to stop . . . Yoga can succeed where other methods have failed, because it is an effective substitute for smoking . . . Giving up smoking permanently can only work when the person is ready to accept freedom from nicotine joyfully instead of dejectedly. That is why the substitute for smoking must prove satisfying and represent purpose.
Yoga is that kind of substitute . . . Yoga will train your body and mind to want to stop smoking. When you begin Yoga breathing exercises, you will be bringing more air into your lungs than they have known for years . . . with the increased supply of oxygen in the system, the desire to smoke is killed . . . The other exercises, too, will begin to have their effect on your body, providing you with a new sense of physical well-being that you won’t want to decrease by smoking. Gradually our body will begin to reject cigarettes . . .”


McLanahan, Amrita Sandra, and Jyothi Jody Forman. Overcoming addictions, Integral Health Series workshop, Yogaville, Buckingham, Virginia.


Repeated measures analysis showed maintenance of the gains obtained in the original study.


About Frank White, who attributes his recovery from alcoholism to Yoga and Alcoholics Anonymous, and who now teaches Yoga.


About Sadhu Singh Khalsa’s Alcohol Drug and Education Program (ADEP) for patients with dual diagnosis.

“Once plagued with painful personal challenges including bulimia, drugs, alcohol, and tobacco, Forrest now teaches yoga as an integrated practice and sacred personal path.”


Abstract: This paper discusses the treatment of a woman recovering from alcoholism using an integrative therapy approach. Understanding the client’s clinical profile from an insight-oriented psychoanalytic perspective and using holistic therapy techniques were the primary tools used during treatment. Breathwork, Phoenix Rising Yoga Therapy, journaling and letter writing proved to be most beneficial for this client, who experienced post-traumatic stress and conversion disorder.


The purpose of this paper is to survey and evaluate some of the newer holistic methods in regard to the treatment of the drug addict/user and alcoholic: herbs; acupuncture; nutritional therapy; megavitamins; bodywork; yoga; biofeedback.


Abstract: The discussion on yoga and psychiatric treatment covers the following topics: (1) yoga and psychology; (2) drug therapy and yoga; (3) psychotherapy and yoga; (4) hypnosis and yoga; (5) therapy of both alcohol [and] drug addiction and yoga; (6) diagnosis and yoga; and (7) personal use in psychiatric patients.


Contents: What is substance dependence?, Craving (Practice for: overcoming negative thoughts, seetkari and sheetali pranayama), Impaired self-control (Practice for: self-awareness, physical self-control, counteracting negative emotions, antar mouna, increased self-confidence and self-esteem, acceptance of things which cannot be changed, surrender), Withdrawal (Practice for: yogic relaxation), Increased tolerance (Practice for: naikan, thankfulness meditation), Progressive neglect of alternative pleasures or interests (Practice for: Your favorite yogic exercise)


Contents: Persisting with substance abuse despite clear evidence of harmful consequences (Practice for: predicting consequences, yama and niyama, techniques of self-care, metta [loving kindness meditation]), Yoga for the relatives of addicted people and therapists, Conclusion, Appendix (substance dependence, diagnostic guidelines, metta, upekkha, examples of yoga lessons for addicted people)


“...In addition to strategies of stress prevention at the societal level also strategy at the individual level is important (e.g. relaxation training, yoga, psychotherapy) . . .”

__________, and L. Csemy. *Craving*. FIT IN a Sportpropag, 1999, p. 76. [In Czech.]


__________, and Borivoj Projes. [Physical exercise and yoga in prevention and treatment of addictive diseases]. *Cas Lek Cesk*, January 2005, 144(1):53-55. Author email: nespor@plbohnice.cz. [In Czech. Available in English from author, nespor.k@seznam.cz.]

Abstract: Prevention of addictive diseases should be complex and systematic and it should include training of social skills, decision-making skills, family intervention, etc. Similarly, effective treatment is usually long-term, systematic and complex. Physical exercise and yoga can be useful components of comprehensive prevention and treatment programmes. On the other hand, competitive professional sport rather increases the number of risk factors for substance-related problems. Practical experience with the use of yoga in substance dependent patients and pathological gambles are mentioned. One of the advantages of yoga is the integration of physical exercise and relaxation.


Contents: Introduction: Recovery from addiction using Transcendental Meditation and Maharishi Ayur-Veda; Treating and preventing alcohol, nicotine, and drug abuse through Transcendental Meditation: A review and statistical meta-analysis; A neuroendocrine mechanism for the reduction of drug use and addictions by Transcendental Meditation; Transcendental Meditation as an epidemiological approach to drug and alcohol abuse: Theory, research, and financial impact evaluation; Spirituality, recovery, and Transcendental Meditation; Effectiveness of broad spectrum approaches to relapse prevention in severe alcoholism: A long-term, randomized, controlled trial of Transcendental Meditation, EMG biofeedback and electronic neurotherapy; The role of the Transcendental Meditation technique in promoting smoking cessation: A longitudinal study; Case histories: Using the Transcendental Meditation program with alcoholics and addicts; Removing the motivator: A holistic solution to substance abuse [utilizing Transcendental Meditation]; Importance of reducing stress and strengthening the host in drug detoxification: The potential offered by Transcendental Meditation; Introducing Maharishi Ayur-Veda into clinical practice; Clinical applications of Maharishi Ayur-Veda in chemical dependency disorders; The application of Maharishi Ayur-Veda to mental health and substance abuse treatment; The family practitioner and the treatment of alcoholism through Maharishi Ayur-Veda: A case report; Implementation of the Transcendental Meditation program and Maharishi Ayur-Veda to prevent alcohol and drug abuse among juveniles at risk; Possessing the self: Maharishi Ayur-Veda and the process of recovery from addictive diseases; Resources on the Transcendental Meditation program and Maharishi Ayur-Veda


*Oprah television program*. April 6, 2001 episode on the healing power of Yoga.

See the segment in which Maria tells how Yoga helped her kick her smoking habit and completely changed her life.

All meditating counselors reported that they benefited personally from the Transcendental Meditation program by gaining more energy and relaxation, and all recommended that it be used as a drug abuse treatment modality.


“Yoga is a new solution to an old problem: how to keep former drug addicts off drugs and the streets. Traditionally, drug addicts are treated with medication and counseling, Niedermayer said. They can participate in inpatient and outpatient rehab services, but many former users relapse within a year of being released.

“Westley Clark, director of the federal Center for Substance Abuse Treatment, said research has shown that acu-detox and meditation techniques, including yoga, help addicts of cocaine, marijuana, alcohol and heroin, focus better and fight cravings . . .

“About a dozen people show up for the counseling sessions every day, people like McLaughlin who hope to change their lives.

“She started using marijuana and cocaine at age 12. Now, at 41, she practices acupuncture and yoga.

“‘Yoga gives you tools such as breathing properly to help calm the mind and handle situations that may be stressful or even uncomfortable,’ said Paige Funston, an instructor for the council.

“She said those skills help recovering addicts cope with withdrawal . . .”


“The Kanpur district jail administration is using the power of Yoga to de-addict the inmates of the jail.

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“Jail Superintendent S N Lal said here yesterday that the Yogic training was being administered to the inmates by the ‘Brahmakumari for Yoga Trainers’ once a week.

“Being from the world of crime and drugs, majority of the prisoners were addicted to some psychotropic substance and were adapting proactively to Yoga to get rid of their dangerous habit, Mr Lal added.”


“The areas of stress, . . . , substance abuse . . . accounted for the greatest amount of research. Research involvement in the area of psychodiagnostics and with traditional clinical groups like psychoses and neuroses seemed to be on the wane. There was clear evidence of emerging research interest in the areas of behavior modification, yoga, and neuropsychology.”


One of Sri Bala Ratnam’s students used this tape to successfully overcome her addiction to smoking.


Patients (N = 108) in a study of cocaine-specific coping skills training (CST), which was found to reduce cocaine use during a 3-month follow-up, were followed for an additional 9 months. CST
involved coping skills training in the context of high-risk situations. Control treatment used meditation-relaxation. Both were added to comprehensive private substance abuse treatment. Patients in CST who relapsed had significantly fewer cocaine use days than did the control group during the first 6 months, then both conditions did equally well. Patients in CST also drank alcohol more frequently in the last 6 months than did contrast patients but did not differ in heavy drinking days. For cocaine use outcomes, no interaction of treatment was found with gender, education, route of administration, drug use severity, sociopathy, or depression. Implications include the need to investigate different lengths and combinations of treatment.

**Sahaj Yoga (Shakti Das).** General detoxification, drug detoxification, rehabilitation, “rehabitation,” and yoga—a functional wholistic approach. Article available online: http://www.rainbowbody.net/Purity/habitation.htm.

___________. Tapas and addiction: Freeing up energy for spiritual evolution and activation. Article available online: http://www.rainbowbody.net/HeartMind/Tapas.htm.

Author’s synopsis: the presentation of addiction as attachment in the yogic sense and answering the question, Is religion simply another addiction, while yoga is liberation? Tapas as the remedy for neurotic sublimation


**Savitananda Saraswati, Swami.** St. George and the dragon. *Yoga* (Sivananda Math), Jan 2001, 12(1):28-33. (On overcoming our lower nature.)


In this prospective study of drug abusers in rehabilitation center, the Transcendental Meditation program was shown to be effective in reducing the use of all classes of drugs.


This randomized, controlled trial showed that alternative methadone treatment is not more effective than conventional methadone treatment even though some patients benefited more from the alternative therapy.

Marijuana use declined in people practicing the Transcendental Meditation technique; the amount of decline was correlated with the number of months they had been practicing.


People practicing the Transcendental Meditation technique showed significant decreases in alcohol consumption as compared with matched controls.


“. . . These techniques merit further study under controlled conditions and could help lead to new approaches for the treatment of OCD and perhaps other impulse control and anxiety-related disorders.”


Course objective: At the conclusion of this course, the participant should be able to (1) learn specific meditation techniques for treating OCD, anxiety disorders, depression, grief, fear, anger, and addictions and (2) be familiar with published results showing efficacy for new and “treatment refractory” OCD and OC spectrum and other comorbid patients.


Points out methodological problems with studies using retrospective sampling, the method used in several studies of Transcendental Meditation and substance abuse.


Discusses the use of Yoga as part of the treatment process at Passages residential treatment center in Malibu.


“I always wanted to take a yoga class, but I knew I’d be judged harshly—maybe ostracized—because I was a smoker,” says Jo Walston, a former health-food-store employee who lives in Austin, Tex. Hence Walston’s unique new concept: a yoga class for smokers. Held in the smoking lounge of an Austin coffeehouse, the class provides smokers with a peaceful yoga space in a judgmental world full of what Walston delicately calls ‘Nw Age Nazis.’ In practice, disappointingly, this doesn’t mean students are using new powers of body control to, say, raise cigarettes to their lips using their feet. It does mean that students are allowed to light up in class (no one has yet), but within limits. ‘Only between Yoga positions,’ says Walston.”


Connects the twelve steps to Jungian psychology, yoga, the Tao, tribal rites of passage, etc.


“Addiction can harm our physical and spiritual health and deeply affect those who love us. But people who struggle with dependencies are finding new hope through the calming and centering effects of yoga.”

“Yoga is a therapeutic alternative for addicts who, after years of quitting and relapsing, have developed stubborn intellectual responses and resistance to talk therapy.”

“Jen Levin started smoking cigarettes when she was 15. ‘I always used to say that my favorite cigarette was the cigarette after yoga,’ says the 32 year-old playwright from Los Angeles. She practiced hatha yoga sporadically and continued her pack-a-day habit until she made a commitment to try Kundalini Yoga at the Golden Bridge yoga studio in Los Angeles. There, Gurmukh Kaur Khalsa pushes her students to their physical and mental limits with vigorous breaths-of-fire and her propensity to teach one asana for up to 11 minutes. ‘As I saw my body and mind get stronger, smoking began to make me sick, and it no longer made sense,’ Levin says. ‘I realized that if I could endure the pain in my body, then I could deal with the pain of not having a cigarette.’

‘Levin used yoga as a tool to help rid herself of her addiction. Similarly, addiction specialists in private practice, rehabilitation programs, and 12-step recovery programs are starting to recognize that the mind-body-spirit approach of yoga is a great adjunct therapy to conventional treatments
for drug, alcohol, and food abuse as well as addictive behaviors like gambling and shopping. ‘Yoga treats the biology and the psychology of an addict,’ explains New York City addiction psychotherapist Mary Margaret Frederick, Ph.D. ‘Addicts are profoundly out of control internally. They have knee-jerk panic reactions and tempers. The will and determination yoga requires helps people regain control over their body and their mind.’”


“Chronic alcoholics were . . . subjected to different methods of treatment [including] Yoga and meditation . . .”


Studies on the use of TM in aberrant behaviors such as alcoholism and other drug addiction are reviewed.


Thanissaro Bhikkhu. Ecstasy is not the goal: An interview with Thanissaro Bhikkhu. Article available online.

“A Buddhist teacher [talks about] why drugs are a hindrance, not a help, on the path to realization.”


The TM group displayed more significant and comprehensive results (decreases in neuroticism/stability, extraversion/introversion, and drug use) than did the progressive relaxation group.


**Warde, Stacey.** Bikram Yoga: Yoga practice turns ex-addict into career teacher. *Massage & Bodywork*, Dec/Jan 203, pp. 36-44.

On Nanoshka Hedgeman, former prisoner and addict.


**Weller, Stella.** Addiction. In Stella Weller, *Yoga Therapy*. London: Thorsons, 1995, p. 86. (See also anecdote about practitioner who quit smoking via Yoga on pp. 6-7.)


Points out methodological problems associated with studies of meditation and addiction.


Abstract: Analysis of the relationship of altered states of consciousness (ASC) to culture and human psychobiology provides guidance for new approaches for addressing substance abuse and dependence. While Western cultures have a long history of repressing ASC, cross-cultural research illustrates the ubiquitous human drive to alter consciousness and the near universality of institutionalized healing practices based on ASC. These may reflect adaptive mechanisms that do not operate in contemporary societies as they did in the human past. Effectiveness of ASC procedures in treating substance dependence is found in ethnomedical treatments of addiction, the addiction literature, Alcoholics Anonymous, and the physiological effects of shamanistic practices. A review of shamanic therapeutic mechanisms illustrates their applicability to addressing the psychodynamics of drug addiction. The utility of natural ASC practices to reduce substance dependence problems is illustrated by clinical research on the treatment of drug dependence through the use of meditative practice and models of their psychobiological dynamics. Shamanistic practices induce the relaxation response, enhance theta-wave production, and stimulate endogenous opioid and serotonergic mechanisms and their mood elevating effects. Directions of a shamanic based ASC therapy for drug dependence are suggested.

Results of a questionnaire concerning pre- and post-TM drug use indicated a dramatic decrease in drug abuse.


Yoga. Journal of Sivananda Math, Munger, Bihar, India. The November 2000 issue is dedicated to Yoga and addiction. Articles include (see details for each article elsewhere in this bibliography): Yoga and addiction/Niranjanananda Saraswati. Addiction—a systems approach (issues for Yoga teachers)/Price and Hand. Yoga in addictive diseases—practical experience/Nespor, Backyard rituals/Hartog.

Yoga Biomedical Trust. Statistics from “Recovery and rejuvenation.” http://www.urt.org/recovery.html. Yoga helped in 74% of 219 cases of tobacco addiction and in 100% of 26 cases of alcoholism.

__________. Asthma classes. URL: http://freespace.virgin.net/yogabio.med/ (click on “Yoga Therapy & How to Try It,” then click on “Index-Alphabetical,” then click on “Addiction”).


Excellent article on the benefits that can accrue to prisoners, including those with addiction problems, through the practice of Yoga in prison. Also mentions a Yoga program these same prisoners can attend post release, a very important part of the process.

Yoga is best for George. The Sun (U.K.), 16 May 2005.

“George Best has taken up yoga to beat the bottle.

“The alcoholic is practising the Buddhist art five times a day and meditates to beat his cravings for booze.

“Counsellors at the Tony Adams’ Sporting Chance clinic encouraged the football idol to try the exercises whenever he wanted a drink.

“A pal said: ‘He realises this could be his last chance.’

“He checked into the clinic in Forest Mere, Hants, after weeks of boozing.

“Doctors warned the former Man Utd star he had weeks to live unless he went on the wagon.”

Video


Of Related Interest


From the publisher: “A habitual movement as common as nail-biting or toe-tapping can be the key to pulling out addictive behavior by roots. These unconscious movement ‘tags’ indicate the places where our bodies have become split off from our psyches. When brought to consciousness and confronted they will often tell us very plainly where our psychological suffering originated, showing us where to begin reconnecting body and soul. Christine Caldwell, a pioneer in the field of somatic psychology, has created an original model for working with body wisdom called the Moving Cycle. She describes how this form of therapy has worked effectively in her own practice, and she provides practical techniques to show how we can learn to listen to what our bodies are telling us, confront addictive habits, and learn to celebrate our inherent wisdom and elegance.”


Cordeiro, J. Une novella perspective dans le traitement des toxicomanes, la relaxation. *Annales Medico-Psychologiques*, 1971, pp. 11-17. [In French.]


Fourman, Mark. The uses of smoking: An Integrated Awareness perspective. Article available online: http://www.byregion.net/articles-healers/Uses_of_Smoking.html
“Why does nicotine replacement therapy (nicotine patch and gum) only have a 7% success rate for quitting smoking? Why do people on nicotine replacement therapy still crave cigarettes? Clearly, there are reasons for smoking that go far beyond simple chemical addiction. This article, based on The Body’ Map of Consciousness, explores the uses of smoking. It gives you some pointers for how you can go about quitting successfully.

“People use smoking to avoid feeling unpleasant emotions such as sadness, grief and anxiety. This is accomplished partly through the chemical effects of nicotine on the brain. (Many other articles discuss this, so I won’t go into it here.) More important for this article is the interaction of smoking with the Body’s Map of Consciousness . . .”


Abstract: Existing research confirms a need to seek strategies that combine the strengths of researchers and community to create effective prevention curricula for youth. This article describes how components of Participatory Action Research (PAR) methodology were used to create the keepin’ it REAL Drug Resistance Strategies (DRS) curriculum designed for a diverse Southwestern US youth population. School community participants were involved in multiple stages of creation and implementation. The research team developed a systematic process for creating lessons built upon strong theoretical foundations, while teachers and students contributed lesson modifications and evaluations, suggestions for supplemental activities, and the actual production of instructional videos. While the experimental design and some methodological constraints served to limit school community involvement in some phases of the DRS project, this article describes how PAR methodology ensured that researchers collaborated with school community members to create this promising drug prevention curriculum. Results of the REAL experiment, discussion of the use of this methodology, implications and recommendations for future research also are included.


**Ivanhoe Newswire.** Are women more likely to become addicted? Ivanhoe Newswire, 19 Nov 2001.

A new study conducted by Jill B. Becker, University of Michigan, shows estrogen may make the brain more vulnerable to addictive habits . . . Becker says, “Our results show that estrogen not only affects the acute response to cocaine, but also intensifies the long-term changes that occur in the brain.” She goes on to say this study may help scientists understand better the basic neural process that lead to drug addiction and explain why some are more prone to addiction than others. Results of the study were presented at the Meeting of the Society for Neuroscience in San Diego, November 14, 2001.

Abstract: Interest in adolescent smoking cessation has increased dramatically over the past several years, as researchers and practitioners have acknowledged the high rates of adolescents who smoke regularly and the low probability that adolescents who are regular smokers will stop on their own. The evidence base behind smoking cessation interventions for adolescents is also now starting to grow, but unfortunately, the studies to date have frequently been plagued by major methodological problems. This paper summarises research conducted on adolescent smoking cessation, notes some of the methodological limitations of prior work, highlights approaches that show promise, discusses some of the challenges involved in addressing adolescent smoking cessation, and makes recommendations for future work.


Atlanta, Georgia, April 11, 2002: Lighting up a cigarette, according to a study recently completed by the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, is costing the country US$3,391 a year per smoker, or $157.7 billion annually for the whole nation. Breaking the cost down, the CDC study estimates that the habit costs $3.45 per pack for medical costs incurred by the smoker and another $3.73 per pack for lost job productivity as a result of early deaths. Considering that in 1999, a pack of cigarettes cost $2.92, society is nowhere near recovering the cost from taxes on the product. Dr. David Fleming, the CDC’s acting director says, “The fact that nearly half a million Americans lose their lives each year because of smoking-related illnesses is a significant public health tragedy.” The article goes on to list other statistics such as, “Smoking causes an average man to lose more than 13 years of life and an average woman to lose 14.5 years” and that
“Smoking during pregnancy causes 1,000 infant deaths each year.”


Abstract: Objective: The Global Youth Tobacco Survey (GYTS) is a worldwide collaborative surveillance initiative that includes governments and non-governmental organisations under the leadership of the World Health Organization/Tobacco Free Initiative (WHO/TFI) and the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention/Office on Smoking and Health (CDC/OSH). The GYTS was developed to enhance the capacity of countries to design, implement, and evaluate tobacco control and prevention programmes. Methods: The GYTS employs a standard methodology where self-administered questionnaires, consisting of a set of core questions, are completed by a representative school based sample of students primarily between the ages of 13–15 years. Results: Data are presented from 75 sites in 43 countries and the Gaza Strip/West Bank region. Current use of any tobacco product ranges from 62.8% to 3.3%, with high rates of oral tobacco use in certain regions. Current cigarette smoking ranges from 39.6% to less than 1%, with nearly 25% of students who smoke, having smoked their first cigarette before the age of 10 years. The majority of current smokers want to stop smoking and have already tried to quit, although very few students who currently smoke have ever attended a cessation programme. Exposure to advertising is high (75% of students had seen pro-tobacco ads), and exposure to environmental tobacco smoke (ETS) is very high in all countries. Only about half of the students reported that they had been taught in school about the dangers of smoking during the year preceding the survey. Conclusions: Global youth tobacco use is already widespread throughout the world, but there is great variation among nations. Valid and reliable data on the extent of youth tobacco use, and correlates of use, are essential to plan and evaluate tobacco prevention programmes. The GYTS has proven the feasibility of an inexpensive, standardised, worldwide surveillance system for youth tobacco use. The GYTS will be expanded to the majority of countries in the next few years, and can serve as a baseline for monitoring and evaluating global and national tobacco control efforts.

**Woodman, Marion.** *Addiction to Perfection*. Toronto, Ontario, Canada: Inner City Books, 1982.

**Ongoing Research**

**Mark Griffiths**  
restorativej@optusnet.com.au  
Is doing his masters of social work on Yoga and addiction, and is bringing Yoga teachers together in Victoria, Australia, to explore developing a program in prisons and drug treatment centers.  
Contacted IAYT 8/12/02.

**Stephanie Holthaus, M.A.**  
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Writing her Ph.D. dissertation on doing Yoga with patients undergoing drug detoxification.  
Contacted IAYT 5/29/02.

**G. Alan Marlatt, Ph.D.**  
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Studying effects of meditation on alcohol use and recidivism. Funded by NIH (NIAAA).