

## **Substance Abuse Treatment: New Research**

Substance abuse is one of the most serious problems in the United States. Because substance abuse, especially heroin addiction and cocaine abuse, is associated with adverse health and criminogenic consequences, evaluating the effectiveness of treatment programs designed to reduce these problems is crucial. This article reviews the literature on new research assessing the outcomes of substance abuse treatment interventions, with particular emphasis placed on adolescent programs and interventions for individuals who have been processed by the criminal justice system. Examining the benefits of interventions designed for adolescents is particularly urgent considering the steady decline in the onset of deviant behavior over the past 30 years, the strong relationship between the precocity of deviance and frequency, severity, variety, and persistence of drug abuse and crime throughout adolescence and adulthood, and the potential that such programs have for interrupting both addiction and criminal careers. Furthermore, studies on the benefits of interventions for parolees, probationer, and prisoner are especially warranted given the burden on the criminal justice system caused by a vast influx of drug-involved offenders. Within each are of study, methodological problems, suggestions for future research, and policy implications are discussed.