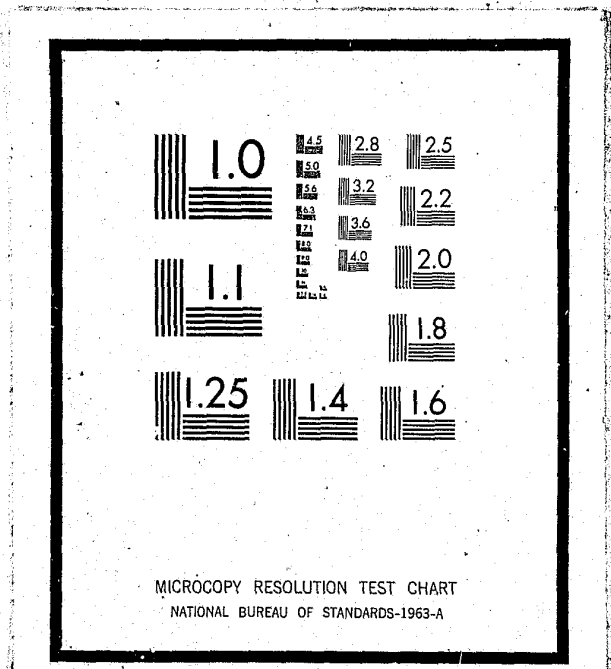


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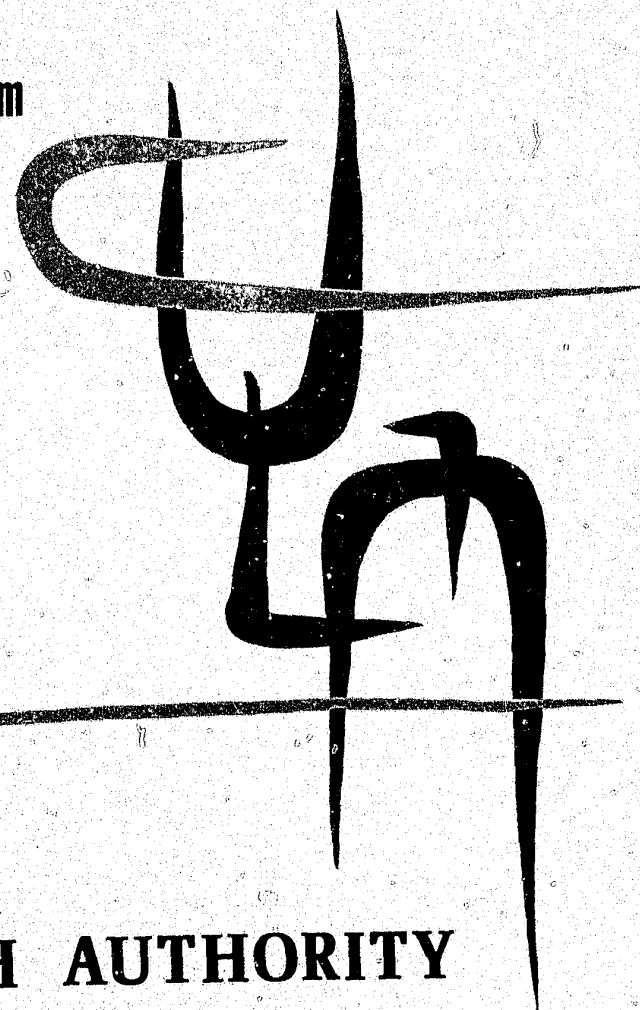
## DRUG ABUSE and INTERPERSONAL VALUES

Community-Centered Drug Program

Research Report No. 3

*April, 1974*

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YOUTH AUTHORITY

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E R R A T A

Page 5: The frequencies shown in Table 2 were transposed to the wrong rows. Thus, the  $x^2$  shown for race in the fifth line at the top of the page should read: ( $x^2 = 30.41$ ,  $p < .001$ ), and the table should appear as:

Table 2  
Comparison of Drug Abusers and Non-abusers  
by Race

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<u>Group</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Caucasian</u>	<u>Mexican-Amer.</u>	<u>Negro</u>	<u>Other</u>
Abusers	228	139	51	33	5
Non-abusers	293	119	64	102	8

( $x^2 = 30.41$ , sig.:  $p < .001$ )

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Page 11: The Reference list should have included the following:

Widmann, D. F. Antecedents of drug abuse: A review of the literature.  
Sacramento: California Youth Authority, 1973.

## Preface

The California Department of the Youth Authority in 1972, established the Community-Centered Drug Program in an effort to determine the effectiveness of community-based drug treatment programs in rehabilitating youthful drug abusers. The project was funded for three years by Law Enforcement Assistance Administration, through the California Council on Criminal Justice (grant 1181E).

While the project was still in the planning stages, it became apparent to the developers of the program that the scientific evidence as to the causes of drug abuse was in considerable disagreement. As a result of this awareness on the part of the planners, a separate research project was written into the proposal which would investigate the frequently expressed conjecture that youth who become drug abusers are different in terms of personality characteristics from those who do not abuse drugs.

The personality factor research component of the CCDP began with a thorough survey of the scientific literature on drug abuse (Widmann, 1973). That survey indicated certain areas in which research efforts might prove fruitful to an understanding of drug abuse etiology. The present report describes the first of a series of studies being conducted on those areas of personality dynamics suggested by the Widmann report. Other reports to follow will describe each additional study as completed.

## Abstract

In the Youth Authority's Northern and Southern Reception Center-Clinics, an experiment was carried out to investigate the relationship between expressed values and drug abuse. Over a period of four months, 521 male wards were administered in small groups the Survey of Interpersonal Values (Gordon, 1960). Of that number, 228 were identified drug abusers and comprised the experimental group. The control group was composed of the remaining 293 wards who were not identified as drug abusers.

Analysis of the results showed no significant differences between the scores of the abusers and non abusers on any of the six value factors measured by the SIV. There were, however, important differences between the groups in regard to age and race. Analysis of the scores of subgroups of drug abusers similarly showed no significant differences between groups.

The findings were interpreted tentatively as being due to either no real differences on the six factors measured by the SIV between drug abusers and non abusers, or weaknesses in the validity of the SIV.

A person's values may, to a large extent, determine what he does or how well he does it. One's value systems not only influence his immediate decisions, but also his life goals. There seems to be considerable feeling in the literature that drug abusers maintain unique value orientations, ones especially divergent or contrary to the prevailing values of the general society. Farnsworth (1968) notes the disdain for conventional values of the users whom he studied, while Carey (1968b) adds that, "Conventional society is rejected because originality and spontaneity are stifled." Conformity to peer association is seen as a major value by both Clinard (1963) and Proctor (1971) and thus, a significant factor in drug abuse. Eddy (1970), the Committee on Alcoholism and Drug Dependence (1970) and James (1971) agree that drug abusers encounter extreme difficulty in conforming to the usual social norms, especially the values of their parents. The Canadian Commission of Inquiry (1970) and Fort (1970) suggest that drug abusers value the pursuit of pleasure and happiness as alternatives to the "rigid" and "demanding" life styles attributed to the "straight" world. Carey (1968a) found that drug users "perceived themselves as more disillusioned with society than their peers, prior to turning-on for the first time." This sense of disillusionment is seen as leading the drug abusers to "question the legitimacy of society's norms."

Specific value orientations attributed to drug abusers include authenticity, independence and freedom, mutual assistance and sharing, love and compassion, passivity, disavowal of ambition, focus of interest on the present, self-insight, identity, trust in the benevolent nature of the universe, intuitiveness, intimacy, anti-authoritarianism, spontaneity and originality, sociability, flexibility, and empathy (Carey, 1968a; Carey, 1968b; Bloomquist, 1970; Barber, 1970; McGlothlin, 1967; Miller, 1971; Seldin, 1972). These are represented as being the way that the user sees himself, not as he appears from the perspective of others. Thus, the "free" person may actually appear to observers as highly dependent on, and conforming with his peer associations. Some writers associate certain of the values mentioned with specific types of drug use. Sociability is seen by Barber (1970) as especially associated with marijuana use, but it is seldom mentioned in conjunction with other

drugs. Self-insight and identity are particularly associated with hallucinogen use (Nowlis, 1969).

Values, in the above terms, may be best thought of as what is desirable in terms of a way of life, or as a focus of action.

Most of the writers above see such value orientations as antecedents or precursors of drug abuse, but some consider them the consequences of changes in the individual personality brought about by the use of drugs. Most of their statements are judgements made by persons who have worked with drug abusing youth; very few are based on empirical data analyses.

In order to assess the relevance and valance of some of these ascribed value traits to youthful drug abusers in the California Youth Authority, a number of instruments which purport to measure values and value orientations were reviewed, including the Allport-Vernon-Lindzey Study of Values and the Rokeach Value Survey. Most of these were found to be unacceptable due to difficulty of reading level, conceptual material or problems of administration. Of the tests reviewed, the Gordon Survey of Interpersonal Values (SIV) was selected as most appropriate for use with Youth Authority wards. Also, the values which it purports to measure have a high affinity with those attributed to drug abusers in the literature. The SIV yields six scores or measures of interpersonal value in the following areas:

- S - Support: Being treated with understanding, receiving encouragement from other people, being treated with kindness and consideration.
- C - Conformity: Doing what is socially correct, following regulations closely, doing what is accepted and proper, being a conformist.
- R - Recognition: Being looked up to and admired, being considered important, attracting favorable notice, achieving recognition.
- I - Independence: Having the right to do whatever one wants to do, being free to make one's own decisions, being able to do things in one's own way.

B - Benevolence: Doing things for other people, sharing with others, helping the unfortunate, being generous.

L - Leadership: Being in charge of other people, having authority over others, being in a position of leadership or power.

The SIV is a 30-item ipsative instrument, with each item consisting of three statements which possibly reflect value preferences. The respondent is required for each triad to indicate that statement which is "most important" to him and that which is "least important". Despite some minor criticism, the test appears to have acceptable levels of reliability and validity for use for research purposes (Buros, 1970). The test has been applied in a number of situations previously, for personnel purposes, cross-cultural studies, leadership comparisons, etc., (Gordon, 1963) but only a few references are relevant to juvenile delinquents and/or drug abusers.

Knapp (1963) found an inverse correlation between offense frequency and the SIV Conformity score for offenders in a Navy brig. Whobrey (Gordon, 1963) failed to find any relation between type of offense and SIV values among first commitment inmates of an Ohio correctional institution, although he did find that they placed a higher value on Independence and a lower value on Support than did inmates recommitted to the institution. Gordon (1963) presents normative data for a number of different male populations, including juvenile delinquents and high school students, both from California, California prisoners, and a sample of the general adult male population.

The present study sought to compare the measured values of California Youth Authority wards with those of the normative populations. It was further designed to determine whether or not the values of delinquent youth who are known drug abusers differ from those delinquents who are not so identified.

#### Method

The SIV was administered to 521 male wards upon their entrance to the Youth Authority's reception center-clinics. On the basis of their prior drug use history, the subjects were assigned to one of the two experimental

groups, drug abusers or non drug abusers. The criteria by which this selection was made included; 1) a history of recent drug use-within several months of most recent incarceration; 2) a history of repeated drug use-extending into the past for several months from the most recent incarceration; and 3) a history of negative experiences which appear to be associated with the use of drugs, such as arrest, loss of job, poor school performance, and alienation from family. Those wards who met all three criteria were assigned to the drug abuser group. Determination of drug abuse classification was made by drug treatment staff at each clinic. In addition to drug history, information as to age, race, and delinquent history was recorded. The testing was administered by two female graduate students, one in northern California and one in Los Angeles, to groups of 10-15 wards. The SIV was one of a battery of three tests given in one sitting. As no attempt was made to vary the order in which the tests were presented, the SIV usually was preceded by the FIRO-B (Schultz, 1960) and followed by the FTP Inventory (Essex, 1970). The testing was conducted in a school classroom, except for a few occasions when conflicting schedules required using a much smaller institutional board room.

At each testing session, the test forms were given to the wards and instructions were read to them. Wards with sufficient literacy could mark their forms at whatever rate they wished. For less literate wards, each item was read to them and they were forced to follow the speed of the test administrator. All wards remained in the test room until all had completed their forms. Terms and phrases which were difficult for wards to comprehend were usually translated into a more understandable idiom. Thus, "To have complete personal freedom", was usually explained as "Being able to do whatever you want to."

It was intended that each week an equal number of randomly selected abusers and non abusers would be tested at each center. For a number of reasons beyond the control of the examiners, this pattern was not followed. Instead, an emphasis was placed on obtaining the abuser sample prior to the non abuser group. In all, the testing process took about four months and resulted in a group of 228 abusers and 293 non abusers.

Results

Initial analyses assessed the homogeneity of the two groups as to age, race, geographic region from which committed, commitment status (first commitment, revocation, or other). Some differences were observed on all those variables, but significant differences were found between the groups on age ( $t = 12.03, p < .001$ ) and race ( $\chi^2 = 64.15, p < .001$ ) as shown in Tables 1 and 2.

Table 1

Comparison of Drug Abusers and Non-abusers by Age

Age	Total	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	$\bar{M}$
Abusers	228	1	--	7	21	31	50	64	38	15	1	19.4
Non-abusers	293	5	18	47	69	55	52	32	14	1	--	17.7

( $t = 12.03, sig.: p < .001$ )

Table 2

Comparison of Drug Abusers and Non-abusers by Race

Race	Total	Caucasian	Mexican-Amer.	Negro	Other
Abusers	228	119	64	102	8
Non-abusers	293	139	51	33	5

( $\chi^2 = 64.15, sig.: p < .001$ )

To assess differences between the abuser and non abuser groups in their response to the six SIV factors, independent Student's  $t$  tests were made. The means, standard deviations, and significances which resulted from those analyses are displayed in Table 3.

Table 3

Mean SIV Scores and Standard Deviations for Drug Abusers and Non-abusers

Subjects	N	S	C	R	I	B	L
Drug abusers	228	15.5	14.4	10.6	21.2	15.9	12.3
Standard Deviations		4.96	5.86	4.00	6.01	5.36	5.44
Non-abusers	293	14.6	15.5	11.0	20.3	15.6	12.8
Standard Deviations		4.20	5.54	4.23	6.01	5.70	5.02
Difference		.9	-1.1	-.4	.9	.3	-.5
Significance <sup>a</sup>		.02	.02	n.s.	.05	n.s.	n.s.

<sup>a</sup>Student's  $t$ , one-tailed.

Since differences in age and race between groups were thought to be contributing to the means in Table 3, an analysis of covariance was performed to remove these effects. All significant differences between the two groups disappeared as a result of that analysis.

A third comparison was made to assess differences in factor scores on the SIV among six-sub-groups of drug abusers, classified in terms of preference for a particular drug type. The six sub-groups were; 1) opiate abusers; 2) depressant abusers; 3) stimulant abusers; 4) hallucinogen abusers; 5) marijuana abusers; and 6) "poly-drug" abusers. The poly-drug abusers included those who showed no clear preference for a particular drug type, but were users of at least four drug types of varying physiological and psychological effect. Inspection showed these sub-groups to be homogeneous in respect to the ethnographic characteristics described, including age and race. Table 4 shows the means and standard deviations on each SIV factor by sub-group. Although some sub-group means appear quite different from the others, (note in particular the poly-drug group) none of the observed differences was found significant when analyses of variance were performed.

Table 4

Mean SIV Scores and Standard Deviations for Drug Abuser Sub-groups

Subjects	N	S	C	R	I	B	L
Opiate abusers	70	14.9	14.9	10.0	22.5	15.4	12.2
s.d.		5.42	5.21	8.57	5.57	5.00	5.77
Depressant abusers	77	16.0	14.3	10.6	21.1	15.8	12.1
s.d.		5.20	6.10	4.00	5.43	5.29	5.19
Stimulant abusers	18	14.8	13.5	10.0	20.3	17.4	13.5
s.d.		5.01	5.98	5.20	7.25	4.42	7.02
Hallucinogen abusers	25	15.5	14.6	10.3	20.7	17.7	11.1
s.d.		3.97	6.09	3.25	5.89	5.29	5.52
Marijuana abusers	13	15.0	15.9	10.8	19.6	16.3	12.9
s.d.		4.03	6.15	2.73	5.54	6.81	5.71
Poly-drug abusers	25	16.0	13.2	12.5	19.9	14.7	13.5
s.d.		4.35	6.54	4.98	7.97	6.27	3.57
F - ratio		.44	.56	1.60	1.14	1.24	.72
Significance <sup>a</sup>		n.s.	n.s.	n.s.	n.s.	n.s.	n.s.

<sup>a</sup>One way analysis of variance.

A final comparison was made to determine whether or not differences existed between the mean factor scores of the abuser and non abuser groups and the normative groups of California juvenile delinquents and high school students provided by Gordon (1963). As shown in Table 5, the two Youth Authority groups appear to be more like each other than either of them is to the two norm groups.

Table 5

Mean SIV Scores for Drug Abusers, Non-abusers, California Juvenile Delinquents and California High School Students

Group	Total	S	C	R	I	B	L
High School Students	782	15.4	14.8	12.6	18.3	14.7	14.2
Juvenile Delinquents	67	14.4	19.2	10.8	15.8	16.9	12.8
YA Non-abusers	293	14.6	15.5	11.0	20.3	15.6	12.8
YA Drug Abusers	228	15.5	14.4	10.6	21.2	15.9	12.3

Discussion

The results of this study clearly fail to support any suggestion that the values of drug abusers are different from those of non abusers, as measured by the SIV. Several explanations may be offered for these findings. First and most apparent, there may indeed be no differences between abusers and non abusers on the values purportedly measured by the SIV. That conclusion would not necessarily imply that there may not exist other value traits which could reliably predict drug abuse.

Another possible explanation for the results is that the SIV is not a sufficiently valid instrument to disclose real differences which may exist between the groups. That conclusion might simply be accepted in spite of Buros' (1970) review as a possible case of nonapplicability of the instrument to a newly incarcerated population. It seems reasonable to suspect that Youth Authority wards awaiting recommendation as to their dispensation might respond to a value questionnaire in such a way as to appear most favorable to those in a position to affect their futures, in spite of the examiner's statements in regard to confidentiality. That sort of response situation could tend to make test results more uniform across groups, as occurred in the present study.

A third explanation is that the SIV may be insensitive to differences in the ways in which individuals apply their values in specific behaviors. If so, then it may lack predictive validity. That is, certain individuals may express identical value traits on a measurement such as the SIV, yet interpret those values in such different ways that their resultant behaviors--which for each person is in complete accordance with those values--are antithetical.

Which of these possible explanations is the most probable must await further test results. However, one finding merits some additional consideration. Specifically, the SIV appears to be very sensitive to differences in age and race among subjects. Although that conclusion is not particularly surprising on an intuitive level, neither the SIV Manual (Gordon, 1960) nor any of the studies reporting use of the SIV (Gordon, 1963) have noted any observation of the effects of age and race on SIV scores.



Consequently, it seems highly probable that some differences reported between various test populations may be the result of age/race differences rather than value differences. Additional research certainly seems indicated in this area.

Another area which appears deserving of additional research is that of differential responses of the user/abusers of different types of drugs. The poly-drug abusers in the present study responded quite differently from other types of drug abusers on the SIV. While those differences were not significantly different from other drug type users, it is possible that some other measures of personality traits may find important differences.

It was of considerable interest that the SIV scores of the Youth Authority abusers and non abusers did not approximate those of the normative groups of either delinquents or high school students. Since no ethnographic information was provided for the normative groups, it was felt that significance tests between those groups and YA groups would be spurious. It is of some interest however, to note that on five of the six SIV scales, the YA drug abusers occupy an extreme position relative to the other three groups.

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