

First Use and Relapse Factors in Methamphetamine Abuse in Rural States

Jason White

Dr. Anne Bowen

Department of Psychology

University of Wyoming

Wyoming Meth Use

- \$200 million annually
- 94% crime related to meth.
- High School students
 - 3rd in country for lifetime injection use
 - 2nd in country for lifetime use
- 4.9% of individuals 12 or older had tried meth.
- Since 1993, treatment admission up to 56/1000 people, up from 13/1000
- 36% of those in treatment are 25 or younger



Why do people start? Why can't they stop?

- “92%” relapse rate (Bartos, 2005).
- Little research
 - what factors may initiate first use?
 - what may trigger a relapse?
- Our Study – funded by NIDA
 - Qualitative
 - Bronfenbrenner’s (1977) Social Ecological model.



Social Ecological Model



Methods

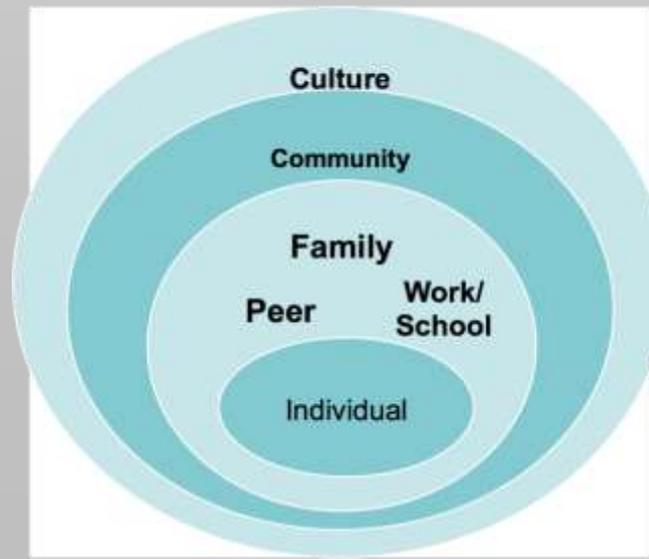
- Eligibility requirements:
 - 18 years of age or older
 - Must have used methamphetamine in Wyoming.
 - Must be a current resident of Wyoming.
- Participants (N=83)
 - 37 male, 46 female
 - 66% \leq 35 years of age
 - 89% Caucasian
 - 45 injection users, 38 non-injection users

Methods

– Procedure

- Two consent forms
 - Interview
 - Audiotape
- Life history interview: first use up to current activity.
- Interviews were transcribed into Microsoft word.
- Two research assistants read each interview, and coded those interviews according to Bronfenbrenner's model for both first-use and relapse factors.

Social Ecological Model

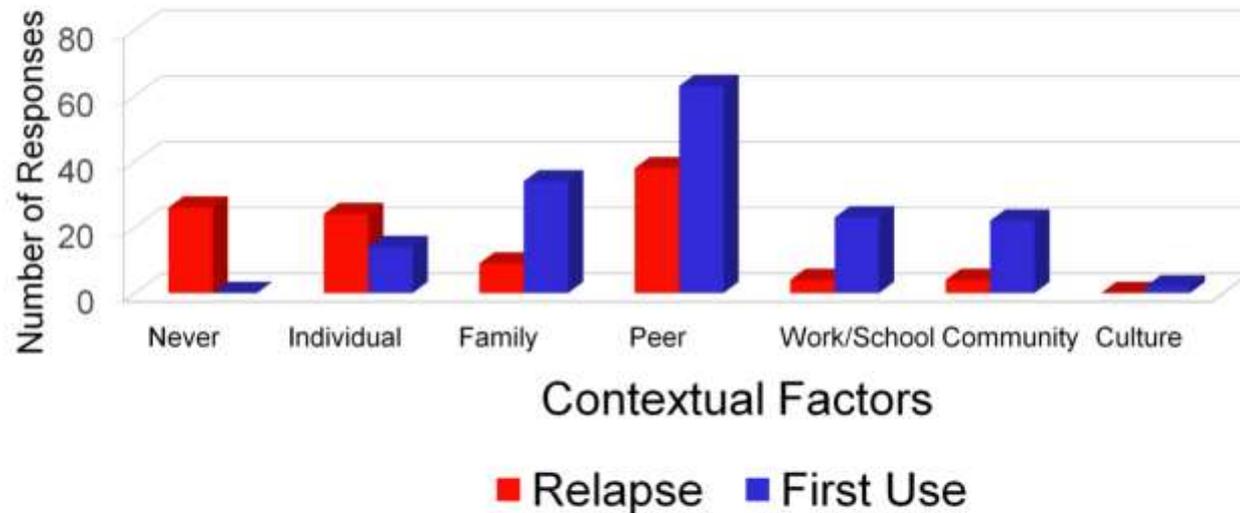


Results

- Kappa coefficient for interrater reliability: above acceptable levels (.70) on all factors except for individual relapse factors.
- Chi square analysis:
 - -A chi square analysis revealed that men are more likely than women to be influenced by community factors ($P = .003$) and work/school factors ($P = .05$)
 - A chi square analysis also revealed that men are more likely to never have relapsed. ($P = .0001$).

Results

Number of Occurrences for Each Contextual Factor



Discussion

- Peer factors proved to be the most common for both first use and relapse
 - *“I went over there to [a friend’s house] show off how I was clean, and I wasn’t in that place less than five minutes before all kinds of dope was being passed around smoked like mad man, snorted and just, boom, and I was doing it”*
 - *“I was just sitting at the kitchen table babysitting, and (my boyfriend) came over and he was smoking, and he was like here try this and I was like okay...”*
- Individual factors were more common in relapse than in first use.
 - *“That’s why I’d say most of the girls in here did it. That’s the reason we turn to it; because we couldn’t deal with the feelings we had.”*
- Family factors were more relevant for initiation:
 - *“I was 8 years old, my dad shot me up as a sort of guinea pig thing because he was making it himself. . .”*
- Culture did not appear to play a role in methamphetamine first use or relapse.

Discussion

- Limitations:
 - Interviews were frequently disjointed despite the best efforts of the interviewer, leaving some information open to interpretation.
 - Relapse was not originally a target of this study.
- Future Research:
 - Using Bronfenbrenner's model, are responses similar in other studies?
 - Look at relapse specifically in a more structured interview.

Questions?

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