

ago, Chile. Data were obtained in a stratified sample ($N = 1500$) on demographic characteristics of subjects, benzodiazepine use, and long-term use. Past-year prevalence of use was 31.4% (higher in females, the elderly and 13% long-term users). Forty-five percent of use was over-the-counter. Long-term users were older than users, predominantly females over 40 years. Results show that unrestricted availability of benzodiazepines leads to high use, but long-term use seems to be within rates described for other populations.

THE EFFECTS OF OXAZEPAM ON ANXIETY IN A NONCLINICAL POPULATION. Jennifer F. Landon* and Kenneth J. Sher.† *Kansas City Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Center, Kansas City, MO, and †University of Missouri, Columbia, MO.

The present study investigated the effects of a benzodiazepine (oxazepam) on anxiety as measured by autonomic and self-report indices in a nonclinical sample. These effects were assessed during a resting state and stressed state. Psychophysiological and self-report measures were recorded during an initial baseline (before drug administration), postdrug baseline (after drug administration when subjects were unaware of upcoming stressor), countdown, stressor, and poststressor baseline phases. Anxiolytic effects were found during stressed state as measured by skin conductance level. The benzodiazepine did not significantly affect heart rate or self-reported anxiety. Implications are discussed.

ANXIETY AND DRINKING BEHAVIOR: MODERATING EFFECTS OF ALCOHOL-RELATED EXPECTANCIES. Matt G. Kushner* and Kenneth J. Sher.† *University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, MN, and †University of Missouri, Columbia, MO.

We evaluated whether alcohol-related expectancies moderate the association between measures of anxiety and alcohol use/abuse. As predicted, student subjects with stronger expectations for alcohol-induced tension reduction showed the strongest positive correlations between measures of anxiety and drinking behavior; however, this finding held for male subjects only. These findings are consistent with past studies showing gender differences in the alcohol/anxiety connection, and also highlight the need to understand better the processes underlying the development of alcohol-related expectancies. We suggest that these issues potentially relate to the etiology of alcohol problems for some individuals.

IMPLICIT PRIMING OF AN ALCOHOL EXPECTANCY MEMORY NETWORK. Genevieve M. Chenier and Mark S. Goldman. University of South Florida, Tampa, FL.

This study was designed to test the theory that alcohol expectancies can be usefully conceived as a semantic network that contains information about alcohol effects and that can operate on an implicit level with no awareness or conscious deliberation. An implicit memory, word fragment completion task was primed using either an alcohol-related or neutral context. Word fragments were derived from alcohol expectancies and neutral words.

Subjects were not told that the context was pertinent to the purpose of the experiment. A repeated measures ANOVA indicated a significantly elevated number of expectancy fragments completed in the alcohol context, as compared to other conditions, $F(1, 113) = 12.46$, $p < .001$. The study offers support for operation of expectancies on an automatic memory level.

PRIMING THE PUMP: ALCOHOL EXPECTANCY ACTIVATION INCREASES DRINKING BEHAVIOR. Laurie Roehrich* and Mark S. Goldman.† *University of California, San Francisco, CA, and †University of South Florida, Tampa, FL.

If expectations about alcohol exist as stored memories, priming this construct may influence drinking patterns. Eighty undergraduate women ($n = 20$ per cell), participated in two, supposedly unrelated studies. A 2×2 factorial design simultaneously varied contextual primes (bar or control video) with construct primes (expectancy or neutral words). Beer consumption during a subsequent taste-rating task served as the primary dependent variable. Women exposed to unobtrusive alcohol cues drank significantly greater amounts ($p < .001$) of beer, compared with subjects who received control primes. The priming techniques appeared to have additive effects. Alcohol primes may also have differential effects for heavier versus lighter female social drinkers.

EFFECT OF MINIMUM DRINKING AGE ON ALCOHOL CONSUMPTION AND IMPAIRMENT. Vincent J. Adesso, Eric D. Devine, Constantine Ioannidis and Bertrand D. Berger. University of Wisconsin, Milwaukee, WI.

Research has found no change in consumption and mixed results in impairment with changes in the minimum legal drinking age. Alcohol consumption and impairment due to alcohol were compared in 1,016 male and female college students 6 months younger ($n = 516$) and 6 months older ($n = 500$) than the minimum legal drinking age (MLDA). The sample was selected from each of four semesters across a 2-year period while the new MLDA took full effect. Results of the $2 \times 2 \times 4$ (Gender \times Age \times Time) MANOVA revealed a Gender by Time interaction for impairment with both men and women increasing in impairment across time and a main effect for gender—men consumed more than women.

GENDER AND AGE EFFECTS ON ALCOHOL EXPECTANCIES. Leslie H. Lundahl, Tania M. Davis, Vincent J. Adesso, Bertrand D. Berger and Celeste O. Milligan. University of Wisconsin, Milwaukee, WI.

Little work has investigated the possible relations among gender, age, and alcohol expectancies. Using multivariate analysis of variance, the Alcohol Expectancy Questionnaire (AEQ) was used to examine the differences among these variables. Results revealed that expectancies of increased physical pleasure, more global positive changes, and tendencies toward stronger tension reduction differentiated the men from the women. In addition, older subjects generally were less likely to report global, positive expectancies, increased assertiveness,