

Special Issue

Legal and Illegal Drug Abuse in Adolescents and Young Adults: Challenges, Comorbidities, Treatment and Use as Therapeutics

Message from the Guest Editor

Adolescence and young adulthood represent periods of increased sensitivity to reward and risk taking, impulsive actions, and decision making. These differences in behaviour reflect a time of neurodevelopment when the prefrontal cortex in particular is still not fully developed. High risk and impulsive behaviours include, among others, experimentation with drug use, including drinking, smoking and cannabis use, and can further expand to psychostimulant, opioid, and psychedelic drug use. Numerous genetic, environmental, social, and other neuropsychiatric factors, such as related comorbidities, can come on the way and further influence engagement with drugs of abuse. On the other hand, at least in some of these cases, some of these legal or illegal drugs of abuse are used in a therapeutic manner to treat co-existing neuropsychiatric disorders or other health conditions.

Guest Editor

Dr. Styliani (Stella) Vlachou

Neuropsychopharmacology Division, Behavioural Neuroscience Laboratory, School of Psychology, Faculty of Science and Health, Dublin City University, Glasnevin, Dublin 9, Ireland

Deadline for manuscript submissions

closed (10 January 2022)



International Journal of Environmental Research and Public Health

an Open Access Journal
by MDPI

CiteScore 7.3
Indexed in PubMed



mdpi.com/si/57670

*International Journal of
Environmental Research and
Public Health*

MDPI, Grosspeteranlage 5
4052 Basel, Switzerland
Tel: +41 61 683 77 34
ijerph@mdpi.com

[mdpi.com/journal/
ijerph](https://mdpi.com/journal/ijerph)





International Journal of Environmental Research and Public Health

an Open Access Journal
by MDPI

CiteScore 7.3
Indexed in PubMed



[mdpi.com/journal/
ijerph](https://mdpi.com/journal/ijerph)



About the Journal

Message from the Editor-in-Chief

Addressing the environmental and public health challenges requires engagement and collaboration among clinicians and public health researchers. Discovery and advances in this research field play a critical role in providing a scientific basis for decision-making toward control and prevention of human diseases, especially the illnesses that are induced from environmental exposure to health hazards. *IJERPH* provides a forum for discussion of discoveries and knowledge in these multidisciplinary fields. Please consider publishing your research in this high quality, peer-reviewed, open access journal.

Editor-in-Chief

Prof. Dr. Paul B. Tchounwou

RCMI Center for Urban Health Disparities Research and Innovation,
Richard N. Dixon Research Center, Morgan State University, Baltimore,
MD 21251, USA

Author Benefits

Open Access:

free for readers, with article processing charges (APC) paid by authors or their institutions.

High Visibility:

indexed within Scopus, PubMed, MEDLINE, PMC, Embase, GEOBASE, CAPlus / SciFinder, and other databases.

Journal Rank:

CiteScore - Q1 (Public Health, Environmental and Occupational Health)