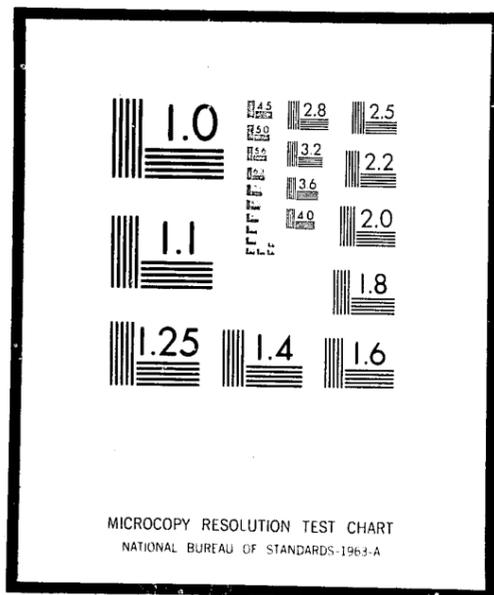


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## OFFICE OF THE SHERIFF COUNTY OF MORRIS

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### MORRIS COUNTY JAIL DRUG STUDY

William DeLello

June, 1974

#### SUMMARY

The drug problems of Morris County inmates were investigated by an inmate ex-addict in an effort to expose the problems and the need for new drug rehabilitation programs.

Twenty ex-addict inmates of the Morris County Jail answered a questionnaire regarding drug addiction. Among the responses, the twenty reported spending an incredible total of \$2,855.00 per day on drugs. All admitted to committing crimes to obtain money for drugs. All but two inmates expressed a desire to "quit" drugs and that they felt that a new drug program, in the form of a farm for ex-addicts, would be helpful.

Morris County Jail Rehabilitation Program  
funded by  
State Law Enforcement Planning Agency  
Sub-Grant #1407  
Crane Groesbeck, M.A., Project Coordinator

DRUG STUDY CONDUCTED IN MORRIS COUNTY JAIL 17 JUNE 1974

Twenty inmates of the Morris County Jail, who have been addicted to drugs prior to their incarceration, were requested to answer a questionnaire concerning their feelings as to their personal involvement with addictive drugs. (Questionnaire attached) All participants remained anonymous and volunteered to participate in the study.

Through this study we hope to impress upon society the fact that the drug problem in America, specifically Morris County is at an alarming proportion, and needs to be investigated at a greater degree and promptly acted upon. This should be our number one priority in funding rehabilitative programs.

We will further substantiate our claim that present day drug programs aren't accomplishing their prescribed goal. With this in mind we wish to stress the necessity of instituting a program designed to accomplish that goal; a program designed by and for the drug addicts of our community.

The following information has been correlated and prepared honestly and candidly. The facts as presented will undoubtedly raise eyebrows and doubt among many, nevertheless it is fact and cannot be corrected simply by a slight acknowledgement, but must be implanted in the minds of every living person if we ever hope to be able to live without fear and threat of loss. Each and everyone of you are directly or indirectly suffering financially, morally or socially from the effects of those involved in the drug sub-culture.

Area number one: Years involved with drugs

Of the twenty inmates questioned there is a total of 133 years of addiction; an average of 6.5 years per person.

Area number two: Age of addiction

The average age when a person began "shooting" drugs was 17.9

Area number three: Social level of family

Upper class - one (1), Middle class seventeen (17), Lower class - two (2). 10%, 70% and 20% respectively.

Area number four: Money spent daily for Heroin

Nineteen inmates answered this question and figures total \$1,455 daily drug expenditure; an average daily expense of \$76.50 per person.

Area number five: Money spent daily for Cocaine

Ten inmates answered this question and figures total \$1,400 daily drug expenditure; an average daily expense of \$70.00 per person.

Combined daily expense for Heroin and Cocaine is \$2,855; an average daily expense of \$146.50 per person.

Area number six: Quality of Drugs

Two (2) had no opinion, one (1) good, two (2) average, three (3) no good, twelve (12) poor.

Area number seven: Ways money acquired

Theft twelve (12), Fraud-checks four (4), working three (3), Selling drugs six (6), Robbery eleven (11), Panhandling two (2), Little of each two (2).

Five answered to stealing and one of the other  
Three answered to Fraud and one of the other  
Two answered to working and one of the other  
Four answered to selling drugs and one of the other  
Two answered to robbery and one of the other  
Two answered to pandhandling and one of the other

Area number eight: Methadone maintenance program

Seven (7) had been on a methadone program; thirteen (13) never were.

Area number nine: Desire a methadone program

Six (6) would like to try a methadone program; fourteen (14) do not.

Area number ten: Resident drug programs

Twelve (12) have been in various programs; eight (8) have not. Addicts participated in a total of thirty-two (32) programs. Average of 2.7 for twelve participants.

Area number eleven: Opinion of drug programs

The twelve who answered to being in a program said; didn't work one (1), no comment one (1), no good four (4), poor two (2), couldn't handle it one (1), weren't up to par two (2) and too hostile one (1).

Three (3) persons who answered "no" to being in a program still declared programs to be of little benefit.

Area number twelve: Desire to "quit" drugs

Eighteen (18) said they definitely want to stop; one (1) didn't want to, and one (1) was undecided.

Area number thirteen: Interest in a new type of drug program (Farm)

Eighteen (18) directly enjoyed this concept; two (2) didn't want a part of any program.

Area number fourteen: Attitude on life

Twelve (12) enjoyed life more when free of drugs; four (4) enjoyed life while influenced by drugs; two (2) answered to both, and two (2) were undecided.

Area number fifteen: Financial estimate of stolen merchandise

Eleven (11) attempted estimates; ranged from one (1) to seventy (70) thousand dollars worth of merchandise in one year. Four (4) said none, one (1) had no comment, and four (4) said it was too much to imagine.

The eleven addicts figures totaled \$224,000, an average of \$20,364 per person for one year. They noted these estimates to be conservative. We can assume the figure was twice that.

Area number sixteen: The unique life-style of an addict - Mystery, Challenge and Intrigue

Nine (9) answered yes, nine (9) no, and one (1) indirectly; one (1) was undecided.

Area number seventeen: Selling drugs

Sixteen (16) said yes, four (4) said no. Notes document that "making a living" means supporting his addiction.

Area number eighteen: Outlook on a cure

Nineteen (19) thought an addict could be cured, one (1) not certain. (Coincides with question number twelve)

Area number nineteen: Reaction of drugs on individuals life

Eighteen (18) said drugs wrecked his life; two (2) said it had no effect or helped.

Area number twenty: Amount of time in jail

Nearly 75% of questioned addicts have been in jail from one (1) to eight (8) years. Some are in jail for the first time and for a short stay. There is a total of sixty-eight and one-half (68½) years of incarceration for less than twenty (20) people. This is an average of three and one half (3½) years per person.

SUMMARY:

The pre-stated facts have served to focus attention on the money necessary to provide an addict with the means to acquire his daily compulsory "fix", and also stresses the dire need to help him obtain the assistance he needs and deserves.

continued....

We have concluded that, one time, respected and prosperous individuals have wasted and jepordized their life, as well as the lives of other for an average of six years, and they generally began involvement with hard drugs at the early age of seventeen. It's consistent with society that most addicts come from middle class families, simply because there are less wealthy and poor families.

Through use of heroin and cocaine addicts are draining the tax payer of an estimated \$2,800 daily. Many families don't receive the weekly net pay that addicts are spending on a daily basis to support their habit; an average of nearly \$150.00. They are obtaining this money mostly by stealing, forgery and selling drugs. Few people (addicts) work and spend honest money.

While they consider the quality of "dope" to be generally poor they continue to seek the poor dope. Since the caliber of dope is low-grade, it's necessary they inject greater amounts, thus needing more money. This money is obtained through increased stealing, forgery and "dealing".

Methadone maintenance is an alternative to heroin addiction, but it is much more potent, and also addictive. Addicts indicate their participation in methadone maintenance for lack of a better way to remove themselves from the crime and drug world. More than 60% indicate that they don't desire to be addicted to one drug to replace another. Nearly 60% have been on methadone maintenance and several don't wish to continue. Suggests that they desire help, but not of a medical nature.

We notice again that addicts seek help, but find present day drug programs unsuitable to their needs. They investigate many different programs (an average of 2.7 per person), but find none to be of any great benefit.

Those addicts that were in programs stated that the programs were: "of little help", "no good" and "too hostile". Even those who weren't in programs expressed no desire to be a part of the present day structures. Indicates the drug culture census to be against present day programs.

All but two expressed desire to leave the drug world and live a "drug free" life, but haven't secured a way that works.

When questioned about a new type of program; one offering a unique approach to a cure, a geared around "farm" life, all but two said they would definitely desire to be apart of such a program. Once again they seek help.

The majority of addicts didn't enjoy life while being "high", but have little opportunity to acquire a different life style. A few say they enjoy being influenced by drugs; general trend being early stages of addiction.

QUESTIONNAIRE ON DRUG ABUSE - ANSWER HONESTLY  
DO NOT SIGN YOUR NAME

The area that most people are concerned is the merchandise and cash an addict steals, then sells at a deflated rate (merchandise) to purchase his needed drugs. Several addicts didn't attempt to estimate the amount of stolen goods because the figures would be unbelievable. Of the eleven that did estimate, the figure draws near a quarter of a million dollars annually. An average of twenty-thousand dollars per person, per year. Most families work hard all year and don't receive this amount.

Fifty percent of the addicts are aware of the "fast" life of a drug fiend and enjoy the mystery, intrigue and challenge involved. This suggest that the addict enjoys excitement, and needs to occupy himself in unique ways.

Addicts often have to sell drugs to obtain the money necessary to maintain their own habits. This increases the availability of the drugs to people who aren't as yet addicted.

Almost all believe there must exist some remedy for addiction, and are continually exploring the possibilities.

Admitting that 80% of those questioned "wrecked" their lives when they became involved with durgs suggests that they were living a normal and productive life prior to their addiction.

Seventy-five percent admitted to being incarcerated for periods ranging from one to eight years. This exploits the fact that jail does very little to rehabilitate an addict. The cost of housing an addict, at the tax payers expense, is beyond belief and proving to be a burdon and a waste to the tax payer.

NOTE:

These figures represent the facts and attitudes of twenty men and women. Multiply these by one hundred thousand and you will receive a more accurate account of the wasted money, need for a definite cure and the lack of adequate treatment.

There is an acute need to take these people from society's womb and direct them in a self-sustaining way of life.

The drug program that the inmate addicts of the Morris County Jail are designing may possibly be the missing link.

This study conducted by:

Bill DeLello, Inmate-Morris County Jail, Former Drug Addict

In cooperation with:

Harold Noonan, Warden  
Crane Groesbeck, Rehabilitation Coordinator  
Vince DeChiaro, Social Worker  
Dave Chaffee, Intake Interviewer  
Participants of Group Drug Session  
Interested Inmates

1. HOW LONG HAVE YOU BEEN A DRUG ADDICT?
2. WHAT AGE DID YOU START "SHOOTING" DOPE?
3. IS YOUR FAMILY FROM THE UPPER, MIDDLE OR LOWER CLASS?
4. HOW MUCH MONEY PER DAY DID YOU SPEND FOR HERCIN?
5. HOW MUCH MONEY PER DAY DID YOU SPEND FOR COCAINE?
6. WHAT DO YOU THINK OF THE QUALITY OF THE DOPE? (NOW)
7. WHERE DID YOU GET THIS MONEY?
8. WHERE YOU EVER ON METHADONE MAINTENANCE?
9. DO YOU WANT TO BE?
10. WHERE YOU EVER IN A DRUG PROGRAM? HOW MANY?
11. WHAT DC YOU THINK OF THE DRUG PROGRAMS?
12. DO YOU REALLY WANT TO QUIT SHOOTING DOPE?
13. WOULD YOU BE INTERESTED IN A DRUG PROGRAM ON A FARM, NOT A HOSTILE PROGRAM, BUT COMMUNITY LIVING?
14. DO YOU ENJCY LIFE MORE WHEN YOU'RE HIGH OR WHEN YOU'RE STRAIGHT?
15. IN YOUR MOST RECENT YEAR OF "SHOOTING" DOPE, IN MONEY, HOW MUCH MERCHANDISE DID YOU FENCE?
16. DO YOU ENJOY THE MYSTERY, INTRIGUE AND SUSPENSE OF THE DRUG CULTURE?
17. DID YOU EVER MAKE A LIVING FROM SELLING DRUGS?
18. DO YOU BELIEVE A JUNKIE CAN BE CURED?
19. DID DOPE WRECK YOUR LIFE?
20. IN YEARS, HOW MUCH TIME HAVE YOU SPENT IN JAIL?

Thank you. This questionnaire may benefit you.

**END**