



Psychiatry & Behavioral Sciences Section – 2007

I12 Basic Addiction Medicine for the Forensic Scientist

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After attending this presentation, attendees will understand how substance use disorders are common among the criminal offending population. Up to 80 per cent of the incarcerated adult American population, and arrests, are associated with substance abuse. Strong risk factors for violence include substance abuse, especially with comorbid psychiatric disorders. Continued substance abuse is predictive of a high rate of criminal recidivism. Therefore, understanding basic mechanisms of chemical dependency, their presentation, detection, treatment and relationship to re-offending, is critical in treating and rehabilitating a criminal population. At the conclusion of this panel discussion, the participant will be able to understand: 1) the basic epidemiology and neurobiology of substance use disorders, and their relationship to violence; 2) presentation of chemical dependency, detection and intervention in the adult criminal population; and 3) basic psychotherapeutic, psychopharmacologic and rehabilitation treatment modalities in offending populations.

This presentation will impact the forensic community and/or humanity by increasing the understanding of basic mechanisms of chemical dependency, their presentation, detection, treatment, and relationship to re-offending, is critical in treating and rehabilitating a criminal population.

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Addiction Medicine, Forensic Psychiatry, Substance Abuse