Sociocultural Factors and Mechanisms in Alcohol Use: **Epidemiology, Prevention, and Intervention Among Ethnic Minority Groups**

Special Issue American Journal of Orthopsychiatry

Second to caffeine, alcohol is the most used psychoactive substance in the United States. Alcohol misuse is associated with costs in healthcare, lost workplace productivity, criminal justice expenses, and an array of deleterious health effects and social consequences. Across ethnic groups in the United States, research has shown not only differential rates of alcohol involvement and alcohol use disorders, but also disparity in help seeking, treatment needs being met, and clinical outcomes. There is a critical need for more research that examines such ethnic disparities in alcohol use and alcohol-related interventions. Sociocultural factors are linked to alcohol use outcomes at the individual, social, and community levels. Increased knowledge in this area can inform policies and intervention programs that target alcohol misuse adequately and effectively in ethnic minority populations.

This special issue highlights research into the sociocultural factors and processes that underlie ethnic disparities in alcohol use in the United States, including articles on key risk and protective factors, intervening pathways, conditions that are linked to alcohol consumption and alcohol use disorders, risky drinking practices, issues related to diagnoses and treatment seeking behavior, and prevention and intervention outcomes.

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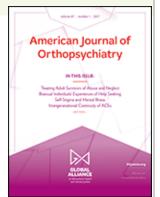
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Guest Editors: Byron L. Zamboanga and P. Priscilla Lui



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