In 42 gay male alcoholics, drinking was perceived as a solution to problems, and related to urban living, education, current sexual preference, and reliance on prescription drugs.

Approach stemming from Alcoholics Anonymous. See also his: *Sober, Clean and Gay* (Minneapolis, MN: CompCare Publications, 1978; 19 pp.).

Sociological perspective showing that friendship networks and dyads function otherwise in this context than they do for heterosexuals. See also his: "Alcohol and Homosexuality: A Theoretical Perspective," *JH*, 7 (1981-82), 9-25.


Interviews with 28 male homosexuals and one lesbian highlighted the role of bars as places for meeting and socializing.

A somewhat alarmist view of the incidence of what is conceded a grave problem among gay men and lesbians.

Since homosexuality and alcoholism are independent states, homosexuality need not be an obstacle to treatment for alcoholism.

Anthology of personal accounts of lesbian alcoholism and
recovery. Replication of parental alcoholism patterns is found to be significant.


Inherent stresses, issues, and patterns engender an alcoholism rate in the homosexual community that is two to three times that of the general population. Regrettably, even the process of formation of a positive gay identity can create stress situations that put one at risk for alcoholism.


X. SUBSTANCE ABUSE: DRUGS

The potential for drug addiction in Western society has been fostered by a number of factors, including the spread of previously exotic substances through international trade patterns, the chemical synthesis of new stimulants, and the growth of a youth culture which tends to prefer drugs to alcohol. The spread of drug use in the gay community was undoubtedly aided by the 1960s symbiosis with the counterculture. The formerly widespread use of amyl nitrites ("poppers") among gay men became a matter of concern because of an alleged link with AIDS.


Provides 1432 annotated items arranged under headings: alcohol, amphetamines, antidepressants, antipsychotics, barbiturates, benzodiazepines, caffeine, cocaine, LSD, marihuana, methaqualone, narcotics, nitrites, PCP, tobacco, and general.

3319. AMENDT, GUNTER. Haschisch und Sexualität: eine empirische Untersuchung über die Sexualität Jugend-
Inquiry into drugs and sex among West German youth.

On special problems encountered by gay members of drug abuse treatment communities.

Examined individual subjective experiences regarding the effects of a variety of drugs on sexual habits—aggressiveness; changes in libido; pleasure derived; and general experience, practice, beliefs and attitudes. See also: "Love and Haight: The Sensuous Hippie Revisited: Drug/Sex Practices in San Francisco," Journal of Psychoactive Drugs, 14 (1982), 111-23.

Psychoanalytic interpretation presenting a single case history.

Interviews with 150 homosexual men suggest that use of amyl nitrite (poppers) is strongly related to a number of unconventional practices and to certain medically related problems. See also: Stephen Israelstam et al., "Use of Isobutyl Nitrite as a Recreational Drug," British Journal of Addiction, 73 (1978), 319-20; and Thomas P. Lowry, "Psychosexual Aspects of the Volatile Nitrites," Journal of Psychoactive Drugs, 14 (1982), 77-79.

A contentious, sometimes eccentric statement of the case against amyl nitrites. While extensive, the bibliography is selected and annotated to make the case against poppers more alarming than it is. The brochure concludes with some unlikely speculations about AIDS.

Key issues that counselors need to address are—apart from
their own attitudes—the "coming out" process, self-acceptance, and relationship issues.


Among other findings, gay men were found to have active, but separate enjoyment of drugs and sex, while lesbians tended to combine the two.


On the need for greater sensitivity in therapeutic personnel.


Finds that individual therapy is more helpful than group therapy in the residential treatment of homosexual drug users.

Y. YOUTH

While claims by some historians that earlier centuries did not recognize childhood as a separate stage of human development are unconvincing, it is probably true that the conceptualization of adolescence as a stage between childhood and adulthood is relatively recent. The rise of a "youth culture" with its special preferences in the consumer society has become possible only through the spread of prosperity in Western industrial countries. Focus on this stage of life has caused particular problems for young gay and lesbian people, inasmuch as the youth culture is highly conformist and sometimes punitively anti-homosexual. For their part, heterosexual adults and parents tend to decry homosexual activity and identity in the teen years as fixing supposedly labile personalities in a state of permanent deviance. Serving as a counterweight to these restrictive tendencies is an increasing awareness that young people, at least those past the stage of puberty, are autonomous personalities who should be permitted to develop according to their own nature.


Young peoples' guide to the joys and hazards of coming out, an adaptation of a publication of the same title prepared by the Gay Teachers and Students Group of Melbourne, Australia.