

**Evaluating Intervention Outcomes in Therapeutic
Communities for Drug Abuse:
Comparing Israeli-Born and CIS-Born Users**

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Therapeutic communities are among the main services for drug rehabilitation. The aim of this study was to evaluate their contribution to rehabilitation on two levels: first, to examine the rate of dropping out of a community; and second, to examine the effect of being in a community on the process of change in the addicts' resources: specifically, to examine the change in their ability to face high-risk drug situations and in the support they receive from their family and from members of the community. When this study was conducted, a large rate (about 40%) of the individuals in the therapeutic community was CIS born. Because not much is known about their suitability and adjustment for this setting, the contribution to the community was compared between veteran Israelis and CIS-born Israelis.

The participants were 213 addicts who had been in therapeutic communities in Israel from January 2006 to August 2007. Of these, 110 were Israeli born and 103 were CIS born and immigrated to Israeli in the 1990s. Data were collected using self-report questionnaires: Situational Confidence Questionnaire (Annis & Martin, 1985), a family support questionnaire (Procidano & Heller, 1983), and a social support questionnaire (Yalom, 1995). Participants filled in the questionnaires when they first entered the community, three months after entry, six months after entry and when therapy was completed.

The findings indicated that the dropout rate is similar to the worldwide rate (62%), and even slightly better, and that the rates were lower among CIS-born participants than among their Israeli-born counterparts. During the time in the community both populations showed a similar process of empowerment of resources, despite the

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fact that upon entering the community, the level of resources of CIS-born participants was lower than that of their Israeli-born counterparts. The discussion refers to worldwide data and addresses the cultural differences between the two groups and the difference in their perception of addiction.