

ENGLISH SUMMARY

Willy Pedersen: From bad friend to good enemy — drug abuse then and now

(Fra dårlig venn til god fiende — narkotikamisbruket før og nå)

There has been little research about the abuse of drugs before 1960 in Norway. The author builds upon pieces of knowledge from history, sociology, medicine and literature and concludes that there were three main forms of abuse: among physicians and other health professionals; among persons addicted by way of illness; and, in smaller numbers, among those with a more unsettled way of life.

Most of the abuse was thus iatrogenic and is therefore difficult to reconstruct. The medical profession was able to escape from control behind professional secrecy.

Women were more exposed, since the drugs typically were used in the treatment of women's diseases. Additionally, there was an extensive supply of drugs which contained opiates among the patent medicines for ordinary people. The physicians made extensive investments to keep their control of the drugs, in part conflicting with the patent medicines and in part with the pharmacists. Finally the author shows how the metaphors describing abuse changes when a new abuse linked to the youth culture appears in the 1960's.

Key words:

drug abuse, history, women, iatrogenic, Norway