

found that in most cases social maladjustment pre-dated the involvement with drugs. These young people may have used drugs "as a coping mechanism to relieve stressful conditions already present in their life situation Thus, drug abuse is but one of the manifestations of underlying personality and social maladjustment."⁵² Indeed, it seems that "drug abusers are different from birth onwards They tend to have lower birth weights, more complications at birth, younger mothers and behaviour adjustment problems beginning in early elementary school."⁵³ These unfortunate people come into the world handicapped and as they develop, their experience with continuing problems tends to lead them to resort to drugs or alcohol. This in turn tends to ensure the continuation of damage to their offspring. And so the cycle continues.