Correlates of Drop-out in an Adolescent Substance Use Disorder Treatment Program

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Data domains collected include:

- Data from these forms was entered into an excel spreadsheet for analysis.
- On-site services include academic instruction, group therapy, and psycho-educational groups, such as substance abuse prevention, relapse prevention skills, health education, and social skills development.

Methods

- The treatment program lasts about 90 days.
- Placement is voluntary, family involvement is mandatory, and the use of addictive medications is prohibited.
- Highland Grace House is staffed 24/7.

We are studying how these factors, collected in client records, are associated with treatment success at Grace House.

Questions We’re Interested In

- In speaking with Grace House administrators, we have learned that client files include additional data that would be useful for our study, and which are not contained on the forms we are already accessing.
- Several of these data are important domains that have documented relationships to treatment success in adolescent substance use disorder, as well as anecdotal correlations to drop out in this specific treatment program.
- Thus, we are in the process of applying for an amendment to our IRB to allow us to collect these additional data so as to allow for a more thorough and nuanced investigation of our research question.
- The additional data points collected will include:
  - Axis I-V DSM-IV diagnosis and Global Assessment of Functioning score
  - Adoption status
  - Custody
  - Trauma history
  - Family history (mental health, substance abuse, family violence, psychiatric hospitalization)
  - Educational history (IEP status, special education status, 504 plan)
  - Medical history
  - Mental health history
  - Child mental health status exam results at intake
  - Legal history
  - Client stage of change at intake
  - Status of follow-up care at 7 and 30 days.

Discussion and Next Steps

- With completion of initial chart review and data extraction, we plan to embark on statistical analysis to identify demographic trends and any significant correlations with data collected in the intake forms.
- We also plan on incorporating qualitative and narrative measures of treatment, gaining a more holistic view of clients’ life circumstances that may contribute to substance use.
- Eventually, our goal is to identify what, if any, factors predispose clients to dropping out of the program to provide data for Grace House to improve its programming to better meet the needs of these clients.

References


Acknowledgements

- This work was supported by the Summer Service-Learning Assistantship Program
- The staff of Grace House has been incredibly helpful and generous with their time to support this project
- Heather Lyn-Haley
- Dr. Diane Blake