



Sex & Gender Differences

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Structure – bullet points

- ❑ Sex
- ❑ Gender
- ❑ Epidemiology
- ❑ Co-morbidity
- ❑ Pharmacodynamic,- Pharmacokinetic
- ❑ Substances
- ❑ “Aging” population
- ❑ Prescription drug use
- ❑ Gambling
- ❑ Special population: pregnancy
- ❑ Human rights

Declarations of interest GF

- Funding received over the past 5 years from Reckitt Benckiser, Indivior, GL Pharma, Gilead, Mundipharma, Shire, Pfizer, AOP-Orphan, Abbvie, MSD and Lundbeck (honorarium for travel expenses & delivery of speeches)

Declarations of interest MT

- Funding received over the past 5 years from, Indivior, Gilead, Mundipharma, Elsevier, MSD and Lundbeck (honorarium for consulting & delivery of speeches)



Definition of sex and gender

Sex

The biological sex

Gender

**Includes
psychosocial aspects**

Gender mainstreaming – consideration in all areas

Gender-specific differences aside biology I

- *Awareness of health* (nutrition, risk behaviour, physical activity, prevention medical check up, ...)
- *Perception* and **willingness to accept** the occurrence of medical conditions as well as setting adequate *actions* (to take symptoms serious, consultations in due time, symptom-presentation at the doctor, compliance, ...)
- *Exposure to* and *coping* of diseases

Gender-specific differences aside biology II

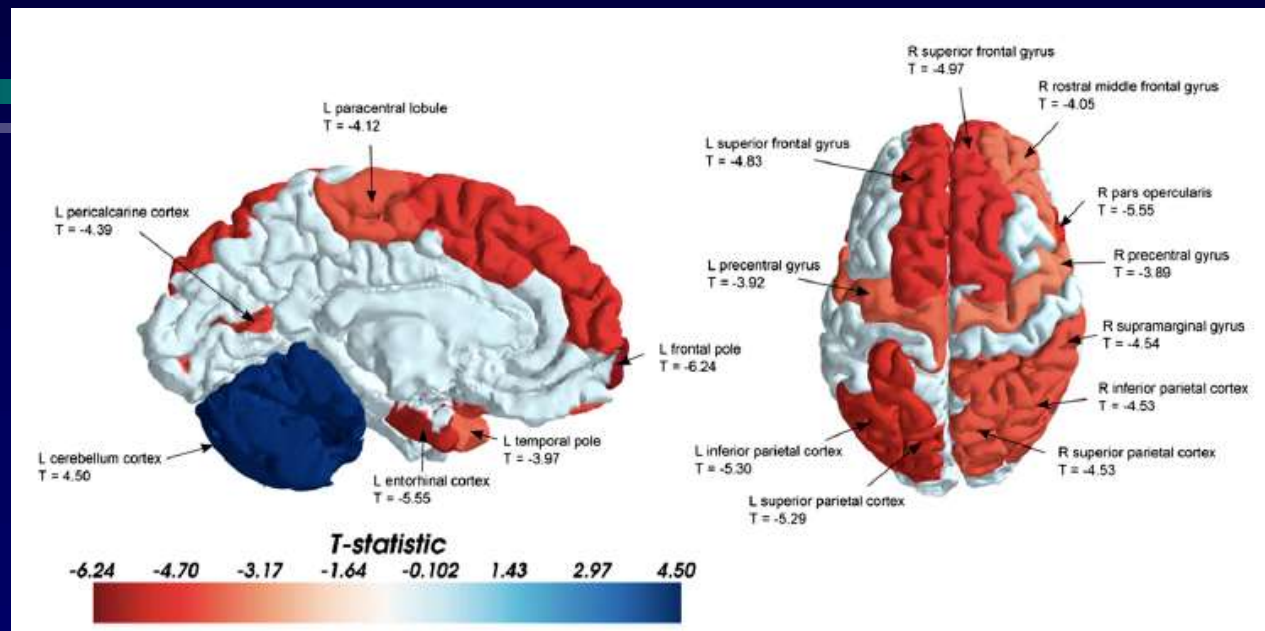
- **The way how** to talk about disease, health and condition and to present themselves respectively (health-reporting-behavior).
- *Men's and women's report* differ regarding treatment duration and presentation of their needs.
- *Previous experience* with the health care system and the health care supply

Sex differences in the structural connectome of the human brain

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Reporting differences - substance use disorder higher stigma in women

Lifetime prevalence of substance exposure

National Epidemiologic Survey on Alcohol and Related Conditions (NESARC-US)

- 85.7% of the sample (n= 43,093, > 18years) reported any lifetime exposure (49.2% ♀)
- Lifetime prevalence of exposure was significantly higher for ♂ compared to ♀ in all categories (after adjusting for sociodemographic variables, all ORs > 1)

TABLE 1. Comparison of lifetime exposure to substances among females and males in the NESARC 2001–2002

| Substance | Female (% [CI]) | Male (% [CI]) | Unadjusted OR [†] (CI) | Adjusted OR ^{†,‡} (CI) |
|---------------|------------------|------------------|---------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| Heroin | 0.2 (0.1–0.2) | 0.5 (0.4–0.6) | 3.23 (2.09–4.97) | 3.37 (2.12–5.37) |
| Cocaine | 4.2 (3.8–4.7) | 8.3 (7.6–8.9) | 2.04 (1.83–2.28) | 2.06 (1.84–2.31) |
| Cannabis | 16.6 (15.6–17.7) | 24.9 (23.7–26.0) | 1.66 (1.56–1.77) | 1.67 (1.57–1.78) |
| Nicotine* | 38.1 (36.7–39.6) | 49.7 (48.2–51.2) | 1.60 (1.53–1.68) | 1.77 (1.68–1.87) |
| Alcohol | 77.5 (75.7–79.1) | 88.4 (87.4–89.4) | 2.22 (2.04–2.42) | 2.31 (2.12–2.52) |
| Hallucinogens | 3.9 (3.5–4.3) | 7.9 (7.3–8.6) | 2.14 (1.94–2.36) | 2.12 (1.91–2.35) |
| Inhalants | .9 (.7–1.0) | 2.7 (2.4–3.0) | 3.18 (2.57–3.93) | 3.10 (2.50–3.84) |
| Sedatives | 3.1 (2.8–3.4) | 5.2 (4.7–5.6) | 1.69 (1.51–1.89) | 1.72 (1.53–1.92) |
| Tranquilizers | 2.4 (2.2–2.7) | 4.5 (4.1–5.0) | 1.91 (1.66–2.18) | 1.90 (1.65–2.18) |
| Opioids* | 3.5 (3.2–3.9) | 6.1 (5.5–6.7) | 1.77 (1.57–2.00) | 1.79 (1.57–2.03) |
| Amphetamines | 3.4 (2.9–3.8) | 6.1 (5.5–6.7) | 1.87 (1.65–2.11) | 1.88 (1.66–2.13) |

All percentages are weighted. CI, Confidence interval; OR, Odds ratio.

*Lifetime exposure to nicotine was defined as at least 100 cigarettes smoked; [†]Female is the reference group (OR = 1.0); [‡]Adjusted for age, race, educational level, household income, marital status, urbanicity, and region.

*prescription opioids

Lev-Ran et al, 2013.

Lifetime prevalence of substance dependence

- ♂ had a significantly higher prevalence for alcohol and cannabis dependence
- ♀ had a significantly higher prevalence of amphetamine dependence

TABLE 2. Comparison of lifetime prevalence of substance dependence among females and males with lifetime exposure to substances in the NESARC 2001–2002

| Substance | Female (% [CI]) | Male (% [CI]) | Unadjusted OR [†] (CI) | Adjusted OR ^{†,‡} (CI) |
|---------------|------------------|------------------|---------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| Heroin | 25.6 (14.7–40.6) | 29.1 (20.7–39.2) | 1.20 (0.54–2.66) | 1.24 (0.51–3.00) |
| Cocaine | 17.8 (14.8–21.1) | 15.0 (13.0–17.3) | 0.82 (0.62–1.07) | 0.85 (0.65–1.11) |
| Cannabis | 5.3 (4.5–6.3) | 7.0 (6.1–8.1) | 1.35 (1.08–1.68) | 1.37 (1.09–1.72) |
| Nicotine* | 40.6 (39.1–42.1) | 32.3 (36.4–39.7) | 0.90 (0.83–0.97) | 0.97 (0.89–1.05) |
| Alcohol | 10.3 (9.6–11.1) | 19.6 (18.6–20.8) | 2.13 (1.96–2.30) | 2.27 (2.09–2.47) |
| Hallucinogens | 3.1 (2.1–4.6) | 4.8 (3.4–6.6) | 1.56 (0.89–2.72) | 1.52 (0.87–2.66) |
| Inhalants | 2.5 (1.0–6.0) | 2.2 (1.0–4.7) | 0.85 (0.25–2.88) | 0.76 (3.16–3.58) |
| Sedatives | 6.6 (4.8–8.9) | 5.8 (4.2–7.9) | 0.88 (0.54–1.43) | 0.96 (0.60–1.55) |
| Tranquilizers | 7.7 (5.5–10.7) | 5.9 (4.0–8.4) | 0.74 (0.44–1.26) | 0.79 (0.47–1.33) |
| Opioids* | 7.9 (6.0–10.4) | 6.8 (4.9–9.2) | 0.84 (0.55–1.29) | 0.86 (0.55–1.32) |
| Amphetamines | 17.6 (14.1–21.7) | 10.2 (8.0–12.9) | 0.53 (0.36–0.78) | 0.55 (0.37–0.81) |

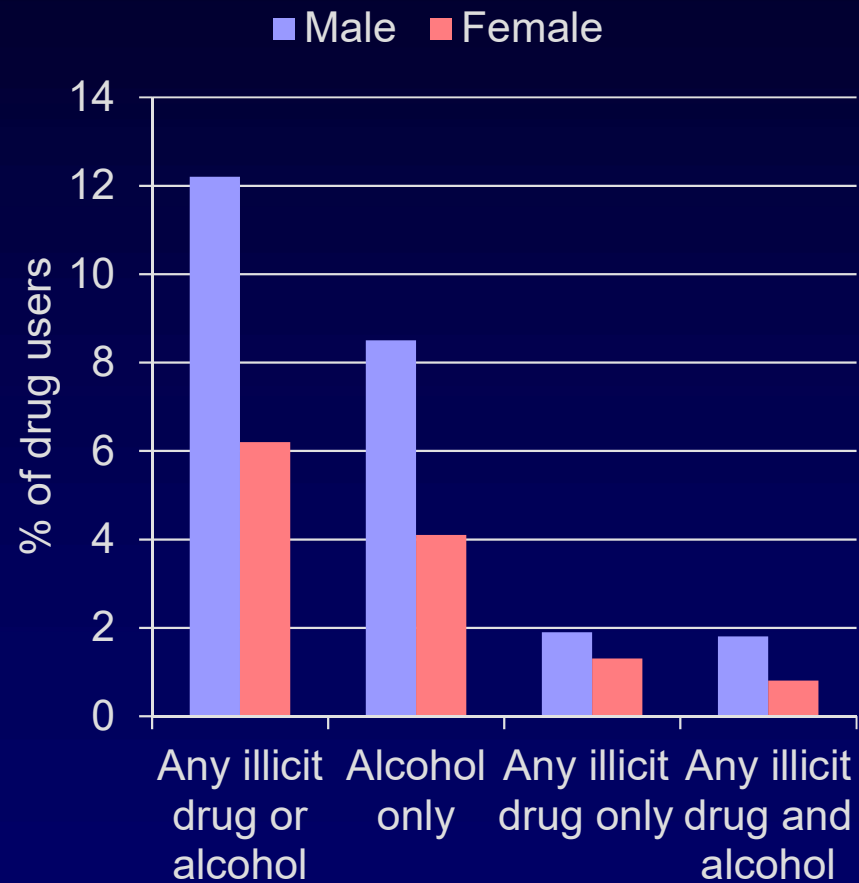
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*prescription opioids
Lev-Ran et al, 2013.

Sex differences in prevalence are narrowing



Percentage of persons aged 12 years or under abusing alcohol or illicit drugs in 2003

Drug use in ♂ compared to ♀

| | ♂ | ♀ |
|---|---|---|
| Comorbid psychiatric disorders^{1,2} | Depression (27.2%) | Depressive (29.4%) |
| | Anxiety (25.0%) | Anxiety (46.8%) |
| | PTSD (24.0%) | PTSD (45%) |
| | ADHD (28.0%) | ADHD (19%) |
| | Antisocial personality disorders ⁵ | Borderline personality disorders |
| Behaviors⁵ | Externalizing | Internalizing behaviors: alleviate physical or emotional pain |
| | Hedonistic reason and sensation seeking | Initiated into drug use by ♂ partners |
| | Mortality 13 times higher than age- and sex-matched controls ⁶ | Higher HIV/AIDS-risk behaviors: sex workers ⁴ |

1) Lynch et al, 2002. 2) Callaly et al, 2001. 3) Schubiner et al, 2000. 4) McCance-Katz et al, 1999. 5) Deykin et al, 1997. 6) Rowan-Szal et al, 2000.

pharmacokinetic/pharmacodynamic differences: ♀

Physiologic factors

- ❑ lower body weight and organ size
- ❑ Higher percentage of body fat
- ❑ Lower glomerular filtration rate
- ❑ Different gastric motility in women (slower in luteal phase)
- ❑ Ovarian hormones

Drug transporters and drug-metabolizing enzymes (CYP450-is modulated by sex hormones; women clear some CYP3A4 - enzymes drugs faster than men - might needs higher dosing ?)

*Different pharmacological responses,
but clinically relevance mostly unproven !*

(Meibohm, 2002)

| Physiology in ♀ | Drug transporters & drug-metabolizing enzymes | Sex-specific factors in ♀ |
|--|---|--|
| Lower body weight and organ size | Pharmacokinetics: One drug can interfere with the absorption, distribution, metabolism or excretion of another | Menstrual cycle (pre-, post-ovulation) |
| Higher percentage of body fat | Pharmacodynamics: Clinical response to a given drug is either enhanced or inhibited – “drug–drug interaction” | Oral contraception |
| Lower glomerular filtration rate | Drug transporters & drug metabolizing enzymes (eg CYP450) are modulated by sex hormones | Pregnancy |
| Different gastric motility in ♀ (slower in luteal phase) | ♀ clear some CYP3A4 - enzymes drugs faster than men (might needs higher dosing ?) | Menopause |
| Ovarian hormones | | |

Different pharmacological responses, but clinical relevance mostly unproven! ...Clinical trials are getting much more expensive - Meibohm et al, 2002

The importance of sex/ gender

Nature 465 | Issue no. 7299 | 2010

Putting gender on the agenda (editorial)

“Medicine as it is currently applied to women is less evidence-based than that being applied to men”

Science 308 | 2005

Gender in the pharmacy: Does it matter?

| Best investigated | Opioids | Antidepressants |
|--|---|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• “Drugs” who interact with heart rhythm:<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Antiarrhythmic• Antihistamine• Antibiotics• Antipsychotics | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 1990 Jon Levine’s group - kappa-receptor opioids work much better in ♀ & caused fewer side-effects¹• Controversial/confirmative results | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Susan Kornstein’s study (2000) - SSRI/tricyclics² |

1) Gear et al, 1996. 2) Kornstein et al, 2000.

Medication examples & sex differences

| Drug | Drug class | Incidence | I _{kr} blocker |
|------------------|----------------------------|---------------|-------------------------|
| Amiodarone | Anti-arrhythmic | F>M | Yes [43] |
| Bepiridil | Anti-anginal | F>M | Yes [44] |
| Cisapride | Gastrointestinal stimulant | F>M | Yes [45,46] |
| Disopyramide | Anti-arrhythmic | F>M | Yes [47] |
| Erythromycin | Antibiotic | F>M | Yes [48] |
| Halofantrine | Anti-malarial | F>M | Yes [49] |
| Ibutilide | Anti-arrhythmic | F>M | Yes [50] |
| Methadone | Opioid agonist | F>M | Yes [51] |
| Pentamidine | Anti-infective | F>M | ? |
| Pimozide | Anti-psychotic | F>M | Yes [52] |
| Quinidine | Anti-arrhythmic | F>M | Yes [53] |
| Sotalol | Anti-arrhythmic | F>M | Yes [54] |

F, female; M, male; F>M, substantial evidence indicated a greater risk (usually ≥ twofold) of TdP in women I_{kr}, rapid delayed rectifier potassium current.

Abi-Gerges et al, 2004.

- Cardiac interaction:
♀ experience a longer QTc interval & increased propensity toward drug-induced **Torsade de Pointes**
- Methadone:
Kaufmann et al., J Pharmacol. Exp. Ther., 2002

Differences in opioid effects

- Higher μ -opioid receptor binding in ♀¹
 - Gender-by-age interactions in thalamus & amygdala
- Subjective feelings more frequent and intense in ♀:
 - The feeling of being “high” (spaced out)
 - A “heavy” feeling and dry mouth²
- ♀ *experienced more severe postoperative pain and required higher morphine doses (+11%)*³
- No differences in:
 - Degree of psychomotor impairment
 - Physiological effects (miosis, respiration rate)

1) Zubieta et al, 1999. 2) Zacny et al, 2001. 3) Aubrun et al, 2005.



Peripartum pain management in opioid maintained ♀

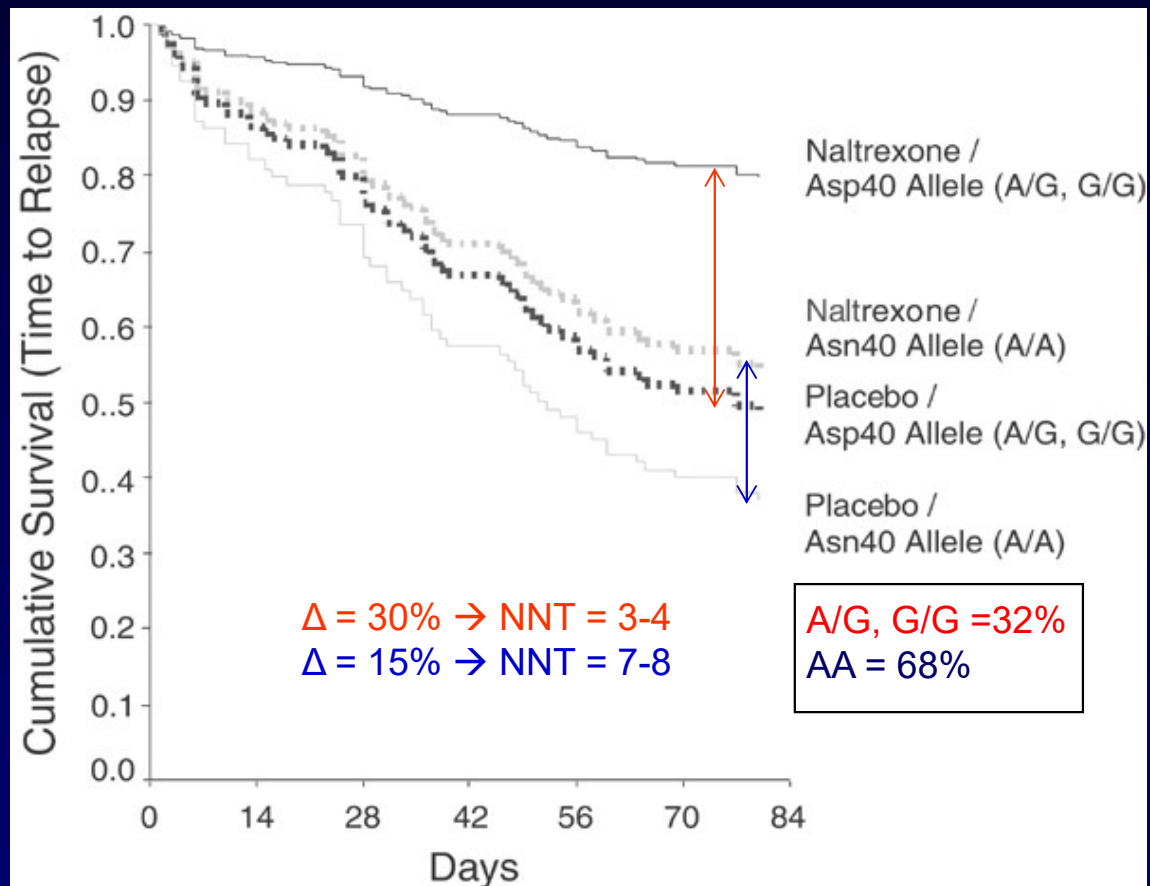
Following Cesarean delivery opioid maintained ♀
(methadone & buprenorphine) received **significantly less
opioid analgesics** (day of delivery $p = 0.038$; day 1:
 $p = 0.02$), NSAIDs were administered more frequently than
to the comparison group during cesarean section and
postpartum.

Alcohol dependence



- ❑ Alcohol dependence prevalence rates: 3:1
- ❑ Consequences more severe and rapid in ♀
 - ❑ Develop higher alcohol concentration after equivalent amounts of alcohol/kg
 - ❑ Show a faster progression of alcohol dependence (“Telescoping”)
 - ❑ Have heightened susceptibility to organ damage
 - ❑ Have increased sensitivity to alcohol-induced brain damage
- | ♀ are less likely to have received treatment for alcohol dependence: 15% vs. 23%
- | Gender differences in comorbidity:
 - ä Higher rates of comorbid **major depression**: 52% vs. 32%
 - ä No gender difference in **anxiety** prevalence but **higher severity** for ♀
 - ä Lower rates of comorbid antisocial personality disorder: 20% vs. 49%

Pharmacogenomics



| | |
|------------------------|---|
| Oslin et al. 2003 | + |
| McGeary et al. 2006 | + |
| Anton et al. 2008 | + |
| Kim et al. 2008 | + |
| Ooteman et al. 2009 | + |
| Gerlernter et al. 2007 | - |
| Tidey et al. 2008 | - |

The importance of gender in substance abuse research

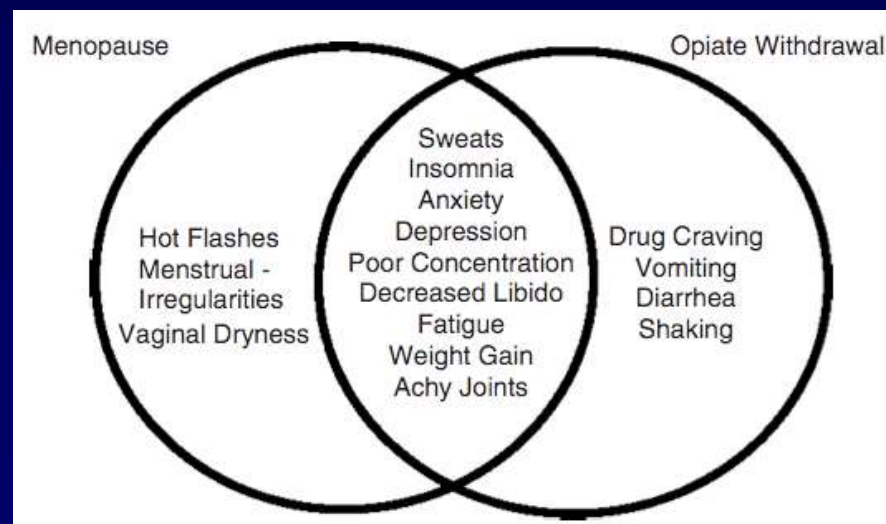
- Historically, participants in substance abuse research were largely ♂
- ♀ view SUD more negatively and are more concerned about social stigma than ♂
 - Pregnancy:
 - Large stigma associated with SUD in pregnant ♀
 - Lack on special services for pregnant ♀
- Treatment entry for ♀ is less facilitated by social institutions (employers or criminal justice system) as for ♂
- ♀ with SUD are more likely to
 - Come from families where members are addicted
 - Be in relationships with drug-abusing partners
 - Experience more affective disorders (♂ higher criminal behaviour)
 - Support their addiction through prostitution (♂ robbery, burglary...)

Gender differences in treatment outcomes

- ❑ Higher treatment drop-out rates in ♀
- ❑ Factors other than dose adequacy contribute to improved outcomes (eg, therapeutic relationship)
- ❑ History of physical, sexual and emotional abuse may have negative impact on treatment outcome
- ❑ Remaining abstinent after treatment – no difference?
 - ❑ Continued abstinence 7 months after completion of treatment: ♀ who complete multiprofessional treatment do better than ♂⁶

Menopause symptoms of ♀ in MMT

- ❑ 15.6% of adults receiving treatment for opioid dependence in 2004 were >50 years old (up from 5.5% in 1994)¹
- ❑ High rates of vasomotor symptoms
- ❑ Mood overshadows classical menopause symptoms
- ❑ Multiplicity of symptom-producing entities²
- ❑ Need menopause research agenda for ♀ in MMT



1) Rosen et al, 2008. 2) Tuchman, 2007.

♂ Erectile dysfunction in maintenance therapy

- ❑ Methadone versus buprenorphine patients or healthy controls¹
 - ❑ M: Lower plasma testosterone ($p < 0.00001$)
 - ❑ M: Higher rates of impaired libido ($p < 0.0001$)
 - ❑ Higher frequency of sexual dysfunction ($p < 0.00001$) (M)
- ❑ Risk factors for erectile dysfunction in maintenance treatment²:
 - ❑ Methadone maintenance ($p = 0.0135$ vs buprenorphine)
 - ❑ Not living with a partner ($p = 0.0018$)
 - ❑ Depression ($p < 0.001$)
 - ❑ Homo- or bi-sexuality ($p = 0.0427$)
 - ❑ Partner with history of drug abuse ($p = 0.0078$)
- ❑ No significant association found with methadone or buprenorphine dose or treatment duration¹

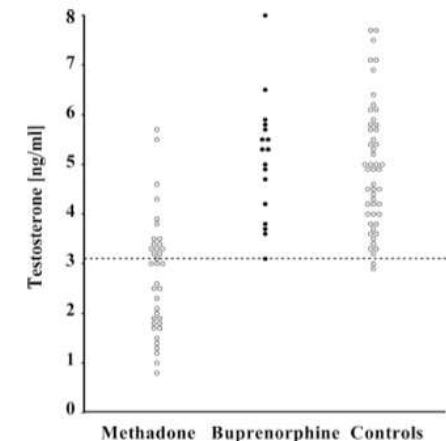


FIG. 1. Comparison of serum testosterone levels in 17 patients treated with buprenorphine, 37 patients treated with methadone, and 51 healthy controls. *Dashed line*, Lower limit.

1) Bliesener et al, 2005. 2) Quaglio et al. 2008.

Bone density in patients receiving methadone maintenance treatment (MMT)

- | Cross-sectional study of 59 ♀ and 33 ♂ in MMT (mean age 42 years):
 - ä Low bone mineral density (BMD) significantly associated with
 - | Male gender ($p < 0.001$)
 - | Lower weight ($p = 0.009$)
 - | More years of heavy alcohol use ($p = 0.02$)
 - ä Reasons for the high proportion of the ♂ sample with abnormal BMD are unknown, but may reflect the high prevalence of secondary causes of osteoporosis
 - ä Current heroin use, methadone dosage and duration of MMT were not associated with lower BMD

Mental and physical health in “older” methadone patients

- Documentation of prevalence and range of medical and mental health disorders in a population of “older” methadone patients
 - Mean age: 53.9 years (SD=4.01, range 50–67)
 - SF-12: measure of severity of physical and mental health symptoms

Results

| Diagnosis | N=140 Overall sample | n=92 ♂ | n=48 ♀ | p |
|------------------------------|-------------------------|-----------|-----------|-------|
| <i>Hypertension</i> | 44.9% | 52.2% | 29.2% | 0.002 |
| <i>Diabetes</i> | 11.4% | 16.3% | 2.1% | 0.03 |
| Major depression episode | 32.9% | 27.2% | 43.8% | 0.06 |
| Generalized anxiety disorder | 29.7% | 25.0% | 37.5% | 0.09 |
| Agoraphobia | 13.6% | 9.8% | 20.8% | 0.07 |
| Panic disorder | 13.6% | 12.0% | 22.9% | 0.09 |

- Scores for cohort aged 50–54 years worse than population norms for individuals aged 55–67 years

Abused Prescription Opioids



Oxycodone (OxyContin[®])

Aspirin & Oxycodone (Percodan[®])

Hydromorphone (Dilaudid[®], Palladone[®])

♀ who abuse prescription opioids: Findings from the ASI-MV® Connect database

29,906 US adults entering substance abuse treatment

| Gender Differences | Limitations |
|--|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• ♀ more likely to use and abuse prescription opioids | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Some important risk factors not assessed; smoking, medical/psychiatric diagnoses |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• ♀ prefer fast-release, ♂ prefer extended-release | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Cross-sectional design |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Strongest predictor: prescription of pain medication | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• No causation can be concluded from correlations |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Need gender-specific strategies for monitoring/prevention/Rx | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Potential selection bias (treatment program attendees) |
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Large number of associations examined (type I error?) |
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Time frame used for obtaining covariates (past month) |

Pathological Gambling



Gambling Behaviour

Strategic vs. non-strategic Gambling

- ❑ ♀ prefer non-strategic gambling (e.g. Slot machines, Bingo, Lotto)
- ❑ ♂ prefer strategic gambling (e.g. sports bets) or „face to face“ gambling (e.g. Black Jack, Poker)

Gambling motivation

- ❑ ♀ gamble as avoidance strategy
- ❑ ♀ often gamble primarily in/for company
- ❑ ♀ start to gamble as leisure activity
- ❑ ♂ „Sensation-seeking“ or to avoid emptiness and negative feelings
- ❑ ♂ Gambling as stimulant and for winning money

Pathological Gambling – Telescoping Effect

Telescoping effect – (Grant & Kim, 2002; Ibanez et al., 2003; Ladd & Petry, 2002; Potenza et al., 2001; Tavares et al., 2001)

| Characteristics | ♀ (n=39) | ♂ (n=38) | p |
|--|----------|----------|--------|
| Age | | | |
| •At gambling onset | 34,2 | 20,4 | <0,001 |
| •At seeking treatment | 44,7 | 42,3 | n.s. |
| Years of intensiv gambling (until first gambling problems) | 1,0 | 4,6 | 0,017 |
| Years of probleme gambling (from first gam. problemes until treatment) | 1,8 | 8,6 | <0,001 |
| Max. abstinence length (in months) | 2,6 | 10,1 | 0,015 |

Tavares et al., 2001

Smoking



Nicotine – Smoking rates

- Male and female smoking rates over a period of 32 years

| | 1980 | | | 2012 | | |
|------------------|-------|-----|-----|-------|-----|-----|
| | Total | ♀ | ♂ | Total | ♀ | ♂ |
| Global | 26% | 11% | 41% | 19% | 6% | 32% |
| EU | 32% | 24% | 42% | 27% | 22% | 33% |
| US | 30% | 28% | 33% | 15% | 14% | 17% |
| Australia | 30% | 28% | 34% | 17% | 15% | 18% |
| Asia | 19% | 6% | 33% | 19% | 3% | 35% |

Ng, M., et al. (2014). Smoking Prevalence and Cigarette Consumption in 187 Countries, 1980-2012. *JAMA*, 311(2):183-192

Gender differences in nicotine metabolism

- Main cytochrome (CYP) responsible for nicotine metabolism (CYP2A6) is upregulated in ♀ compared to ♂
- Higher CYP expression is associated with faster nicotine metabolism
- ♀ may consume more cigarettes than ♂ in accordance with greater CYP expression
- ♀ experience more difficulty quitting smoking than ♂
- ♀ may be at greater risk of developing smoking-related diseases

Smoking cessation during pregnancy

- ❑ Increased intrinsic motivation to deliver a healthy baby = important window of opportunity for quitting smoking¹
- ❑ Up to 45% of smoking ♀ quit without assistance between learning of pregnancy and first prenatal visit²
- ❑ BUT: up to 70-80% of these ♀ relapse after the postpartum period³
- ❑ **Promising:** Contingency management (CM), based on principles of operant conditioning that offer incentives to encourage smoking abstinence
- ❑ CM can improve smoking cessation in the postpartum period: 12 weeks postpartum, 24% of women in CM were still abstinent compared to 3% of women without CM⁴
- ❑ CM interventions have also shown a positive impact on fetal growth, birth weight and breastfeeding duration⁵

Nicotine

- ❑ Double-blind, placebo-controlled study with nicotine (2 mg by inhaler) to investigate changes in cognitive performance
- ❑ Nicotine did not improve attention and memory; exposure to stress increased anxiety and aggression in ♀, which were blocked through nicotine, but not in ♂
- ❑ *Smoking in women correlated to stress situation*

❑ File, S., Fluck, E., & Leahy, A. (2001). Nicotine has calming effects on stress-induced mood changes in females, but enhances aggressive mood in males. *International Journal of Neuropsychopharmacology*, 4: 371–376.

Alcohol consumption during pregnancy

- **Canada:** 13,8% of pregnant women show mild to moderate alcohol consumption*¹
- **US:** 12,5% mild to moderate use*, 1,6% regular use or binge-drinking²
- **Europe:** prevalence of alcohol use in pregnant women comparable to estimates for Canada and US³
 - **For comparison:** In Europe, 62,9% of all women show mild to moderate use*, 13.9% regular ($\geq 20\text{g}$ Alcohol/day) and 5,2% problematic consumption ($\geq 40\text{g}$ alcohol: 1l beer or 3/8 wine/day)⁴
- **Potential consequence:** Fetal alcohol syndrome (FAS) → prevalence up to 1%

*max. 1 alcoholic beverage/day

Health system costs of FAS (US)

Health system costs of FAS and comorbid disorders (US) until 21 years of age

| | Mean costs per year (US\$) | Additional costs per year * (US\$) | Potential cumulative savings per case and year (US\$) | |
|-------------------------------|----------------------------|------------------------------------|---|----------------|
| | | | After 10 years | After 20 years |
| FAS | 2.842 | 2.342 | 128.810 | 491.820 |
| ADHD | 649 | 154 | 8.470 | 32.340 |
| Learning disability | 1.302 | 806 | 44.330 | 169.260 |
| Developmental disorder | 2.286 | 1.797 | 98.835 | 377.370 |
| ODD** | 1.377 | 883 | 48.565 | 185.430 |
| Epileptic seizures | 2.181 | 1.689 | 92.895 | 345.690 |

*Additional costs: Costs of a child with the disorder minus costs of a child without the disorder

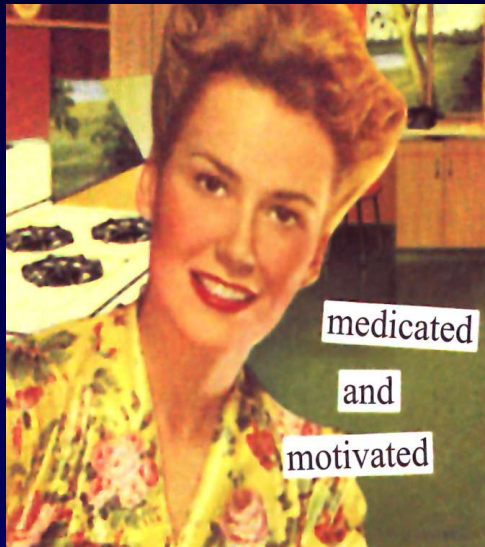
**Oppositional Defiant Disorder



Conclusion



Treating him, treating her:
both **sex** and **gender** matter



Oh, so that explains the
difference in our salaries!

Thank you for your attention!

Psychiatric comorbidity & Substance Use Disorder



Dual diagnosis

Relevance ?

- ❑ More emergency admissions
- ❑ Higher prevalence of suicide (OR=14)
- ❑ Increased rates of medical co-morbidity (risk behaviours and related infections: HIV & HCV)
- ❑ Worse prognosis: More risk of relapse in drug use and psychiatric disorder
- ❑ Higher unemployment and homelessness rates
- ❑ Greater incident of violent or criminal behaviour

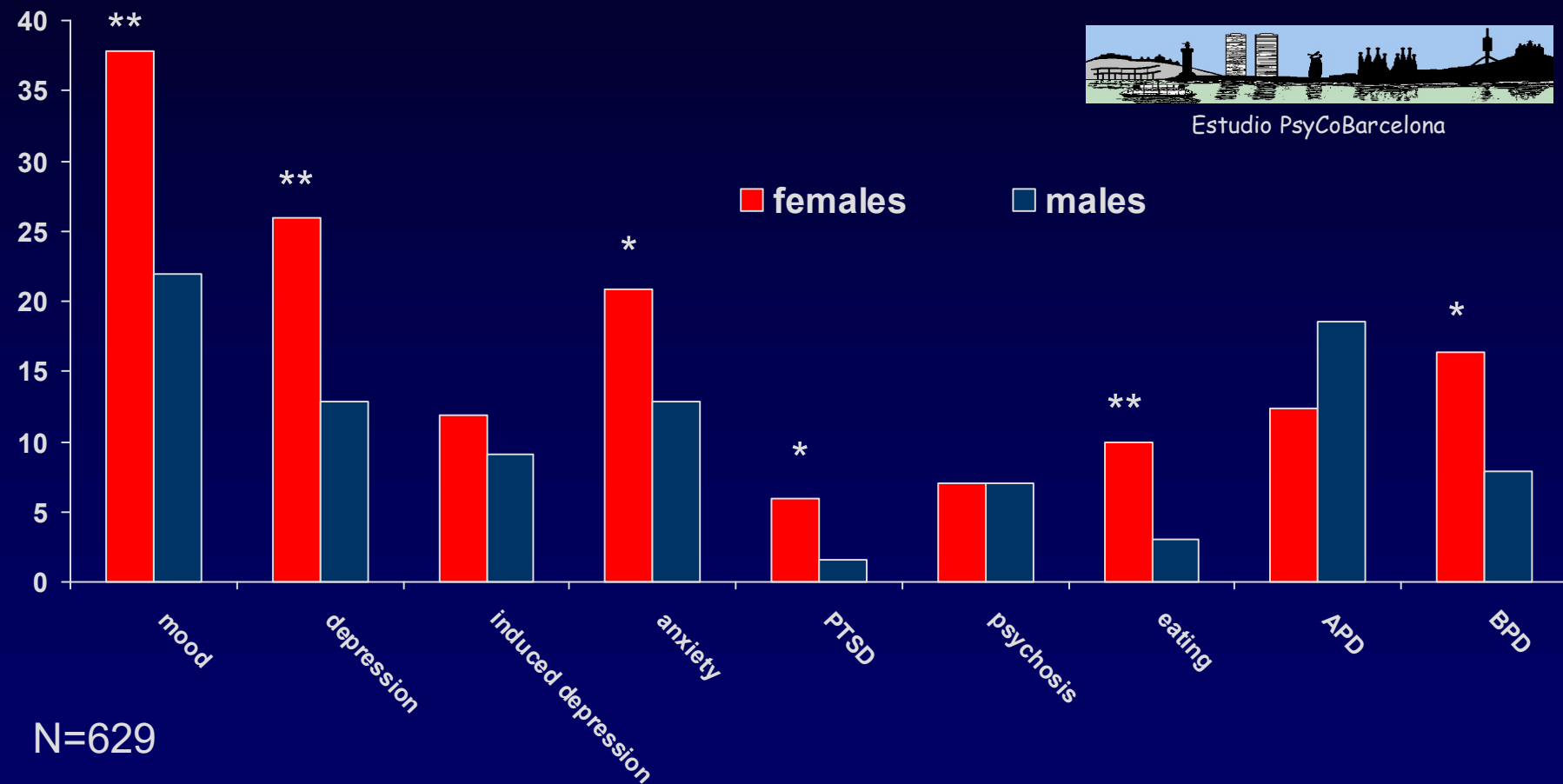
Increased clinical & social severity

High cost for society

Epidemiology?

- **40%-70%** of substance abusers have other psychiatric disorders
- The most prevalent psychiatric diagnoses are:
 - Depression
 - Anxiety disorders (Panic disorder, Post-traumatic stress disorder)
 - Eating Disorder
 - Borderline Personality disorder
 - Antisocial Personality disorder
 - ADHD
- Gender differences: **female present more mental disorders than male**

Gender ?

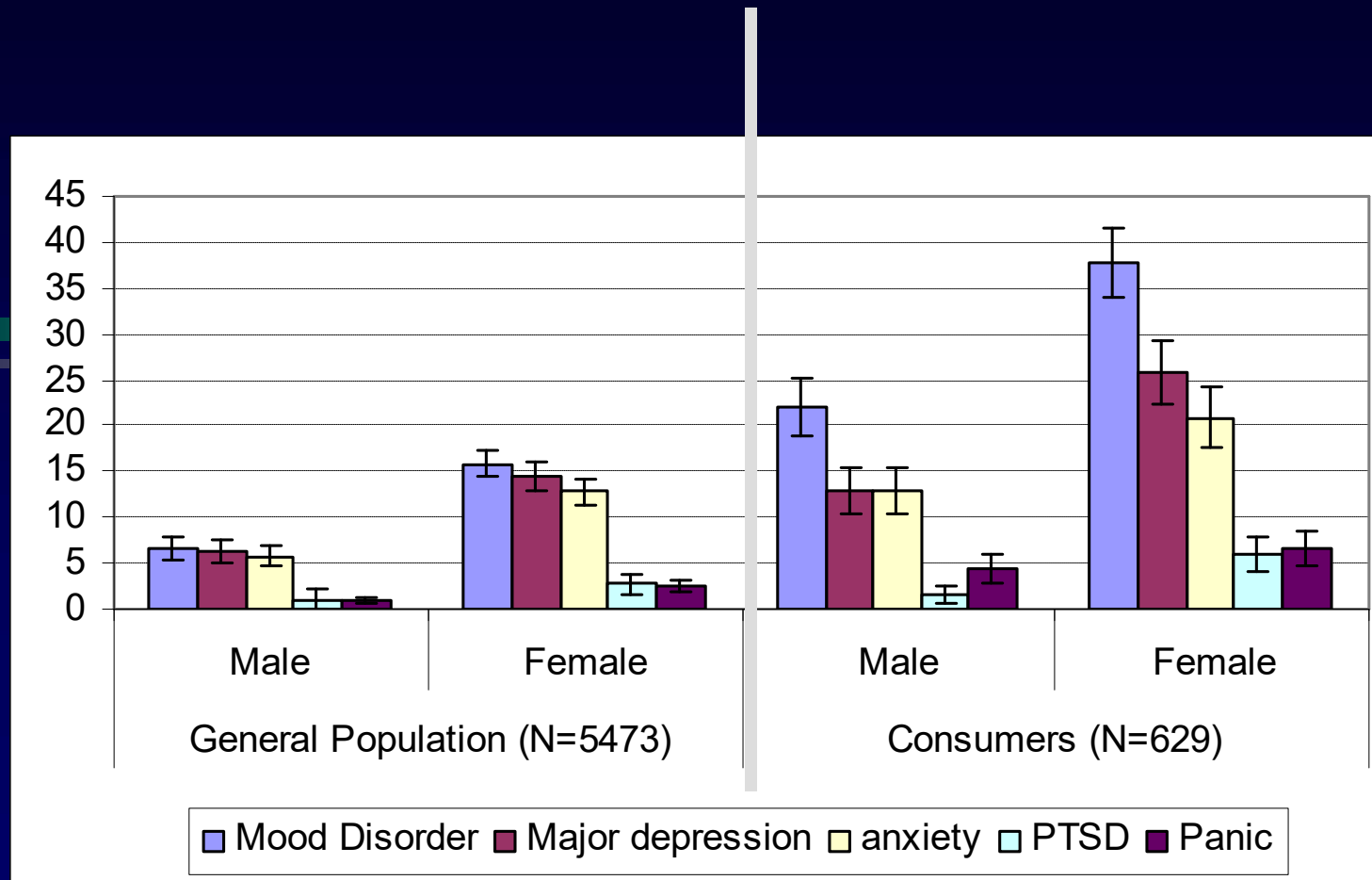


Gilchrist, Torrens & Domingo (2011)

** $p < 0.001$; * $p < 0.05$

SUD & Gender: Psychiatric comorbidity

Lifetime prevalence of mental disorders in general population and substance abusers by gender (%)



Haro et al., 2006; Gilchrist et al, in press

Gender differences in lifetime psychiatric and substance use disorders among people who use substances in Barcelona, Spain



Yasmina Frem, Marta Torrens, Antonia Domingo-Salvany and Gail Gilchrist

Table II Factors associated with lifetime Axis I non-substance use disorder (non-SUD) among females who use substances

| | No lifetime Axis I non-SUD (%) | Lifetime Axis I non-SUD (%) | Unadjusted OR and 95%CI | OR and 95%CI Adjusted for age and study |
|---|-----------------------------------|--------------------------------|----------------------------|---|
| <i>Demographics</i> | | | | |
| Marital status | | | | |
| Single/never married/divorced/separated/widowed | 72.8 | 65.1 | 1.00 | 1.00 |
| Married/cohabiting | 27.2 | 24.9 | 0.70 (0.28, 1.28) | 0.71 (0.38, 1.31) |
| <i>Highest level of education attained</i> | | | | |
| Secondary school or university studies (vs no or primary schooling) | 46.7 | 47.7 | 1.04 (0.60, 1.81) | 1.06 (0.59, 1.88) |
| <i>Employment</i> | | | | |
| Working or studying | 42.4 | 38.9 | 0.86 (0.49, 1.52) | 0.86 (0.48, 1.55) |
| <i>Criminal history</i> | | | | |
| Ever in prison | 33.0 | 52.3 | 2.23 (1.25, 3.97) | 2.57 (1.35, 4.86) |
| <i>Living arrangements</i> | | | | |
| Lives alone | 5.4 | 11.9 | 1.00 | 1.00 |
| Flatmate/family | 72.8 | 65.1 | 0.41 (0.14, 1.21) | 0.41 (0.14, 1.21) |
| Squatting/homeless | 21.8 | 22.9 | 0.48 (0.15, 1.58) | 0.50 (0.15, 1.68) |
| <i>Blood borne virus status</i> | | | | |
| HIV | 17.3 | 21.8 | 1.33 (0.63, 2.81) | 1.36 (0.62, 2.96) |
| Hepatitis C | 28.4 | 48.0 | 2.33 (1.24, 4.34) | 3.05 (1.48, 6.29) |
| <i>Recruited from out of treatment settings</i> | 58.7 | 59.6 | 1.04 (0.59, 1.83) | 1.99 (0.58, 6.80) |

Table IV Associations between specific lifetime substance use disorders and non-substance use disorder among females who use substances

| Lifetime substance use disorders OR (95%CI) | Lifetime (non-substance use) psychiatric disorders OR (95%CI) | | | | | |
|---|---|-------------------|-------------------|--------------------|--|-----------------------|
| | Mood | Anxiety | Eating | Psychotic | Antisocial and/or borderline personality | Any substance induced |
| Alcohol | 1.84 (1.03, 3.29) | 1.82 (0.92, 3.60) | 1.21 (0.48, 3.07) | 1.10 (0.37, 3.28) | 1.71 (0.87, 3.37) | 2.92 (1.40, 6.11) |
| Opiates | 1.58 (0.85, 2.93) | 1.58 (0.74, 3.37) | 0.59 (0.23, 1.50) | 7.26 (0.93, 56.71) | 2.68 (1.17, 6.16) | 1.75 (0.77, 3.95) |
| Cocaine | 1.36 (0.71, 2.60) | 2.67 (1.06, 6.76) | 2.28 (0.64, 8.13) | 5.28 (0.67, 41.35) | 10.34 (2.41, 44.43) | 2.81 (1.03, 7.63) |
| Sedatives | 1.44 (0.79, 2.61) | 1.40 (0.70, 2.82) | 0.45 (0.14, 1.39) | 3.81 (1.22, 11.86) | 1.93 (0.97, 3.85) | 1.93 (0.89, 3.78) |
| Stimulants | 1.31 (0.71, 2.40) | 1.62 (0.80, 3.28) | 2.35 (0.93, 5.98) | 3.12 (1.03, 9.41) | 1.54 (0.77, 3.11) | 2.12 (1.02, 4.39) |
| Cannabis | 1.32 (0.74, 2.36) | 1.06 (0.53, 2.13) | 1.62 (0.64, 4.10) | 3.01 (0.97, 9.34) | 4.47 (2.18, 9.20) | 3.66 (1.73, 7.74) |
| Hallucinogens | 2.13 (1.06, 4.29) | 2.19 (1.01, 4.75) | 3.10 (1.17, 8.21) | 0.65 (0.14, 3.05) | 1.80 (0.82, 3.93) | 2.75 (1.25, 6.06) |
| Polysubstance | 1.52 (0.75, 3.09) | 2.57 (0.95, 6.98) | 0.88 (0.30, 2.56) | – | 7.91 (1.83, 34.11) | 6.42 (1.48, 7.80) |

Note: Extremely low cell count for some variables precluded statistical analysis

Table IV Associations between specific lifetime substance use disorders and non-substance use disorder among females who use substances

| Lifetime substance use disorders OR (95%CI) | Lifetime (non-substance use) psychiatric disorders OR (95%CI) | | | | | |
|---|---|-------------------|-------------------|--------------------|--|-----------------------|
| | Mood | Anxiety | Eating | Psychotic | Antisocial and/or borderline personality | Any substance induced |
| Alcohol | 1.84 (1.03, 3.29) | 1.82 (0.92, 3.60) | 1.21 (0.48, 3.07) | 1.10 (0.37, 3.28) | 1.71 (0.87, 3.37) | 2.92 (1.40, 6.11) |
| Opiates | 1.58 (0.85, 2.93) | 1.58 (0.74, 3.37) | 0.59 (0.23, 1.50) | 7.26 (0.93, 56.71) | 2.68 (1.17, 6.16) | 1.75 (0.77, 3.95) |
| Cocaine | 1.36 (0.71, 2.60) | 2.67 (1.06, 6.76) | 2.28 (0.64, 8.13) | 5.28 (0.67, 41.35) | 10.34 (2.41, 44.43) | 2.81 (1.03, 7.63) |
| Sedatives | 1.44 (0.79, 2.61) | 1.40 (0.70, 2.82) | 0.45 (0.14, 1.39) | 3.81 (1.22, 11.86) | 1.93 (0.97, 3.85) | 1.93 (0.89, 3.78) |
| Stimulants | 1.31 (0.71, 2.40) | 1.62 (0.80, 3.28) | 2.35 (0.93, 5.98) | 3.12 (1.03, 9.41) | 1.54 (0.77, 3.11) | 2.12 (1.02, 4.39) |
| Cannabis | 1.32 (0.74, 2.36) | 1.06 (0.53, 2.13) | 1.62 (0.64, 4.10) | 3.01 (0.97, 9.34) | 4.47 (2.18, 9.20) | 3.66 (1.73, 7.74) |
| Hallucinogens | 2.13 (1.06, 4.29) | 2.19 (1.01, 4.75) | 3.10 (1.17, 8.21) | 0.65 (0.14, 3.05) | 1.80 (0.82, 3.93) | 2.75 (1.25, 6.06) |
| Polysubstance | 1.52 (0.75, 3.09) | 2.57 (0.95, 6.98) | 0.88 (0.30, 2.56) | — | 7.91 (1.83, 34.11) | 6.42 (1.48, 7.80) |

Note: Extremely low cell count for some variables precluded statistical analysis

Psychiatric comorbidity among women who inject drugs

- Among 226 women who injected drugs, 87% had a psychiatric comorbidity

| Country | Panic | Generalised Anxiety Disorder | Social Phobia | Agora phobia | Depression | PTSD |
|----------|-------|------------------------------|---------------|--------------|------------|-------|
| Austria | 46.0% | 32.0% | 12.0% | 18.0% | 80.0% | 62.0% |
| Italy | 57.1% | 36.7% | 30.6% | 24.5% | 77.6% | 53.1% |
| Poland | 46.0% | 40.0% | 38.0% | 32.0% | 82.0% | 56.0% |
| Scotland | 80.0% | 63.3% | 73.3% | 66.7% | 93.3% | 76.7% |
| Spain | 52.0% | 18.0% | 8.0% | 14.0% | 54.0% | 24.0% |
| Total | 54.1% | 35.8% | 28.8% | 27.9% | 76.0% | 52.4% |

Factors associated to psychiatric comorbidity in females with SUD

- Women with SUD are more likely than men to:
 - come from families with other addicted/psychiatric members (genetic vulnerability, family history, or environmental stress)
 - have experienced more disruption in their families
 - be in relationships with drug use partner
 - support their habits through prostitution
 - suffer high prevalence of intimate partner violence

Psychiatric Comorbidity and intimate partner violence

ADVANCES IN DUAL DIAGNOSIS | VOL. 5 NO. 2 2012

Exploring the relationship between intimate partner violence, childhood abuse and psychiatric disorders among female drug users in Barcelona

Gail Gilchrist, Alicia Blázquez and Marta Torrens

The probability of experiencing intimate partner violence were:

- Over twice greater among those with any depressive disorder
- Over three times greater for those who reported ever attempting suicide, had borderline personality disorder, had been abused in childhood or currently lived with a substance user

Psychiatric Comorbidity and intimate partner violence

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Original Articles

Identifying and Intervening with Substance-Using Women Exposed to Intimate Partner Violence: Phenomenology, Comorbidities, and Integrated Approaches Within Primary Care and Other Agency Settings

Terri L. Weaver, PhD,¹ Louisa Gilbert, PhD,² Nabila El-Bassel, PhD,²
Heidi S. Resnick, PhD,³ and Samia Noursi, PhD⁴

Women with SUD and Depression or PTSD have more probabilities of:

- Be suffering Intimate Partner Violence
- Be less able to detect the signs that lead to episodes of violence
- Reduced search capacity and access to resources that can improve security

Intimate partner violence and HIV and HCV

- Prevalence rates of intimate partner violence:
 - among non-drug using women range between 1.5% to 16%
 - among women in drug treatment range between 25% and 57%
 - Women who experience intimate partner violence
 - Less use of condoms
 - More share needles
 - Multiple sexual partners
 - Trade sex
- HIV and HCV infections
- Continued drug use and relapse

Psychiatric Comorbidity and HIV

| | All participants <i>n</i> = 118 (%) ^a | HIV | | OR (95 CI) |
|--|---|--|--|------------------------------------|
| | | Negative <i>n</i> = 86 (%) ^a | Positive <i>n</i> = 32 (%) ^a | |
| Psychiatric risk factors | | | | |
| Mental disorders | | | | |
| Any major depression | 68 (58.6) | 44 (52.4) | 24 (75.0) | 2.73 ^a (1.10, 6.76) |
| Primary major depression | 41 (35.3) | 31 (36.9) | 10 (31.3) | 0.78 (0.33, 1.85) |
| Substance-induced major depression | 35 (30.4) | 19 (22.9) | 16 (50.0) | 3.37 ^b (1.42, 7.97) |
| Post traumatic stress | 32 (27.1) | 20 (23.3) | 12 (37.5) | 1.98 (0.83, 4.74) |
| Borderline personality | 39 (33.1) | 24 (27.9) | 15 (46.9) | 2.28 (0.99, 5.28) |
| Antisocial personality | 27 (22.9) | 12 (14.0) | 15 (46.9) | 5.44 ^b (2.16, 13.71) |
| Behavioural risk factors | | | | |
| Unprotected sex | 42 (36.5) | 25 (29.8) | 17 (54.8) | 2.87 ^b (1.23, 6.69) |
| Ever traded sex | 39 (34.8) | 18 (22.2) | 21 (67.7) | 7.35 ^b (2.94, 18.39) |
| Ever injected regularly | 56 (47.9) | 29 (33.7) | 27 (87.1) | 13.27 ^b (4.24, 41.54) |
| Ever injected with used syringe | 44 (38.6) | 19 (22.6) | 25 (83.3) | 17.11 ^b (5.76, 50.76) |
| Any Partner IDU | 67 (65.0) | 41 (54.7) | 26 (92.9) | 10.78 ^b (2.39, 48.72) |
| Any Partner HIV + ve | 38 (41.3) | 16 (23.9) | 22 (88.0) | 23.38 ^b (6.18, 88.44) |
| Hepatitis C positive | 55 (46.6) | 24 (27.9) | 31 (96.9) | 80.08 ^b (10.35, 619.79) |
| Social risk factors | | | | |
| Mean age (SD) | 39.07 (7.75) | 37.98 (8.13) | 42.00 (5.79) | 1.07 ^b (1.01, 1.14) |
| Primary studies or no schooling (vs. secondary studies) | 57 (48.3) | 37 (43.0) | 20 (62.5) | 2.21 (0.96, 5.08) |
| IPV (past 12 months) | 67 (57.3) | 47 (55.3) | 20 (62.5) | 1.35 (0.59, 3.10) |
| Childhood Abuse | 82 (71.3) | 57 (68.7) | 25 (78.1) | 1.63 (0.63, 4.25) |
| Ever been homeless | 35 (30.4) | 21 (25.3) | 14 (43.8) | 2.30 (0.98, 5.41) |
| Ever been in prison | 66 (55.9) | 44 (51.2) | 22 (68.8) | 2.10 (0.89, 4.96) |

Psychiatric comorbidity and pregnancy

- ❑ Prevalence of psychiatric comorbidity among substance misusing pregnant women: 91% to 57% (*Coleman-Cowger, 2012 Strengell, 2015*)
- ❑ Postpartum mood disorders affect approximately 10-20% of women and this prevalence increase in women with lifetime substance use (*Prevatt, 2016*).

Addiction & Gender & Mental disorders



HIV-AIDS



Hepatitis C Virus



Conclusions

1. Women with SUD present more psychiatric comorbidity than men with SUD and women without SUD
2. Depression, anxiety and PTSD are the most frequent mental disorders
3. Women with SUD and psychiatric comorbidity present more risk of be suffering Intimate partner violence
4. Women with SUD and psychiatric comorbidity present more risk of HIV and HCV infection

Conclusions

- ❑ Policy makers must guarantee the access to appropriate treatment of females with mental disorders and substance use disorder



Thank you!

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