

6-2014

BELIEFS ABOUT SUBSTANCE ABUSING CLIENTS AMONG SOCIAL WORK STUDENTS

Seidy Jhosselyn Soto
California State University - San Bernardino

Marry Jean Stuart
California State University - San Bernardino

Follow this and additional works at: <https://scholarworks.lib.csusb.edu/etd>



Part of the [Social Work Commons](#)

Recommended Citation

Soto, Seidy Jhosselyn and Stuart, Marry Jean, "BELIEFS ABOUT SUBSTANCE ABUSING CLIENTS AMONG SOCIAL WORK STUDENTS" (2014). *Electronic Theses, Projects, and Dissertations*. 17.
<https://scholarworks.lib.csusb.edu/etd/17>

This Thesis is brought to you for free and open access by the Office of Graduate Studies at CSUSB ScholarWorks. It has been accepted for inclusion in Electronic Theses, Projects, and Dissertations by an authorized administrator of CSUSB ScholarWorks. For more information, please contact scholarworks@csusb.edu.

BELIEFS ABOUT SUBSTANCE ABUSING CLIENTS
AMONG SOCIAL WORK STUDENTS

A Project
Presented to the
Faculty of
California State University,
San Bernardino

In Partial Fulfillment
of the Requirements for the Degree
Master of Social Work

by
Seidy Jhosselyn Soto
Marry Jean Stuart
June 2014

BELIEFS ABOUT SUBSTANCE ABUSING CLIENTS
AMONG SOCIAL WORK STUDENTS

A Project
Presented to the
Faculty of
California State University,
San Bernardino

by
Seidy Jhosselyn Soto
Marry Jean Stuart
June 2014

Approved by:

Dr. Thomas Davis, Faculty Supervisor, Social Work
Dr. Laurie Smith, Department Chair, Social Work
Dr. Rosemary McCaslin, M.S.W. Research Coordinator

© 2014 Seidy Jhosselyn Soto and Marry Jean Stuart

ABSTRACT

This study was a quantitative survey and explored beliefs about substance abusing clients among sixty-three social work students. The study focused on the extent to which social work students display bias toward clients with a substance abuse disorder. The study also explored the attitudinal domains of permissiveness, treatment intervention, non-stereotypes, treatment optimism, and non-moralism. The study found that social work students who have taken a substance abuse education class are less likely to attribute substance abuse addiction to a weak will in the client. The study recommends that future studies on beliefs about substance abusing clients among social work students include qualitative interviews to determine how substance abuse education reduces bias toward substance abusing clients among social work students.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

We would like to thank the staff of the School of Social Work for their support of this project. Specifically, we thank Dr. Laurie Smith for allowing us to survey the students of the School of Social Work. Also, we would like to acknowledge Dr. Thomas Davis for advising and providing us guidance to facilitate the success of this project. Additionally, we thank our families for their moral support, kindness and understanding throughout this journey. Without the support of these individuals this project would not have been possible.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

ABSTRACT	iii
ACKNOWLEDGMENTS	iv
LIST OF TABLES	vii
CHAPTER ONE: INTRODUCTION	
Problem Statement	1
History of Substance Abuse	1
Causes of the Social Issue	2
Groups Affected	2
Social Worker Beliefs	3
Purpose of the Study	5
Significance of the Project for Social Work	6
CHAPTER TWO: LITERATURE REVIEW	
Introduction	8
Definition and Statistics	8
Theories Guiding Conceptualization	10
The Theory of Reasoned Action	10
Cognitive-Behavioral Theory	10
Race and Gender Differences	11
Attitudes of Mental Health Professionals	12
Attitudes toward Mandated Substance-Abusing Clients	15
Variables that may Influence Attitudes toward Substance Abusing Clients	16
Summary	18

CHAPTER THREE: METHODS

Introduction.....	20
Study Design	20
Sampling.....	21
Data Collection and Instruments.....	22
Procedures	23
Protection of Human Subjects	24
Data Analysis.....	24
Summary	25

CHAPTER FOUR: RESULTS

Introduction.....	27
Summary	37

CHAPTER FIVE: DISCUSSION

Introduction.....	38
Discussion	38
Limitations	44
Future Studies	45

APPENDIX A: QUESTIONNAIRE	46
---------------------------------	----

APPENDIX B: INFORMED CONSENT	52
------------------------------------	----

APPENDIX C: DEBRIEFING STATEMENT	54
--	----

REFERENCES.....	56
-----------------	----

ASSIGNED RESPONSIBILITIES PAGE	61
--------------------------------------	----

LIST OF TABLES

Table 1.	Frequency Distribution of Gender	27
Table 2.	Frequency Distribution of Ethnicity	28
Table 3.	T-Test Comparing Means of Gender and Hippie Style Dress.....	29
Table 4.	T-Test Comparing Means of Social Work Degree with Personal Drug Use and Long-Term Outpatient Treatment.....	30
Table 5.	T-Test Comparing Means between Substance Abuse Education and Weak Will	32
Table 6.	One Way ANOVA Test Indicating that Practice Specialization has an Impact on Referring Clients to a Drug Treatment Specialist.....	33
Table 7.	One-Way ANOVA Test Indicating African American Social Work Students are more Accepting of Daily Marijuana Use	35
Table 8.	Significant Bivariate Correlations between Independent Variables	36
Table 9.	Significant Bivariate Correlations between Independent Variables	37

CHAPTER ONE

INTRODUCTION

Problem Statement

Over centuries, substance abuse has been commonly used amongst different societies. Substance abuse is not limited to people of a particular group and their causes for drug use vary. Social workers from all specializations work with substance abusing clients. This chapter will explore the history of substance abuse, causes, groups affected, social work beliefs and theories of conceptualizations.

History of Substance Abuse

Americans have been using mind and mood altering substances for centuries. Since the 1800's, illicit substances have been a normal part of everyday existence. Individuals used substances for a variety of common reasons such as toothaches, headaches, and sleeplessness. Medical doctors were in awe of the new medicinal advances being made by alchemists and were more than willing to give out substances such as cocaine, morphine, and codeine. These drugs offered a cure and/or relief from a variety of common ailments. During this same era Opium dens were rising in popularity and by the late 1800's they were a common feature of American life. The easy accessibility of these addictive substances and the feelings of euphoria associated with their use made the drugs sought after with great enthusiasm. With drug use rising in popularity, there came many issues that could not have

been foreseen and regulations for control were soon put in place (DEA Museum, 2012).

Causes of the Social Issue

It is hard to really determine what causes substance abuse because there are so many variables involved. For some, it is a lifestyle that is inherited from their parents. Some children grow up in a household where drug use is common and sometimes glorified; creating an atmosphere that condones the use of drugs. Others may feel the need to give into peer pressure, or may see drug use as a means of escape. For others, addiction to prescription medications happens after a major medical trauma. It is estimated that as many as 40% of trauma patients become dependent on painkillers such as Percocet and Vicodin (Galante, Ahmad, Albers, & Sena, 2012). Furthermore, risk factors play a significant role in future drug use. For example, impulsive children generally have a harder time delaying gratification and studies have shown that this behavior can increase the likelihood of substance abuse. Other risk factors include temperament and delinquency. It has been proven that maladaptive behaviors in these areas are an indication of future risky activities (Nordstrom & Dackis, 2011).

Groups Affected

Substance abuse affects everyone. The individual who uses the illicit substance has a hard time functioning properly in society. Their family often suffers because of the emotional trauma of watching their loved one struggle

on a daily basis. Society as a whole is affected because of the drain on various economic systems. These include the social services, the criminal justice system, and the child welfare system, just to name a few. Additionally, one needs to take into account the high cost of drug treatment and the out of control recidivism rates for drug abusers. Furthermore, substance abuse can be an issue for men, women, the young, the old, the poor, and the rich; it does not discriminate.

Social Worker Beliefs

Social work has become “the dominant profession staffing mental health services in the United States” (Miller, 2002, p. 66). Social workers regularly encounter individuals, families, and communities affected by substance use disorders (SUDs) (National Standards for Social Work Practice, 2003, p. 5). Research has found that social workers, social work students, and other mental health providers often hold a bias against working with substance abusing clients. Social workers may be unaware of internalized stigma causing an impediment to providing effective care and to practicing proper interventions.

Research has also shown that Social Workers can have a negative perception when their family members or close relatives are struggling with substance abuse. Beliefs that have been commonly known amongst social workers are, substance abuse clients are homeless, live in poverty, are unemployed, lack morals, and have been referred by the criminal justice

system. Social workers' negative attitudes include the idea that treatment will not be effective because of a high likelihood of relapse. Other commonly held negative beliefs that social workers have are "patients often do not tell the truth about their substance use," "time constraints," "questioning the patient's integrity," and "not wanting to frighten or anger the patient" (Johnson et al., 2005, p. 1077).

Studies have proven that a lack of knowledge and training in schools on substance abuse can affect the way social work students perceive this population. Not being competent enough decreases their confidence and capability to provide services to this population. Our beliefs and attitudes are shaped by our personal knowledge of the topic. Previous research has shown that schools of social work should include a mandatory course in the curriculum because it allows students to explore their own biases and attitudes before going out into the field. Research has demonstrated that training social workers appears to increase the likelihood that they will: (1) work with the affected client population; (2) assume roles related to intervention; (3) seek employment involving work with affected clients; (4) perform assessments and intervene; and, (5) be optimistic, confident, and competent about this area of work (Amodeo, 2000). This clearly states that knowledge is the key; an increase in knowledge regarding a certain population will promote a decrease in negative perceptions of that population.

Purpose of the Study

The purpose of this project is to examine the attitudes of substance abusing clients among social work students at California State University, San Bernardino. As stated previously in the chapter, mental health professionals, such as social workers have negative beliefs toward substance abusing clients. The negative beliefs have been linked to the quality and effectiveness of clinical treatment (Corse, McHugh, & Gordon, 1995; Stein, 1999; Zweben & Fleming, 1999). A quantitative study using the Substance Abuse Attitude Survey research design will attempt to assess and measure attitudes of substance abusing clients among social work students. The findings of this study will bring to light the severity of social work students biases against substance abusing clients.

Once this is understood, then it will be possible to find ways to mitigate these negative effects, and help future social workers change their perspectives on this serious issue. This will benefit potential clients in the future because those with a substance abuse issue will be more likely to seek services and will feel less stigmatized during the treatment process.

Understanding the likelihood of social work student beliefs will help schools plan curriculum that helps foster a more positive attitude regarding substance abusing clients.

Significance of the Project for Social Work

A social worker will at some point during his/her career will find that it is necessary to help someone with a substance abuse issue. It is important to remember that a client's success could ultimately depend on the therapeutic relationship that is formed between that client and the helping professional (Peyton, Sarah, Chaddick, James, & Gorsuch, Richard, 1980, p. 935). If the relationship is positive, then the outcome for the client is likely to be more successful. If the relationship is strained, then it can be difficult for the client to reach his/her goals. Several factors, such as distrust, anger, and biases, can damage the therapeutic relationship between the client and the social worker. Therefore, it is beneficial if the social worker does not harbor any biases when working with those who use or abuse substances. The problem is that many social workers have a negative viewpoint of those with substance abuse issues, and that attitude can stand in the way of the client receiving the most effective help (Strozier, 1995, p. 38).

It is important to understand this problem further because, as social workers, we are trained to help and empower all who need help, especially those who find themselves in difficult circumstances such as substance abusers. There is a significant bias against those who abuse substances, it is possible that many individuals with this issue feel stigmatized; therefore, it is harder for them to seek the help that they so desperately need. Additionally, social workers that have a negative view of substance users may be unwilling

to treat that person, or if they do agree to help that person, the hopelessness and the pessimistic view of the social worker can severely influence the quality of the treatment and client outcomes. Providers may inaccurately over-, under-, or misdiagnose problems or make inappropriate recommendations for treatment on the basis of misconceptions and biases (U.S. Public Health Service, 2001). Once social worker bias is understood better, steps can be taken to educate helping professionals in this area, which will help to increase positive outcomes for substance abusing clients. The stigma and avoidance may be represented by social workers willingness or unwillingness to provide treatment for clients with some conditions to a greater degree than others. Findings can help us see if mental illness stigma has decreased throughout the years, or if it is still an issue that has to be addressed. Social work research must also further examine whether implementing substance abuse classes will decrease negative attitudes and increase the effectiveness of social work practice.

CHAPTER TWO

LITERATURE REVIEW

Introduction

This chapter will provide a comprehensive definition of substance abuse as defined by the DSM-IV-TR. It looks at relevant statistics that provide insight into the magnitude of the problem of substance abuse, and provides a look at gender differences. Additionally, the beliefs of mental health professionals and social workers are examined, including views toward substance abusers who are mandated into treatment, and variables that may influence those views.

Definition and Statistics

Substance abuse is a serious issue that has an impact on the individual's family, friends, coworkers, children, and society as a whole. The addiction affects every area of the person's life including education, employability, social functioning, parenting, and many others. The DSM-IV-TR defines the criteria for substance abuse as those individuals who have a maladaptive pattern of use that leads to significant impairment or distress in at least one area. Those areas include: (1) the inability to fulfill major role obligations at work, home, or school, (2) substance use in hazardous situations, (3) substance related legal problems, and (4) continued use despite

chronic social or interpersonal issues (American Psychiatric Association, 2000, p. 199).

According to The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) one survey reports that in 2011, 23.8% of individuals age 18-20 have used illicit substances in the past month. This number has increased slightly from 23.2% in 2010 (SAMHSA, 2011). That same survey reports that during the same year, in persons 12 years of age and older, 22.5% (an estimated 22.6 million) reportedly used some type of illicit drug in the past month. Marijuana users accounted for 18.1% of that same sample, while only 1.4% reported the use of cocaine. Heroin users accounted for a mere 0.3% of the represented population. These statistics indicate that almost a quarter of the population in the United States has used an illicit substance. The adolescent years are an especially vulnerable time for individuals and a time when most people use drugs for the first time. The most common drug first used is marijuana (61.8%), followed by pain relievers (17.3%), and 9.0% used inhalants (NIDA, 2010).

The National Institute of Drug Abuse (NIDA) indicates that substance abuse is on the rise. NIDA (2010) reports information from the National Survey on Drug Use and Health (NSDUH) that indicates substance use trends have been relatively stable over time. From 2002-2010 there has been a slight increase in illicit drug use from 8.3% to 8.9 percent. However, for those individuals over 50 years old, during that same time period there has been a

significant increase in drug use, from 3.4% to 7.2 percent (NIDA, 2010). There is speculation that this is because the baby boomers have traditionally been more active in drug use than other cohorts. Also, for the first time in history the aging population is beginning to outnumber the younger generations, which may account for the large increase in that age group.

Theories Guiding Conceptualization

The Theory of Reasoned Action

According to Ajzen and Fishbein (1980), the Theory of Reasoned Action (TRA) suggests that a person's behavior is directly attributed to that person's intention to engage in that behavior and that intention is directly related to the person's beliefs about the behavior. This theory is relevant to this study based on the principle that social worker attitudes regarding substance-abusing clients have a direct affect on how they treat those individuals. For instance, if the social worker believes that his/her client will not be able to stay off drugs for any significant amount of time, the worker's behavior toward that client will be congruent with those beliefs. Naturally, this will have a direct impact on the outcomes for that client.

Cognitive-Behavioral Theory

This theory looks at belief systems and how thoughts influence a person's behavior. Cognitive-Behavioral Theory allows the researcher to look at the social constructs behind the stereotypes and negative attitudes of helping professionals. In addition, this theory operates on the principle that in

order to change a negative behavior it is necessary to understand the thought that precipitates the behavior. Changing that negative thought into a positive one will change the behavior (Hepworth, Rooney, Rooney, & Strom-Gottfried, 2013, p. 409). If social workers change their attitudes in this manner, it can increase the amount of positive interactions with substance abusing clients, which will help increase positive outcomes for the client.

Race and Gender Differences

It has been reported that only 6.7% of substance users are women, while 9.0% are men. However, use among women is rising. According to Jones of the York Daily Record (1996), young women are quickly closing the gender gap among illicit drug users. By the age of 15, girls are more than fifteen times more likely to use illicit drugs than their mothers. Additionally, the ratio of men over women who use drugs is 1.5:1 for those individuals over thirty. However, for 12-18 year olds there is a 1:1 ratio. Reasons for substance use for women vary from trying to fit in with the popular crowd, to pressure from a boyfriend, or simply to stay thin. The incidence differences between races are also insignificant. Among blacks or African Americans, the percentage using illicit drugs in the past month was 10.0 percent in 2011. The percentage of whites (8.7%) and Hispanics (8.4%) are almost equal. Studies also show that those with a higher educational attainment are less likely to use drugs, while those in a lower socioeconomic class are more likely to use substances (SAMHSA, 2011).

Attitudes of Mental Health Professionals

Many studies have found that mental health clinicians and medical health care professionals often have a negative view of clients who abuse substances (Amodeo & Fassler, 2000; Amodeo, Fassler, & Griffin, 2002; Baily, 1969; Googins, 1984; Stein, 1999; Strozier, 1995; Wechsler & Rohman, 1982). In 1984, Googins suggested that the attitudes of clinicians, which include social workers, closely mirror that of the general public who believe that alcoholics have a moral deficiency. This belief in moral inferiority leads to the assumption that alcoholism cannot be treated. Steen (2012) noticed that substance abuse treatment providers would “often internalize and transmit dominant values about the lack of innate goodness and worth of substance users” (p. 216). This creates a barrier to positive outcomes for the client, and to effective practice for social workers. Another study conducted by Stein (1999) expresses a similar argument, stating that even though there has been an increase in accepting addiction as a medical issue that has been shown to be responsive to treatment, negative attitudes toward substance abusers are still prevalent.

Professionals and mental health students also believe that clients who abuse substances do not have a good chance at recovering from the addiction. Many are pessimistic about positive treatment outcomes for chronic substance abusers (Googins, 1984; Kagle, 1987; Rubin, 1996; Silverman, 1993; Stein, 1999; Strozier, 1995). King and Lorenson (1989) account for this

social worker negativity based on three factors: 1) issues of this type often are not identified until the addiction has progressed into the late stages, making the problem harder to treat; 2) the social worker often is not able to recognize the problem quickly, which hinders the recovery process; and 3) when clients are successfully treated, they will discontinue treatment, which leaves the social worker with those who have not been able to attain long-term abstinence. Two studies by Knox (1971, 1973) provide statistics on social worker and mental health professional pessimism toward alcoholic clients. The first study indicates that 80% of psychologists and psychiatrists believe that the likelihood of an alcoholic abstaining from use after hospitalization is poor (Knox, 1971). The other study reports that 79.8% social workers have the same mindset (Knox, 1973).

Additionally, there seems to be an overall reluctance to work with substance abusing clients (Duxbury, 1982; Peyton, Chaddick & Gorsuch, 1980). The study conducted by Peyton, et al. (1980) directly and indirectly measured the participants willingness to treat alcoholics. The indirect method was comprised of twelve vignettes, six included indicators that the client might be alcoholic; the other six did not have those indicators present. The study participants were then given the twelve vignettes and asked to choose six of the clients. The results indicate that there is a bias toward choosing the nonalcoholic client. The direct measure was completed by listing groups of potential clients, which included a woman, man, teen, someone middle-aged,

a senior citizen, depressed, alcoholic, employment problems, marriage issues, medical issues, black, white, and Chicano, and then asking them to check off those they want to work with. Of the eighty survey participants, only twenty-six chose to work with the alcoholic client. In 1982, Duxbury was able to replicate these results in a study of MSW students at the University of Wisconsin-Madison.

There has been extensive research regarding the attitudes of helping professionals toward substance abusing clients (Chruchill, 2002; Rubin, 1996; Stein, 1999; Strozier, 1995). A study conducted by Rubin (1996) looked at the beliefs of individuals from various helping professions, and reports that “alcoholics were rated as more unpleasant, foolish, dull, bad, sick, slow, hopeless, weak, aimless, tense, and passive than average persons” (p. 74). Stein’s (1999) research looked at Master’s level social work students attitudes toward substance abusers and concluded that an awareness workshop had produced little noteworthy changes in negative beliefs. It was also noted that distrust in the efficacy of substance abuse treatment was extensive in all disciplines.

In 1995, Strozier conducted a survey of 371 social workers using a modified version of the Substance Abuse Attitude Survey (SAAS) that was developed by Chappel, Veach, and Krug. He used the instrument to assess their attitudes regarding substance-abusing clients. The SAAS is a 50-item questionnaire that covers five topics: 1) Permissiveness, 2) Treatment

Intervention, 3) Non-stereotypes, 4) Treatment Optimism, and 5) Non-moralism. The modifications made to the instrument include changing the word “patient” to “client”, and the fields of practice were changed from medical fields to social work fields. Results of the survey indicate that there are negative attitudes related to the “permissiveness” factor; however, this is not true of the other four factors. One explanation for this may be due to the fact that 78% of those surveyed work in the substance abuse field, giving them a greater tolerance for this population.

Attitudes toward Mandated Substance-Abusing Clients

There is not enough research toward mandated substance abusing clients. However there is one study by Olshin (1991), which focused primarily on mandated and non-mandated substance abusing clients. In his study, Olshin primarily focused on social workers working with substance abusing clients. Olshin stated: “In order to diminish the impact of the diversity within the mandated and non-mandated treatment populations, the research population of this study will be limited to therapists involved entirely or in part with substance abusers” (p. 5). Olshin developed a survey to measure attitudes, such as positive and negative affect, treatment outcomes, and type of interventions. The survey was dispersed to therapists who either only worked with mandated or non-mandated clients. In addition, participants were asked to fill out two attitude surveys with identical content-one for mandated clients

and the other for non-mandated clients. Even if participants did not work with the type of client, they were instructed to answer the survey as if they did. Results showed that mandated clients were viewed in more negative terms than non-mandated. “Typically, therapists demonstrate more positive affect and less negative affect towards the non-mandated client than the mandated client, have less treatment expectations of the mandated client and use more directive treatment with the mandated than the non-mandated client” (p. 120). Olshin states that, while the attitude differences are meaningful, the size differences are small, indicating that the effect on treatment could be minor.

Variables that may Influence Attitudes toward Substance Abusing Clients

A range of variables can have a major influence in social worker attitudes toward substance abusing clients. For example, variables associated with the social worker personally such as race, personal abuse involvement, personal and family substance abuse history, substance abuse education and experience in this field can also impact their beliefs. Gender plays a role among substance abusing clients, such as their physiological reactions to the substances used, familial and societal reactions, help-seeking behavior, and in interactions with clinicians (Straussner, 1997). These roles can influence the attitudes of social workers as the issues manifest through treatment.

Previous studies have measured attitudes and behaviors of mental health professionals toward alcoholics. Rubin (1996) examined attitudes and

behaviors toward female alcoholics; she used the semantic differential technique and case simulations. As part of her study, eighty-four mental health professionals from various specializations and from the New York City area participated in the study. Rubin hypothesized that there would be more negative beliefs towards female alcoholics than male alcoholics. Rubin cited several studies in which female alcoholics were perceived as poor mothers and wives, sexually promiscuous, and as the cause of their own problems (Vairo, 2005). Rubin also predicted that male and female alcoholics would be seen and treated differently, however her results proved otherwise. To her surprise, attitudes towards male and female alcoholics were the same and they were being equally diagnosed.

Due to the inconsistency with her own results and previous literature, Rubin presented justifications for her findings: (1) Female alcoholics are in fact neither viewed nor treated differently than male alcoholics; (2) Results were biased because women participants comprised 70 percent of the study, and because women may be more sensitive to problems of other women and therefore more likely to diagnose problems in other women; and (3) Results were a function of the portrayal in the case simulation of a nontraditional woman with fewer outward symptoms (Vairo, 2005). According to Rubin, results could have been more consistent if more traditional women participated.

In regards to Rubin's predictions, the concept of stigma towards women has been mentioned in substance abuse literature. Pape (2004) suggested that the social stigma for female substance abusers can be viewed as a "triple stigma," characterized by the general stigma associated with drug dependency, which applies to both men and women, the stigma associated with the higher moral standard applied to women over men, and the stigma associating sexual promiscuity with substance abuse (p. 358). According to Covington (1997), he also affirmed that females were being negatively perceived in regards to their sexual practices.

Societal perceptions of female substance abusers generally increase social workers negative beliefs because attitudes often reflect those of the general public. This can impact the substance-abusing women leading them to feel shame and guilt causing barriers to seeking treatment. Because research and treatment has originally been done on men, social workers find that their interventions are not as effective with women as it is with men. Unfortunately, this misleads social workers and causes negative beliefs that women do not respond to treatment as effectively as men do. As mentioned above, mental health professionals are associated with negative beliefs towards substance abusing clients.

Summary

A look at relevant statistics indicates that instances of substance are on the rise, with the highest rate (23.8%) of use occurring in 18-20 year olds. The

substance most used is marijuana, while the least used substance is Heroin. Additionally, studies indicate that more men than women abuse substances, but the number of substance abusing females is rapidly increasing (SAMSHA, 2011).

The research found that social worker and other mental health professionals harbor significant negative beliefs toward substance abusing clients. Attitudes include a negative outlook on treatment outcomes, a belief that substance abusers have a moral deficiency, and many have a more pessimistic view of those mandated into substance abuse treatment, as opposed to those who seek help voluntarily. Variables that affect social worker beliefs include personal substance abuse involvement, a family history of substance abuse, and the stigma toward female substance abusers.

CHAPTER THREE

METHODS

Introduction

A comprehensive study of beliefs about substance abusing clients among social work students was examined. This chapter describes the cross-sectional and descriptive nature of the research design, and includes the sampling method of the participants. It also discusses how the population was chosen and how the sampling method was employed. Furthermore, the survey instrument is introduced and adaptations to the instrument are detailed. In addition, data collection procedures, including the protections for human subjects are also presented. Finally, details regarding how the data was analyzed are included to further inform the study.

The hypothesis of this study expects to find significant beliefs among social work students towards substance abusing clients. The study hoped to answer the question: Are the attitudes of social work students who have had formal substance abuse education more positive toward substance abusers than social work students with no formal substance abuse education?

Study Design

This study investigated the beliefs about substance abusing clients among social work students using a cross-sectional survey design to identify the extent of their negative beliefs. The study gathered information during a

single point in time from participants of different ages, ethnicities, genders, and socio-economic statuses who are all students admitted to the School of Social Work at California State University, San Bernardino. This study was also partially descriptive as it explored the possibility that the substance abuse elective class offered by the school actually decreases negative beliefs regarding substance abusers. This would yield information about the effectiveness of substance abuse education in reducing the stigma toward substance abusers, which will increase positive interactions between social workers and substance abusing clients. Data was collected in a quantitative manner to investigate the pervasiveness of social work students biases toward substance abusing clients and their relationships to other variables. The survey design allowed for efficient collection of the data from the target population.

Sampling

A purposive sampling method was chosen in order to specifically study the social work student population. This group was a subset within the larger student body population at California State University in San Bernardino. According to Grinnell and Unrau (2011), those who are chosen for the study should be knowledgeable about the situation being studied, they should be willing to communicate their views, and there should be a full range of views represented. This criterion was relevant to the population being studied because the students have been exposed to the subject of substance abuse

and its effects on the family system and society as a whole. They are knowledgeable about treatment modalities and rates of success. Additionally, these students represented a wide range of ethnicities, cultural backgrounds, and economic statuses; therefore, the potential for a wide range of viewpoints is high.

It should be noted that there are few studies that look at the beliefs of social work students. Several studies have documented that many social workers, psychiatrists, mental health professionals, and medical professionals harbor negative views toward substance abusers. Many are pessimistic about treatment outcomes and some will refer the client to another agency rather than attempt to provide the treatment that is needed. Therefore, this study sought to document the beliefs of BSW and MSW students in order to expand on the current research regarding the beliefs of social work students toward substance abusing clients.

Data Collection and Instruments

This was a quantitative study that used an adapted version of the Substance Abuse Attitude Survey (SAAS). The SAAS was developed by Chappel, Veach, and Krug in 1985 and originally used to measure the attitudes of medical professionals, such as doctors and nurses, toward substance abusing patients. This instrument has been proven to have both content and face validity because it consistently and accurately measures what it should. The instrument measures beliefs based on five criteria:

permissiveness, treatment intervention, non-stereotypes, treatment optimism, and non-moralism. Additionally, the instrument has proven useful for assisting professionals in constructing educational programs designed to increase positive attitudes, and in the measurement of those improvements.

For the purposes of this study, the survey instrument was reduced to only nineteen questions instead of the original fifty. It was necessary to include questions from each of the five criteria in order to gather information about all areas of importance. Three questions were utilized in the permissiveness area, five were used in the non-moralism area, and four questions each were utilized in the other three areas. In instances where the question only asked about alcohol, an additional identifier of drug use was added. For example, question #19 originally read, "Alcoholism is associated with weak will," it was changed to read, "Alcoholism/drug addiction is associated with weak will." In this manner, the questions were made to expand the thoughts of those being studied. Each question was measured using a seven point Likert scale ranging from "disagree strongly" to "agree strongly."

Procedures

To reach the target population of social work students, this study gathered data from social work students attending the School of Social Work at California State University, San Bernardino. The researchers received written permission from the school administrator to distribute surveys in the students mailbox located in the resource room. Participants completed the

self-administered survey involving questions about beliefs towards substance abusing clients. Social Work students had the opportunity to take the survey with them and complete it at their convenience. An informed consent statement was attached to the survey instrument. Once students completed the survey, they dropped it off in a box labeled “Beliefs towards substance abusing clients survey” which was located in the resource room. The surveys were collected two times a week and stored in a locked file cabinet.

Protection of Human Subjects

The protection of human subjects was ensured through this study as it was designed to protect its participants. No individual names or personal information was requested. Students were informed about the limits of privacy and confidentiality and had a thorough understanding of the research goals and procedures prior to giving consent to participate (Tickle & Heatherton, 2002). Students had the right to freely refuse participation without fear or adverse consequences in order for consent to be considered voluntary and informed (Grinell, 2011).

Data Analysis

Surveys from the participants who are pursuing a Master’s or Bachelor’s degree in social work were combined and analyzed. All returned questionnaires were coded and entered into the Statistical Program for Social Sciences (SPSS) database for analysis.

To test the hypothesis of the study, various T-Tests were conducted to measure the most common beliefs of substance abusing clients among social work students. The T-Tests measured the five criteria mentioned above: permissiveness, treatment intervention, non-stereotypical, treatment optimism, and non-moralism.

Bivariate correlations were conducted to assess the relationship between the social work students knowledge on substance abuse and their beliefs. Gender differences in knowledge and beliefs among the social work students were analyzed by using one-way ANOVA test.

Summary

Substance abuse is a significant problem in the United States. According to the National Survey on Drug Use and Health (NSDUH) in 2012, the number of persons aged 12 or older needing treatment for an illicit drug use problem was 8.0 million (3.1 percent of the total population). Substance abusing clients require specific and specialized services. It is important for professionals to be competent to meet their clients needs without having negative beliefs.

The purpose of this study was to measure and assess the beliefs about substance abusing clients among social work students. In addition, this study explored whether a lack of education regarding substance abuse was a barrier for social work students to have positive beliefs towards this population. Results formally proposed limitations, restrictions and implications to help

social work students be more competent and optimistic towards substance abusing clients.

CHAPTER FOUR

RESULTS

Introduction

This chapter provides graphic depictions of the data for this study. The following tests were performed: T-tests, correlations, and a One-Way ANOVA. In addition, demographic variables such as gender, age, ethnicity, school degree, practice specialization, and substance abuse education have been included. Tables 1-9 represent the most significant results and will be further discussed in the next chapter.

Table 1. Frequency Distribution of Gender

Gender					
		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	1 Male	3	4.8	4.8	4.8
	2 Female	59	93.7	95.2	100.0
	Total	62	98.4	100.0	
Missing	999 missing	1	1.6		
Total		63	100.0		

Table 1 provides a description of the demographics collected from the 63 survey participants. Of the total, 4.8% were male and 93.7% were female, one person declined to state gender.

Table 2. Frequency Distribution of Ethnicity

Ethnicity					
		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	1 African American	9	14.3	14.3	14.3
	2 Caucasian/ European	29	46.0	46.0	60.3
	3 Latino	19	30.2	30.2	90.5
	4 Asian/Pacific Islander	3	4.8	4.8	95.2
	6 Other	2	3.2	3.2	98.4
	999 missing	1	1.6	1.6	100.0
	Total	63	100.0	100.0	

Table 2 illustrates the ethnicities of the population (N = 63), 9 African American (14.3%), 29 Caucasian/European (46%), 19 Latino (30.2%), 3 Asian/Pacific Islander (4.8%), 2 Other (3.2%), and 1 declined to state (1.6%).

Table 3. T-Test Comparing Means of Gender and Hippie Style Dress

Group Statistics						
	Gender	N	Mean	Std. Deviation	Std. Error Mean	
Hippie Dress	1 Male	3	3.67	1.528	.882	
	2 Female	59	1.54	1.164	.152	
Independent Samples Test						
				Hippie Dress		
				Equal variances assumed	Equal variances not assumed	
Levene's Test for Equality of Variances	F			.322		
	Sig.			.572		
t-test for Equality of Means	t			3.046	2.374	
	df			60	2.120	
	Sig. (2-tailed)			.003	.134	
	Mean Difference			2.124	2.124	
	Std. Error Difference			.697	.895	
	95% Confidence Interval of the Difference			Lower	.729	-1.525
				Upper	3.519	5.773

An independent t-test comparing means of gender and hippie style dress was conducted in regards to the question “people who dress in hippie style clothing usually use psychedelic drugs”. There is a significant difference in scores between males ($M = 3.67$, $SD = 1.528$, $p = .003$, two tailed) and females ($M = 1.54$, $SD = 1.164$).

Table 4. T-Test Comparing Means of Social Work Degree with Personal Drug Use and Long-Term Outpatient Treatment

Group Statistics						
	School degree	N	Mean	Std. Deviation	Std. Error Mean	
Personal Use	1 BSW	8	127.00	352.347	124.573	
	2 MSW	55	3.13	2.037	.275	
Long Term Outpatient	1 BSW	8	130.00	351.132	124.144	
	2 MSW	55	4.69	1.773	.239	
Independent Samples Test						
		Personal Use		Long Term Outpatient		
		Equal variances assumed	Equal variances not assumed	Equal variances assumed	Equal variances not assumed	
Levene's Test for Equality of Variances	F	40.725		40.851		
	Sig.	.000		.000		
t-test for Equality of Means	t	2.742	.994	2.784	1.009	
	df	61	7.000	61	7.000	
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.008	.353	.007	.346	
	Mean Difference	123.873	123.873	125.309	125.309	
	Std. Error Difference	45.170	124.574	45.013	124.144	
	95% Confidence Interval of the Difference	Lower	33.549	-170.697	35.299	-168.244
		Upper	214.197	418.442	215.319	418.863

An independent t-test comparing means of social work degree with personal drug use and long-term outpatient treatment in regards to the questions “personal use of drugs should be legal in the confines of one’s own home” and “long term outpatient treatment is necessary for the treatment of drug addiction”. There is a significant difference in scores between social work

degree and personal drug use between BSW's ($M = 127$, $SD = 352.347$, $p = .008$, two tailed) and MSW's ($M = 3.13$, $SD = 2.037$) indicating BSW's believe personal use of drugs should be legal at home. There is a significant difference in scores between social work degree and long term outpatient between BSW's ($M = 130.00$, $SD = 351.132$, $p = .007$, two tailed) and MSW's ($M = 4.69$, $SD = 1.773$), indicating that BSW's believe that long-term treatment is necessary for successful addiction recovery.

Table 5. T-Test Comparing Means between Substance Abuse Education and Weak Will

Group Statistics					
	Substance Abuse Class	N	Mean	Std. Deviation	Std. Error Mean
Weak Will	1 yes	46	1.85	1.366	.201
	2 no	17	2.88	1.616	.392
Independent Samples Test					
				Weak Will	
				Equal variances assumed	Equal variances not assumed
Levene's Test for Equality of Variances	F		1.015		
	Sig.		.318		
t-test for Equality of Means	t		-2.539		-2.348
	df		61		24.948
	Sig. (2-tailed)		.014		.027
	Mean Difference		-1.035		-1.035
	Std. Error Difference		.407		.441
	95% Confidence Interval of the Difference		Lower	-1.849	
Upper			-.220		-.127

An independent t-test comparing means of substance abuse education and all survey variables indicate that weak will is the only area where there is a significant difference in scores. Of the participants (n = 63), 46 (M = 1.85, SD = 1.366, p = .014, two tailed) took a substance abuse class, and 17 (M = 2.88, SD = 1.616) have not, indicating that substance abuse education

positively influences the perception of social work students regarding “alcoholism/drug addiction is associated with weak will”.

Table 6. One Way ANOVA Test Indicating that Practice Specialization has an Impact on Referring Clients to a Drug Treatment Specialist

Descriptives								
Treat by Specialist								
	N	Mean	Std. Deviation	Std. Error	95% Confidence Interval for Mean		Minimum	Maximum
					Lower Bound	Upper Bound		
1 Mental Health	29	3.55	1.526	.283	2.97	4.13	1	6
2 Child Welfare	17	4.82	2.157	.523	3.71	5.93	1	7
3 Medical	7	4.57	1.988	.751	2.73	6.41	2	7
4 Other	10	2.80	.919	.291	2.14	3.46	1	4
Total	63	3.89	1.815	.229	3.43	4.35	1	7
ANOVA								
Treatment by Specialist								
		Sum of Squares	df	Mean Square	F	Sig.		
Between Groups		33.265	3	11.088	3.827	.014		
Within Groups		170.957	59	2.898				
Total		204.222	62					

A one-way ANOVA between-groups analysis of variance was conducted to explore the impact of practice specialization with all survey variables. Participants were divided in four groups according to specialization (Group 1 = Mental Health, Group 2 = Child Welfare, Group 3 = Medical, Group

4 = other). There was a statistically significant difference between specialization and the belief that a specialist should treat drug users. Results indicate that those specializing in Child Welfare (n = 17) believe substance abuse clients should be referred to a drug treatment specialist (M = 4.82, SD = 2.157).

Table 7. One-Way ANOVA Test Indicating African American Social Work Students are more Accepting of Daily Marijuana Use

Descriptives								
Daily Marijuana								
	N	Mean	Std. Deviation	Std. Error	95% Confidence Interval for Mean		Minimum	Maximum
					Lower Bound	Upper Bound		
1 African American	9	4.67	2.000	.667	3.13	6.20	1	7
2 Caucasian/ European	29	3.72	2.068	.384	2.94	4.51	1	7
3 Latino	19	2.47	1.744	.400	1.63	3.31	1	6
4 Asian/ Pacific Islander	3	3.33	2.309	1.333	-2.40	9.07	2	6
5 Other	2	1.50	.707	.500	-4.85	7.85	1	2
999 missing	1	7.00	7	7
Total	63	3.44	2.093	.264	2.92	3.97	1	7
ANOVA								
Daily Marijuana								
		Sum of Squares	df	Mean Square	F	Sig.		
Between Groups		53.859	5	10.772	2.820	.024		
Within Groups		217.697	57	3.819				
Total		271.556	62					

A one-way ANOVA between-groups analysis of variance was conducted to explore the impact of ethnicity with all survey variables. Participants were divided in five groups according to ethnicity (Group 1 = African American, Group 2 = Caucasian/European, Group 3 = Latino, Group 4 = Asian/Pacific Islander, Group 5 = other). There was a statistically

significant difference between ethnicity and the belief that daily marijuana use. Results indicate that African Americans (n = 9) believe that daily use of one marijuana cigarette is not necessarily harmful (M = 4.67, SD = 2.000).

Table 8. Significant Bivariate Correlations between Independent Variables

Correlations			
		Drug Dependent Unpleasant	Treat by Specialist
Drug Dependent Unpleasant	Pearson Correlation	1	.462**
	Sig. (2-tailed)		.000
	N	63	63
Treat by Specialist	Pearson Correlation	.462**	1
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.000	
	N	63	63

** . Correlation is significant at the 0.01 level (2-tailed).

There is a very a strong positive correlation between the perception that drug dependent clients are unpleasant to work with and the belief that they should be treated by a specialist (r = .462, n = 63, p < 0.01).

Table 9. Significant Bivariate Correlations between Independent Variables

Correlations			
		Weak Will	Relapsed
Weak Will	Pearson Correlation	1	.332**
	Sig. (2-tailed)		.008
	N	63	63
Relapsed	Pearson Correlation	.332**	1
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.008	
	N	63	63

** . Correlation is significant at the 0.01 level (2-tailed).

It also indicates a positive correlation ($r = .332$, $n = 63$, $p < 0.01$) between weak will and relapse. Individuals who believe that drug addiction is associated with weak will generally believe that clients will relapse several times and cannot be treated successfully.

Summary

The results section consisted of a presentation the most significant data found in this study. The research utilized descriptive frequencies for demographic information. T-tests were conducted to compare survey variables. Finally, one-way ANOVA test was performed to compare means.

CHAPTER FIVE

DISCUSSION

Introduction

This chapter will provide a more in depth discussion of the findings. Additionally, a discussion of the limitations of the study will be addressed and recommendations for Social Work practice will be presented.

Discussion

There is a high percentage of women in the social work profession, and significantly less men. The survey results showed that of the social work student participants, 93.7% were female, 4.8% reported as male, and one declined to answer. If this pattern continues, social work will remain female dominated as the career continues to expand. Considering that the majority of participants were female, the study reports an average of 46% Caucasian/European and 30.2% Latino. It was also found that 14.3% were African American, 4.8% Asian/Pacific Islander and 3.2% reported as other. Ethnicity is an important personal characteristic affecting perception and substance abuse treatment. In fact, there are some studies that suggest that persons of color have a different socialization experience into social work than whites (Barretti, 2003, Daniel, 2007; Jeffery, 2005). Our ethnic background influences how we think, feel, and work therefore its highly suggested that social work students are educated in diverse populations. The results indicate

that 73% have received substance abuse education, while 27% reported no substance abuse education.

In regards to the question “people who dress in hippie style clothing usually use psychedelic drugs”, there was a significant difference in scores between males and females. Males seem to believe that those who dress in hippie attire are more likely to use psychedelic drugs than those who are clean-shaven. This means that social workers need to be educated on the diverse characteristics and lifestyles so that they do not misjudge a client during treatment. Perhaps, this means that social workers will most likely have less negative attitude towards a clean-shaven client during treatment. This might mean that female social workers are less judgmental and can be more optimistic when working with substance abuse users. Negative social work attitudes need to be considered within the framework of stigma and its consequences for the counselor, the client, and the field. Lastly, it is important that male social workers have recognition of personal biases, values, and beliefs and how this influences their therapeutic relationship and treatment process.

This study also found a significant difference between student’s social work degree, personal drug use and long-term outpatient treatment. This means that BSW students believe that personal use of drugs should be legal at home. In addition, it also indicates that BSW students believe that long-term treatment is necessary for successful addiction recovery. This is indicative of

BSW students possible liberal attitudes, and that they do not have a mature understanding of substance abuse treatment and consequences. BSW most likely refer clients to a specialized substance abuse counselor who can provide services for them. BSW participants might not take substance abuse clients serious, and increase their chances of having a negative treatment outcome. If this is the case, substance abuse clients will relapse and lose motivation to make better choices. It seems that the higher the level of education, the more conservative social work students are towards substance abusing clients.

One of the major concepts found in the study was that those who have taken a substance abuse class are positively influenced to the perception “alcoholism/drug addiction is associated with weak will”. The more education that social work students have, the more likely they understand this population and will be less judgmental. This shows improvement needs to be done with the curriculum in the social work program and should consider making the substance abuse class mandatory as opposed to optional. Education might make practitioners more patient and understanding, which will stop them from blaming clients during their treatment. Substance abuse education will also allow social workers to be more accepting of their own personal limitations, and more willing to continue learning and improving clinical skills. Substance abuse education will allow social work students to have a holistic view of the client’s treatment expectations, rather than focusing on the negative beliefs.

Education can help the social worker and client to formulate mutual goals and objectives to have a positive treatment outcome. Research has shown that MSW students who receive formal coursework on substance abuse perceive themselves to be more knowledgeable and prepared to work with substance abuse clients (Bina et al., 2008, p. 18). Schools of social work could better prepare social workers by providing coursework related to substance abuse (Brocado & Wagner, 2003).

This study examined the link between social work specialization, which included Mental Health, Child Welfare, and Medical Social Work, and the belief that substance-abusing clients should be referred to a specialist. The findings revealed that those specializing in Child Welfare (n = 17) believe that the best way to treat drug dependent individuals is to refer them to a good treatment facility. This finding is congruent with the social work students area of practice as it is not the focus of their treatment interventions. This could imply that child welfare workers have not developed sufficient competencies in the area of substance abuse and may indicate a need for further education to increase knowledge and help improve client outcomes. It may benefit child welfare families to have needed services located in the same building. Lee, Esaki, and Green (2009) propose a collocation model with the intent of integrating child welfare and substance abuse services, which can increase the likelihood of client success. The purpose of collocation is to place multiple services in one, easily accessible area. This will help facilitate the early

identification of substance use issues and help increase agency responsiveness. Additionally, it will provide an opportunity for child welfare workers to increase their knowledge of substance abuse; therefore, the profession will gain competence in this area.

Another notable finding occurred when conducting a between-groups analysis of the variables and ethnicity. The results showed that more than any other group, African Americans (n = 9) believe that smoking one marijuana cigarette per day is not necessarily harmful. This is significant given the fact that of the sixty-three participants, only nine identified themselves as African American. The majority of the survey respondents were Latino and Caucasian/European, with African Americans being a minor portion of the sample. This high prevalence rate is consistent with a national study conducted by Wu, Brady, Mannelli, and Killeen (2014), which found that there is a higher incidence of cannabis use among African Americans when compared to other ethnic groups. This indicates that many within this ethnicity have liberal beliefs about marijuana. When applied to the treatment setting, African Americans counselors may not see marijuana use as an issue; therefore, it could be possible to overlook the role that cannabis use has in the client's life difficulties.

A significant positive correlation was discovered between the two variables "Most alcohol and drug dependent persons are unpleasant to work with" and "Alcohol and drug misusers should only be treated by specialists in

the field". The study shows that almost half of those surveyed feel that working with substance abusers are unpleasant and feel that it would be best if they are treated by substance abuse treatment specialists. This finding indicates that many of the respondents would rather refer a substance-abusing client to a treatment facility rather than attempt to offer services. Googins (1984) suggests that in order to avoid the multitude of problems that arise when working with alcoholics many social service practitioners decide to refer the person to more specialized treatment agencies. Due to this fact it may be beneficial to create policies to increase funding of more drug and alcohol abuse specific services in order to keep up with the needs of this specialized population.

This study shows a significant positive correlation between the perceptions that drug and alcohol abuse is associated with a weak will and treatment optimism. The findings show that those who believe that substance abuse is a result of having a weak will also believe that drug or alcohol dependent individuals who have relapsed several times probably cannot be treated. This lack of optimism has a direct impact on client outcomes due to an inability to build an effective rapport with the client. It is important for the social worker to effectively engage the client in order to increase the likelihood of treatment success. This study has previously discussed the positive effect that substance abuse education has on the perception that substance abusers misuse drugs because of a lack of willpower. Given the implications of this

correlation and the latter finding, it seems prudent to increase substance abuse education in social work curriculum and it may benefit both the client and the practitioner to make this education mandatory instead of compulsory.

Limitations

It is more common for females to work in the social work profession. This trend is seen in social work schools as well, there are a disproportionate number of females as opposed to males who are enrolled at California State University, San Bernardino School of Social Work. Due to this, only three males were surveyed of the total of sixty-three participants. This severely skewed the gender data. In addition, the sample was limited in terms of ethnic homogeneity. Specifically, the sample was primarily Caucasian/European and Latino. This is concerning because it represents a lack of diversity within this profession. Further research is needed to better understand the impact of the race of social workers on their attitudes toward substance abusing clients.

Due to the small sample size and the localized area of study, some of the study results may not be generalized to all of social work students beliefs towards substance abuse clients. Another limitation in this study is a lack of the bachelors of social work students participation. Of the total participants surveyed, only eight of the students were BSW. This affects the outcome data regarding the impact of education on substance abuse beliefs. Therefore, a comparison of BSW and MSW attitudes will be invalid because the BSW likely did not receive any substance abuse education.

An additional limitation in this study is that even though there was a high percentage in substance abuse education, not all the results represent the alcohol and substance abuse class in the School of Social Work program. There is a high possibility that strategies and treatment outcomes differ within the students.

Future Studies

It should be noted that more advanced research on religious affiliation and political affiliation should be addressed as they can impact substance abuse attitudes and beliefs. Those individuals who identify as a Republican are more likely to have conservative ideas and beliefs toward substance abusing clients. Traditionally, conservatives are more likely to take a moralistic view of those who abuse illicit substances. Meanwhile, those individuals who self-identify as Democrat tend to take a more liberal stance on issues such as substance abuse and are more likely to vote to pay for social services to address the issue.

APPENDIX A
QUESTIONNAIRE

SUBSTANCE ABUSE ATTITUDE SURVEY

1. What is your gender? M/F _____
 2. What is your age? _____
 3. Which would best describe your ethnicity?
 1. African American
 2. Caucasian/ European
 3. Latino
 4. Asian/ Pacific Islander
 5. Native American
 6. Other (please specify
 4. What kind of degree/licensure do you have? Or currently pursuing?
 - a) BSW
 - b) MSW
 5. What is your practice specialization? (Child Welfare, Mental Health, Medical, Addictions, Criminal Justice, etc.)
-

6. Have you ever taken a college course or attended a workshop about drug and/or alcohol abuse?
 - a) Yes
 - b) No

Factor I: Permissiveness

- Personal use of drugs should be legal in the confines of one’s own home

Disagree strongly	Disagree moderately	Disagree slightly	Don’t know	Agree slightly	Agree moderately	Agree strongly
1	2	3	4	5	6	7

- Daily use of one marijuana cigarette is not necessarily harmful.

Disagree strongly	Disagree moderately	Disagree slightly	Don’t know	Agree slightly	Agree moderately	Agree strongly
1	2	3	4	5	6	7

- The laws governing the use of marijuana and heroin should be the same.

Disagree strongly	Disagree moderately	Disagree slightly	Don’t know	Agree slightly	Agree moderately	Agree strongly
1	2	3	4	5	6	7

Factor II: Treatment Intervention

- The best way to treat alcohol- or drug-dependent people is to refer them to a good treatment program.

Disagree strongly	Disagree moderately	Disagree slightly	Don’t know	Agree slightly	Agree moderately	Agree strongly
1	2	3	4	5	6	7

- Long-term outpatient treatment is necessary for the treatment of drug addiction.

Disagree strongly	Disagree moderately	Disagree slightly	Don’t know	Agree slightly	Agree moderately	Agree strongly
1	2	3	4	5	6	7

- Most alcohol and drug dependent persons are unpleasant to work with as patients

Disagree strongly	Disagree moderately	Disagree slightly	Don't know	Agree slightly	Agree moderately	Agree strongly
1	2	3	4	5	6	7

- Once a person becomes drug-free through treatment he can never become a social user.

Disagree strongly	Disagree moderately	Disagree slightly	Don't know	Agree slightly	Agree moderately	Agree strongly
1	2	3	4	5	6	7

Factor III: Nonstereotypes

- People who use marijuana usually do not respect authority.

Disagree strongly	Disagree moderately	Disagree slightly	Don't know	Agree slightly	Agree moderately	Agree strongly
1	2	3	4	5	6	7

- Drugs are so addicting that no one can really recover once he/she becomes an addict.

Disagree strongly	Disagree moderately	Disagree slightly	Don't know	Agree slightly	Agree moderately	Agree strongly
1	2	3	4	5	6	7

- Weekend users of drugs will progress to drug misuse.

Disagree strongly	Disagree moderately	Disagree slightly	Don't know	Agree slightly	Agree moderately	Agree strongly
1	2	3	4	5	6	7

- Anyone who is clean shaven with short hair probably doesn't use illegal drugs.

Disagree strongly	Disagree moderately	Disagree slightly	Don't know	Agree slightly	Agree moderately	Agree strongly
1	2	3	4	5	6	7

- People who dress in hippie style clothing usually use psychedelic drugs.

Disagree strongly	Disagree moderately	Disagree slightly	Don't know	Agree slightly	Agree moderately	Agree strongly
1	2	3	4	5	6	7

Factor IV: Treatment optimism

- Drug addiction is a treatable illness.

Disagree strongly	Disagree moderately	Disagree slightly	Don't know	Agree slightly	Agree moderately	Agree strongly
1	2	3	4	5	6	7

- An alcohol- or drug-dependent person who has relapsed several times probably cannot be treated.

Disagree strongly	Disagree moderately	Disagree slightly	Don't know	Agree slightly	Agree moderately	Agree strongly
1	2	3	4	5	6	7

- Most alcohol- and drug-dependent persons are unpleasant to work with.

Disagree strongly	Disagree moderately	Disagree slightly	Don't know	Agree slightly	Agree moderately	Agree strongly
1	2	3	4	5	6	7

- An alcohol- or drug-dependent person cannot be helped until he/she has hit “rock bottom.”

Disagree strongly	Disagree moderately	Disagree slightly	Don't know	Agree slightly	Agree moderately	Agree strongly
1	2	3	4	5	6	7

Factor V: Non-moralism

- Street pushers are the initial source of drugs for young people.

Disagree strongly	Disagree moderately	Disagree slightly	Don't know	Agree slightly	Agree moderately	Agree strongly
1	2	3	4	5	6	7

- Alcohol and drug misusers should only be treated by specialists in the field.

Disagree strongly	Disagree moderately	Disagree slightly	Don't know	Agree slightly	Agree moderately	Agree strongly
1	2	3	4	5	6	7

- Alcoholism/drug addiction is associated with a weak will.

Disagree strongly	Disagree moderately	Disagree slightly	Don't know	Agree slightly	Agree moderately	Agree strongly
1	2	3	4	5	6	7

Adaption from Chappel, J. N., Veach, T. L., & Krug, R. S. (1985). The substance abuse attitude survey: An instrument for measuring Attitudes. *Journal of Studies on Alcohol and Drugs*, 46(1); 48-52.

APPENDIX B
INFORMED CONSENT

INFORMED CONSENT

The study in which you are being asked to participate is designed to investigate social work students' beliefs towards substance abusing clients. This study is being conducted by Seidy Soto and Marry Stuart under the supervision of Dr. Thomas Davis, Professor of Social Work, California State University, San Bernardino. This study has been approved by the School of Social Work subcommittee of the Institutional Review Board, California State University, San Bernardino.

PURPOSE: The purpose of this research is to investigate the various beliefs and attitudes of social work students' towards substance abusing clients. This research will inform further educational curriculum within the university. This study may expand the existing knowledge and awareness of this issue.

DESCRIPTION: Surveys will be distributed in the social work students' mailbox in the resource room. A sealed collection box will be placed in the room for them to anonymously submit the survey.

PARTICIPATION: Participation in this study is voluntary. You may refuse to participate or withdraw at any time without penalty. You have the right to skip or not answer any questions you prefer not to answer.

ANONYMITY: Responses to the survey will be completely anonymous. In addition, all data obtained for the study will be reported in aggregated form only, so no individual responses of any participant will be reported in any publication of the results. Please DO NOT write your name or any other identifying information on the survey. The information will be kept in a locked file cabinet to protect participants' anonymity.

DURATION: Participation in this study will involve about 10 to 15 minutes of your time.

RISKS: There are no known risks associated with your participation in this research beyond those of everyday life.

BENEFITS: Although you will receive no direct benefits, this research may help us to better understand social workers' perceptions of their clients.

VIDEO/AUDIO/PHOTOGRAPH: This study does not require the use of video, audio, or photographic documentation.

CONTACT: If you have any questions regarding this study or research subjects' rights, you may contact the research advisor Dr. Thomas Davis at 909-537-3839, or by email at tomdavis@csusb.edu.

RESULTS: The results will be available online after December, 2014 and a full copy of the study will be available in the library at California State University, San Bernardino.

CONFIRMATION STATEMENT: I have read the information above and agree to participate in your study.

SIGNATURE: Please do not sign your name, provide your mark with an X.

_____ Date: _____

APPENDIX C
DEBRIEFING STATEMENT

Study of Beliefs about Substance Abusing clients among
Social Work Students

Debriefing Statement

This study you have just completed was designed to investigate beliefs about substance abusing clients among social work students. This study measures beliefs based on five criteria: permissiveness, treatment intervention, nonstereotypes, treatment optimism, and nonmoralism. Information regarding these beliefs can be used to guide further educational curriculum with the hopes of reducing social work students' negative beliefs towards substance abusing clients, which will increase positive client outcomes.

Thank you for your participation and for not discussing the contents of the survey with other students. If you have any questions about the study, or would like to obtain a copy of the results please feel free to contact Dr. Thomas Davis at 909-537-3839 at the end of Spring Quarter of 2014.

REFERENCES

- Ajzen, I., & Fishbein, M. (1980). *Understanding attitudes and predicting social behavior*. New Jersey: Prentice-Hall
- American Psychiatric Association. (2000). *Diagnostic and statistical manual of mental disorders (4th ed. Text revision)* Washington, DC: American Psychiatric Association.
- Amodeo, M., & Fassler, I. (2000). Social workers and substance abusing clients: Caseload composition and competency self-ratings. *American Journal of Drug and Alcohol Abuse, 26*(4), pp. 629-641.
- Amodeo, M., Fassler, I., & Griffin, M. (2002). MSWs with and without long-term substance abuse training: Agency, community, and personal outcomes. *Substance Abuse, 23*(1), 3-16.
- Bailey, M. B. (1969). Attitudes toward alcoholism before and after a training program for social workers. *Journal of Studies on Alcohol, 31*, 669-683.
- Barretti, M. A. (2003). *The professional socialization of undergraduate social work students: An exploratory case study*. Unpublished doctoral dissertation, City University of New York.
- Bina, R., Harnek Hall, D. M., Jani, J., Mollete, A., Smith-Osborne, A., Sowbel, L., & Yum J. (2008). Substance abuse training and perceived knowledge: Predictors of perceived preparedness to work in substance abuse. *Journal of Social Work Education, 44*(3) (Fall 2008). Copyright © 2008, Council on Social Work Education, Inc
- Brocato, J., Wagner, E. F. (2003). Harm reduction: A social work practice model and social justice agenda. *Health and Social Work, 28*(2), 117-125.
- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, National Association of County Behavioral Health & Developmental Disability Directors, National Institute of Mental Health, The Carter Center Mental Health Program. (2012). *Attitudes toward mental illness: Results from the behavioral risk factor surveillance system*.
- Chappel, J. N., Veach, T. L., & Krug, R. S. (1985). The substance abuse attitude survey: An instrument for measuring Attitudes. *Journal of Studies on Alcohol and Drugs, 46*(1); 48-52.

- Chruchill, Diane (2000). *Toward an integrative approach to substance abuses: An inquiry into the recognition, diagnosis and treatment of substance abuse by social workers*. Unpublished doctoral dissertation, New York University.
- Corse, S. J., McHugh, M. K., & Gordon, S. M. (1995). Enhancing provider effectiveness with pregnant women with addictions. *Journal of Substance Abuse Treatment, 12*(1) 3-12.
- Covington, S. S. (1997). Women, addiction, and sexuality. In S. L. A. Straussner, & E. Zelin (Eds.), *Gender and addictions: Men and women in treatment* (pp. 72-95). New Jersey: Jason Aronson, Inc.
- Daniel, C. A. (2007). Outsiders-within: Critical race theory, graduate education and barriers to professionalization. *Journal of Sociology & Social Welfare, 34*(1), 25-42.
- DEA Museum. (2012). *Illegal drugs in America: A modern history*. Retrieved from http://www.deamuseum_idaafde.html
- Duxbury, R. A. (1982). Willingness of graduate social work students to treat alcoholics; A replication study. *Journal of Studies on Alcohol, 44*(4), 748-753.
- Duxbury, R. A. (1983). Willingness of graduate social work students to treat alcoholics: A replication study. *Journal of Studies on Alcohol, 41*, 935-938.
- Galante, J., Ahmad, S., Albers, E., & Sena, M. (2012). Trauma and substance abuse: Deadly consequences of intravenous percocet tablets. *Journal of Emergency Medicine, 43*(3), e167-e169.
- Googins, B. (1984). Avoidance of the alcoholic client. *Social Work, 29*, 161-166.
- Grinnell, R. M. & Unrau, Y. A. (2011). *Social work research and evaluation*. New York: Oxford University Press
- Hepworth, D. H., Rooney, R. H., Rooney, G. D., & Strom-Gottfried, K. (2013). *Direct social work practice theory and skills*. Belmont, CA: Brooks/Cole Cengage.
- Jeffery, D. (2005). 'What good is anti-racist social work if you can't master it'? Exploring a paradox in anti-racist social work education. *Race, Ethnicity and Education, 8*(4), 409-425.

- Johnson, T. P., Booth, A. L., & Johnson, P. (2005). Physicians beliefs about substance misuse and its treatment: Findings from a U.S. survey of primary care practitioners. *Substance use & Misuse, 40*(8), 1071-1084.
- Jones, R. L. (1996, Jun 05). Substance abuse snares more women, girls the sponsors of a two-year study say the problem is now an 'enormous crisis.' *York Daily Record*. Retrieved from <http://search.proquest.com/docview/274244487?>
- Kagle, J.D. (1987). Secondary prevention of substance abuse. *Social Work, 446-448*.
- King & Lorenson (1989). Alcoholism training for social workers. *Social Casework: The Journal of Contemporary Social Work, 375-382*.
- Knox, W. J. (1971). Attitudes of psychiatrists and psychologists toward alcoholism. *American Journal of Psychiatry, 127, 1675-1679*.
- Knox, W. J. (1973). Attitudes of social workers and other professional groups toward alcoholism. *Quarterly Journal of Studies in Alcoholism, 34, 1270-1278*.
- Lee, E., Esaki, N., & Greene, R. (2009). Collocation: Integrating child welfare and substance abuse services. *Journal of Social Work Practice in the Addictions, 9*(1), 55-70
- McNeece, A. C. (2003). After the war on drugs is over: Implications for social work education. *Social Work Education, 39*(2), 193-212
- Miller, J. (2002). Social workers as diagnosticians. In K. J. Bentley (Ed.), *Social work practice in mental health: Contemporary roles, tasks and techniques* (pp. 43-72). Pacific Grove, CA: Brooks/Cole.
- NASW Practice Snapshot: The Transformation of the Mental Health System. (n.d.). Retrieved from http://www.naswdc.org/practice/behavioral_health/0206snapshot.asp
- National Institute on Drug Abuse. (2010). *Drug facts: Nationwide trends*. Retrieved from <http://www.drugabuse.gov/publications/drugfacts/nationwide-trends>
- National Standards for Social Work Practice. (2013). *Clients with substance use disorders* [Brochure]. Retrieved October 3, 2013 from <http://www.socialworkers.org/practice/standards/naswatodstatndards.pdf>

- Nordstrom, B., & Dackis, C. (2011). Drugs and crime. *Journal of Psychiatry & Law*, 39(4), 663-687.
- Olshin, S. (1991). *Differences in therapists' attitudes towards mandated and nonmandated clients*. Unpublished doctoral dissertation, Adelphi University, Garden City, NY.
- Pape, P. A. (2004). Assessment and intervention with alcohol and drug abusing women. In S. L. A. Straussner (Ed.), *Clinical work with substance-abusing clients* (2nd ed.) (pp. 347-369). New York: The Guilford Press.
- Peyton, S., Chaddick, J., & Gorsuch, R. (1980). Willingness to treat alcoholics: A study of graduate social work students. *Journal of Studies on Alcohol*, 41(9), 935-940.
- Rubin, L. J. (1996). *Mental health professionals' attitudes and behaviors toward alcoholics*. Unpublished doctoral dissertation, Columbia University.
- Silverman, F. M. (1993). Assessment and intervention with drug and alcohol abusers in medical facilities. In S. L. A. Straussner (Ed.), *Clinical work with substance-abusing clients* (pp. 33-49). New York: The Guilford Press.
- Steen, J. T. (2012). Encountering compassion in substance abuse studies: Views from a doctoral student. *Journal of Social Work Practice in the Addictions*. 12(2) 215-218.
- Stein, J. B. (1999). *Changing attitudes about substance abuse: A study to assess the impact of a training program for social work students*. Unpublished doctoral dissertation, Walden University.
- Straussner, S. L. A. (1997). Gender and substance abuse. In S. L. A. Straussner, & E. Zelvin (Eds.), *Gender and addictions: Men and women in treatment* (pp. 4-27) New Jersey: Jason Aronson, Inc.
- Strozier, A. (1995). Attitudes of social workers toward chemically dependent clients. *Arete*, 20(1)37-35.
- Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration. (2011). *National survey on drug use and health*. Retrieved from <http://www.samhsa.gov.accountid=10043>

- Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration. (2013). *Results from the 2012 National Survey on Drug Use and Health: Summary of National Findings*, NSDUH Series H-46, HHS Publication No. (SMA) 13-4795. Rockville, MD: Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration
- Tickle, J. J., & Heatherton, T. F. (2002). Research involving college students. In R. Amdur, & E. Bankert (Eds). *Institutional review board: Management and function* (pp. 399-400). Sudbury, MA: Jones & Bartlett.
- U.S. Public Health Service. (2001). *Mental health: Culture, race, and ethnicity—A supplement to mental health: A report of the surgeon general*. Rockville, MD: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, Center for Mental Health Services.
- Wechsler, H., & Rohman, M. A. (1982). Future caregivers' views on alcoholism treatment: A poor prognosis. *Journal of Studies on Alcohol*, 43(9), 939-955.
- Wu, L., Brady, K. T., Mannelli, P., & Killeen, T. K. (2014). Cannabis use disorders are comparatively prevalent among nonwhite racial/ethnic groups and adolescents: A national study. *Journal of Psychiatric Research*. 26-35
- Vairo, E. (2005). *Social Workers' Attitudes toward Mandated Substance Abusing Clients*. (Doctor of Philosophy from New York University School of Social Work). Retrieved from UMI Microform. (3194587)

ASSIGNED RESPONSIBILITIES PAGE

This was a two-person project where authors collaborated throughout. However, for each phase of the project, certain authors took primary responsibility. These responsibilities were assigned in the manner listed below.

1. Data Collection:
Team Effort: Marry Stuart and Seidy Soto
2. Data Entry and Analysis:
Team Effort: Marry Stuart and Seidy Soto
3. Writing Report and Presentation of Findings:
 - a. Introduction and Literature
Team Effort: Marry Stuart and Seidy Soto
 - b. Methods
Team Effort: Marry Stuart and Seidy Soto
 - c. Results
Team Effort: Marry Stuart and Seidy Soto
 - d. Discussion
Team Effort: Marry Stuart and Seidy Soto