

# What is the relationship between the recidivism rates at psychiatric hospitals and specific types of diagnosed mental illnesses

## ABSTRACT

The study's objective was to determine if the recidivism rate of an inpatient at a mental hospital was related to specific types of mental illnesses. Research has found that young, white, homeless men were more likely to return to a mental hospital than that of a young, African American, homeless men (Thompson, 2003). Individuals who are clinically diagnosed with schizophrenia are more likely to return to a mental hospital than someone diagnosed with another mental illness (Conley, 1999). Research has also found that people who are dually diagnosed with a mental illness and a substance abuse problem have a lower chance of recidivism rate if the mental hospital has a program for people with a dual diagnosis (Drake, 2000). The dually diagnosed are more likely to be serving a jail sentence related to their substance use, to being homeless and/or violate probation after release, and returned to correctional custody (Hartwell, 2004). Substance abuse disorders have emerged as one of the greatest obstacles to give effective treatment, to people with schizophrenia. Estimates of the prevalence of comorbidity vary, but as many as half of those individuals with schizophrenia normally suffer from a dual diagnosis (Dixon, 1999). Individuals who have a severe mental illness and addictive behaviors are capable of living independently, when they have the proper support and resources (Tsemberis, 2000). Individuals, who do not receive outpatient therapy after discharge, are more likely to have a higher recidivism rate than someone who kept their outpatient appointments (Nelson, 2000). Moccasin Bend has alcohol and drug meetings for patients who need assistance while helping them with their mental illness. This study will look at the relationship between the recidivism rate of an inpatient at a mental hospital and specific types of mental illnesses. Research will also show the relationship between an individual who receives dual treatment and their recidivism rate.

## PURPOSE/RATIONALE

The purpose of this study is to look at the relationship between the recidivism rate of an inpatient at a mental hospital and specific types of mental illnesses. The purpose will also show the relationship between an individual who receives dual treatment and their recidivism rate. The research will show that people who have a specific mental illness and a dual diagnosis need dual treatment to have a lower recidivism rate at a psychiatric hospital. The research will also show that people who are diagnosed with a specific mental illness have a higher recidivism rate than other diagnosis. With this research it will hopefully provide the information needed to change the way people receive treated for their mental illness.

## DESCRIPTION OF SAMPLING FRAME

The population sampling frame that will be used during my research project, will take information from individuals who receive inpatient psychiatric treatment at Moccasin Bend Mental Health Institution, during the past year. Ages may range from 25 years old to 60 years old.



## DESCRIPTION OF METHODS TO SELECT STUDY SAMPLE

The population sampling frame that will be used during my research project is systematic random sampling. Using systematic random sampling the individuals will be based out of 800 readmission cases, I will look at eight percent of these cases. The selected sample will consist of every 12th patient until 64 have been selected.

## STUDY PROCEDURES FOR IMPLEMENTATION AND DATA ANALYSIS STEPS

I will go to records in Moccasin Bend's main building, sign a confidentiality form, and fill out my approved secondary data collection form. My study design is a nonexperimental design using secondary data collection.

1. Data will be collected and entered into SPSS.
2. Descriptive statistics will be run to check for data distribution and skewness.
3. For the first research question, descriptions will be summed to create a total score. T-tests will be ran to look for differences between the groups. A correlation analysis will be run to examine the relationships between the return recidivism rate to a inpatient mental hospital and specific types of mental illnesses.
4. For the second research question, T-tests will be ran to look for differences between the groups. A correlation analysis will be run to examine relationships between an individual who receives dual treatment and their recidivism rate.

## IMPLICATIONS FOR PRACTICE

2. Social workers should educate their local community about discrimination against people with mental and/or physical disabilities.
3. Social workers should research local resources that support individuals with mental illnesses.
4. Social workers should remember to utilize culturally competent skills when working with oppressed populations.
5. It is imperative that social workers are aware of the different policies for people who have a mental or physical disability.
6. Social workers should educate the client about their medical insurance rights.

## RESEARCH QUESTIONS

1. What is the relationship between the recidivism rate of an inpatient at a mental hospital and specific types of mental illnesses?
2. What is the relationship between an individual who receives dual treatment and their recidivism rate?

## DESCRIPTIVES

In the overall sample ( $N=64$ ), 37.5 percent of participant were female and 62.5 percent were male. The most frequently occurring age range among sample participants was ages 46-50 years which was 23.4 percent of the whole sample. Alternatively, the least frequently occurring age range among sample participants was ages 56-60, which only represented three point one percent of the overall sample.

In the overall sample ( $N=64$ ), the majority of participants (23.4 percent) were diagnosed with schizoaffective disorder. Alternatively, the minority of participants (7.8 percent) were diagnosed with paranoid schizophrenic disorder. Further, 21.9 percent were diagnosed as schizophrenic, 14.1 percent were diagnosed with major depression, 17.2 percent were diagnosed with bipolar disorder, and 15.6 percent were diagnosed with multiple disorders.

The majority of participants (64.1 percent) have returned to the facility between one and ten times while 25 percent of participants have returned to the facility between 11 and 20 times. The minority of the participants (10.9 percent) have returned to the facility between 21 and 30 times.

An analysis of the overall sample ( $N=64$ ) revealed that 60.9 percent of the participants did not have a substance abuse problem. Alternatively, four point seven participants were found to abuse alcohol, one point six percent of participants abused marijuana, three point one percent abused pills and four point seven percent of participants used cocaine; further, 25 percent of participants abused more than one substance.

## RESULTS

To answer the first research question, a correlation analysis was run to see the relationship between patients' diagnosis and recidivism rates. A weak negative correlation was found ( $r(62) = -.279, p < .05$ ), indicating a significant relationship between the two variables.

To answer the second research question, a correlation analysis was run to see the relationship between patient's choice of substance and recidivism rates. A weak correlation that was not significant was found ( $r(62) = -.086, p > .05$ ), indicating no significant relationship between the two variables.

## DISCUSSION

A correlation was run to answer my research questions, a moderate correlation was found between the two. This means that during my research I only sampled 64 cases out of 800 which made my sample very small. I feel that if I could have I had conducted a bigger sample I could have found a great connection between a patients diagnosis and their recidivism rate. The majority of participants are diagnosed with schizoaffective disorder and had returned to Moccasin Bend between one and ten times.