

Title

American Indian adolescents in substance abuse treatment: diagnostic status.

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Source

J. Subst. AbuseTreat, 30, 275-284. (2006)

Abstract

The goal of this study was to describe the prevalence of Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders (DSM-IV) psychiatric disorders among a sample of American Indian (AI) adolescents in residential substance abuse treatment. Data on 89 AI adolescents admitted to a tribally operated residential substance abuse treatment program were collected. Participants reported using a mean of 5.26 substances; 20% percent met DSM-IV criteria for four or more substance use disorders. Marijuana abuse/dependence was the most common substance use disorder (84.3%). Eighty-two percent met criteria for at least one DSM-IV nonsubstance use disorder, the most common of which was conduct disorder (74.2%). These results suggest strong diagnostic parallels between these AI adolescents and their non-AI counterparts who have participated in similar studies, including the considerable diagnostic complexity that was common among the participants in this study. These diagnostic patterns suggest that emerging practices for treating substance-abusing adolescents that have been developed for use with non-AI adolescents warrant consideration for use with AI youths.