



Addiction/IDD/Employment

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INTRODUCTION

This will be a qualitative study with 6-8 students from the TigerLIFE program at the University of Memphis Institute on Disability. It will happen in the summer of 2023 and will be evaluated in the fall of 2023. Traditional qualitative methods will apply in a Delphi study.

Research on substance misuse has been growing, yet individuals who have an intellectual disability are not often included in this line of research. Specifically, previous research has proposed that having a diagnosed intellectual disability often serves as a protective factor against substance misuse. However, individuals who have an intellectual disability have been shown to be at a higher risk for substance misuse and mental health diagnoses than the general population. Furthermore, individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities are increasing their participation in mainstream activities, which is believed to increase their exposure to opportunities for social experimentation and substance misuse. Despite the recognition of these concerns within disability literature, a gap remains regarding first-person perceptions of substance misuse among students and young adults in particular. Consequently, there is a growing demand from disability advocates to both understand and address substance misuse in college-aged students with disabilities. Therefore, the goal of this qualitative study will be to explore the lived experience of post-secondary students with intellectual, physical, and developmental disabilities. By exploring the experiences and perceptions of substance use within the lives of TigerLIFE post-secondary education students, this study will identify ways in which college students with disabilities perceive and engage in substance misuse.



DISCUSSION

- Looking at the PsycINFO database, a search of “addiction” and “intellectual disability” yielded **236** journal articles
- However, adding “employment” to the search narrowed the results to **seven** articles
- Additionally, those three search terms through PubMed yielded **nine** articles
- Care, Cost, Misunderstanding, Interest

CONCLUSION

- Much more work needs to be done on this topic. Eventually, a qualitative study will emerge, and we will ask the alumni of TigerLIFE to participate

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