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Mental Health and Substance Use > Volume 7, 2014 - Issue 1

Empirical examination of a Venn diagram

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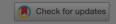
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Empirical examination of a Venn diagram heuristic for understanding the relationship between addiction, psychiatric comorbidity and trauma

Julio I. Rojas Michael Brand & Ji Li

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Abstract

Addiction, psychiatric comorbidity and trauma are common among patients and associated with a more complex course and poorer prognosis. The lack of a framework for understanding these chronic, complex conditions creates difficulties for clinicians

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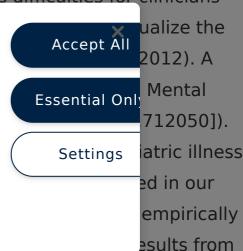
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the Personality Assessment Inventory (PAI). Specifically, we sought to determine the degree to which addiction, psychiatric illness and trauma contributed to global distress. Using the PAI-Alcohol and PAI-Drug Scales to represent addiction, the PAI-Depression and Anxiety Scales to represent psychiatric illness, the PAI-Anxiety-related Disorder-Traumatic Stress subscale to represent trauma and the PAI-Stress scale as an indicator global distress, we were able to determine that approximately 40% of the variance in global distress can be explained by addiction, psychiatric illness and trauma. However, most of the 40% is accounted for by the shared relationship between psychiatric illness and trauma (18%), and psychiatric illness (12%). Implications for diagnosis and treatment are proposed.

Q Keywords: co-occurring disorders trauma Venn diagram Personality Assessment Inventory

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