

**PRIOR SEXUAL ABUSE AMONG FEMALE SUBSTANCE DEPENDENTS ADMITTED
IN
DOH-TRC IN METRO MANILA**

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ABSTRACT

Substance abuse among females has always been a sensitive subject among Filipinos. This is due to the fact that Filipinos are protective of their females. As a Result, their recovery is more difficult. Punitive drug and social policies related to employment, housing, education, welfare, mental health, and substance abuse treatment contributes to this (Von Olphen, J. et al. 2009).

Aim: to obtain descriptive baseline data on sexual abuse and substance dependence among females in the study. To date, there has been no such local study done and to provide results contributing to developing programs targeting prevention of onset of disease, early detection and management/treatment and provision of rehabilitation and other services to facilitate their reintegration back into society.

Design, Setting and Participants: Cross-sectional study of females admitted in a Department of Health operated drug treatment and rehabilitation center from November 29, 2007 to February 19, 2010. Aside from prevalence of prior sexual abuse among female patients, number of times abused, age at onset and perpetrators among others, demographic profiles like age, residence and socioeconomic status were taken. Drug history and admission data were also studied.

Data Collection: Interview prepared data information checklist and centers' records.

Results: Although 82% reported no sexual abuse, 52% of those who reported prior sexual abuse reported onset at 10 years of age and younger, 72.7 of them reporting being abused more than once. Majority perpetrators were related to patients.

Conclusions and Recommendations: This study provides baseline data for further studies and provides objective information that would help in

formulation of better treatment plans for female drug dependents locally.