

these conditions on correctional health care systems and the community. *Conclusions:* This presentation synthesizing two studies identifies factors that increase vulnerability in

the older adult and offers recommendations for practitioners and researchers.

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The concept of codependency and the characteristics of codependent individuals

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The concept of codependency stems from the field of chemical dependency. The aim of the presentation is to raise awareness of the codependency, which can be considered as a maintaining factor of the partner's addiction. Codependency is mostly considered as a behavioural addiction, although it is not an official diagnostic category and the definition of the codependency remains still unclear. According to the literature the main characteristics of codependent individuals feel excessive responsibility, need of control, compulsivity, extreme reactivity and other non-specific symptoms as well. There are several models describing the etiology of the codependency. The psychodynamic authors

emphasize dysfunctional family, parental mental health problem, early traumatization, and parentification. The cognitive models underscore familial patterns, dysfunctional cognitions, early maladaptive schemas, and social learning. Depression, anxiety disorders, other behavioural addictions, chemical addictions and personality disorders can occur as comorbid disorders in the lives of codependent individuals. The presentation summarizes the existing theoretical approaches, the etiology and the comorbidity of codependency, as well as the characteristics of codependent individuals.

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Prevalence of behavioural and substance-related addictions:

A preliminary study from Canada

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Background and aims: We described the prevalence of self-attributed substance-related and behavioural addiction problems in two population-based samples of Albertan adults and examined whether prevalence estimates differed across two different survey modes. *Methods:* Sample 1 included 4,000 adults recruited from an online research panel; Sample 2 included 2,000 adults who completed computerized assisted telephone interviews. Identical survey items were used across samples, and asked respondents (1) to report self-attributed problems in the preceding year with four substances (alcohol, tobacco, marijuana, cocaine) and six behaviours (gambling, eating, shopping, sex, video gaming, work), and for each behaviour (2) whether they personally knew someone exhibiting a problem, and (3) perceived population prevalence. *Results:* About half of the participants in each sample reported experiencing past-year addiction problems. The most prevalent substance-related problems were

tobacco (21% and 16% in Samples 1 and 2) and alcohol (6% and 4%), while the most common behavioural problems were eating (23% and 19%) and work (17% and 18%). All respondents consistently overestimated population prevalence relative to self-reported problems. Although online survey participants consistently reported slightly higher rates compared to CATI respondents, rank-order correlations across self-, acquaintances-, and population-attributed prevalence estimates were high in both samples. *Conclusions:* Consistent overestimation of population prevalence suggests that people are aware of the importance of managing excessive behaviours but perceive problems rather than possible solutions. Convergence of results across data sets suggests that both survey modes provide useful information on addictive behaviours; however, further research should explore correlates of higher prevalence rates among online respondents.