

## PW01-244 - A RETROSPECTIVE SIBLING STUDY OF CHILDHOOD ADJUSTMENT IN ADULTS WITH SUBSTANCE USE DISORDERS

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**Aim:** To retrospectively identify differences in antisocial and delinquent behavior between siblings discordant for serious substance use disorders.

**Background:** Research has suggested that people who develop serious substance use disorders have delinquent traits as children prior to using any illicit drugs.

**Method:** A retrospective survey was conducted of 50 pairs of adult siblings who were discordant for serious substance use disorders. The self-report early delinquency scale (SRED) was used to retrospectively assess delinquent traits in childhood and adolescence.

**Results:** The mean SRED 29 (illegal item) score in treatment seeking opiate dependent people (mean age= 33.5 years) was 19.6 (SE=0.9) compared to 4.8 (SE=0.6) in same sex, non-substance dependent siblings ( $p < 0.0001$ ; paired Wilcoxon test). The mean SRED 58 (norm violation) score in treatment seeking opiate dependent people was 36.8 (SE=1.7) compared to 10.5 (SE=1.4) in same sex siblings ( $p < 0.0001$ ; paired Wilcoxon test). 40% of patients were expelled from school compared to 12% of siblings (Yates-corrected  $\chi^2 = 8.78$ ;  $p = 0.003$ ). 96% of patients reported problems with the police as adolescence compared to 48% of controls (Yates-corrected  $\chi^2 = 26.24$ ;  $p < 0.0001$ ). Police problems in substance users pre-dated first use of illicit substances by 5.5 years.

**Conclusion:** The study used a validated instrument and objective reports to confirm significantly higher rates of delinquent behavior and social dysfunction in childhood for substance users compared to non-substance dependent siblings. The delinquent behaviors usually predated serious substance misuse.