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Examining the Associations Between Addiction Severity and Prior Adverse Childhood Experiences in Pregnant Women Receiving Treatment for Opioid Addiction

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Addiction Severity and ACES

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Examining the Associations Between Addiction Severity and Prior Adverse Childhood Experiences in Pregnant Women Receiving Treatment for Opioid Addiction

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Introduction: Opioid use during pregnancy poses risk to both the mother and fetus, including fetal loss and pre-term birth. Prior research suggests that adverse childhood experiences (ACEs) are a plausible antecedent to opioid abuse. However, there is insufficient understanding of the association between prior ACEs, familial history of substance use, and treatment outcomes in pregnant women receiving treatment for opioid addiction.

Methods: A retrospective chart review will be used to review data from 167 MATER patients who entered treatment between 1997 and 2017. Descriptive statistics will be utilized to characterize the study population. Regression and chi-square analyses will be conducted to establish whether demographic factors and history of substance use differ as a function of child abuse.

Results: We expect to observe a positive association between number of ACEs, number of family members with a history of substance use, duration of treatment, and number of relapses. We anticipate that demographic variables such as race and education will moderate this association.

Conclusion: Understanding what associations may exist between ACES and addiction severity could identify potential interventions to improve psychosocial health and quality of parenting behaviors in pregnant women who are receiving treatment for opioid addiction. Additionally,

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having this understanding could improve treatment outcomes for patients and providers' ability to deliver trauma-informed care.