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Assessing the Role of Virtual Social Networks in the Treatment Progress of Mothers Recovering from Opiate Addiction

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Assessing the Role of Virtual Social Networks in the Treatment Progress of Mothers Recovering from Opiate Addiction

Marisa Wu, Meghan Gannon, PhD. MSPH*, Diane Abatemarco, PhD, MSW

Introduction

Social engagement is a significant contributor to the treatment success of those with prior substance use.

Inquiry question: Does social engagement improve the treatment progress of mothers with prior opioid use?

Aims

- Assess level of virtual social engagement
- Evaluate perceived impact of engagement on treatment progress

Methods

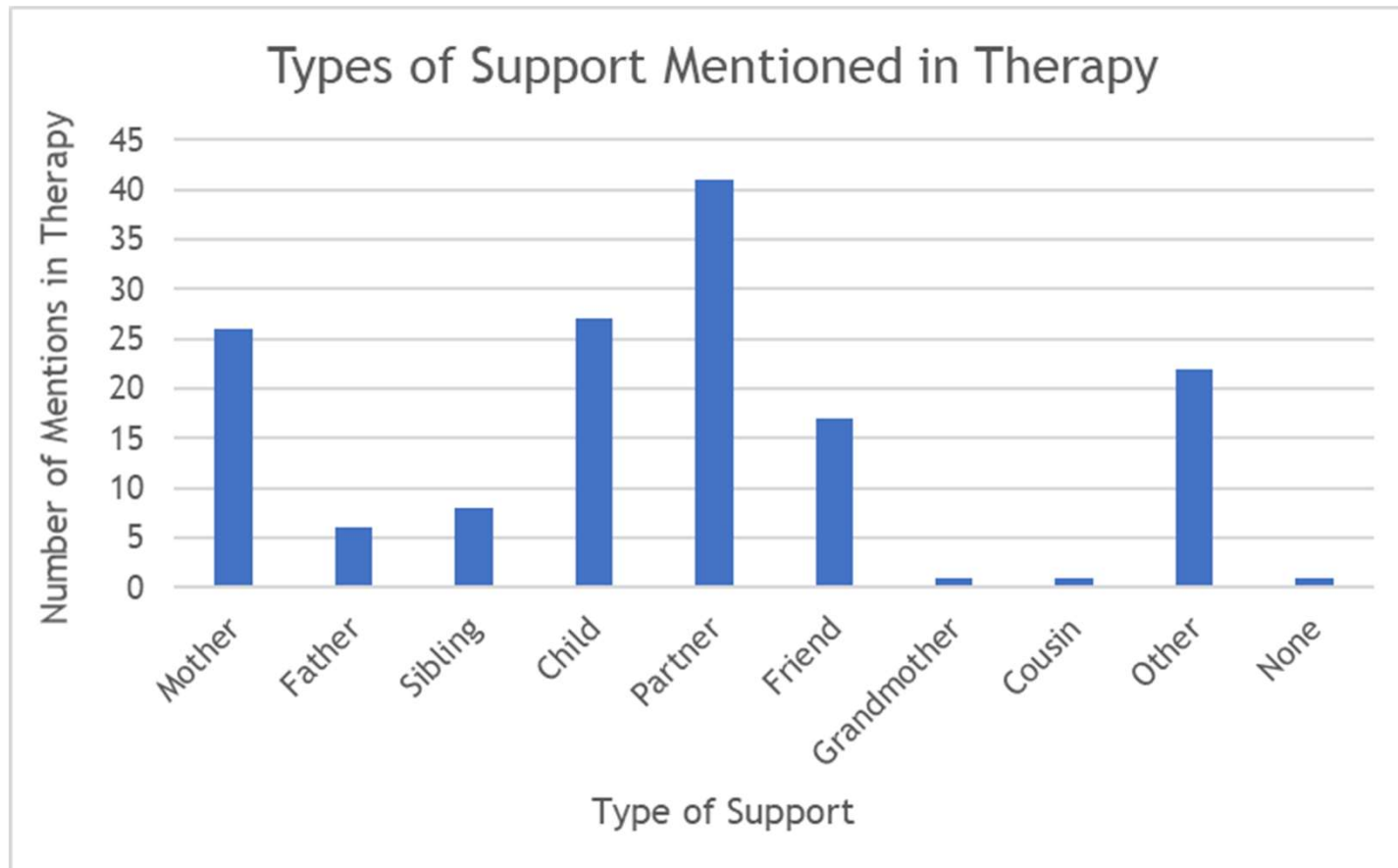
- *Population:* Mothers seeking treatment for opioid use at Jefferson-affiliated in-patient treatment facility (MSP)
- **Interviews with mothers**
 - Quality of engagement, impact on relationships, obstacles
- **Quantitative data** from meetings with family therapist
 - Type, duration of engagement
 - Quality: categorized using key words
- **Measures of treatment progress**
 - Reflections from clients
 - Status within treatment facility: present, graduated, left ASA

Results

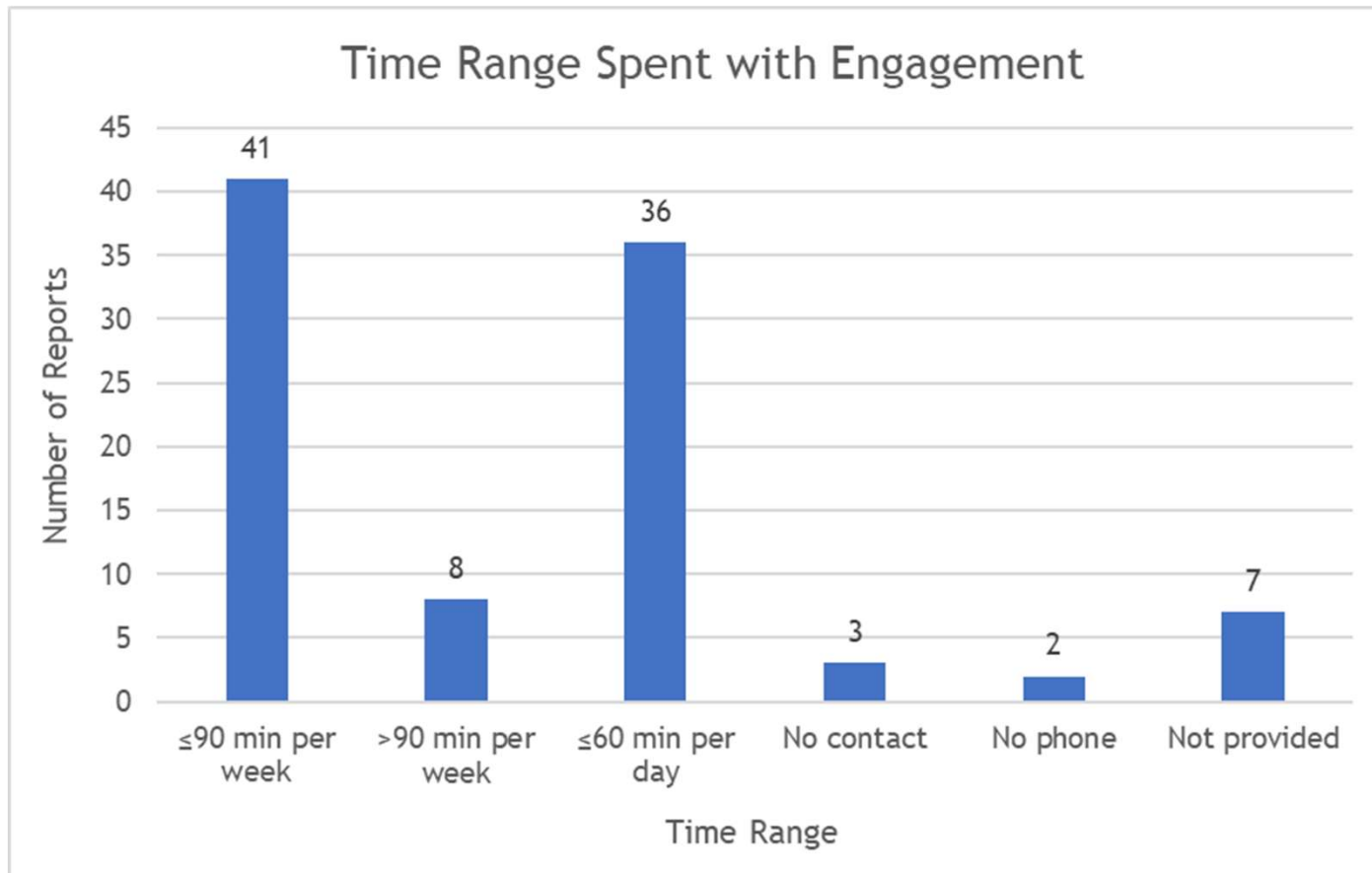
General information about engagement

- Mean # of support persons mentioned in each therapy session: 1.43
- Mean # of unique social supports per client: 2.57

Results



Results



Results: Interviews

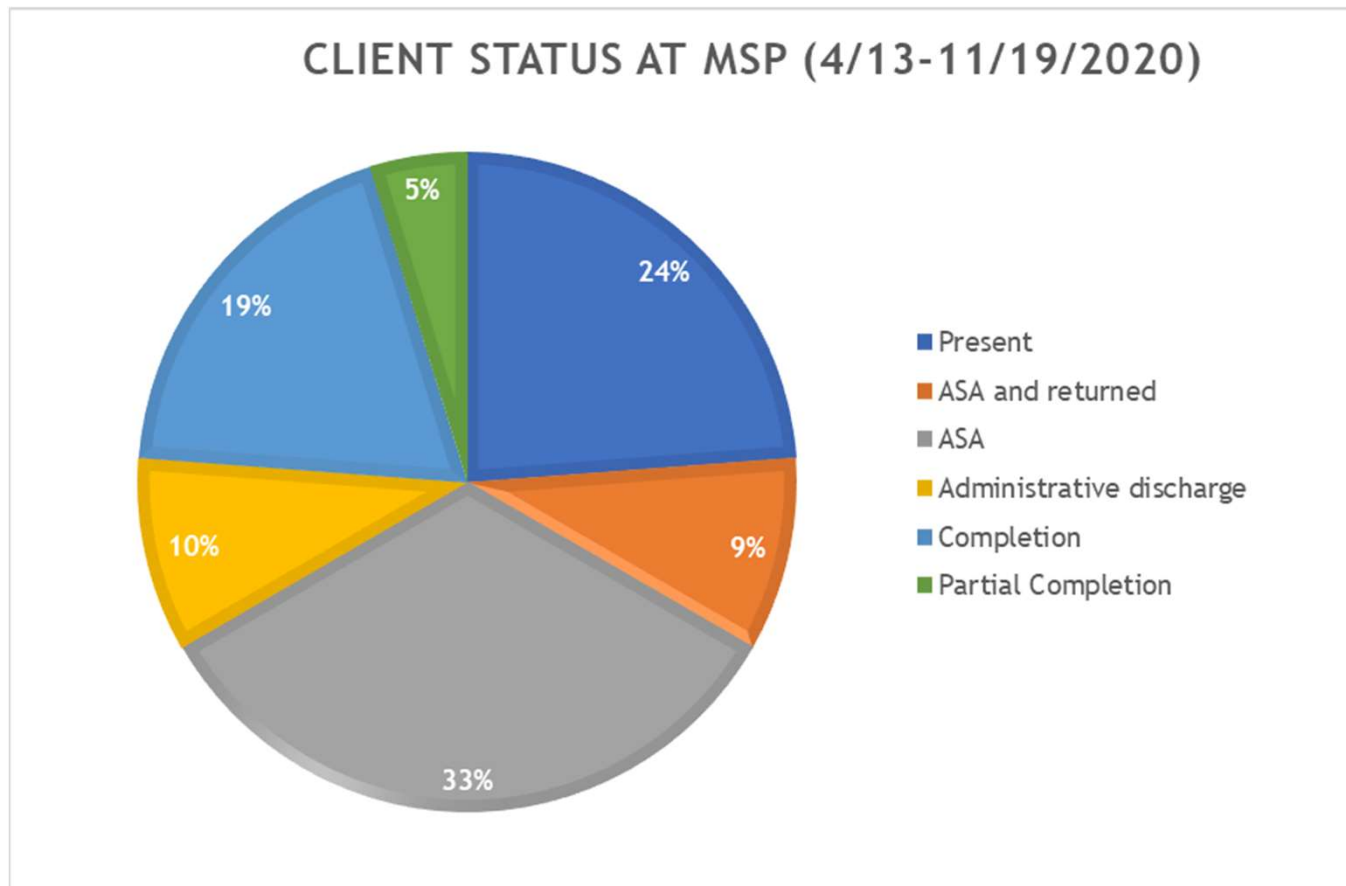
Engagement Quality

- 92.35% of discussions about social engagement in therapy sessions were neutral or positive
- Majority of interviewees responded positively to virtual social engagement
- Increased time spent with support persons or getting support through AA & NA meetings

Interview Excerpts

Positive	Mixed	Negative
<p>“It’s essential to my recovery. In the past not having the ability to use phones and having to go through counselor really negatively affected my recovery.”</p> <p>“We do a lot of Facetime and without that we wouldn’t have been able to see them. That’s the only thing that has helped that helped not get so homesick.”</p>	<p>Miss the people they talk to and wish to see them in person</p>	<p>Learning to use video call/chat apps</p> <p>“I haven’t seen my children in person at all”</p> <p>“They aren’t always available to talk when we have our phone time. People work. Just because we get our phones at that time doesn’t mean they can talk.”</p>

Treatment Progress



Conclusions

- Engagement is largely positive contribution to treatment progress
- Limited scope
 - Short duration
 - Limited clients
- Continue data collection to gain long-term perspective from more clients
 - Impact of pandemic on treatment progress

Moving Forward

- Valuable information about design of in-patient facility programs
- Help maximize opportunities for clients' success
- Contribute to literature supporting social engagement as important factor in health outcomes

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Questions?



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