

Abstract

This master's thesis focuses on the romantic relationships of substance abusers. The theoretical part of the thesis defines the different types of relationships and deals with substance abuse, attachment theory and partner satisfaction. The last chapter summarizes existing studies on attachment in substance abusers and partner satisfaction in their relationships. Special emphasis is placed on attachment and its interdependence with the other concepts introduced in the theoretical part.

The thesis includes a mixed-method study. The goal of the quantitative part is to map out and compare partner satisfaction and attachment in substance abusers; the qualitative part attempts to examine the impact of substance abuse on the relationships of substance abusers. The available results show that individuals in the substance abuse sample exhibit higher levels of anxiety and avoidance in their relationships than respondents from the comparison group. Substance abusers also show lower partner satisfaction than respondents from the comparison group. Six key areas were determined in connection with substance abuse and its effect on romantic relationships: The role of the substance in the relationship, the positive impact of substance abuse on the relationship, the negative impact of substance abuse on the relationship, the difficulties facing substance abusers in their current relationships, the partner's knowledge of the respondent's substance abuse, and joint substance abuse within a relationship. The thesis concludes with a discussion of the findings and the limitations of the study.

Key Words

Attachment, Partner Satisfaction, Addiction, Substance Abuse