

# The Effects of COVID-19 on Women in Recovery with a History of Human Trafficking or Solicitation Hannah Frey, Dr. Gary Dick, PhD College of Allied Health Sciences, Department of Social Work



	IMPORTANCE TO SOCIAL WORK		<b>RESEARCH QUESTIONS</b>		RESULTS
	This study is important to the field of social work because it:	1.	Has the lack of people physically in the building affected you? How?	•	• The primary result of the study was that the clients fel COVID-19 has affected their support systems.
1.	Brings awareness to how COVID-19 is affecting women in recovery who have a history of Human trafficking or	2.	Has COVID-19 changed the way you interact with your sponsor?		Participants felt that they have a lack of connection and sober support during COVID-19. The lack of connection and support caused relapses for a few of the participants.
2.	olicitation. nforms the public and other agencies	3.	How has COVID-19 affected your recovery?	•	Four of the six participants stated COVID-19 had affected their support system.
	about what individuals need in recovery during the time of COVID-19.	4.	What has been the biggest impact on your recovery during COVID-19?	•	Six out of the six clients stated that they would rather go in person to meetings than attend them online.
	PURPOSE		on your recovery during covid 13.		go in person to meetings than attend them online.

The purpose of this research study is:

- This study is a qualitative study. Based on a group session with women on their personal experience adapting to COVID-19 and its effects on their support system in recovery. The participants discussed the research question in a group setting. This gave these individuals the opportunity to speak on this matter in a clear and indepth manner.
- The purpose of this qualitative study was to see to what extent COVID-19 has had on women in recovery who have a history of trauma related to sex trafficking and solicitation. This study looks at how COVID-19 has affected the subjects

- 5. How has COVDI-19 affected your support system?
  - Health Have you felt that your health is more at risk?
  - 2. Home How have COVID\_-19 protocols on the unit affected you?
  - Purpose Has your purpose felt changed since COVDI-19?
  - Community How have the people you see and are around adjusted since COVID-19?
  - 5. What has been the biggest change in how you interact with your support system?
- 6. How has CVOD-19 affected you going to AA and NA?1. How did you feel about going

- Clients described their feelings about online meetings as hard to connect, awkward, disconnected, and unengaged.
- Six out of six clients felt online meetings were helpful because it is a way they can still go to a meeting.
- Five out of six clients said how they interact with their support system has changed. The clients mentioned a lack of sober support, not seeing family, and impersonal phone calls as changed to their support system.
- The clients stated several different impacts on their recovery. These included relapsing, loss of control, difficulty navigating technology, and not connecting with others.
- Three participants stated COVID-19 caused them or someone close to them to relapse. One client stated, "I relapsed when I got out of jail. I was alone and, I was

#### through COVID-19.

### DATA ANALYSIS

- The results of the group were qualitatively analyzed to see how COVID-19 has affected the support systems and recovery. The participates were a part of the Off the Streets program.
- The research literature provided a background on the population in this study as well as providing a background of trauma-informed treatment centers.

- to meetings online?
- In what ways have online meetings been helpful?
- 3. Have you been to any socially distanced meetings? If so, how were these meetings?

### PARTICIPANTS

 This study was made of 6 participants. The sample in this study was created from six women. The participants are between the ages of twenty-two and sixty-seven. Four of the women are white and two of the women are African American.

#### scared so I drank for comfort."

#### LIMITATIONS

The limitations of this study is the limited sample size, due to COVID-19 the number of women living on the unit is limited. Another limitation is that I was unable to record the group session due to confidentially concerns from the participants.

## CONCLUSIONS

 COVID-19 influenced participant's support systems and recovery. In COVID-19 access to individuals support system can be more difficult and this can increase isolation.

 An increase in sober support, socially distanced meetings and connection will help individuals in their recovery during COVID-19.