PREDICTORS OF TREATMENT COMPLETION AT A 6-MONTH RESIDENTIAL REHABILITATION SERVICE FOR WOMEN WITH SUBSTANCE USE DISORDERS AND THEIR CHILDREN

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Introduction and Aims: There are few residential rehabilitation services available for women with children and little is known about who accesses these services in Australia and their outcomes. This study aimed to describe the health, demographic and psychosocial characteristics of women admitted to a 6-month residential treatment service for women with substance use disorders and their children and the factors associated with treatment completion.

Methods: A retrospective data extraction from client records for all women admitted from 2009-2014 was conducted. Data included: demographics, substance use and psychosocial history, and program compliance. Univariate and multivariate logistic regression was performed to assess both the independent and relative impact on treatment completion.

Results: Of the 105 enrolments, 47(45%) women completed the six-month residential program. Women entering the program were aged a median of 35 (22-68) years. Alcohol was the most common primary drug of concern (40%). Lifetime child protection involvement (OR= 3.1, CI: 1.12-8.66, p=0.03) and DASS scores indicating moderate-severe anxiety (OR=0.33, 95% CI: 0.12-0.90, p=0.03) were significantly associated with treatment completion. Only lifetime child-protection involvement was associated with treatment completion in multivariate analysis (OR= 4.35, 95%CI: 1.35-14.01, p<0.01).

Discussions and Conclusions: Prioritizing women with child protection involvement may help to reduce the intergenerational cycle of substance use disorders.

Implications for Practice or Policy: Women with child-protection involvement may benefit from comprehensive services offering a child-friendly environment.

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