

PERSONALITY PSYCHOPATHOLOGY PREVALENCE IN AN HIV SEROPOSITIVE POPULATION

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Background/Purpose:

The clinical experience of psychologists at The Albion Centre (Albion), an inner-Sydney interdisciplinary HIV clinic, suggests high rates of personality disorders within an HIV seropositive community. The present project aimed to measure the prevalence and typology of personality disorders presenting within Albion psychology clients in order to inform psychology service delivery and planning. It has, and will continue to, direct clinician training and inform psychological treatment modality.

Approach:

A total of 87 psychology clients completed questionnaires assessing the clinical variables of depression, anxiety, stress, distress, personality symptomology, and early maladaptive schemas profile. Participant responses were de-identified. Three clients were excluded from the analysis. Clients were HIV seropositive individuals (86 males, 1 female; aged 20-80 years, M= 46.6, SD= 11.14) engaged in free psychological treatment at Albion. Questionnaires were completed in session or between sessions at the request of treating clinical psychologists and clients could decline to participate with no consequences to their treatment.

Outcome/Impact:

Of the 84 clients, 63% provided responses on the Germans Personality Questionnaire suggesting that they met diagnostic criteria for at least one personality disorder. On the Mclean Screening Instrument for Borderline Personality Disorder 36% of the sample suggested a Borderline Personality Disorder diagnosis. These results represent significantly higher rates of personality disorder indicators when compared with community samples.

Innovation and Significance:

This data has directed clinician training in evidence-based personality disorder treatments, specifically Schema Therapy. Other strategies to effectively treat this cohort, including further training in alternative evidence-based treatment modalities, are currently under consideration.

Disclosure of Interest Statement:

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