

Autism and Addiction: the forgotten dual disorders

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Objectives:

Despite substance use disorder (SUD) rates of up to 36% in autistic people very little is known of the underlying aetiology or effective ways of managing them in autistic people. Furthermore, in terms of increased Internet use, or other potential behavioural addictions (such as gambling) little has been done to differentiate the mechanisms and motivations for use in autistic people.

Materials and methods

We have convened a Priority Setting Partnership (PSP) bringing together all potential stakeholders including experts by experience to drive research, policy, and inform clinical practice in this important and under-represented group.

The aim is to identify and prioritise the evidence uncertainties and reach consensus on a final list (Top 10) of jointly agreed research and policy priorities in this area.

We have undertaken a structured scoping review to identify gaps, and will survey widely, via an online platform, requesting questions that people wish answered and an invitation to one of the virtual workshops and Delphi process

Results:

From this we will publish the consensus on 'top 10 priorities' for the field. This work is ongoing and we are keen to engage the WADD membership in this important area of dual disorders.

<https://www.addiction-ssa.org/sabaa-project-and-the-overlap-between-autism-and-addiction-julia-sinclair-talks-to-the-ssa/>

Conflicts of interest:

I do not work with tobacco, alcohol, electronic cigarettes and gaming companies. This study is funded by the Society for the Study of Addiction <https://www.addiction-ssa.org/>

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