

# Effects of Self-Efficacy and Stigmatization when Managing Patients with Addiction and Substance Use Disorders

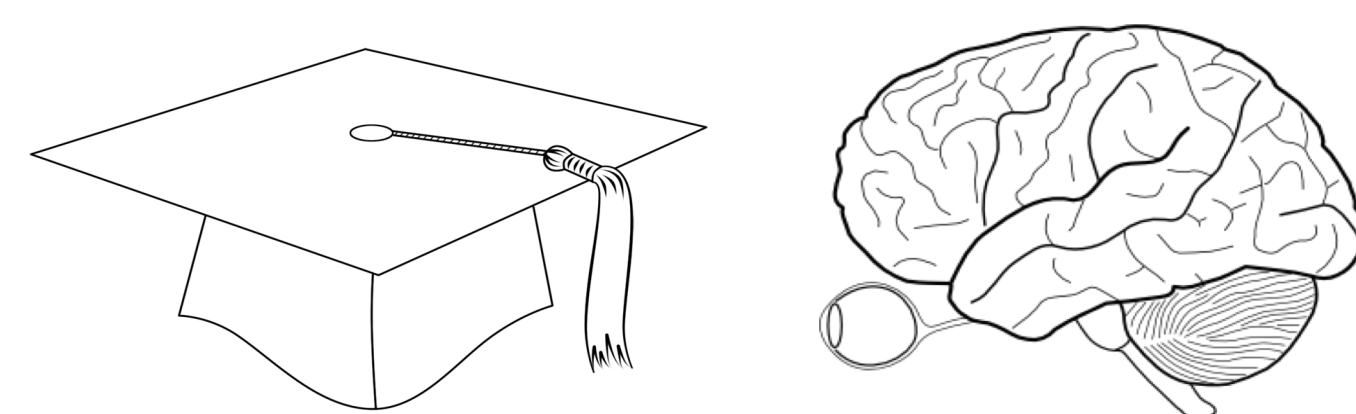


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## Introduction

- People who suffer with **addiction** are more likely to be treated as outsiders, which result in social disadvantages and maltreatment in a medical setting. This is because **substance abuse** can be perceived as deviating from social norms (Henderson & Dressler, 2017).
- Higher post-secondary education on **addiction** could reduce **stigmatization** and improve **self-efficacy** for better healthcare outcomes. Previous research has revealed that appropriate training is important when forming nonjudgmental attitudes towards drug users (Baldwin et al., 2006).
- The **purpose** of this study is to address the gap between post-secondary education, reducing stigmatization and improving self-efficacy among healthcare professionals.



## Hypotheses

- Students with **more education** on addiction tend to have less **stigmatization** towards patients with addiction.
- Students with **higher self-efficacy** tend to have less **stigmatization** towards patients with addiction.
- Students with **more education** on addiction tend to have **higher self-efficacy** when managing patients with addiction.

## Measures

- Drug and Drug Users' Problems Perceptions Questionnaire (DDPPS; Puskar et al., 2013), a 22-item self-report Likert scale measured **self-efficacy**.
- Drug Use Stigmatization Scale (DUSS; Palamar, 2011), a 7-item self-report Likert scale, measured **stigmatization**.
- Level of education** was measured using a question asking how many courses covering the topic at hand with four responses:
  - None** (I have never taken a course that has addressed this topic)
  - Little** (I have taken a course that touched on this topic)
  - Fair Amount** (I have taken a full course on this topic)
  - Substantial** (I have taken multiple courses on this topic)

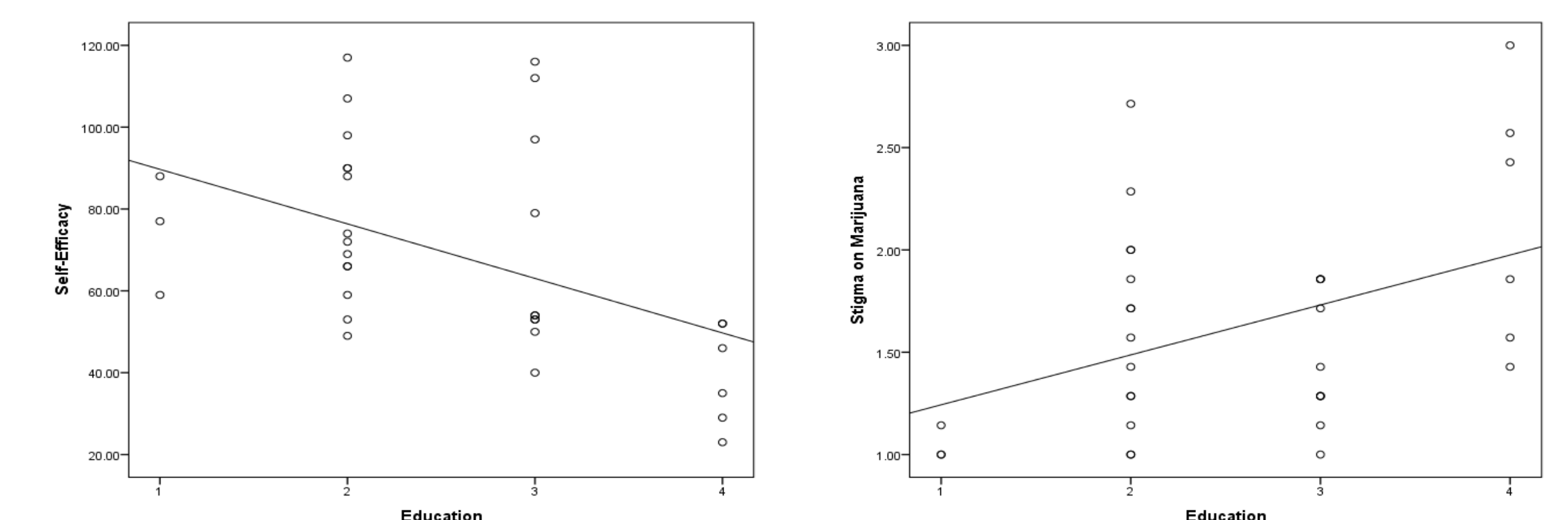


## Method

- 34 college students** were recruited from Dominican University of California (DUC). 87% were female; 13% were male; the mean age was 29.77 ( $SD= 13.11$ ).
- Participants voluntarily completed an online survey, which included a combination of questions from two scales: **DDPPS** and **DUSS**, they indicated their level of education, along with demographic questions.
- After completing the survey, students were thanked and provided a link to information about substance use disorders and addiction.
- A Spearman  $\rho$  and Pearson  $r$  was used to calculate correlations between the variables of interest.

## Results

- When correlating level of **education** and **stigmatization**, there was **no significant finding**  
 $\rho(30) = .134, p > .05$ .
- When correlating level of **education** and **self-efficacy**, there was a **significant finding**  
 $\rho(30) = -.497, p = .004$ .
- When correlating **stigmatization** and **self-efficacy**, there was **no significant finding**  
 $r(30) = -0.197, p > .05$ .
- A supplementary analysis found a significance between **marijuana** and **higher levels of education on addiction**  
 $\rho(30) = .389, p = .028$ .



## Discussion

It is important to note that education on **addiction** can influence a person's **self-efficacy** and **stigmatization**. This study's limitations were confined to DUC students in Marin County, leaving little room for a more culturally diverse research basis. Future studies can focus on what strategies are most effective for better healthcare outcomes for people who suffer with addiction, and use samples from other demographic backgrounds.