

**ODYSSEY
HOUSE**



*'A Calm in
the Sea of
Addiction'*

THE AUSTRALASIAN THERAPEUTIC COMMUNITIES CONFERENCE Sydney 2014

**Presenter: Sharon Mestern
Chief Clinical Officer
Odyssey House McGrath Foundation**

Women with problematic drug and alcohol use have higher rates of trauma and abnormal pap smears

Researcher : Jacqueline Soccio (NSW health)

The women who participated

Odyssey House McGrath Foundation Nursing staff

The aim of the study was to compare 2 groups of women

- **The first group were women in the community attending a Womens Health Clinic for pap smears**
- **The second group were women living within Odyssey House Residential Program**

Compared the prevalence of known risk factors for cervical cancer such as smoking and sexually transmitted infections as well as rates of trauma such as domestic violence and sexual assault.





The study consisted of 66 women who attended the community health setting and 36 women who attended the rehabilitation setting.



What did we find

- ✿ **Ten times more likely to have an abnormal pap smear at current screening**
- ✿ **More than twice as likely to have had a history of an abnormal pap smear**
- ✿ **More than twice as likely to be current smokers**
- ✿ **Both groups of women had comparable screening rates (52% under screened vs. 55% in well women's clinic)**

- ❁ **Six times more likely to have had a history of domestic violence (65.7%)**
- ❁ **Twice as likely to have been sexually assaulted (44.1%)**
- ❁ **Lower age of first sexual intercourse (mean age 15.7 vs. 18.5 for well women's clinic)**
- ❁ **More than twice as likely to have had a history of 5 or more sexual partners in their lifetime (63.6%)**

WOMENS HEALTH AND THE TC

- ✓ Recovery is Focussed on the underlying causes of addiction
- ✓ There are other health issues that can impact on the ability to focus on recovery
- ✓ The responsibility of TC's

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