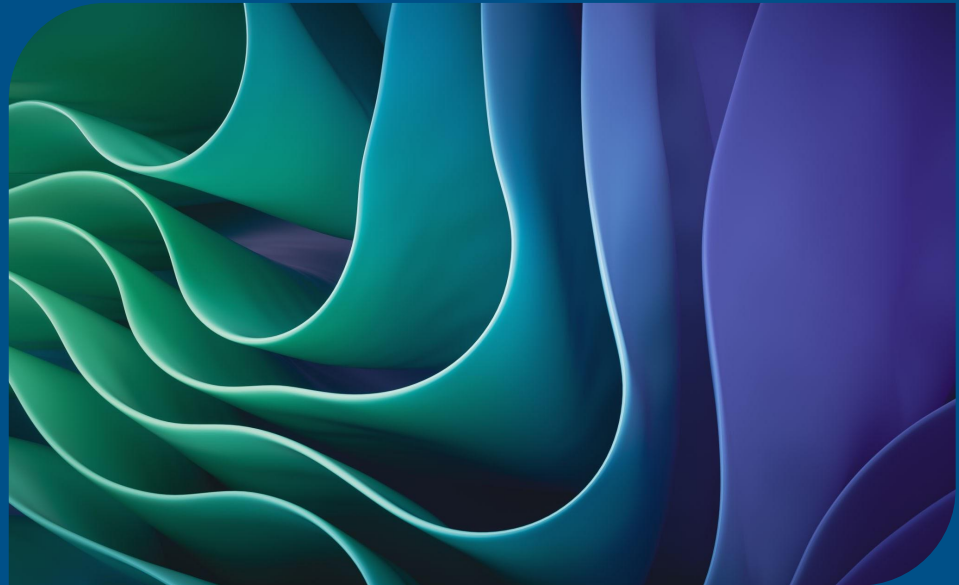# Perceptions Matter: Perceived Stigma and its Role in SUD Treatment Completion

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Technology and Translational Research Unit

1. **Stigma Background**

2. **Forming a Hypothesis**

3. **Sample & Analysis**

4. **Results**

5. **Conclusions and Next Steps**

Research mixed when it comes to stigma and treatment duration/retention

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Research Question: Does stigma predict treatment dropout?

Perceived stigma on treatment intake will predict **increased** likelihood of premature treatment dropout.

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Measurements

- N = 7,591 individuals receiving SUD treatment at one of 75 treatment centers in the US
- Perceived Stigma of Addiction Scale (PSAS)
- Discharge status (premature or suggested treatment duration?)
- Treatment modality
- Primary substance
- Sociodemographics
- Mental health (depression, stress, anxiety)

Analysis

- Mixed effects modeling: PSAS predicting discharge status
- Controlled for...
    - Treatment center
    - Treatment modality
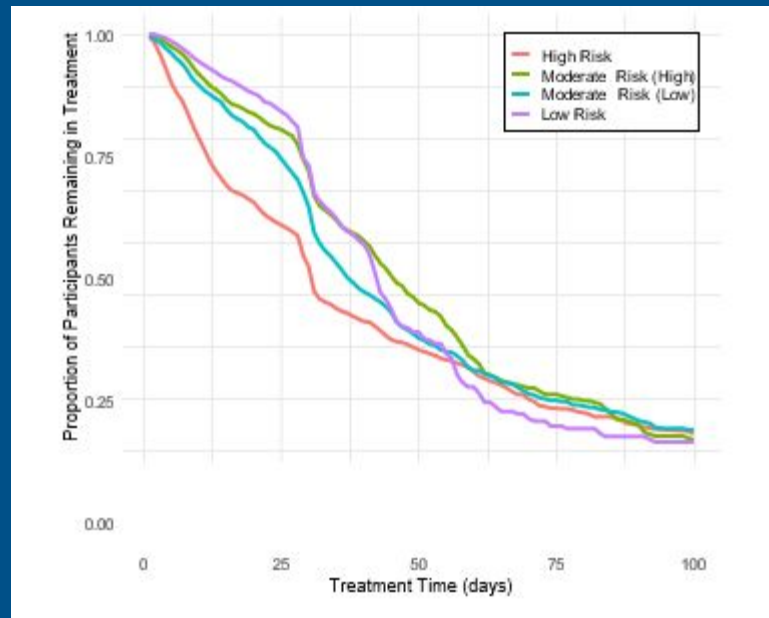   - Primary substance
    - Sociodemgraphics
    - Mental health

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High perceived stigma → premature discharge

For each one–unit increase in Perceived Stigma of Addiction Scale score, the odds of treatment completion decreased by 3%. This relationship persists across all models, even after accounting for covariates.

	Treatment Completion			
	Sociodemographics	Treatment Type	Mental Health	Primary Substance
Fixed Effects				
Stigma	-.12*** (.04)	-.14*** (.04)	-.13*** (.04)	-.08* (.04)
Duration of Stay	1.38*** (.07)	2.06*** (.09)	1.38*** (.07)	1.42*** (.08)
Sociodemographics				
Age	.25*** (.04)	.21*** (.04)	.25*** (.04)	.11** (.04)
Sex	.06 (.07)	.06 (.08)	.04 (.08)	.02 (.08)
Race	-1.15 (.11)	-.11 (.08)	-.14 (.11)	-.08 (.12)
Employment	.20** (.07)	.18* (.08)	.20* (.07)	.09 (.08)
Treatment Type				
Intensive Outpatient	-	-3.96*** (.23)	-	-
Residential	-	-1.87*** (.11)	-	-
Mental Health				
Anxiety	-	-	.03 (.04)	-
Depression	-	-	-.03 (.05)	-
Stress	-	-	.04 (.05)	-
Primary Substance				
Benzodiazepine	-	-	-	-.60** (.20)
Cocaine	-	-	-	-.83*** (.15)
Heroin	-	-	-	-.73*** (.11)
Marijuana	-	-	-	-1.13*** (.19)
Methamphetamine	-	-	-	-1.19*** (.12)
Opioids	-	-	-	-.66*** (.12)
Stimulants	-	-	-	-.53 (.33)
Intercept	.97*** (.26)	2.70*** (.24)	.98*** (.26)	1.46*** (.27)
Random Effects				
Treatment site | (Intercept)	4.24	3.17	4.22	4.53
Model Fit				
AIC	5625.5	5164.9	5629.9	5515.5
BIC	5680.6	5233.8	5705.7	5618.9
Log-likelihood	-2804.7	-2572.4***	-2804.0	-2742.8***
Observations				
People	7265	7265	7265	7265
Treatment sites	75	75	75	75

High–risk quartile drops out of treatment earlier than other groups

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Increased stigma on intake → Adverse SUD treatment outcomes

Highlights the need for stigma reduction among general public, healthcare professionals, and people who use substances and identifying folks with high levels of stigma early in treatment

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