



Perceived Stigma and its Impact on Substance Use Disorder and Mental Health

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Outline Introduction to Substance Use Disorders
and Stigma

Our Project

Results of Our Project

Implications



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Substance Use Disorder Background

- 43.6 million (16.5%) Americans over the age of 12 reported an SUD in 2021
- 40.7 million did not receive treatment
- Why not?
 - Did not think they needed it
 - Potential professional conflicts
 - **Perceived Stigma**

**Perceived Stigma refers
to the internalization of
negative public views
towards a marginalized
group**

Perceived Stigma of Substance Abuse Scale (PSSAS)

**HHS Public Access**
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The Development and Psychometric Properties of a New Measure of Perceived Stigma Toward Substance Users

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Abstract

A self-report measure of perceived stigma toward substance users was developed and studied. An initial measure was created based on a previously developed scale that was rated by experts for content validity and quality of items. The scale, along with other measures, was administered to 252 people in treatment for substance problems in the United States during 2006–2007. Refinement efforts resulted in an eight-item scale with good face validity, construct validity, and adequate levels of internal consistency. Most relationships with other constructs were as expected. Findings suggest that perceived stigma is distinct from other forms of stigma.

PSSAS Example Items

- Most people would...
 - ... trust someone who has been treated for substance use to take care of their children
 - ... think less of someone who has been treated for a substance use disorder
 - ... willingly accept someone who has been treated for a substance use disorder as a close friend

Why are Substance Use Disorders Stigmatized?



Why are Substance Use Disorders Stigmatized



Lack of
Motivation



Moral Failure

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- Trac9 administered survey
- Mental health measures
- SUD measures
- Primary substance
- Treatment modality
- Discharge status

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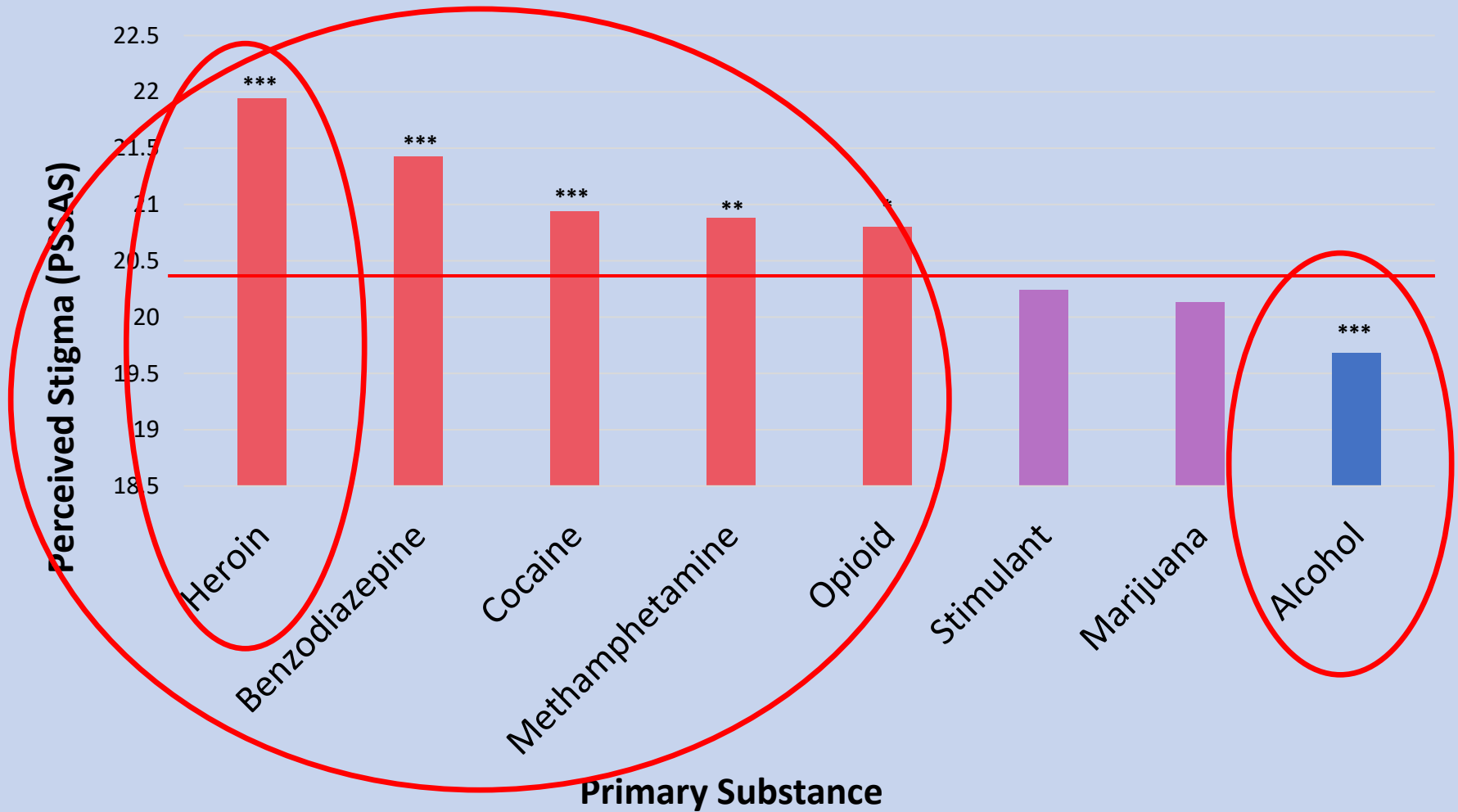
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Perceived Stigma is Correlated with Mental Health and SUD Measures

	Anxiety	Depression	Quality of Life	Stress	Desire for Non-Use	Craving
PSSAS	.192 ***	.255***	-.251***	.241***	-.076***	.204***

Perceived Stigma Differs by Substance



Substance Use Disorder Treatment

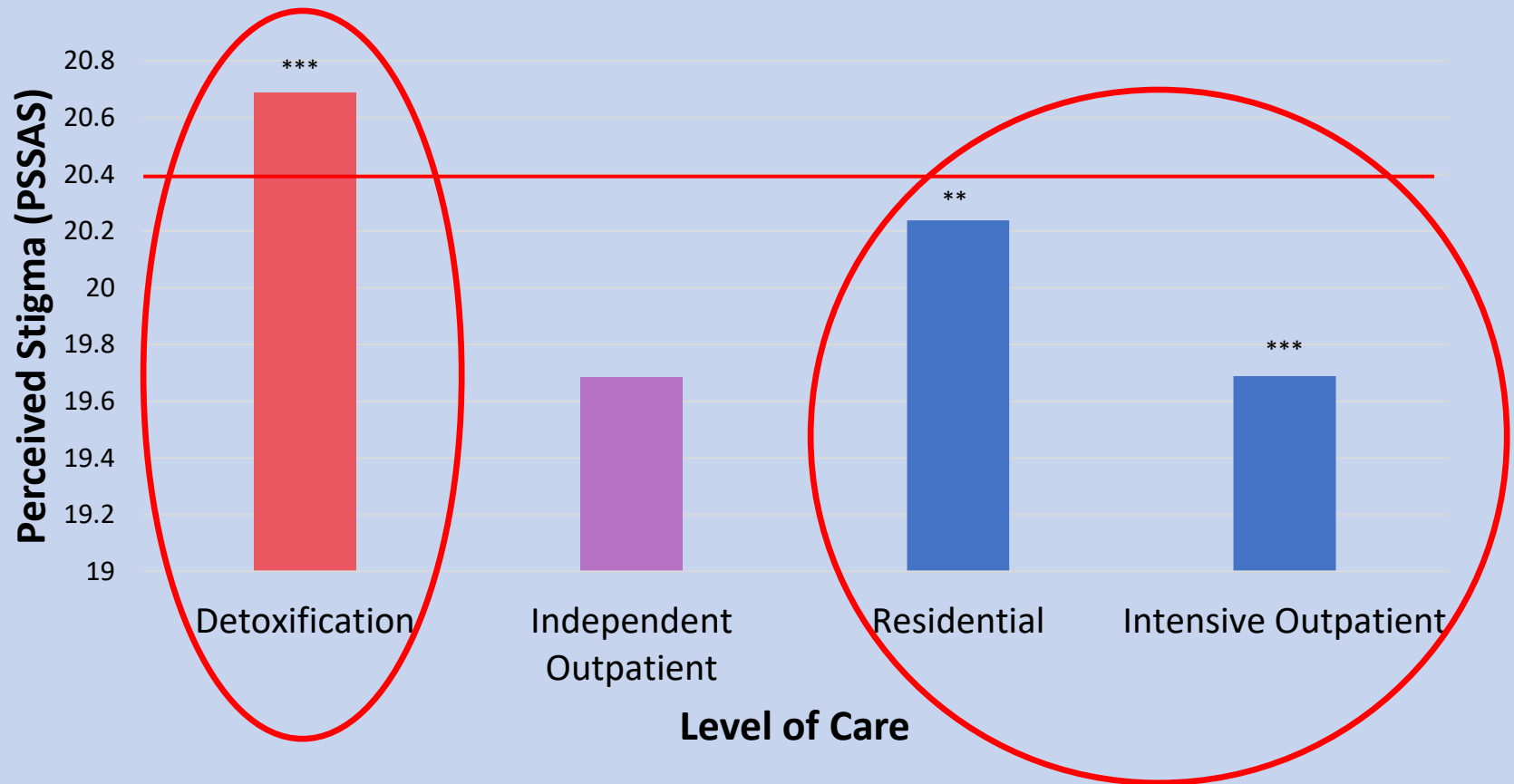
Intensive Outpatient

Independent Outpatient

Residential

Detoxification

Perceived Stigma Differs by Treatment Modality



Substance Use Disorder Discharge

Unauthorized Elopement

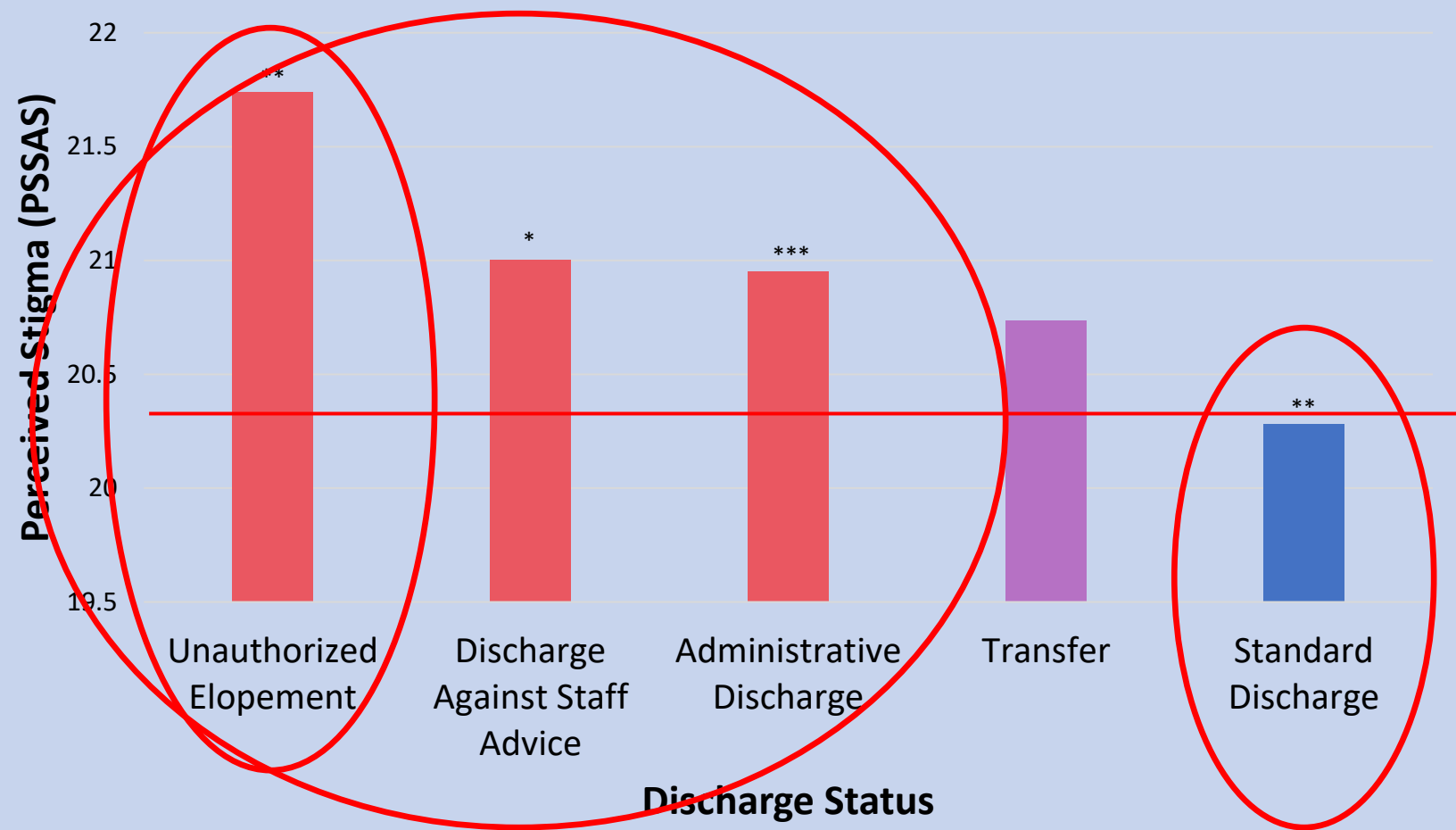
Discharge Against Staff Advice

Administrative Discharge

Transfer

Standard Discharge

Perceived Stigma Differs by Treatment Discharge Status



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Impact Potential

- Individualized Implementation of Treatment
- Stigma Trainings
- Legislation Awareness

What Can We Do?

- Adjust our language
 - ~~Addict~~
 - Person with a substance use disorder
 - ~~Drug of choice~~
 - Primary substance

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