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## Employment Status & Opioid Use Frequency

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# Employment Status and Opioid Use Frequency

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## INTRODUCTION:

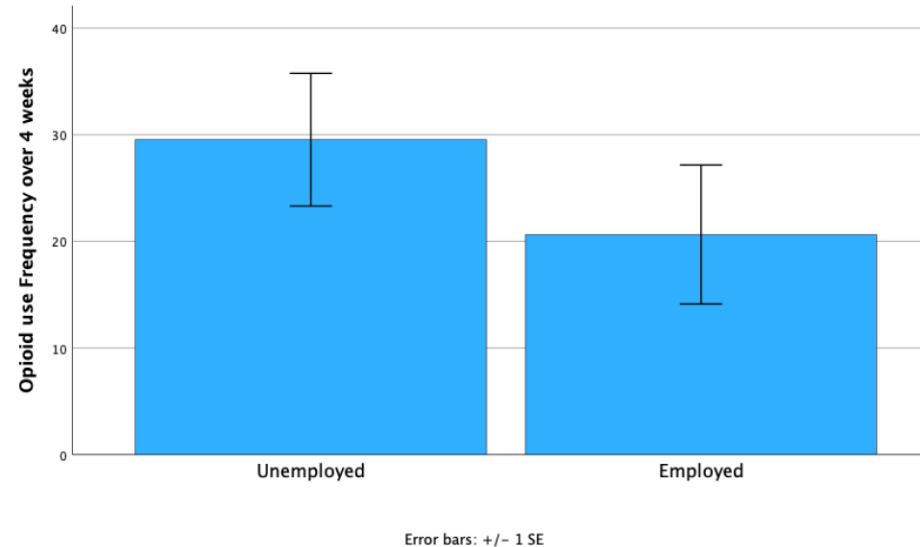
- In past research, opioid use has been a variable predicting lower labor market participation.
- COVID work status showed relation to an increase in use of Psychoactive drugs .
- When examining opioid use, prevalence of Nonmedical use of Prescription Opioids In unemployed individuals, as well as those not in the workforce greatly outweighed prevalence of individuals within the workforce .

Hypothesis: Employed participants will show a lower frequency of past-month opioid use than unemployed participants.

## METHODS:

- Participants consisted of 26 individuals undergoing treatment for Opioid use disorder. These participants were recruited in a larger study.
- Participants each completed one survey.
- Employment status was recorded, and acted as an Independent Variable
- Participants were also surveyed on frequency of opioid use in the past 4 weeks prior, acting as a Dependent Variable

*Figure 1. Frequency of Opioid Use among individuals of differing Employment Status*



## ANALYSIS

- An Independent T-Test was conducted in SPSS (IBM Corp., 2023) comparing employed individuals to unemployed individuals on opioid use in the four weeks prior.

## RESULTS

- The 15 employed participants (M: 20.64, S.D: 21.60) were compared to an unemployed group of 11 participants (M: 29.53, S.D: 24.09)
- Though there was a difference between these two samples it was not significant ( $t(24) = 0.97, p = .341$ ).

## DISCUSSION

- The results of the present study do not support our hypothesis that employed participants would show lower Opioid use in the past 4 weeks.
- It's worth noting that our study wasn't immune to limitations; A small sample size could've easily skewed our results.

Böckerman, P., Haapanen, M., Hakulinen, C., & Vainiomäki, J. (2021). Prescription opioid use and employment: A nationwide Finnish register study. *Drug and Alcohol Dependence*, 227, 108967. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.drugalcdep.2021.108967>

Howard, K., Grigsby, T. J., Haskard-Zolnierck, K. B., Deason, R. G., & Howard, J. T. (2021). Pandemic-related work status is associated with self-reported increases in substance use. *Journal of Workplace Behavioral Health*, 36(3), 250–257. <https://doi.org/10.1080/15555240.2021.1941067>

IBM Corp. Released 2023. IBM SPSS Statistics for Macintosh, Version 29.0.2.0 Armonk, NY: IBM Corp

Krueger, A. B. (2017). Where Have All the Workers Gone?: An Inquiry into the Decline of the U.S. Labor Force Participation Rate. *Brookings Papers on Economic Activity*, 2017(2), 1–87. <https://doi.org/10.1353/eca.2017.0012>