

DOES DRUG OF CHOICE PREDICT TREATMENT OUTCOMES FOR ADOLESCENT SUBSTANCE ABUSE?

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Drug and alcohol abuse in the United States is an ongoing concern among adolescents. At this time, it is not known whether an adolescent's drug of choice is related to substance abuse treatment outcomes. The participants were 104 adolescents between the ages of 14-18 who attended a private inpatient for substance abuse treatment program in southern California. The study examined whether drug of choice reflects severity of drug involvement or other factors, such as availability and subjective drug effects. Findings indicate that drug of choice was associated with severity of substance involvement, but not treatment outcomes. Thus it appears that preference for a specific type of drug is influenced by multiple factors.