




# Schoes of the Valley:

A Substance Use Disorder Needs Assessment  
in the Central Valley  
Journal Article



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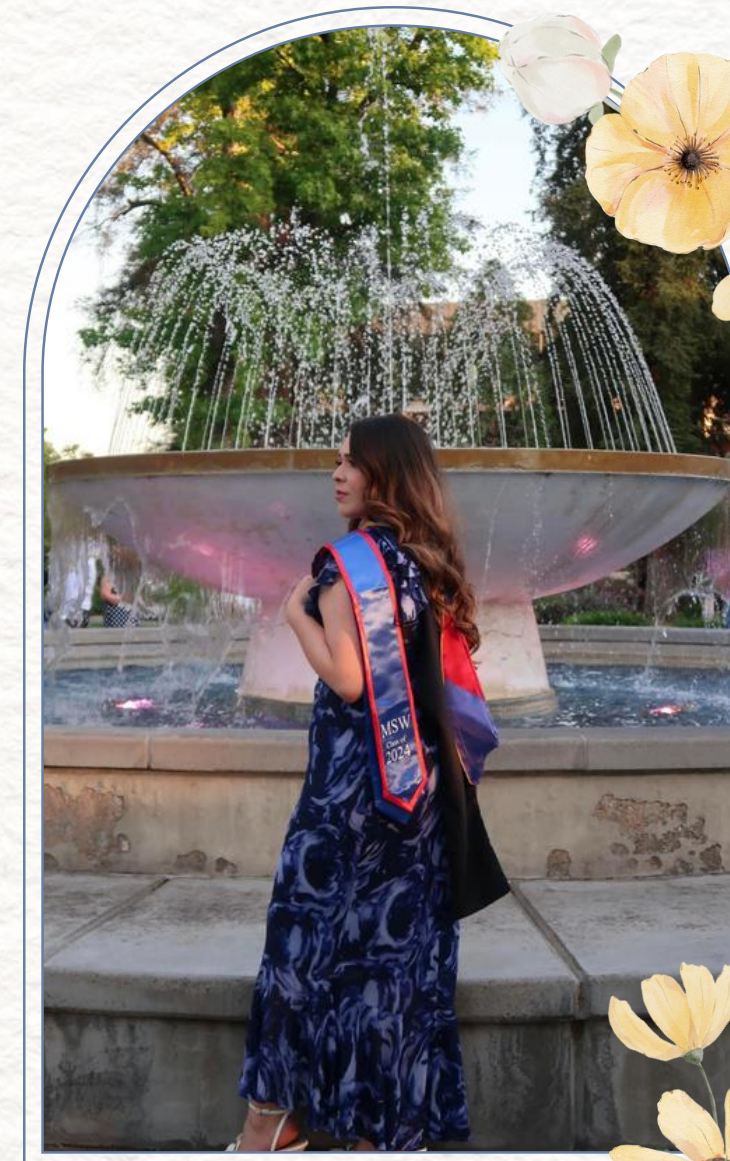


2024



# About Me


- Bachelor's degree in Social Work
- Master's degree in Social Work
- Internships:
  - County Child Welfare PPLA & ER
  - Fresno First: Substance Use Disorder Inpatient Treatment Program







# Significance of the Study

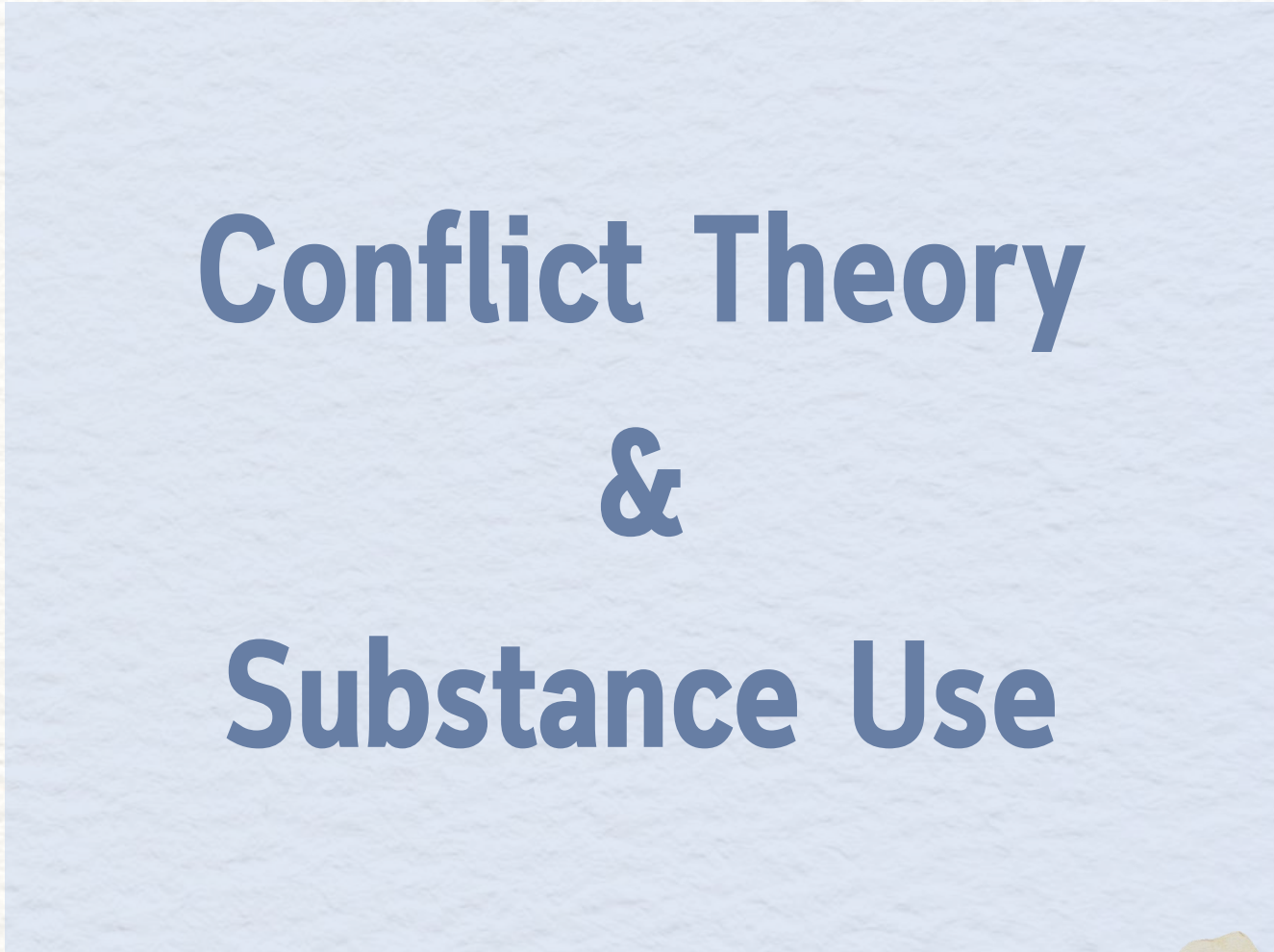
- Aims to educate on the underlying mechanisms and barriers substance users experience.
  - Substance use extends beyond the individual
  - Analyze community needs to improve prevention and reduce barriers to limited resources
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# Theoretical Framework

- Conflict Theory (Marx, 19th century) highlights social tensions and exploitation in capitalist systems (Nickerson, 2023).
- The substance use community is highly underserved and faces significant service gaps and limited access to treatment and resources (Nickerson, 2023).



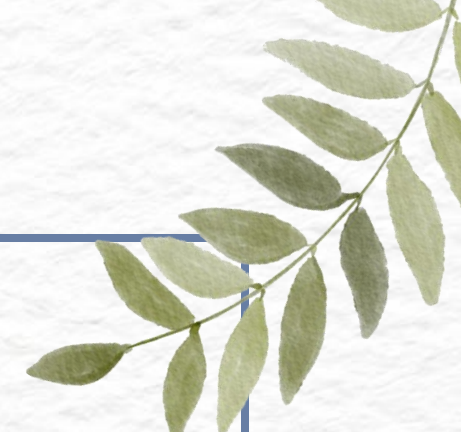

## **Conflict Theory & Substance Use**








# Literature Review

- Conflict Theory highlights structural oppression in SUD treatment access, competition for limited resources, poverty, racial inequality, and criminalization. (Showalter, 2020).
  - Parental stress & economic stress heightens the risk (Van Draanen & Aneshensel, 2022)
  - Unstable housing and food insecurity contribute to social and environmental disorganization (Lardier et al., 2017).
  - The gap in the literature lies in the absence of authentic voices from the SUD community articulating their genuine concerns, needs, and experiences.
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# Empirical Literature



High violence, crime, and poverty, coupled with limited opportunities, increase substance use and violence in communities, especially where housing is unstable and food insecure.

(Kapinos et al., 2023; Lardier et al., 2017; Lippold et al., 2018; Showalter, 2020)

In the United States, 4% of adults had both a substance use disorder and any mental illness during the past year, and 1% had both an SUD and a serious mental illness (California Health Care Foundation, 2022).

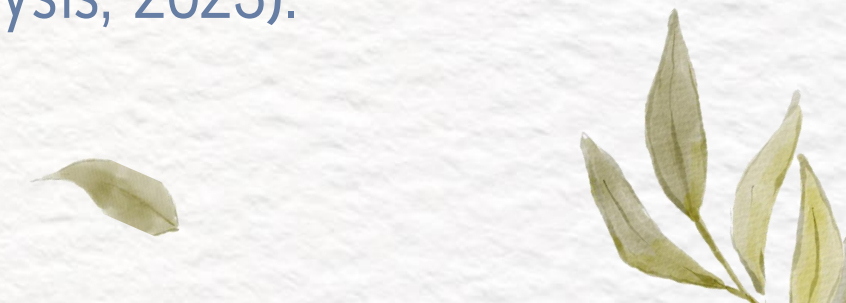
(HIDTA Overview - Central Valley HIDTA Drug Market Analysis, 2023).

As stated by the CDC, 61% of adults experienced at least one ACE, and 16% had four or more types of ACEs; likewise, females and several racial/ethnic minorities were more likely to experience four or more ACEs.

(Preventing Adverse Childhood Experiences, 2021).

In the Central Valley, methamphetamine production and abuse pose the greatest drug threats to the community in addition to other illicit drug production.

(HIDTA Overview - Central Valley HIDTA Drug Market Analysis, 2023).







# Research & Methodology



**Research Question:** How do parents in the Central Valley tell the story of their Substance Use Disorder (SUD) journey and its influence on their parent and child relationship?



**Qualitative Needs Assessment:** Narrative Design & Snowball Sampling [\$5 incentive]



**6 Participants:** Central Valley Residents + History of Substance Use



**Location:** All interviews held via the ZOOM application.

Average interview time: 45mins. - 1hr



**Interview Prompts:** Initiation of SUD, Family History, Culture, Neighborhood Influence, CWS & Legal Involvement, Treatment, Recommendations, and Behavioral Change



# Participants & Demographics

	Age	Gender	Ethnicity/race	Parent	Age at initiation	Years sober	Drugs of choice
Chris	23	Male	Hispanic	No	13	0	Marijuana, Coke, Molly
Violeta	30	Female	Hispanic	No	15	10 years	Weed, Heroin
Max	45	Male	Hispanic	Yes	11 years old	6 years	Weed, Meth,
Angel	40	Female	Mexican-American	Yes	9	11 years	Weed, Meth
Konner	50	Male	White	Yes	18	9 years	Marijuana, Alcohol, Meth
Cristina	31	Female	Hispanic	Yes	11	1 year	Marijuana, Heroin,





# Themes

Family Culture & SUD

Neighborhood Infestation

Culture in SUD Treatment

Parental Change







# Family Culture & SUD

“My biological mom wasn’t taught to be vulnerable, so I don’t think she knows how to deal with other people’s vulnerability. My mom values secrecy and she was worried about what others would say about my substance use.”

(Violeta)







# Neighborhood Infestation

“My neighborhood was infested with drugs. Education and working wasn’t modeled. Drugs and being in gangs were modeled, it was a norm and we thought that’s what you are supposed to do.”


(Angel)







# Culture in SUD



“In my rehabilitation classes they lacked an insight on what to expect with the emotions that will be provoked based off of the consequences and the ripple effects of a person in my situation. (Max)

“They took the kids and just left us there. They didn't offer to help the situation at that moment there wasn't really services provided from that moment. The first four nights we slept in the storage I had.  
(Max)






# Parental Change

“The relationships we ruined with addiction are now repaired...from the moment I started college and was in the court mandated SUD class it’s been a steady of positive things”  
(Konner)


“I always tell my daughter I love her and she says it to me...because I lacked those things, I didn’t know how to accept that from my own kids.”  
(Angel)








# Limitations

- Qualitative study is limited due to the inability to be generalized.
  - Further research is needed to amplify the voice of the SUD community.
  - Low number of participants
  - Counties and Cities have different impacts based on local policies and geographic location (rural vs urban)
  - Lack of consistency in accessibility to services and resources
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# Discussion

- Internal and External Factors revolved around the immediate family and community environment
  - Key Contributors
  - Complex and multifaceted nature of Substance Use Disorders and recovery
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# Conclusion

- Social workers must advocate.
- Cross System Collaboration





# References







# Thank You CCASSC For Your Support!



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