

**Special Issue:
SUBSTANCE USE DISORDERS AND RELATED CONDITIONS**

The substance use disorder (SUD) crisis is a public health concern and for the first time in the history of the United States, drug overdose deaths exceeded 100,000 in 2021 (Centers for Disease Prevention and Control [CDC], 2021). Indeed, the opioid epidemic has largely contributed to these overdose deaths, specifically due to synthetic opioids such as fentanyl (CDC, 2021). Nonetheless, evidence shows that there is an increase in other substance use disorders, including methamphetamines and cannabinoids (Han et al., 2021; National Institute on Drug Abuse [NIDA], 2021).

The advent of the COVID-19 exacerbated the already strained substance use and mental health treatment services, globally (Birhane Jemberie et al., 2020). Additionally, the COVID-19 pandemic accentuated health disparities that have long existed in prevention and treatment of SUD (Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration [SAMHSA], 2021). Consequently, there is a heightened need to explore the impact of social determinants of health and their role in promoting health equity among individuals with SUD.

Lastly, the increase in the number of persons who inject drugs (PWID) has led to the proliferation of infectious diseases such as HIV, Hepatitis C, and other bacterial and fungal infections in this population (CDC, 2022). Moreover, intersectional stigma experienced by individuals with SUD and other stigmatized conditions such as HIV further prevents access to much needed treatment services, thereby necessitating research that promotes prevention and treatment of substance use disorders while at the same time addressing stigma and other SUD related conditions such as mental health disorders, HIV, and other infectious diseases.

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The goals of this special issue of the *Journal of Nursing Scholarship* are:

1. Shed light on the current substance use trends and available prevention and treatment services.
2. Explore the role of social determinants of health on substance use treatment access and utilization.
3. Highlight the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on substance use prevention and treatment outcomes.
4. Understand the intersectionality of substance use, mental health, and HIV and its influence on prevention and treatment outcomes.
5. Provide recommendations to promote health equity among individuals and communities affected by SUD.

The *Journal of Nursing Scholarship* invites authors to submit original research articles on the topic of substance use and related conditions. This can be original research studies as well as review papers. Authors can submit their manuscripts via: <https://mc.manuscriptcentral.com/jnu>. Please refer to the “**special issue on Substance Use Disorders and Related Conditions**” in your cover letter. Author guidelines are available at: [http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/journal/10.1111/\(ISSN\)1547-5069/homepage/ForAuthors.html](http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/journal/10.1111/(ISSN)1547-5069/homepage/ForAuthors.html)

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