

Abstract

We examined how daily positive and negative affect (PA, NA) of heroin addicts relate to treatment status (current vs. past), progress, self-concepts, and perceived levels of challenges and skills in the activities, as postulated by flow theory. Participants, 10 rehabilitating heroin addicts and 6 ex-addicts, completed Rosenberg's self-esteem scale, domain-specific self-concept scales, Personal Attributes Questionnaire, General Causality Orientation Scale, and 21-day end-of-day diaries. Multilevel modeling indicated that current addicts are lower in both PA and NA, which was predicted by rehabilitating progress. In contrast with flow models of healthy individuals, PA was positively related to imbalance of daily challenges and skills. Heroin addicts' pattern of daily affect is related to treatment progress and outcome, and deviates from that of non-addicts as it is maximized in situations of either excess control or lack of control over the activities.