

## **Abstract**

*Objectives* The social network composition of the people with severe mental illness in Hong Kong was depicted. The relationship between social network size and relational quality of family, mental health professionals and friends were investigated. *Methods* 133 mental health consumers from community-based psychiatric rehabilitation centers were interviewed. Analyses were conducted to investigate the effects of network size and quality of relationship with family, staff and friends of people with severe mental illness on recovery indicators (recovery markers, life satisfaction, self-stigma, empowerment and community integration).

*Results* The overall network size has a positive effect on life satisfaction and overall relational quality has positive effects on life satisfaction and recovery progress. Number of family members in the network is positively related to recovery progress while relationship of relationship with family and staff has a positive effect on life satisfaction. No relationship was found between network size and relational quality on self-stigma, empowerment and community integration except a marginally positive correlation between quality of relationship with friends and community integration. *Conclusion* This study highlighted the significance of number of family and staff and their relationship with people with severe mental illness on recovery.

*Keywords:* Social network, social support, recovery, life satisfaction, community integration, self-stigma, empowerment, mental illness

