

“BECAUSE THEY MADE ME COME:” MOTIVATION AND OUTCOME IN
ADOLESCENT SUBSTANCE ABUSE TREATMENT

Travis G. Simmons

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Approved by

Advisory Committee

Chair

Accepted by

Dean, Graduate School

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ABSTRACT

Due to the fact that most research done on motivation and readiness to change as it applies to chemical dependency treatment has been done in the adult population, the present study was designed to assess how motivation and readiness to change impact adolescent chemical dependency treatment. The Stages of Change Readiness and Treatment Eagerness Scale (SOCRATES) was implemented in the adolescent chemical dependency treatment program at Coastal Horizons Center. The sample consisted of 28 participants (13 females and 15 males) who were admitted to treatment at Coastal Horizons Center and administered the SOCRATES at least twice over a period of eight months. None of the hypotheses were confirmed due to a number of issues beyond the researcher's control. SOCRATES subscale scores did not indicate movement to an advanced stage of change. Furthermore, higher SOCRATES subscale scores were not associated with more days spent in treatment, more treatment attendance, or a higher proportion of clean urine screens. The limitations of the study are discussed.

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DEDICATION

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