

Abstract

Despite the serious implications of loneliness on health and wellbeing, little is understood about this experience across people with substance use problems. We know there is a connection between loneliness and ability for patients with substance use disorder to seek and stay in treatment that was apparent well before the COVID-19 pandemic.² However, this subject has not been studied in depth, and the COVID-19 pandemic laid bare the deep connection when community and support is not available to these patients.¹ It is important to understand the current connection between the degree of loneliness people experience and the connection to and impact on their ability to seek out and stay in treatment in order to provide these patients with better resources going forward. This qualitative study used in-person interviews a validated survey to assess the levels of loneliness and social support that patients with substance use disorder in inpatient treatment are experiencing and how that impacts their treatment.