The background of the slide is a blurred photograph of a road intersection. A road curves from the bottom left towards the center. In the distance, a signpost with several signs is visible. The overall scene is out of focus, with a light blue sky and a hazy horizon.

**Mental health illness and frontier community
public stigma: Impacts of
disclosure regarding overall well-being**

Robert Niezwaag Jr. and Jason Custer

Abstract

- Prior and ongoing research in the realm of mental illness and stigma has indicated there is an increase of individuals who are stigmatized.
- Most research conducted concerning mental illness and public stigma has been focused on urban population samples.
- The purpose of our research was to focus on the aspect of how public stigma of mental illness in a frontier community (the “cowboy up” mentality for example) affects an individual’s biopsychosocial and spiritual well-being after being diagnosed with a mental illness.

Introduction

- Examine the impact of how public stigma of mental illness in a frontier community affects an individual after being diagnosed with a mental illness.
- The impacts of public stigma and not self-stigma regarding daily living obstacles.

Introduction

- Our study aims to discover and analyze how public stigma might influence an individual's actual or perceived quality of life after diagnosis.
- Why?
- This study can inform frontier community members of how public stigma affects people who have a mental illness diagnosis, assist professionals in the helping professions to reduce mental illness stigma, and reduce the stigma of mental illness to improve the quality of life of those individuals who have been diagnosed with a mental illness.

Hypothesis

- The study outlined in this proposal intends to conclude that the pervasiveness and harshness of public stigma among individuals who have been diagnosed with a mental illness in a frontier community is considerably larger than that for an individual diagnosed with a mental illness in an urbanized community.

Who?

- Subjects will be over the age of 18, both Female and Male
- The participants will be adults who self-identify as having a mental illness and adult students who may or may not have a mental illness.
- 50 participants – 17 consumers from Peak Wellness Center and 33 undergraduate students from the Division of Social Work.
- This study is voluntary for participants to engage in.

Design

- Two surveys was given to two different sample groups.
- One survey with close-ended questions following a Likert scale will be given to undergraduate social work students.
- Second survey with open and close-ended questions from Jennifer Martin's (2010) research article titled *Stigma and student mental health in higher education*, conducted in Australia combined with the investigators own questions to be given to people diagnosis with mental illness.

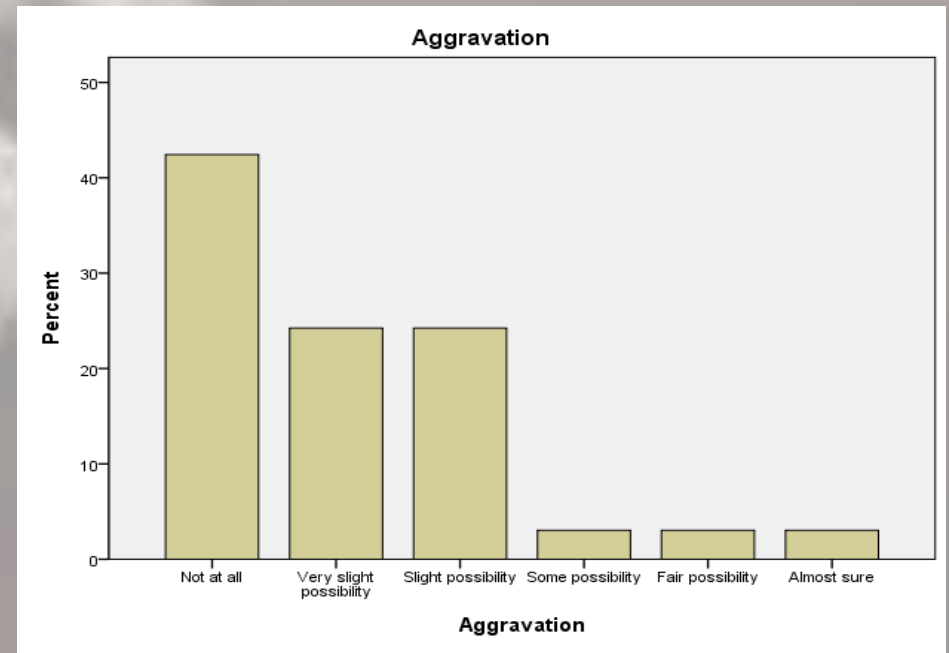
Corrigan Survey

- The Corrigan General Attribution Questionnaire that asks the participant to answer 20 questions on a Likert scale.
- This survey was designed to be broken down into seven constructs (personal responsibility, pity, helping behavior, anger, dangerousness, fear, and avoidance) to analyze what individual's attitudes and beliefs are regarding people with a mental illness

Corrigan Survey

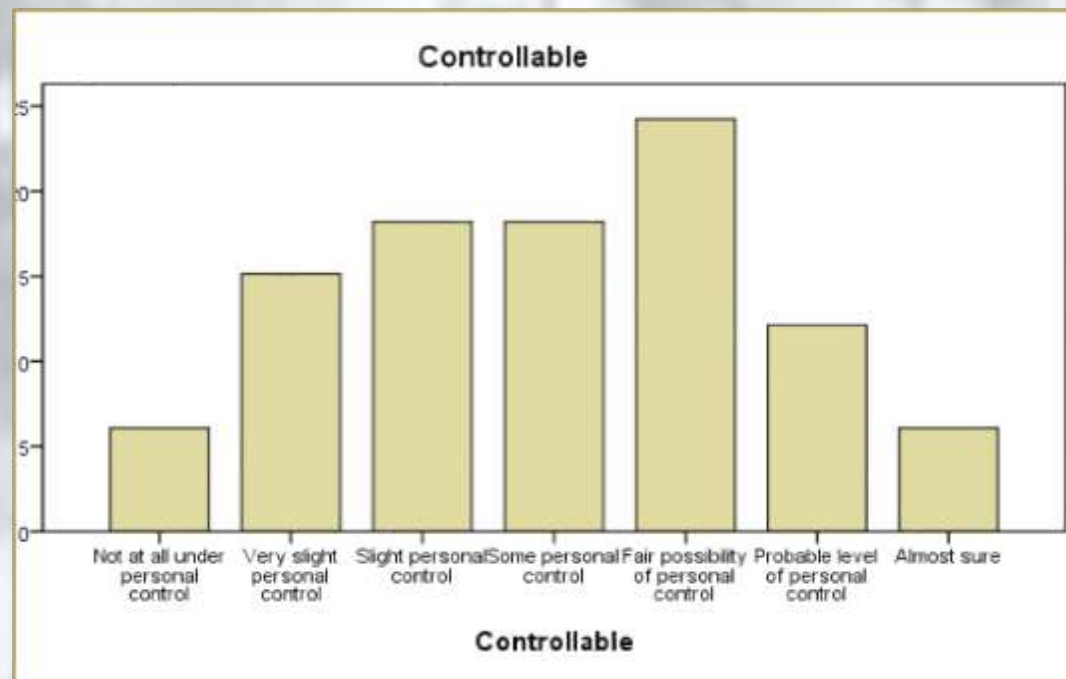
- Corrigan General Attribution Questionnaire asked “I would feel aggravated by persons with mental illness”.

		Aggravation			
		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Not at all	14	28.0	42.4	42.4
	Very slight possibility	8	16.0	24.2	66.7
	Slight possibility	8	16.0	24.2	90.9
	Some possibility	1	2.0	3.0	93.9
	Fair possibility	1	2.0	3.0	97.0
	Almost sure	1	2.0	3.0	100.0
	Total		33	66.0	100.0
Missing	System	17	34.0		
Total		50	100.0		



Corrigan Survey

- Corrigan General Attribution Questionnaire asked “How controllable, do you think, mental illnesses are.”



Corrigan Survey

- Of the 33 participants of this survey, 26 were female and seven were male.
- 25 participants stated he or she was between the ages of 19-25 with 25 people indicating this.
- Seven designated that he or she was between 26 and 40 years of age.
- One person specified that he or she was between the ages of 41 and 60.

Consumer Survey

- Survey that was conducted surveyed a sample population of individuals who have been diagnosed with a mental illness (n-17).
- Eight individuals were male and 9 were female.
- Two individuals from the sample population listed their age as being in the age group of 19-25 years old.
- Four indicated that he or she was between 26-40.
- Nine being 41-60.
- Two being 61 years of age or older.

Consumer Survey

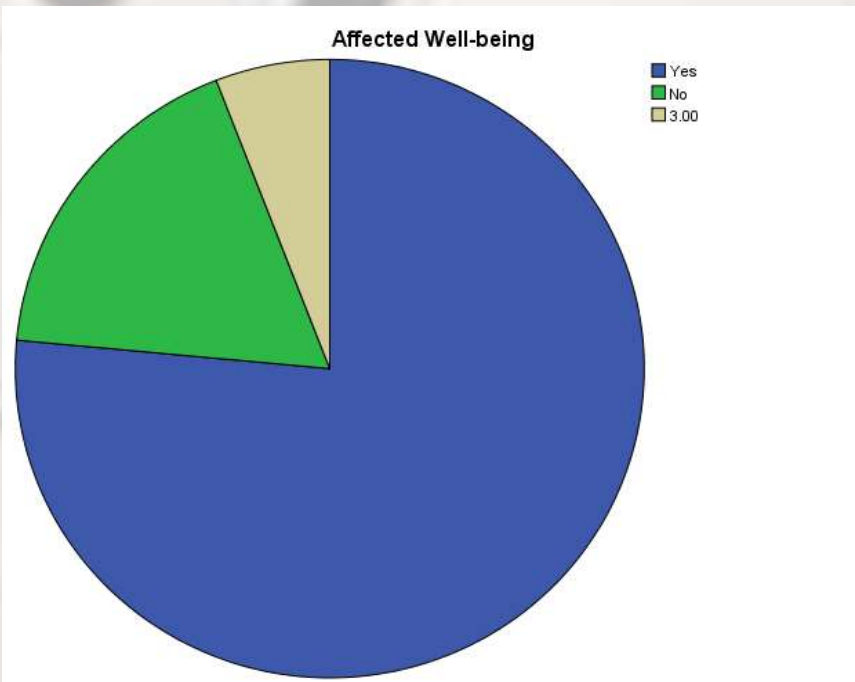
- What is/are your mental health illness or illnesses?
- Five schizoaffective diagnoses.
- One manic depression.
- Two bi-polar diagnoses.
- Two post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) diagnoses.
- Five schizophrenia results.
- One attention deficit/hyperactive disorder.
- One chose not to answer.

Consumer Survey

- The data obtained from this survey indicated that people who have a mental illness diagnosis are stigmatized because of his or her diagnosis.
- 76.5%, or 13 individuals indicated that they feel that his or her diagnosis of a mental illness and the stigma associated with this classification does impact his or her well-being.
- Three respondents indicated that they did not perceive themselves as being stigmatized as a result of a mental illness diagnosis.
- One participant chose not to indicate whether he or she felt stigmatized.

Consumer Survey

Pie Chart



Percentages

		Affected Well-being			Cumulative
		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Percent
Valid	Yes	13	26.0	76.5	76.5
	No	3	6.0	17.6	94.1
	3.00	1	2.0	5.9	100.0
	Total	17	34.0	100.0	
Missing	System	33	66.0		
Total		50	100.0		

Consumer Survey

- The primary way that stigma affected the participants of this survey was in the form of isolation.
- Five respondents (29.4%) indicated that isolation was the primary quality of life issue that impacted his or her daily life.
- Three respondents (17.6%) stated social communication and poverty/employment issues that affected their lives.
- One person indicating having a negative outlook on life, or feeling depressed.
- Two people stating that being hospitalized or on medications were a barrier to having a positive or non-stigmatizing quality of life.

Conclusion

A 3D puzzle globe is the central focus, composed of several interlocking pieces in various colors (red, blue, green, orange). Four stylized 3D human figures are positioned around the globe, each appearing to hold or support a different section of it. The figures are colored red, orange, blue, and green, matching the colors of the puzzle pieces. The background is a plain, light color.

- **Problem with Sample population on Corrigan**
- **Why?**
- Social Work Field
- Time Constraints
- Helping Profession
- **Future Data Collection-**
- **How?**
- Diverse Sample Population
- Additional Questions

Conclusion

- **Consumer Survey-**
- Wealth of Information
- Supports Hypothesis of experiencing public stigma.
- Provides evidence that receiving treatment in a professional setting helped with the coping with mental illness stigma.
- **Future Data Collection-**
- Effective tool
- Additional questions such as: ethnicity, reside in rural community, and if experienced urban community in the past.

Questions?

Handwritten text in cursive script, likely a signature or name, is visible in the background of the page.

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