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Researching longitudinal changes in polysubstance use and abuse: Recontacting participants during COVID-19 pandemic

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To investigate human genomic variation in the context of longitudinal changes in co-occurring substance use disorders (SUDs), we are recontacting Yale-Penn participants originally recruited from 2000-2017. Here we report information on 602 Yale-Penn participants recontacted via phone between August and December 2021. At the first attempt to re-contact them, 8% of the participants expressed interest in undergoing a new assessment. Among those we could not reach immediately, phone calls went to voice mail (VC) for 157 individuals while for 386 no contact (NC) was possible. Applying a multivariable regression model, older individuals (OR=1.04; 95%CI=1.01-1.07) and individuals assessed more recently (OR=0.87; 95%CI=0.77-0.96) were more likely to express interest in the study. With respect to SUDs, individuals with fewer SUDs were more likely to express interest in participating (OR=0.77, 95%CI=0.63-0.93). Among participants not immediately reached via phone, lifetime alcohol use disorder (OR=1.82, 95%CI=1.05-3.14) and cocaine use disorder (OR=1.63, 95%CI=1.01-2.58) were associated with increased odds of VC outcome. NC outcome was positively associated with opioid use disorders (OR=1.73, 95%CI=1.08-2.78). No difference was observed with respect racial and ethnic background of the Yale-Penn participants. These preliminary results demonstrate differences in success rates for recontacting and recruiting individuals affected by SUDs. Comparing these findings with those obtained from other recruiters at different sites, also using different approaches (e.g., email, mailings, and social media), we will provide a more comprehensive understanding of the participation dynamics in SUD genetic studies.