

## A comparison of religious beliefs and substance abuse among children of opiate addicted and non-opiate addicted individuals

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### Aim

The aim of the present study was to investigate among children of opiate addicts a potential protective effect of religiousness against onset of substance use.

### Method

Subjects were 161 opiate-addicted biological parents recruited from methadone maintenance programs in the Ardabil city, their 279 children, and 63 non-opiate-addicted parents with whom the child had daily contact. Childhood onset of substance use was assessed using the Schedule for Affective Disorders and Schizophrenia for School-Aged Children (K-SADS); parental DSM-5 diagnosis of opiate addiction was assessed using the SADS—Lifetime Version (SADS-L).

### results :

Religiousness in children of opiate addicts was associated with a substantially decreased likelihood of onset of substance use. Parent-child concordance of religiousness showed additional protective qualities with respect to religious denomination in opiate-addicted parent and with respect to the personal importance of religion and frequent attendance of religious services in non-opiate-addicted parents.

### Conclusion

religiousness in children of opiate addicts protects against substance use, and that the component of child religiousness to be transmitted from opiate-addicted parent does not pose risk for child substance use.

**Keywords : religious beliefs , substance abuse ,children**