



Alcohol Use and Quality of Life of Textile Handcrafters

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Introduction

- Textile handcrafts – e.g. knitting, crocheting, weaving, sewing – has increased following a long decline after the Industrial Revolution and the feminist movement.
- The overall purpose of this study was to investigate the psychological value of textile handcrafts in women's lives.
- This is the first study to use quantitative methodologies and combine both psychological information with textile use.
- The analysis presented here reviews, specifically, the relationship between alcohol use, quality of life (QOL), and textile handcrafts.



- Textiles handcrafts have several uses including: a means of clothing a family, a way to cope with a difficult situation, a rite of passage, a job, or a hobby.
- *References and abstract available by request in handout.

Method

This study was part of a larger study which explored the roles of textiles and handcrafts in women's lives (Collier, 2010).

Participants

- 821 female participants age 18 and over completed a Qualtrics survey.
- IRB approved this study prior to survey distribution.

Measures

- The Alcohol Use Disorders Identification Test - Brief (AUDIT-C) was used to identify individuals at risk for alcohol abuse or dependency ("at risk drinking").
- At risk drinking behavior (when alcohol use affects a person's health or well-being) is a score of three or more on a 12-point scale (range 0 to 12).
- The World Health Organization Quality of Life-BREF (WHOQOL-BREF) is comprised of 26 questions which group scores into QOL-Physical, Psychological, Social, and Environmental.
- General demographics were identified for the sample.

Procedures

- Participants received the survey via a link on the internet after hearing about it through email, at textile stores, or through textile magazines/E-newsletters (i.e. Interweave Magazine).
- The majority of participants heard about the study through an E-newsletter (76%).



Hypotheses



- Textile handcrafters have lower risk drinking patterns than the general population.
- Women who are at risk drinkers have poorer QOL scores and use textiles less frequently.

Tables

Table 1
Demographics of Textile Handcrafters

Demographic Variable	Specific Information	Percentage
Age Range (N=817)	18 to 34 years	7.2
	35 to 44	11.9
	45 to 64	65.0
	65 and over	15.9
Location (N=816)	USA	88
	Non-USA	12
Education (N=819)	Less than high school	0.0
	High school/GED equivalent	7.0
	Some college or Associate Degree	22.7
	Bachelor's Degree	33.9
	Master's Degree	28.2
Income (N=815)	Doctoral Degree or Higher	8.2
	Rather not say	17.7
	Under \$10,000	2.9
	\$10,000-\$19,999	3.3
	\$20-29,999	5.5
	\$30-49,999	14.2
\$50-149,999	46.4	
Over \$150,000	10.0	

Table 2
Summary Statistics for AUDIT-C and QOL Measures in Textile Handcrafters

Measure	Mean	SD	Range
Alcohol Risk (AUDIT-C)	2.5	1.7	0 to 10
QOL – Health	76.0	17.3	7.1 to 100
QOL – Psychological	72.1	15.6	21 to 100
QOL – Social	68.5	19.3	83 to 100
QOL – Environmental	79.1	13.7	21.9 to 100



Table 3
Patterns of Textile Use in Women Handcrafters

Pattern	Mean
Textiles Used (Types)	11.0
Reported Mastery (Types)	4.5
Textiles Made / Year	2.6

Results

- See Table 1 for sample demographics.
- The sample of women were primarily Caucasian (94.9%).



Hypotheses:

Both hypotheses were rejected:

- There was no difference between the sample of textile handcrafters and the general population (age and gender matched) for at risk drinking.
 - While hypothesized that textile handcrafters would use alcohol less as a means to cope, there was no relationship found.
- Surprisingly, higher QOL scores (all 4) were directly related to at risk drinking, suggesting that as at risk drinking increases, so does QOL.
- Frequency of textile use was not related to at risk drinking.

Anecdotal Findings:

- Textile use, specifically the creation of textiles with the intention "to give to others", was the only variable significantly associated with at risk drinking.
 - There was an inverse correlation between to give to others and at risk drinking ($r = -.122$; $p \leq .004$).
- There were positive and significant relationships between at risk drinking and: income ($r = .047$; $p \leq .267$), and education ($r = .109$; $p \leq .009$).

Discussion

- This sample of textile handcrafters had a normal distribution for at risk drinking and QOL.
- The results of this study suggest that alcohol use in moderation, combined with textile use, are associated with excellent QOL scores.
- Anecdotal findings suggest that creating textiles with the intention to give to others may lead to lower risk drinking patterns.

Implications

- It would be important for future investigators to look at:
 - The interrelationships amongst social relationships, at risk drinking, and frequency of textile use.
 - Greater diversity in the sample.
 - The role of coping with other hobbies and leisure activities in at risk drinkers.

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