



Understanding the Face of Recovery

While cutting-edge research is being conducted in universities, clinics and hospitals throughout the world, much more is needed.

Noted addiction and recovery scholar, William White, believes we could see an increase in recovery research for a variety of reasons.

First

The levels of education of people in recovery are increasing due both to the number of people with advanced education who are seeking recovery and the number of people in recovery choosing to pursue continued education as part of their recovery process.

- Nearly 20% of Alcoholics Anonymous (AA) members work as professionals, health professionals, or educators
- 41% of surveyed Narcotics Anonymous (NA) members report having a college or graduate degree
- 47% of Self-Management And Recovery Training (SMART) members report having a college or graduate degree

Second

Resources have expanded via the growing network of collegiate recovery programs through which people in recovery can pursue advanced education in a recovery-supportive academic and social environment.

Third

There are now more than 280 colleges and universities offering formal [addiction studies programs](#) that academically prepare people to work within such areas as policy, administration, research, harm reduction, prevention, treatment and recovery support services. The number of recovery-focused studies within master's theses and doctoral dissertations is increasing exponentially.

Fourth

People are entering recovery at younger ages, with a growing contingent of politically-aware and articulate young recovery advocates. Some are then drawn to academically prepare themselves for a career in the addictions field.

Fifth

This emerging generation of recovery advocates has a seasoned vanguard of recovery role models working as addiction professionals, including at the highest levels of policy development and service delivery, as well as strong associations representing addiction medicine specialists and other addiction professionals.

Sixth

Recovery mutual aid organizations are themselves getting more involved in historical research and in collaborating with academic and private research organizations in the conduct of recovery research.

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