

1. Terminology

A range of terms have been used to describe co-occurring mental health and substance use disorders and concerns:

- **'Dual diagnosis'** is the preferred term in a number of Australian states and the United Kingdom. *'Dual diagnosis'* has also been used to describe the 'co-existence of the symptoms of both intellectual or developmental disabilities and mental health problems' ¹
- **'Comorbidity'** has been the Australian Commonwealth's and several state's preferred term. Some recent Australian Commonwealth publications have adopted more descriptive terminology such as **'coexisting mental health and substance use disorders'** or **'coinciding mental illness and substance abuse'**. *'Comorbidity'* has been criticised for its pathological overtones.
- **'Co-existing problems'** is New Zealand's preferred term² for people with co-existing mental health and addiction problems. New Zealand guidelines include, in their definition of addiction, both gambling and substance use problems.
- **'Co-occurring disorders'** is the predominant term in the USA for the 'coexistence of both a mental health and a substance use disorder' ³
- **'Concurrent disorders'** is Canada's term⁴ for people who have both substance use and mental health needs at the same time
- Abbreviations now not in common parlance include:
 - **'CAMI'** -*'Chemically affected Mental Illness'*
 - **'MICA'** -*'Mental Illness Chemically Affected'*
 - **'SAMI'** -*'Substance Affected Mentally Ill'*
 - **'MISA'** -*'Mental Illness Substance Affected'*
 - **'MISUD'** -*'Mental Illness Substance Use Disorder'*
 - **'ICOPSD'** -*'Individuals with Co-occurring Psychiatric and Substance Use Disorders'*
- Another approach to describing co-occurring mental health and substance use concerns is the unambiguous, descriptive **'mental health-substance use'**. This term has been employed by a journal⁵ and a series of texts⁶.
- A more recent emerging convention, that recognises the multiple other conditions that people with mental health &/or substance use concerns are at increased risk of also experiencing, is **'dual diagnosis and other complex needs'** ⁷

1. **National Association for the Dually Diagnosed** Website <http://thenadd.org/>
Accessed 23/06/17
2. **Te Pou o te Whakaaro Nui website**. National Centre Workforce Development New Zealand. <https://www.tepou.co.nz/initiatives/co-existing-problems/108> Accessed 23/06/17
3. **SAMHSA Co-occurring Disorders** website <https://www.samhsa.gov/disorders/co-occurring> Accessed 23/06/17
4. **Systems Approach Workbook: Integrating Substance Use and Mental Health Systems** Canadian Centre on Substance Use and Addiction, 2013
5. **Mental Health and Substance Use journal**. Taylor & Francis
6. David B Cooper. (Ed) **Introduction to Mental Health-Substance Use** 2010; **Developing Services in Mental Health-Substance Use**, 2010; **Intervention in Mental Health-Substance Use**, 2011; **Care in Mental Health-Substance Use**, 2011; **Practice in Mental Health-Substance Use**, 2011; **Responding in Mental Health-Substance Use**, 2011; **Ethics in Mental Health-Substance Use**, 2017. CRC Press
7. **All Party Parliamentary Group on Complex Needs and Dual Diagnosis**
www.parliament.uk Accessed 23/06/17