

## **A Study of Substance Use Among Male Drug Addicts in Iran**

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### **Abstract :**

The present investigation was designed to explore the extent to which the elements of the Health Belief Model (HBM) predict substance use among male drug addicts in Iran. A self – report research instrument (questionnaire) was developed and administered to obtain data. One hundred and twenty four subjects voluntarily participated in the survey . The contributors had already attended places like Health Organization and other detoxicating centers in order to stop their risky behaviour . There were four distinct predictive components (perceived susceptibility, perceived severity, perceived benefits and perceived barriers) in the HBM. These components were internally consistent and together examined the risky behaviour, substance use.

This study revealed that the model is reliable, valid, robust and feasible for examining substance use behaviour. The theoretical components of the HBM appeared to have different predictive ability; perceived benefits showed the strongest power . This is consistent with a great number of research findings in this area. In contrary , predictive ability of predictive power of perceived severity . declined – all research hypotheses were approved except predictive power of perceived severity. Rationale for this decline refers to the repetition of relapse after detoxication .In fact, "believing in severity for the consequences of a risky behaviour pales through repetition of the behaviour "

**Keywords:** Health Belief Model, Substance Use, Drug Addicts, Perceived Benefit, Perceived Severity, Predictive Power , Relapse, Detoxication