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Is the First Cut Really the Deepest? Frequency and Recency of Nonsuicidal Self-Injury in Relation to Psychopathology and Dysregulation

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NSSI FREQUENCY AND RECENCY

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Is the First Cut Really the Deepest? Frequency and Recency of Nonsuicidal Self-Injury in

Relation to Psychopathology and Dysregulation

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Abstract

Research on nonsuicidal self-injury (NSSI) has moved beyond examination of factors that associate with the mere presence or absence of the behavior, and into more nuanced examination of which discrete features of NSSI behavior relate to pathology. This study examined two features of NSSI, frequency of occurrence and recency, as cross-sectional predictors of psychopathology in a large community sample of adults with a history of NSSI (N = 315). Results of 2×2 factorial ANOVAs testing the interactive effects of NSSI frequency (clinical, subclinical) and recency (current, past) revealed that current NSSI was consistently associated with poorer emotional and behavioral health (e.g., greater symptoms of depression, panic, and anxiety, worse emotion regulation, greater alcohol misuse). Results for NSSI frequency were

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