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HEADLINE: SEX AND ADDICTION

ANCHOR LEAD: BIG DIFFERENCES EXIST BETWEEN MEN AND WOMEN WHO ARE DRUG

ADDICTED, ELIZABETH TRACEY REPORTS

Men and women who use drugs recreationally activate different areas of their brains, a recent study from Yale University showed. Such studies suggest that different interventions are also appropriate for men and women. Sabra Klein, an expert in sex-based differences in immune response at Johns Hopkins, says that's the take home message of all of these studies.

KLEIN: Ultimately it's important because this may start to suggest to us that treatments need to be different for men and women. It falls into the vein of personalized medicine, which that concept, that one individual may need a different drug regimen or different treatment than another individual, that is not novel, but I think these studies, the contribution they make, and why it's so novel, is to think that we may need different treatments depending on whether we're male or female. :29

Klein says many clinicians have disparaged the idea that sex could impact treatment, but it's gaining traction as more research is published. At Johns Hopkins, I'm Elizabeth Tracey.