

Examining Developments in the Field of Collegiate Recovery Through a Descriptive Database

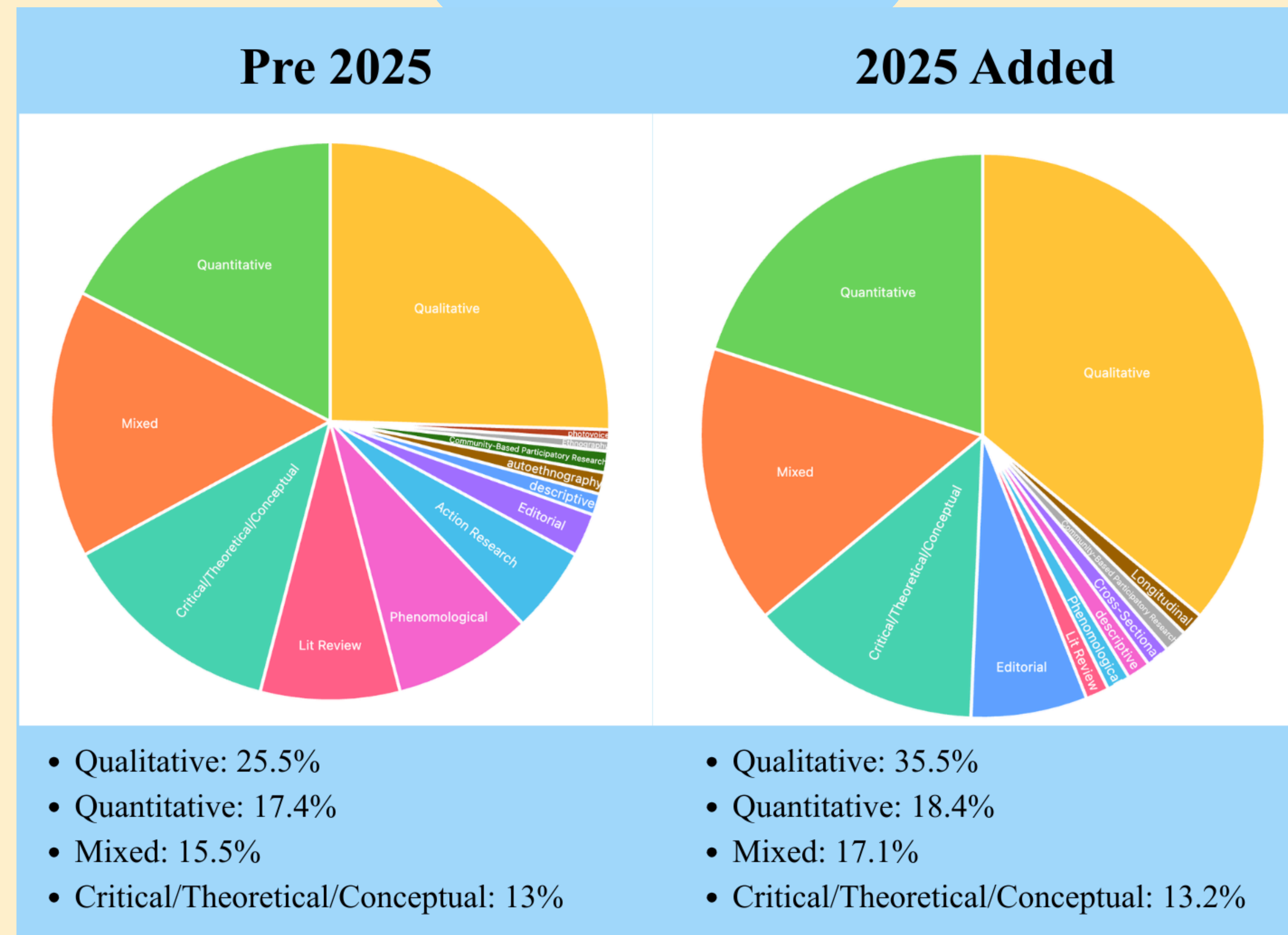


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BACKGROUND

- Approximately 21% to 22% of U.S. college students have substance abuse disorders, giving higher education institutions a unique role in supporting recovery throughout its community.
- College is a unique environment for those navigating recovery due to a culture of normalized substance mis/use.
- **Collegiate Recovery Programs (CRPs)** were created to act as a continuing model of support and community for college students in or seeking recovery from problematic addictions.
- Our research builds on the existing CRP Descriptive Database (2022) which was created by Dr. Shore-Miller and is sponsored by The **Association of Recovery in Higher Education (ARHE)**.
- We conducted a literature review of the collegiate recovery field adding **71** articles for inclusion into the database and then coding them by different characteristics such as demographics and methodology.
- **Research Questions**
 - (1) How the research field of CRPs is developing?
 - (2) What new articles have been published about CRPs and related research?
 - (3) What trends in research topics and theories have emerged?

Methodology Comparison



RESULTS

- The database grew substantially this year with a jump from **138 total articles to 209 total articles**.
- When comparing the dataset before and after the article additions of the cohort 5, there was a **shift from limited demographic diversity to a broader inclusion of diverse identities and social categories**, demonstrating a more inclusive and equity-focused database.
- After 2025, the 4 leading methodologies (e.g., qual, quant, mixed, critical) became even more prominent and there was a **noticeable rise in the inclusion of less common methodologies**, including editorial work (6.67%), cross-sectional, longitudinal, and community-based participatory research.
- This shift indicates that the **database** is no longer concentrated in a few dominant methods but instead **reflects a wider range of research paradigms**, and is more reflective of today's college campuses.

| | Pre 2025 | 2025-2026 Cohort |
|----------------------|----------|------------------|
| Studies | 138 | 71 |
| Unique First Authors | 95 | 58 |
| Journals | 54 | 36 |
| Academic Disciplines | 18 | 20 |

METHODS

- Our **goal** was to collect and categorize all literature on CRPs and college student recovery to further develop an organized and comprehensive database.
- Research involved targeted searches across academic databases to **locate relevant literature** which was then **summarized, annotated, and added to the database** on Airtable to serve as a resource for ARHE members and interested researchers of the field.
- Articles were **reviewed, outlined, and then categorized** by journal discipline, theories employed, analysis, methodology, demographics, and other tags.
- The **analysis** utilized a **descriptive synthesis** and **thematic mapping** to identify common trends and clusters of knowledge, where every article underwent a systematic identification and review process using a metadata collection and multi-select tagging system.

REFERENCES



Pasman, E., Blair, L., Solberg, M. A., McCabe, S. E., Schepis, T., & Resko, S. M. (2024). The Substance Use Disorder Treatment Gap Among US College Students: Findings from the 2021 National Survey on Drug Use and Health. Drug and alcohol dependence reports, 12, 100279. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.dadr.2024.100279>

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CONCLUSION & FUTURE DIRECTIONS

- Through further developing the descriptive database on CRPs, we hope to aid in the advancement of the collegiated recovery field in praxis.
- **Ongoing efforts** include systematically **refining existing codes** for greater conceptual clarity and developing a comprehensive codebook to standardize definitions and improve reliability across cohorts.
- **Enhanced tagging** procedures will allow for more precise identification of methodological trends, theoretical frameworks, and underrepresented populations within the literature.
- Additional **research briefs** will continue to be created in efforts to translate database findings into accessible, practitioner-oriented summaries.
 - Briefs are designed to **bridge the gap between practice and empirical evidence (praxis)**, connecting program implementation with rigorous scholarship to ensure CRPs are informed by sound research.
- Through **iterative database development** and **continued knowledge translation efforts**, the project aims to **strengthen the empirical foundation of CRPs** and support the advancement of more effective, evidence-based programming in higher education.