



# Understanding Health-Related Quality of Life (HRQoL) in People with Schizophrenia: What an Integrative Review of the Literature, Qualitative Analysis, and Computerized Lexical Analysis can tell us

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## Background

- People with schizophrenia experience:
  - Hallucinations, emotional withdrawal, and cognitive impairment
  - Stigma
  - Limited access to housing and employment
  - Low HRQoL
- HRQoL refers to ways in which health, illness, and treatment influence a person's perception of functioning and well-being.
- Optimizing HRQoL is a goal set by national and international health organizations.
- Gaining more information about HRQoL in groups of people with low perceived health could lead to improved treatments/strategies.
- Understanding and measuring HRQoL in schizophrenia represents a challenge for researchers and clinicians.

## Purpose

- Using a mixed methods design, describe the primary HRQoL concerns of people with schizophrenia

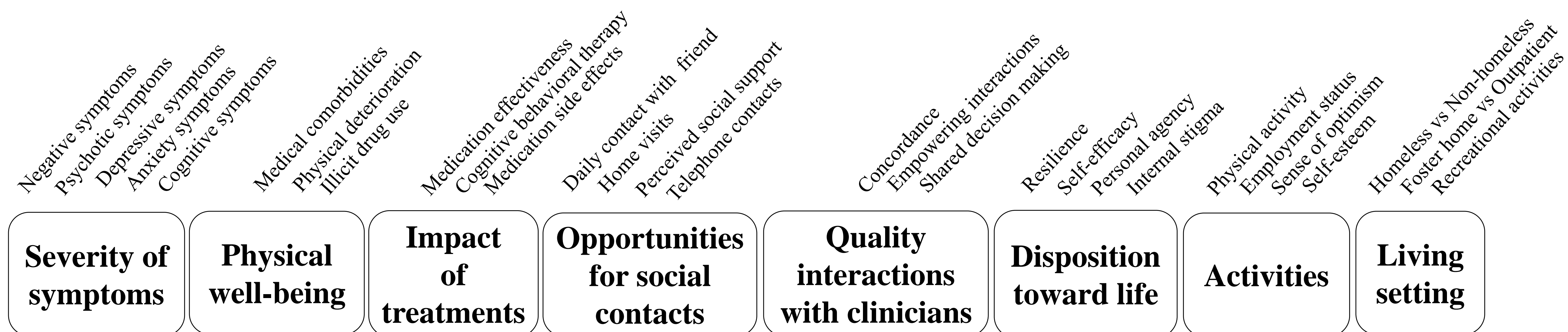
## Methods

- Findings derived from three methodological approaches were merged using a mixed methods convergent design:
  - Integrative Review of Literature.
    - Research on factors that influence HRQoL in persons with schizophrenia.
    - Procedures outlined by Ganong (1987).
    - Articles published between 2003 and 2016.
  - Qualitative Descriptive Analysis (Sandelowski, 2001).
    - 20 interview transcripts of interviews of persons with schizophrenia
    - Categories related to HRQoL were determined with content analysis
    - Qualitative results were quantified.
  - Computerized Lexical Analysis (LIWC, 2015).
    - Counts words in text data and sorts words into pre-defined word categories.

## Initial Results

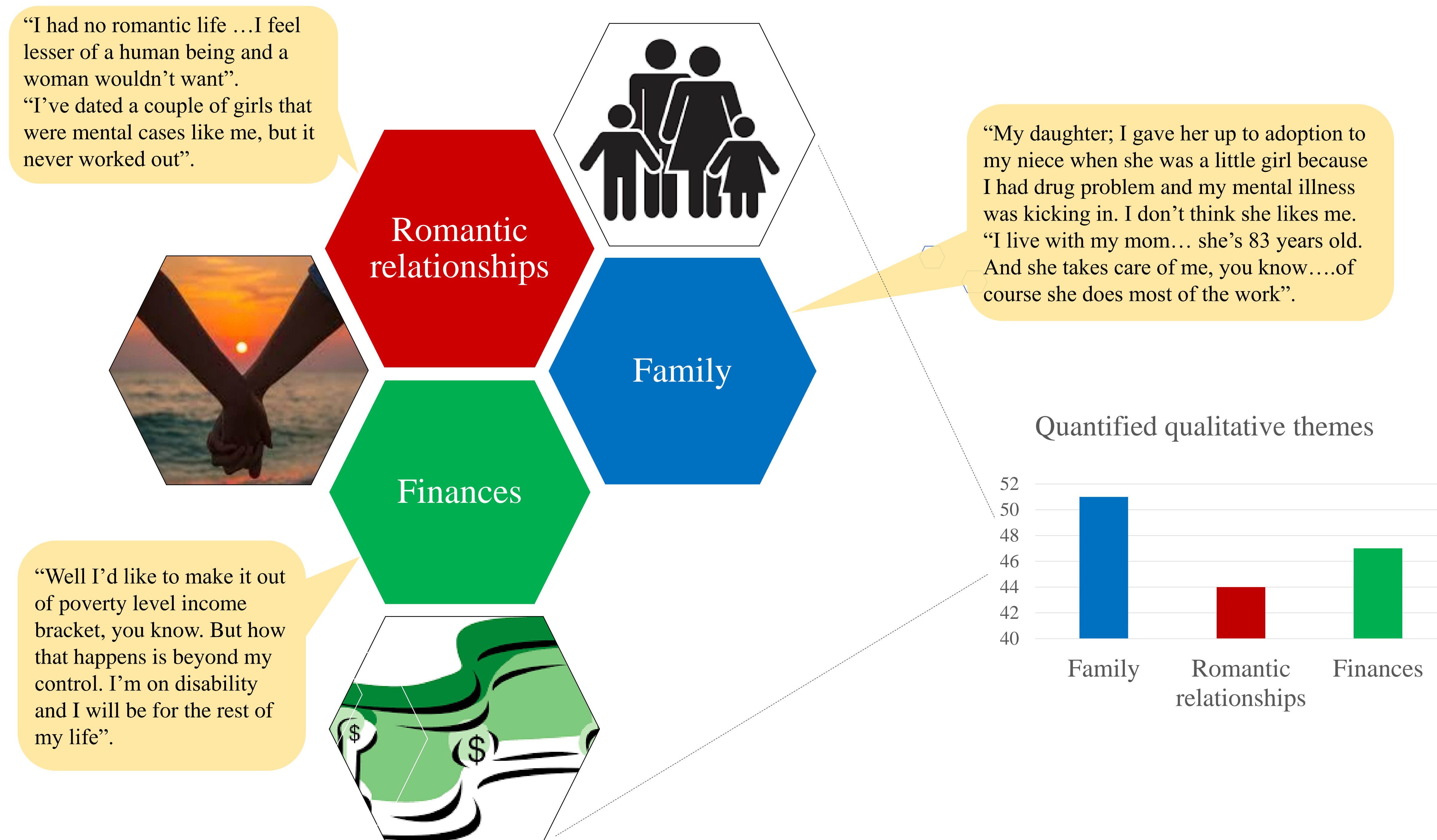
### Integrative Review of the Literature: Factors that Influence HRQoL in Persons with

- 25 studies identifying measureable factors that contribute to or detract from HRQoL.
- Mostly cross sectional studies in stable outpatient adults.

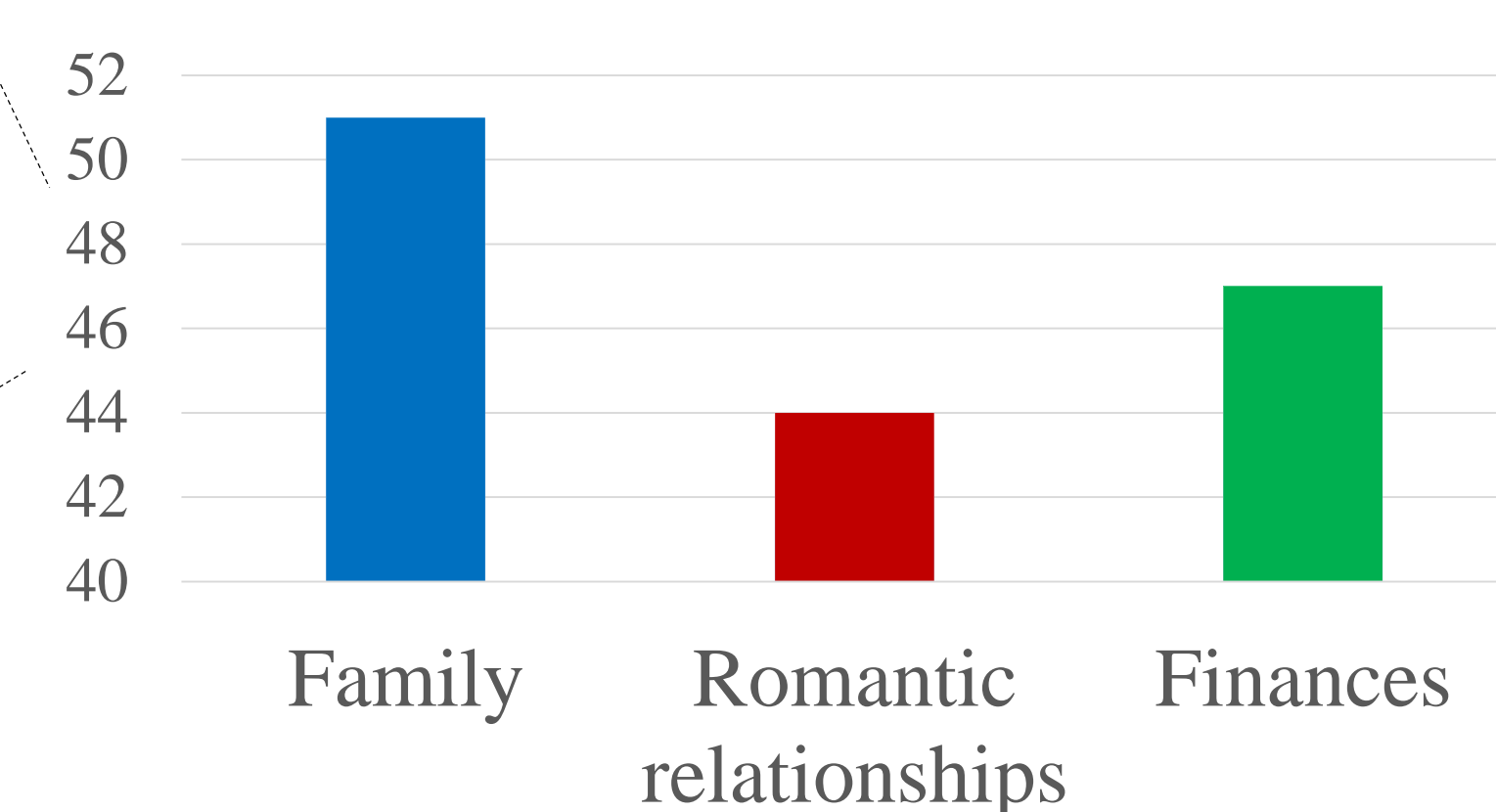


- No study investigated what concerns people with schizophrenia have related to their HRQoL.

### Qualitative Descriptive Analysis: Three Common HRQoL Concerns



Quantified qualitative themes



### Computerized Lexical Analysis: Two Categories and Word Counts

- The words a person uses when he/she speaks reflect his/her internal state.



### Merging results in a joint display

Table 1. Correlations between qualitative quantified scores and lexical scores.

Qualitative theme	Matching Lexical category	Correlation coefficient
Family	Family	0.658
Romantic relationships	No matching category	-
Finances	Money	0.359

## Discussion

- Many factors influence quality of life in people with schizophrenia, but family concerns and financial concerns especially important.
- Better understanding HRQoL concerns from the people with schizophrenia themselves could add valuable information to the traditional clinical assessment, help optimize clinical practice, and lead to improved treatments/strategies to improve their lives.
- Nurse researchers are well placed to integrate traditional qualitative methods and innovative technologies such as computerized lexical analysis to advance science and practice.
- Computerized lexical analysis could potentially help identify in real time some of the concerns reported by people with schizophrenia.