

7-2018

Comparative Analysis of Perceived Barriers of Occupations Associated with Dating for People with Physical Disabilities and Able-Bodied Young Adults

Mikaela Furst
Grand Valley State University

Kliricia Loc
Grand Valley State University

Taylor Parks
Grand Valley State University

Shelby Sarnowski
Grand Valley State University

Follow this and additional works at: https://scholarworks.gvsu.edu/ot_adult



Part of the [Occupational Therapy Commons](#)

ScholarWorks Citation

Furst, Mikaela; Loc, Kliricia; Parks, Taylor; and Sarnowski, Shelby, "Comparative Analysis of Perceived Barriers of Occupations Associated with Dating for People with Physical Disabilities and Able-Bodied Young Adults" (2018). *Adult*. 3.

https://scholarworks.gvsu.edu/ot_adult/3

This Open Access is brought to you for free and open access by the Occupational Therapy Graduate Research at ScholarWorks@GVSU. It has been accepted for inclusion in Adult by an authorized administrator of ScholarWorks@GVSU. For more information, please contact scholarworks@gvsu.edu.

Title: Comparative Analysis of Perceived Barriers of Occupations Associated with Dating for People with Physical Disabilities and Able-Bodied Young Adults

Authors: Mikaela Furst, Kliricia Loc, Taylor Parks, & Shelby Sarnowski

Abstract

Purpose: The purpose of this research was to provide insight on how personal and environmental factors influence dating for individuals with a disability compared to those without a disability, utilizing the Person-Environment-Occupation (PEO) model of Occupational Therapy.

Methods: The researchers used a qualitative comparative analysis with semi-structured interviews to analyze the similarities and differences of the lived experiences between three individuals with a physical or sensory disability and five individuals who were able-bodied. The interviews were then coded and themed to identified areas of similarities and differences.

Results: The themes that emerged from the study included body image, self-esteem, social environment, and physical environment. Individuals with physical and sensory impairments when compared to able-bodied individuals were found to have differences that might present challenges during the occupation of dating.

Discussion: This research helps to fill in the gap of research to address sexuality and disability within the scope of occupational therapy, in order to help clients improve their participation in dating.