

Setting Substance Abuse Treatment Priorities – Determining Need

DMHAS has over the past decade sponsored a number of treatment needs assessments through its partnership with local university research centers. These needs assessments have provided insight to Connecticut’s substance abuse treatment needs and how they vary across age, gender, communities and populations.

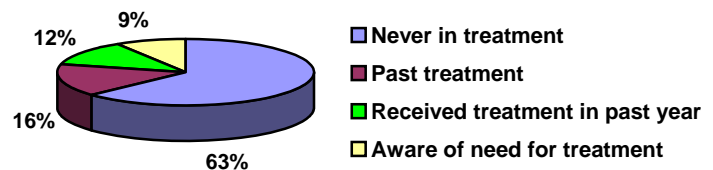
In 2004, the UCONN Center for Survey Research and Analysis and UCONN Health Center conducted a household survey of adults to determine the need for treatment in the state. Overall, approximately 7.6% adults were found to have a need for treatment.

Treatment rates were greater for men (12%) vs. women (4%) and young adults age 18–25 (23.9%) vs. older adults 26 and over (5.4%).

Substance use impacts every community. Residents of rural towns, affluent suburbs and urban centers need access to services. This healthcare problem crosses all income and social levels. DMHAS’ treatment system must be responsive to the unique needs of individuals and provide the most effective care.

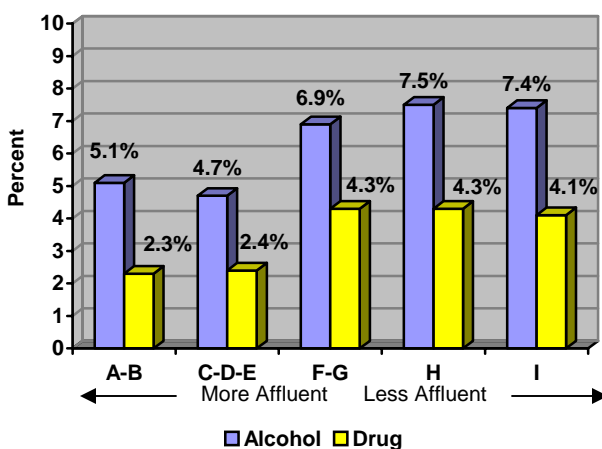
Studies show that up to 63% of persons needing some type of treatment don’t seek it. Reasons? Denial, fear of failure, not wanting family/friends to know, and concern for their job. Some understand they need help (9%), but may have faced a service “system” barrier. A key DMHAS priority is to ensure that innovative and effective outreach strategies are available. The Latino Initiative, Access to Recovery, Screening and Brief Intervention at primary healthcare settings, collaborations with portals such as the Judicial Branch and other key executive state agencies, the recovery community, billboards, and Recovery Community Centers are samples of such.

Met and Unmet Treatment Need: Treatment History of Adults With Past Year Substance Abuse Dependence

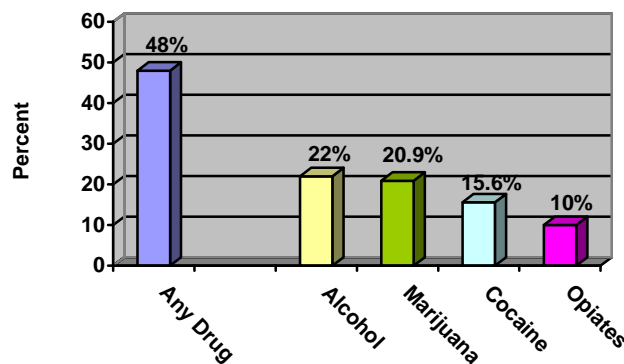


DMHAS in collaboration with the Judicial Branch’s Court Support Services Division sponsored a study conducted by Yale University researchers of adult probationers. In the 2004 needs assessment almost half (48%) of those probationers interviewed were found to be in need of treatment. Of those about one-third were currently receiving care. DMHAS continues to work with its state agency partners to improve access to care for those within the criminal justice system

Past Year Alcohol and Other Drug Abuse or Dependence by Community Type (Socioeconomic Status)



Current Rates of Substance Abuse and Dependence for Probationers



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