

The DASIS Report

August 29, 2003

Services Provided by Substance Abuse Treatment Facilities

The National Survey of Substance Abuse Treatment Services (N-SSATS) is an annual survey of all facilities in the United States, both public and private, that provide substance abuse treatment. In 2000, the 13,428 facilities responding to the N-SSATS were asked about the provision of 26 services, grouped into five types: assessment, substance abuse therapy and counseling, testing, transi-

tional, and other. This short report provides information on the distribution of these services across substance abuse treatment facilities by such characteristics as the availability of special treatment programs or groups, facility size, and ownership.

In Brief

- The services most frequently provided in substance abuse treatment facilities were individual therapy (95 percent) and comprehensive substance abuse assessment/diagnosis (93 percent)
- Facilities with a specially designed treatment program or group for adolescents were more likely than facilities without such a program to offer family therapy (91 vs. 69 percent)
- As facility size (measured by number of clients) increased, number of services increased

Distribution of Services

The services most frequently provided were individual therapy (95 percent), comprehensive substance abuse assessment/diagnosis (93 percent), group therapy (89 percent), and referral to other transitional services (84 percent) (Table 1). Substance abuse treatment facilities averaged 14 services per facility.

More than one-third (37 percent) of facilities provided 11 to 15 services, while more than one-quarter (28 percent) provided 16 to 20 services (Figure 1).

Specially Designed Treatment Programs or Groups

Facilities with a specially designed treatment program or group for adolescents were more likely than facilities without

such a program to offer family therapy (91 vs. 69 percent).

Facilities with a specially designed treatment program or group for clients with co-occurring substance abuse and mental health disorders were more likely than facilities without such a program to offer mental health assessment (62 vs. 26 percent) and pharmacotherapy (57 vs. 27 percent).

Facilities with a specially designed treatment program or group for persons with HIV/AIDS were more likely than facilities without such a program to provide each of the six testing services (Table 2).

Facilities with a specially designed treatment program or group for pregnant women were more likely than facilities without such a program to provide social

services (68 vs. 47 percent), child care assistance (28 vs. 5 percent), and domestic violence education (49 vs. 30 percent).

Facility Size

When facilities were divided into five equal-sized groups by number of clients in treatment on October 1, 2000, the average number of services provided ranged from 12 in the very small facilities (1 to 12 clients) to 15 in the very large facilities (105 to 3,000 clients).¹

The distribution of services within size groups showed that as facility size increased, the number of services provided also increased (Table 3). While 5 percent of the very small facilities provided the highest number of services (21-26), almost 3 times as many (14 percent) of the very large facilities did.

The services with the largest percentage point difference between very small and very large facilities were as follows:

- relapse prevention therapy (22 percentage points)
- pharmacotherapy, blood alcohol testing, and HIV education (21 percentage points)
- drug/alcohol urine screening (19 percentage points)

These were the services with the smallest percentage point difference between very small and very large facilities:

- outcome follow-up (2 percentage points)
- comprehensive mental health assessment, individual therapy, and family counseling (5 percentage points)

Table 1. Distribution of Services Provided by Substance Abuse Treatment Facilities: 2000

Type of Service	Percent of Facilities Providing a Service
Assessment Services	
Comprehensive Substance Abuse Assessment/Diagnosis	93
Comprehensive Mental Health Assessment/Diagnosis	44
Substance Abuse Therapy and Counseling	
Individual Therapy	95
Group Therapy (Not Including Relapse Prevention)	89
Family Counseling	78
Aftercare Counseling	77
Relapse Prevention Groups	77
Pharmacotherapies/Prescription Medication	42
Testing	
Drug/Alcohol Urine Screening	79
Blood Alcohol Testing (Including Breathalyzer)	45
TB Screening	38
HIV Testing	33
Hepatitis Testing	25
STD Testing	25
Transitional Services	
Referral to Other Transitional Services	84
Discharge Planning	81
Assistance with Obtaining Social Services	51
Employment Counseling/Training	35
Housing Assistance	31
Other Services	
Case Management Services	66
HIV/AIDS Education/Counseling/Support	55
Outcome Follow-Up (Post-Discharge)	49
Transportation Assistance to Treatment	36
Domestic Violence—Family/Partner Violence Services	34
Child Care	10
Acupuncture	5

Figure 1. Percent of Facilities Providing Specified Numbers of Services: 2000

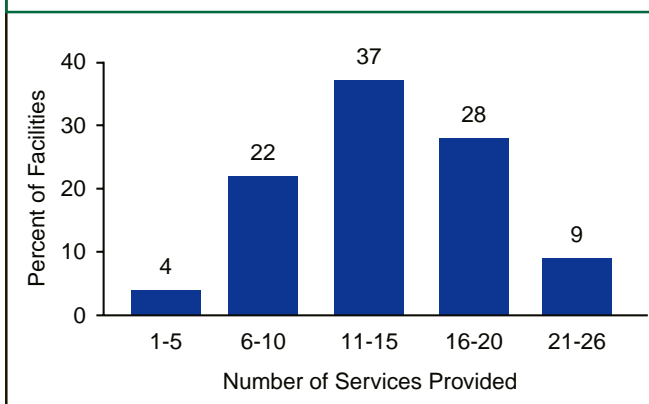


Table 2. Testing Services, by Presence of HIV/AIDS Treatment Program or Group: 2000

Type of Test	Percent of Facilities	
	Facilities w/ HIV/AIDS Treatment Program/Group (n=2,893)	Facilities w/out HIV/AIDS Treatment Program/Group (n=10,520)
Drug/alcohol urine	86	77
TB	55	33
HIV	55	27
Blood alcohol	53	43
Hepatitis	42	21
STD	41	20

Source: 2000 SAMHSA National Survey of Substance Abuse Treatment (N-SSATS).

- domestic violence services (6 percentage points)

Managed Care

Facilities with a managed care contract provided, on average, a slightly smaller number of services than facilities without managed care contracts (13 vs. 14). However, facilities with a managed care contract were more likely than facilities without such a contract to offer mental health assessment (53 vs. 34 percent), family therapy (86 vs. 68 percent), and pharmacotherapy (50 vs. 32 percent).

Ownership

The average number of services per facility by type of ownership ranged from 17 services in Federal government facilities to 12 in private for-profit facilities. Private non-profit facilities and those owned by tribal governments provided an average of 14 services; those owned by local governments provided an average of 15 services; and, those owned by State governments provided an average of 16 services.

Testing services differed more than other types of services by type of facility ownership. Facilities owned by the Federal government were more likely to provide each of the six tests, with the exception of drug/alcohol urine screening, which was more likely to be provided by State government

Table 3. Facilities Providing Specified Numbers of Services, by Facility Size (Average Number of Clients): 2000

Number of Services Provided at a Facility	Size of Facility and (Average Number of Clients)				
	Very Small (7)	Small (19)	Medium (36)	Large (71)	Very Large (242)
	Percent of Facilities				
1-5 Services	9	5	3	3	2
6-10 Services	30	23	22	20	15
11-15 Services	34	38	39	38	36
16-20 Services	22	26	28	29	33
21-26 Services	5	8	8	10	14
Total	100	100	100	100	100

Table 4. Testing Services, by Type of Facility Ownership: 2000

Type of Test	Private for-profit (n=3,476)	Private non-profit (n=7,981)	State Gov't. (n=414)	Local/County Gov't. (n=1,066)	Tribal Gov't. (n=170)	Federal Gov't. (n=310)
	Percent of Facilities					
Blood alcohol	43	44	58	49	28	74
Drug/alcohol urine	75	81	88	76	58	85
Hepatitis	20	25	45	26	28	70
HIV	21	36	59	37	29	74
STD	19	24	52	25	26	64
TB	28	38	66	46	36	68

facilities (Table 4). Drug/alcohol urine screening, provided by 79 percent of all facilities, was the test most likely to be offered at any facility, regardless of ownership. Private for-profit facilities were least likely to provide four of the tests (hepatitis, HIV, STD, and TB). Blood alcohol testing and drug/alcohol urine screening were least likely to be provided by tribal government facilities.

End Note

¹Facilities were divided into five groups of approximately 2,480 facilities each, based on number of clients in treatment on October 1, 2000: very small (average 7 clients, range 1 to 12 clients); small (average 19 clients, range 13 to 25 clients); medium (average 36 clients, range 26 to 48 clients); large (average 71 clients, range 49 to 104 clients); and very large (average 242 clients, range 105 to 3,000 clients). See Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (2003, June 6). *The DASIS Report. Variations in Substance Abuse Treatment Facilities by Number of Clients.* Rockville, MD: Author.

The Drug and Alcohol Services Information System (DASIS) is an integrated data system maintained by the Office of Applied Studies, Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA). One component of DASIS is the National Survey of Substance Abuse Treatment Services (N-SSATS), an annual survey of all facilities in the United States, both public and private, that provide substance abuse treatment. N-SSATS was formerly known as the Uniform Facility Data Set (UFDS).

The DASIS Report is prepared by the Office of Applied Studies, SAMHSA; Synectics for Management Decisions, Inc., Arlington, Virginia; and RTI, Research Triangle Park, North Carolina.

Information and data for this report are based on data reported to N-SSATS for the survey reference date October 1, 2000.

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Access the latest TEDS public use files at: <http://www.samhsa.gov/oas/SAMHDA.htm>

Other substance abuse reports are available at: <http://www.DrugAbuseStatistics.samhsa.gov>



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