

Data Spotlight

National Survey of Substance Abuse Treatment Services

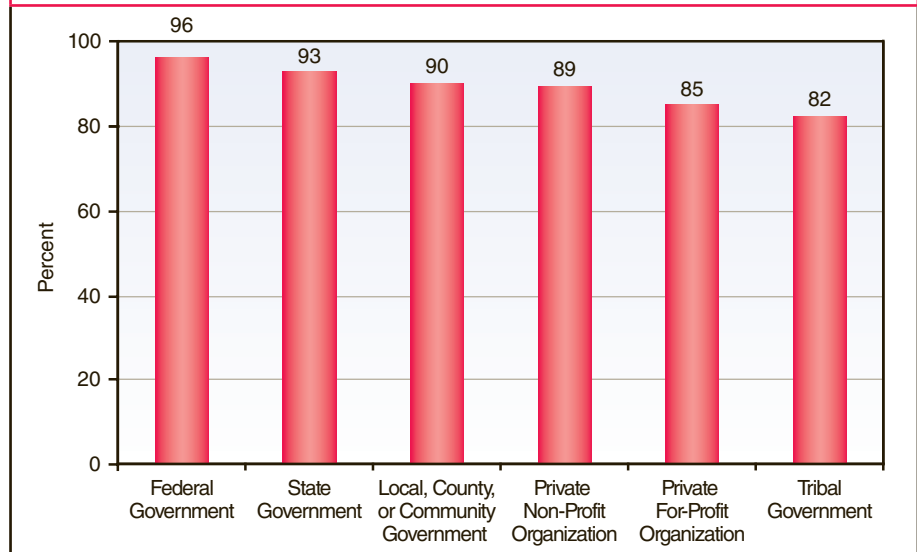
July 28, 2011

Residential Substance Abuse Treatment Programs Operate at 89 Percent of Capacity

In behavioral health care, service utilization is tracked to measure costs and ensure the availability of services to patients who may require different levels of treatment intensity. The Patient Placement Criteria of the American Society of Addiction Medicine (ASAM) help treatment providers match patients to the appropriate level of care, such as residential treatment. Residential treatment is designed for patients who need “safe and stable living environments in order to develop sufficient recovery skills”¹ and who require clinically managed care. This *Data Spotlight* focuses on the utilization rates of residential treatment programs in order to understand the use and availability of these services.

According to the 2009 National Survey of Substance Abuse Treatment Services (N-SSATS), about one quarter of 13,513 surveyed treatment facilities (26 percent) offered residential services outside of a hospital setting. In those facilities, a total of 110,795 residential beds were designated for substance abuse treatment, with more than three quarters of these beds (76 percent) in private, non-profit facilities. On the survey reference date—March 31, 2009—the overall utilization rate of beds designated for substance abuse treatment in non-hospital residential settings was 89 percent.² Utilization rates varied by facility operation, ranging from 96 percent in facilities operated by the Federal Government³ to 82 percent in facilities operated by Tribal governments (Figure).

Utilization of Residential (Non-hospital) Beds Designated for Substance Abuse Treatment, by Facility Ownership/Operation: March 31, 2009



¹ American Society of Addiction Medicine. (2001). *Patient placement criteria for the treatment of substance-related disorders*. Chevy Chase, MD: Author.

² Utilization rates are based on a subset of facilities that reported for themselves alone and that reported numbers greater than zero for both designated beds and clients. Utilization rates were calculated by dividing the number of residential (non-hospital) clients by the number of residential (non-hospital) designated beds. Because substance abuse treatment clients may also occupy beds not specifically designated for substance abuse treatment, utilization rates could be more than 100 percent.

³ Among Federal facilities, 89 percent of beds designated for substance abuse treatment were in facilities operated by the Department of Veterans Affairs.

Source: 2009 Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) National Survey of Substance Abuse Treatment Services (N-SSATS). N-SSATS is an annual survey of all substance abuse treatment facilities in the United States, both public and private, that are known to SAMHSA. N-SSATS is one component of the Drug and Alcohol Services Information System (DASIS), an integrated data system maintained by the Center for Behavioral Health Statistics and Quality, SAMHSA. Information and data for this report are based on data reported to N-SSATS for the survey reference date March 31, 2009.

