

Overview and Limitations of Treatment Admissions Data from Local Sources

Treatment admissions data provide indicators of the health consequences of drug use and their impact on the treatment system.^a The data can provide some indication of the types of drugs being used in geographic areas and can show patterns of use over time. However, it is important to note that treatment data only represent use patterns of individuals entering treatment programs and the availability of particular types of treatment in a geographic area will also influence the types of drugs being reported. Also, most sites report only on admissions to publicly funded treatment programs; thus, information on individuals entering private treatment programs may not be represented by the data. It should also be noted that each admission does not necessarily represent a unique individual because some individuals are admitted to treatment more than once in a given period.^b

Treatment admissions data are reported to the NDEWS Coordinating Center by the NDEWS Sentinel Community Epidemiologist for each SCS, when available. Data for 11 of 12 NDEWS SCSs are reported in this Cross-Site Data Presentation. Ten SCSs reported calendar year 2015 data; one site only had fiscal year 2015 data available (Chicago) and one site had no data available for 2015 (Atlanta Metro). See below for site-specific information about the data.

Site-Specific Notes about 2015 Treatment Data and Sources of the Data

❖ Atlanta Metro

Data Availability: Calendar year 2015 treatment data are not available for the Atlanta Metro SCS.

Catchment Area: Includes residents of: Barrow, Bartow, Butts, Carroll, Cherokee, Clayton, Cobb, Coweta, Dawson, DeKalb, Douglas, Fayette, Forsyth, Fulton, Gwinnett, Haralson, Heard, Henry, Jasper, Lamar, Meriwether, Morgan, Newton, Paulding, Pickens, Pike, Rockdale, Spalding, and Walton counties.

Notes & Definitions:

Admissions: includes admissions to publicly-funded programs.

Marijuana/Synthetic Cannabinoids: the data do not differentiate between marijuana and synthetic cannabinoids.

Source: Data provided to the Atlanta Metro NDEWS SCE by the Georgia Department of Human Resources.

❖ Chicago Metro

Data Availability: Only fiscal year data are available at this time.

Catchment Area: Data were only available for residents of Chicago, not for the entire Chicago MSA.

Notes & Definitions:

Admissions: Includes admissions to publicly funded programs. Each admission does not necessarily represent a unique individual because some individuals are admitted to treatment more than once in a given period.

Declines in overall treatment admissions are due to several factors, including budget cuts and changes in providers and payers that affect the reporting of these data (e.g., the expansion of Medicaid under the ACA to cover some forms of drug treatment).

Prescription Opioids: Includes oxycodone/hydrocodone, nonprescription methadone, and other opiates.

Source: Data provided to the NDEWS Chicago SCE by the Illinois Department of Substance Use.

❖ Denver Metro

Catchment Area: Includes admissions data for residents of Adams, Arapahoe, Boulder, Broomfield, Clear Creek, Denver, Douglas, Gilpin, and Jefferson counties.

Notes & Definitions:

Admissions: Includes admissions to all Colorado alcohol and drug treatment agencies licensed by the Colorado Department of Human Services, Office of Behavioral Health (OBH). Each admission does not necessarily represent a unique individual because some individuals are admitted to treatment more than once in a given period.

Prescription Opioids: Includes nonprescription methadone and other opiates and synthetic opiates.

MDMA: Coded as “club drugs,” which are mostly MDMA.

Other Drugs/Unknown: Includes inhalants, over-the-counter, and other drugs not specified.

Source: Data provided to the Denver Metro NDEWS SCE by the Colorado Department of Human Services, Office of Behavioral Health (OBH), Drug/Alcohol Coordinated Data System (DACODS).

❖ King County (Seattle Area)

Notes & Definitions:

Admissions: Includes admissions to all modalities of care in publicly funded programs. Each admission does not necessarily represent a unique individual because some individuals are admitted to treatment more than once in a given period.

Prescription Opioids: Includes oxycodone/hydrocodone, nonprescription methadone, and other opiates.

Source: Data provided to the King County (Seattle Area) NDEWS SCE by the Washington State Department of Social and Health Services (DSHS), Division Behavioral Health and Recovery, Treatment Report and Generation Tool (TARGET).

❖ Los Angeles County

Notes & Definitions:

Admissions: Includes all admissions to programs receiving any public funds or to programs providing narcotic replacement therapy, as reported to the California Outcomes Monitoring System (CalOMS). An admission is counted only after all screening, intake, and assessment processes have been completed, and all of the following have occurred: 1) the provider has determined that the client meets the program admission criteria; 2) if applicable, the client has given consent for treatment/recovery services; 3) an individual recovery or treatment plan has been started; 4) a client file has been opened; 5) the client has received his/her first direct recovery service in the facility and is expected to continue participating in program activities; and 6) in methadone programs, the client has received his/her first dose. Each admission does not necessarily represent a unique individual because some individuals are admitted to treatment more than once in a given period.

Prescription Opioids: Includes drug categories labeled “oxycodone/OxyContin” and “other opiates or synthetics.”

Source: Data provided to the Los Angeles NDEWS SCE by the California Department of Health Care Services, Mental Health Services Division, Office of Applied Research and Analysis, CalOMS (2013 and 2014 data) and the California Department of Drug and Alcohol Programs (2011 and 2012 data).

❖ **Maine**

Notes & Definitions:

Admissions: includes all admissions to programs receiving state funding.

Source: Data provided to the Maine NDEWS SCE by the Maine Office of Substance Abuse.

❖ **New York City**

Notes & Definitions:

Non-Crisis Admissions: Includes non-crisis admissions to outpatient, inpatient, residential, and methadone maintenance treatment programs licensed in the state.

Crisis Admissions: Includes detox admissions to all licensed treatment programs in the state. Each admission does not necessarily represent a unique individual because some individuals are admitted to treatment more than once in a given period.

Prescription Opioids: Includes nonprescription methadone, buprenorphine, other synthetic opiates, and OxyContin.

Benzodiazepines: Includes benzodiazepines, alprazolam, and rohypnol.

Synthetic Stimulants: Includes other stimulants and a newly created category, synthetic stimulants (created in 2014).

Source: Data provided to the New York City NDEWS SCE by the New York State Office of Alcoholism and Substance Abuse Services (OASAS), Client Data System accessed May 2016 from Local Governmental Unit (LGU) Inquiry Reports.

❖ **Philadelphia**

Notes & Definitions:

Admissions: Includes admissions for uninsured and underinsured individuals admitted to any licensed treatment programs funded through the Philadelphia Department of Behavioral Health and Intellectual disAbility Services (DBHIDS). Each admission does not necessarily represent a unique individual because some individuals are admitted to treatment more than once in a given period.

2015 Data: Pennsylvania expanded Medicaid coverage under the Affordable Care Act and more than 100,000 additional individuals became eligible in 2015. As individuals who historically have been uninsured become insured, the number of individuals served through the BHSI (Behavioral Health Special Initiative) program has declined; thus treatment admissions reported by BHSI declined from 8,363 in 2014 to 4,810 in 2015. However, similar patterns of substance use were observed among those seeking treatment in 2014 and in 2015.

Methamphetamine: Includes both amphetamines and methamphetamine.

Other Drugs: May include synthetics, barbiturates, and over-the-counter drugs. Synthetic Stimulants and Synthetic Cannabinoids are not distinguishable from "Other Drugs" in the reporting source.

Source: Data provided to the Philadelphia NDEWS SCE by the Philadelphia Department of Behavioral Health and Intellectual disAbility Services (DBHIDS), Office of Addiction Services, Behavioral Health Special Initiative.

❖ San Francisco County

Notes & Definitions

Admissions: Each admission does not necessarily represent a unique individual because some individuals are admitted to treatment more than once in a given period.

Source: Data provided to the San Francisco NDEWS SCE by the San Francisco Department of Public Health, Community Behavioral Health Services Division.

❖ Southeastern Florida (Miami Area)

Catchment Area: Includes the three counties of the Miami MSA—Broward, Miami-Dade, and Palm Beach counties.

Notes & Definitions:

Admissions: Includes all admissions to programs receiving any public funds. Each admission does not necessarily represent a unique individual because some individuals are admitted to treatment more than once in a given period.

2011–2013: Data for Palm Beach County is not available for 2011–2013, therefore, data for 2011–2013 only includes data for Broward and Miami-Dade counties.

Source: Data provided to the Southeastern Florida NDEWS SCE by the Florida Department of Children and Families and the Broward Behavioral Health Coalition.

❖ Texas

Notes & Definitions:

Admissions: Includes all admissions reported to the Clinical Management for Behavioral Health Services (CMBHS) of the Department of State Health Services (DSHS). Each admission does not necessarily represent a unique individual because some individuals are admitted to treatment more than once in a given period.

Methamphetamine: Includes amphetamines and methamphetamine.

Synthetic Cannabinoids: DSHS collects data on “other Cannabinoids,” which may not include all the synthetic cannabinoids.

Females: Calculated using formula “1 minus Male %.”

Source: Data provided to the Texas NDEWS SCE by the Texas Department of State Health Services (DSHS).

❖ Wayne County (Detroit Area)

Notes & Definitions:

Admissions: Admissions whose treatment was covered by Medicaid or Block Grant funds; excludes admissions covered by private insurance, treatment paid for in cash, and admissions funded by the Michigan Department of Corrections. Each admission does not necessarily represent a unique individual because some individuals are admitted to treatment more than once in a given period.

Synthetic Stimulants: Includes amphetamines and synthetic stimulants; data suppressed to protect confidentiality.

Source: Data provided to the Wayne County (Detroit Area) NDEWS SCE by the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services, Bureau of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities, Division of Quality Management and Planning, Performance Measurement and Evaluation Section.

Sources

Data Sources: Adapted by the NDEWS Coordinating Center from data provided by NDEWS SCEs listed above.

Overview/Methods/Limitations Sources: Adapted by the NDEWS Coordinating Center from:

^aNational Institute on Drug Abuse; National Institutes of Health; U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, *Assessing Drug Abuse Within and Across Communities, 2nd Edition*. 2006. Available at:

<https://www.drugabuse.gov/publications/assessing-drug-abuse-within-across-communities>

^bNational Institute on Drug Abuse; National Institutes of Health; U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, *Epidemiologic Trends in Drug Abuse, Proceedings of the Community Epidemiology Work Group, Highlights and Executive Summary, June 2014*. Available at: <https://www.drugabuse.gov/sites/default/files/cewgjune2014.pdf>