
Overview of Substance Abuse Need for Treatment Services and Client Wait List in Nevada

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- This presentation will convey how SAPTA determines need
 - Complex subject
 - SAPTA uses secondary data sources to save money which can better be used to provide treatment
 - Need is a broad topic with many components and terminologies which can often confuse one's understanding of the subject

- Organization of Topics to be Covered

- Sources of Data
- Definition of need
- Treatment Gap and Unmet Need
- Total Need
- Met Need
 - Publicly Funded
 - Private
- Calculating Need
- Definition of Demand
 - Wait List
 - Cumulative
 - Point in Time

■ Data Sources

□ In-House

- Nevada Health Information Provider Performance System (NHIPPS)
 - Web based
 - Piloted early 2006
 - Required July 1, 2006
- Historically used Client Data System (CDS) and hand reporting of wait list tracking data

□ SAMHSA

- National Survey on Drug Use and Health (NSDUH)
- National Survey of Substance Abuse Treatment Services (N-SSATS)

□ Survey of Non-funded Substance Abuse Treatment Providers

- Recently done by SAPTA staff

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- How is **Need** for Substance Abuse Treatment Defined?
 - Per SAMHSA
 - A person needing but not receiving treatment for an illicit drug or alcohol problem is a person who meets the criteria for abuse or dependence according to DSM-IV who hasn't received specialty treatment in the past year

- Treatment Gap and Unmet Need

- SAMHSA refers to need as they define it in terms of *Treatment Gap*

- SAPTA refers to this *Treatment Gap* as Unmet Need

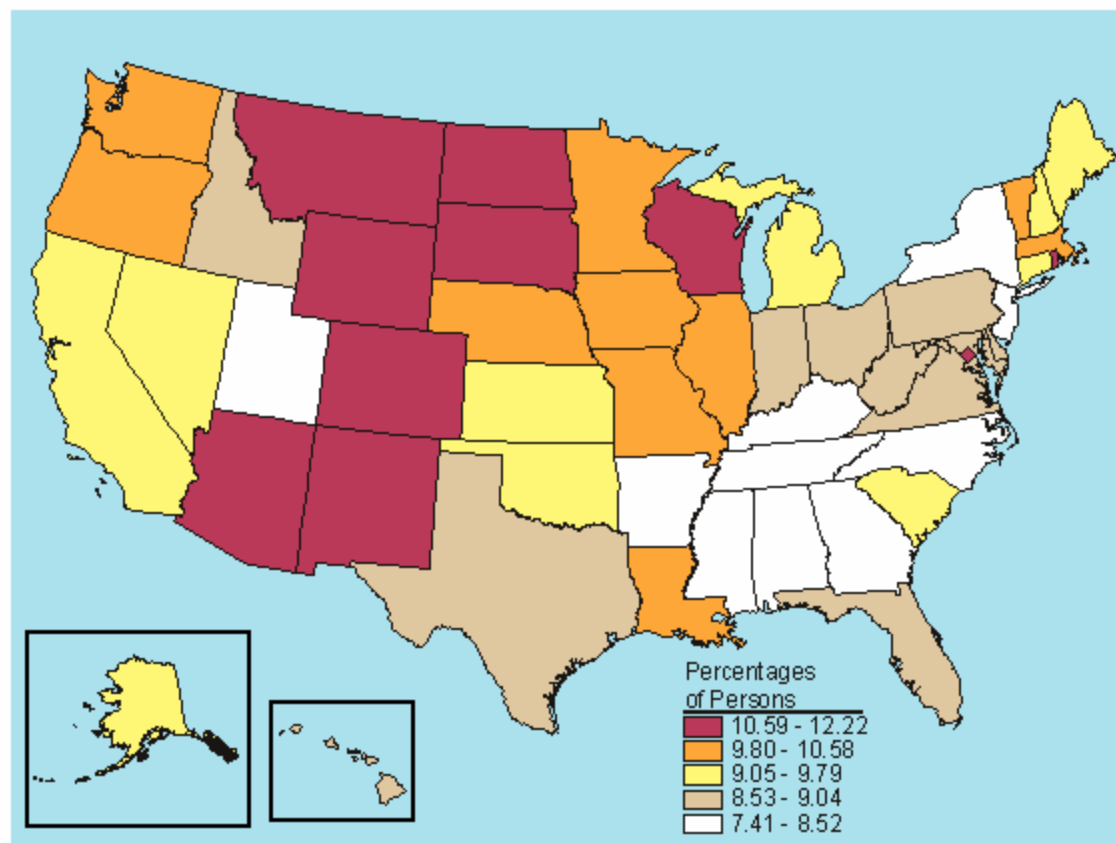
- SAPTA estimates Alcohol and Other Drugs (AOD) Unmet Need using formula:

- Total Need - Met Need = Unmet Need

■ Total Need

- National Survey on Drug Use and Health (NSDUH) is conducted by SAMHSA
 - Several survey questions are related to establishing need by drug(s) of abuse
 - SAPTA looks at persons reporting “*Alcohol or Illicit Drug Dependence or Abuse*” in the past year
 - For 2004 (most recent data), SAMHSA estimated 180,000 Nevadans had substance abuse issues, of which 18,000 were adolescents

Dependence on or Abuse of Any Illicit Drug or Alcohol in Past Year among Persons Aged 12 or Older, by State: Percentages, Annual Averages Based on 2003 and 2004 NSDUHs



Nevada ranks 23rd from highest in the nation

■ Met Need

- Represents individuals who received treatment for substance abuse within the past year
- Treatment was either provided through a public funded program or through a private program
- Publicly funded programs
 - Good information exists
 - Continually strive to improve data quality
 - New NHIPPS system to meet federal accountability reporting requirements
 - Number of clients being served
 - Levels of care being provided
 - Quality of treatment
 - Units of service provided
 - Continuum of care

- Met Need (continued)

- Private programs

- Limited information available
- Number of clients being served?
 - Estimating this number is a difficult task
- NSSATS – snapshot as of March 31 each year
 - Ratio of publicly funded to private providers is used to estimate private portion of Met Need
 - Factors developed use four service types (levels) reported in the N-SSATS
 - After applying factors and combining with SAPTA's data, the Met Need estimate for SFY 2006 was 33,983 using most recent N-SSATS (2004) data
- Recently, SAPTA conducted a survey to increase knowledge of need being met outside public system
 - Met Need estimate was overestimated by as much as 25%
(33,983 – 27,217) / 27,217 = .25)

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- Applying Formula to Calculate Need
 - Total Need was estimated at 180,000
 - Met Need was estimated at 33,983
 - Unmet Need = $180,000 - 33,983 = 146,017$

■ What is Treatment Demand?

- Not everyone who has a problem will seek help
- People who need care and will ask for it
 - SAPTA has conservatively defined *Unmet Demand* to be 5% of the Unmet Need
 - Unmet Demand was thus calculated: $146,017 \times .05 = 7,301$ persons in need who may seek treatment

■ Wait List

- Most commonly requested information about need
- Wait List tracks assessed clients waiting for a specific service level in the new NHIPPS system
- Historically, SAPTA's Wait List had many limitations
 - We couldn't determine age of clients
 - We couldn't determine what service a client was waiting for

■ Wait List (continued)

□ Cumulative

- Traditionally SAPTA has reported Wait List data on a cumulative basis for an entire state fiscal year
- Number of clients who waited for services in SFY 2006 was 2,226
 - Less than 1% (22) of those who waited were identified as being adolescents
- These clients waited an average of 24 days before being admitted to treatment

■ Wait List (continued)

□ Point in Time

- The Point in Time number represents all persons waiting on a specific day
 - On 2-14-07, 257 clients were waiting for treatment
 - Clients waited 68 days on average
 - Nearly 8% (20) of the 257 clients were identified as being adolescents
 - Point in Time days waiting was calculated differently than for cumulative
 - Skewed because it is a one day snapshot and a random, not statistically significant sample
 - Represents less than 10% likely to wait during year
 - SFY 2007 cumulative Wait List through 2-14-07 – 899 clients have waited an average of 23 days before being admitted to treatment

■ In Conclusion:

- What is **Need** for substance abuse treatment?
 - Treatment Gap
 - Total Need vs. Met Need vs. Unmet Need
 - Need vs. Demand
 - Unmet Demand
 - Wait List
 - Cumulative vs. Point in Time
 - Historical vs. NHIPPS
- How is **Need** being met within the state?
 - Publicly Funded vs. Private