

SUBSTANCE ABUSE TREATMENT NEED

Alcohol and Drug Dependence and Abuse

Several state-level studies have been conducted during the past 30 years to determine the prevalence of alcohol and drug abuse in Missouri and the number of individuals needing treatment services. Since 1999 the National Household Survey on Drug Abuse and its successor, the National Survey on Drug Use and Health (NSDUH), have provided continuity and a consistent methodology to produce state estimates of alcohol and illicit drug dependence and abuse. The NSDUH includes items that identify problems using criteria of the *Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders, 4th Edition (DSM-IV)*. The NSDUH analysis combines two consecutive years of data to produce the state estimates and uses three years for the sub-state estimates.

In 1999/2000, an estimated 6.29 percent of the Missouri population 12 years of age and older—approximately 286,000 residents—had past-year alcohol or illicit drug dependence or abuse. This percentage increased rapidly to 10.58 percent involving 499,000 Missouri residents by 2003/2004, outpacing the national rate which peaked at 9.36 percent in 2002. The trend charts on page B-34 compare Missouri and U.S. rates by age group. According to the 2005/2006 NSDUH, an estimated 9.91 percent of Missouri's adolescent and adult population has alcohol and/or illicit drug dependency or abuse problems. Among adolescents 12-17 years of age, the estimated Missouri rate peaked at 10.48 percent in 2003/2004 and fell to 8.67 percent in 2005/2006. The current rate is highest—25.45 percent—for the population of young adults ages 18-25 and four percentage points higher than the U.S. rate for that age group. The charts on page B-35 provide estimated numbers for the Missouri age groups based on the rates. The total number of Missouri residents with past-year substance abuse problems declined to 485,000 in 2004/2005 and 477,000 in 2005/2006. This most recent estimate includes 422,000 with alcohol dependence or abuse and 130,000 with illicit drug dependence or abuse. The combined alcohol and drug total overlap the 477,000 because 75,000 Missouri residents have problems with both alcohol *and* illicit drugs. Almost one-half of these individuals with combined alcohol and drug problems—an estimated 36,000—are in the 18-25 age group and 10,000 are under age 18. Using three years of data (2004/2005/2006) on past-year alcohol or illicit drug dependence or abuse, rate estimates have been developed for the ADA planning regions and the two largest metropolitan ADA service areas. ADA has applied those rates to the state's 2004-2006 population estimates to produce the sub-state projections for age and gender groups shown on page B-36.

ADA-Funded Specialty Treatment Services

Based on the 2005/2006 NSDUH, the estimated 43,000 Missouri adolescents 12-17 years of age with alcohol or illicit drug dependence or abuse comprise 9.01 percent of the state total of 477,000. Similarly, that adolescent age group accounted for 7.70 percent of the approximately 40,000 individuals admitted to ADA substance abuse treatment programs in fiscal year 2007. The estimated 165,000 young adults ages 18-25 with substance abuse problems are 34.59 percent of the state total; however, that age group had only 23.08 percent of the treatment admissions. Conversely, adults over age 25 constitute an estimated 56.39 percent of those with alcohol or illicit drug problems yet accounted for 69.22 percent of the individuals admitted to ADA treatment programs. These variances reflect widespread and lengthy delays in receiving treatment services after substance abuse problems become apparent. The charts on page D-10 illustrate the age profiles of ADA program admissions for substance abuse, co-dependency, and compulsive gambling treatment in fiscal year 2007. The tables on pages D-1 through D-3 and the charts on pages D-4 through D-9 provide statewide overviews of ADA admissions and treatment demographics. Section E includes tables of admissions data for ADA planning regions, service areas, and Missouri counties.

Unmet Need for Substance Abuse Treatment

The 2005/2006 NSDUH analysis estimates that 394,000 Missourians needed treatment for alcohol, but did not receive treatment in a specialty facility. Also, 118,000 needed treatment for illicit drugs but did not receive specialty treatment. As with estimates of alcohol or illicit drug dependence and abuse, some individuals are in both categories due to an unmet need for treatment of alcohol *and* other drug problems. Numerically, adults over age 25 account for the largest volume of unmet need—an estimated 229,000 for alcohol treatment and 51,000 for drug treatment. Missouri’s young adults 18-25 years of age have the most concentrated unmet need, consisting of 20.97 percent of that age group with an unmet need for alcohol treatment and 7.23 percent with an unmet need for illicit drug treatment. The charts on page B-37 illustrate the Missouri multi-year trend in unmet treatment need. Page B-38 provides estimated rates of unmet need for adolescents and adults in each ADA planning region and the metropolitan service areas.