

## TREATMENT TRENDS

Admissions to Division of Alcohol and Drug Abuse programs for substance abuse and addiction treatment totaled 38,914 in fiscal year 2002. This was a decrease from the record 39,787 substance abuse admissions registered in fiscal year 2001 [24]. The decrease reflects a reduction in the resources required to sustain the fiscal year 2001 plateau, rather than a reduced demand for treatment or narrowing of the treatment gap [63].

Admissions for women totaled 11,925 in fiscal year 2002—higher than in any previous year. Women accounted for 30.6 percent of the treatment admissions, the highest portion recorded since fiscal year 1995. The number of treatment admissions for pregnant women was 357, also higher than in any previous fiscal year. These admissions reflect an unduplicated count of 281 women. A total of 84 healthy babies were born in fiscal year 2002 to women who were active clients in CSTAR programs for Women and Children and Alt-Care programs, compared to 58 healthy births to clients in these programs in fiscal year 2001.

Treatment admissions for Caucasians—27,128—and Asians/Pacific Islanders—69—also reached record highs, while admissions for African Americans—10,939—and Hispanics—252 were down from their fiscal year 2001 peaks. Admissions for Native Americans/Alaskans remained unchanged at 194. For the seventh consecutive year, clients have averaged 33 years of age.

The portion of clients who were employed when entering treatment declined from 33.2 percent in fiscal year 2001 to 31.2 percent in fiscal year 2002. More than two-thirds of the clients were either unemployed or not seeking employment.

Admissions among clients with three or more arrests within the last two years continued to increase, reaching 15,783 admissions in fiscal year 2002—40 percent of all treatment admissions. In fiscal year 2002, 18,807 admissions resulted from criminal justice system referrals.

Admissions for clients who are injection drug users increased from 8.5 percent in fiscal year 2001 to 8.7 percent in fiscal year 2002, but remained lower than the 9.0 percent recorded in fiscal year 1999. Over 38 percent of fiscal year 2002 injection users injected drugs daily, and an additional 16 percent injected drugs from one to six days per week. Injection users who reported less than weekly use continued a multi-year climb, reaching 1,543 admissions in fiscal year 2002.

As in past years, alcohol accounted for the most treatment admissions—16,147—for primary drug of abuse. Marijuana admissions remained second with 9,991 and cocaine was third with 6,541. While treatment admissions for most drugs of abuse decreased in fiscal year 2002, admissions for methamphetamine continued to climb upward. In fiscal year 2002, there were 3,528 admissions for stimulants—virtually all for methamphetamine as the primary drug problem—compared to 3,341 admissions in fiscal year 2001. Heroin remained the fifth most frequently mentioned primary drug of abuse with 1,531. Admissions for narcotics and analgesics other than heroin increased from 376 in fiscal year 2001 to 497 in fiscal year 2002. Phencyclidine (PCP) admissions increased from 187 to 219. Treatment admissions for other illicit drugs, prescription medications, and over-the-counter medications increased from 103 in fiscal year 2001 to 115 in fiscal year 2002.