

TREATMENT TRENDS

Treatment Admissions

Admissions to Division of Alcohol and Drug Abuse programs for substance abuse and addiction treatment totaled 36,878 in fiscal year 2004, a decrease from the 38,266 admissions in fiscal year 2003 and the peak 39,912 admissions in fiscal year 2001 [26].

Gender

Males accounted for two-thirds of treatment admissions, and females one-third. The number of treatment admissions for pregnant women increased from 369 in fiscal year 2003 to 400 in fiscal year 2004. A total of 85 babies were born to women served in the CSTAR Women and Children programs, and 83 were documented to be healthy and drug-free at birth.

Race/Ethnicity

While treatment admissions for Caucasians, African Americans, Native Americans/Alaskans, and Asians declined from fiscal year 2003, treatment admissions for Hispanics reached 311 in fiscal year 2004. Treatment clients averaged 33.4 years of age.

Education and Employment

Only 30 percent of the clients entering treatment during fiscal year 2004 were employed. Among the adults over age 18, 35 percent did not have a high school diploma, 46 percent completed high school, 15 percent had some college education, and four percent had a college degree.

Referral Sources

Admissions among clients with three or more arrests within the last two years continued to climb, reaching 17,059 in fiscal year 2004 and 47 percent of all treatment admissions. Criminal justice referrals accounted for 15,159 treatment admissions. Clients who did not identify an external referral source—and those encouraged to seek treatment by family or friends—accounted for 11,769 admissions. Mental health providers were the origin of 5,456 treatment referrals and healthcare providers were the source of 1,106. Referrals from schools increased to 202 in fiscal year 2004, higher than in any previous year.

Injection Drug Use

Admissions for injection drug users totaled 3,319 in fiscal year 2004, a small increase from the 3,299 admissions in fiscal year 2003. Although 36 percent injected drugs daily, 46 percent reported injecting drugs less than once per week.

Primary Drugs of Abuse

Alcohol continued to lead treatment admissions, accounting for 14,288 in fiscal year 2004 for primary drug of abuse. Marijuana admissions remained second with 9,492. Cocaine was identified as the primary drug problem in 6,261 admissions, with crack cocaine accounting for 82 percent of them. Methamphetamine admissions ranked fourth but increased to 3,910 and, for the first time, accounted for more than ten percent of treatment admissions. Heroin remained the fifth most frequently mentioned primary drug of abuse with 1,325 admissions, slightly fewer than the 1,362 heroin admissions in fiscal year 2003. Admissions for other narcotics and analgesics increased from 590 in fiscal year 2003 to 703 in fiscal year 2004. Treatment admissions for hallucinogens—principally phencyclidine (PCP)—decreased from 347 in fiscal year 2003 to 299 in fiscal year 2004. Admissions for other illicit drugs, prescription medications, and over-the-counter medications decreased from 138 in fiscal year 2003 to 127 in fiscal year 2004.