

WAITING FOR TREATMENT: A SURVEY OF STATE-FUNDED TREATMENT FACILITIES IN ILLINOIS, 2009

Final Report

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We wish to dedicate this report to the memory of our dear colleague Ingrid Graf, who was responsible for the conduct of two earlier studies of this topic.



EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The goal of this study was to survey publicly funded treatment sites in Illinois for the purpose of estimating the numbers of persons currently waiting for assessment and/or treatment. The basic methodology and findings from this study are summarized below.

- Survey interviews were conducted by telephone during December 2009–January 2010.
- Interviews were completed with informants representing 191 of the estimated 232 unique publicly funded treatment locations in Illinois.
- It is estimated that 6,333 adults and youth were either actively waiting for full assessment, were assessed and waiting to begin treatment, or were in treatment but waiting to be moved to the assessed level of care.
- Most adults and youth waiting for full assessment were male (72.8% and 71.1%, respectively); males also constituted a majority of those having been assessed and waiting for treatment (66.8%).
- Across all treatment modalities, it is estimated that the total program capacity among publicly funded treatment sites in Illinois is 29,386 spaces.
- The maintenance of formal waiting lists varied by treatment modality. Most adult methadone, adult recovery homes, adult residential extended care facilities, adult residential and youth residential programs, and youth recovery homes reported maintaining a formal waiting list. Less than half of all adult outpatient, youth outpatient, and detoxification programs reported doing so.
- A majority of all treatment facilities also reported that they did not place a limit on the length of time that patients could stay on their waiting lists.

1. OVERVIEW

In April 2008, the University of Illinois at Chicago (UIC) Survey Research Laboratory (SRL) conducted a census of substance abuse treatment providers funded by the Illinois Department of Alcoholism and Substance Abuse (DASA) on behalf of the Illinois Alcoholism and Drug Dependence Association (IADDA). This study was designed to determine the number of persons on waiting lists for treatment across Illinois (Johnson, Graf, & Cho, 2008). This was the second effort of its kind; the first was conducted in March 2007 (Johnson & Graf, 2007). The findings from the April 2008 study estimated that, among those providers funded by the State of Illinois, approximately 7,540 adults and youth were waiting for full assessment, to begin treatment, or to move to their assessed level of care. The 2007 study estimated that a total of 6,467 adults and youth were waiting for full assessment, to begin treatment, or to move to their assessed level of care in March of that year.

In the autumn of 2009, IADDA asked SRL to replicate these studies to provide updated estimates. This report describes the findings of this survey, which might more appropriately be termed a census, as attempts were made to collect information from all State-supported facilities within Illinois that could be identified.

Informants were mostly administrative personnel working within the facilities contacted. Their job titles, though, were quite diverse. Some of the more common informant titles included the following: Director/Director of Addictions, Administration, Admissions, Counseling, Programs & Services, Substance Abuse, or Substance Abuse Services ($n = 50$), CEO ($n = 11$), Executive Director ($n = 24$), Executive Assistant ($n = 11$), Clinical Director/Manager/Supervisor ($n = 8$), Program Director/Manager ($n = 10$), Quality Improvement Manager ($n = 5$), Substance Abuse Program Supervisor and Clinician or Program Manager ($n = 7$), and Vice President ($n = 7$).

6. REFERENCES

- American Association for Public Opinion Research. (2009). *Standard definitions: Final dispositions of case codes and outcome rates for surveys* (6th ed.). Author.
- Johnson, T. P. & Graf, I. (2007, March). *Waiting for treatment: A survey of DASA-funded treatment facilities*. University of Illinois at Chicago, Survey Research Laboratory.
- Johnson, T. P., Graf, I. & Cho, Y. I. (2008, April). *Waiting for treatment: A survey of State-funded treatment facilities in Illinois, 2008*. University of Illinois at Chicago, Survey Research Laboratory.

APPENDIX A

Questionnaire

