

Addictions and Mental Health Division (AMH) Update: Performance Measures for Treating Substance Abuse

March 2007

Department of Human Services

Performance measures are key to assess both quality of care for those receiving treatment as well as track the defined outcome following substance abuse treatment. Using performance measures also helps benchmark progress to improving quality of service and outcomes.

What are outcomes within Oregon for those receiving treatment and using some form of public funding?

Figure 1 reports outcomes reported both at the state and national level (NOMs, further description on page 2) as well as child/family specific outcomes for Oregon. Overall outcomes for those receiving treatment are quite good. Notice the Oregon focus on children and family outcomes with 49% of children being returned to parents after the parents received substance abuse treatment. In addition 58% of children/adolescents receiving substance abuse treatment also had improved school behavior. All these outcomes not only benefit those receiving treatment but they also benefit taxpayers.

How can Oregon improve access for families and children to keep families together and healthy?

Figure 2 shows the growing need to treat parents of foster care entrants. When comparing 2000 to 2005, there is a dramatic change from 27.6% of UNMET needs to 2005 with 46.7% of UNMET needs. The trend clearly demonstrates there is more need than resources to help struggling families and children minimize the impact substance abuse has on families in Oregon.

Figure 1: Outcomes for those receiving substance abuse treatment within the fiscal year 2005/2006

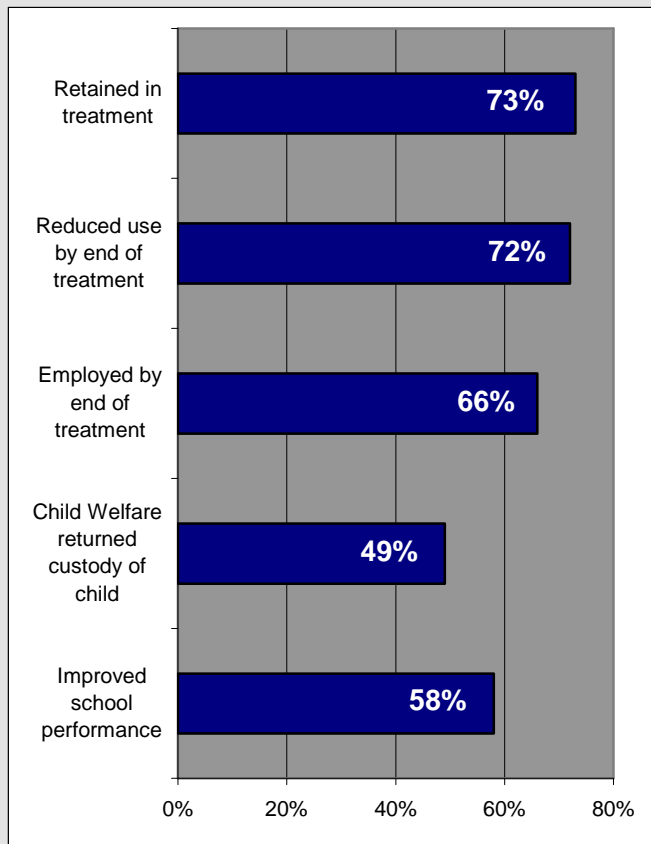
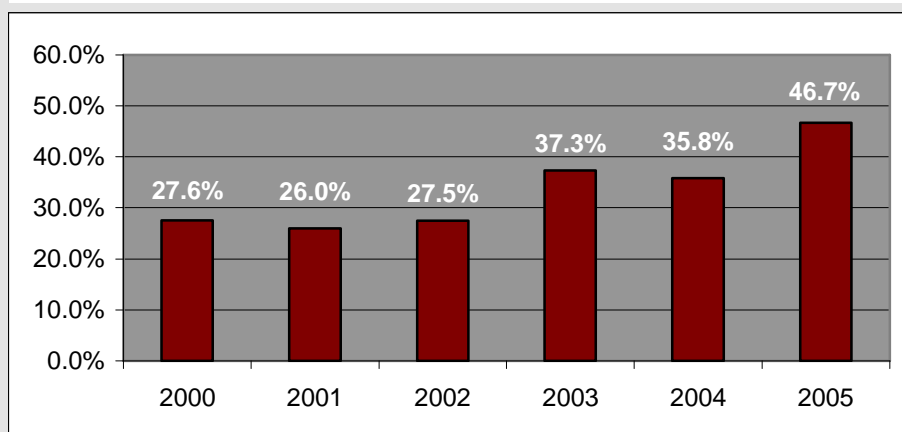


Figure 2: Unmet treatment need: Percent of foster care entrants removed because of parental substance abuse whose parents need but did not receive treatment



Addictions and Mental Health Division (AMH) Update: National Outcome Measures (NOMs) for Substance Abuse

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The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) developed the NOMs (National Outcome Measures) in collaboration with the states. The NOMs are important to AMHs performance monitoring for several reasons:

- In 2007, the NOMs will be required reporting for all states receiving mental health, substance abuse and prevention Block Grants.
- The NOMs provide a framework for describing a broad range of outcomes that are accessible and meaningful for each state.
- Because all of the outcomes are collected using similar methodologies, the NOMs will potentially provide outcomes that can be compared across states where appropriate and with the proper caveats

AMH has adopted NOMs to track the performance of the state hospitals, community treatment services, and prevention services.

The reported measures here are from Oregon for 2006 but the numbers might differ from those reported from Oregon due to SAMHSA using their own methodology when reporting on provided data.

Figure 2 is a NOM example reporting the *increased employment or in school rate* for 2006. Those receiving treatment showed an increase in employment or school rate comparing before and after treatment.

Figure 3 is a NOM example, reporting *decreased homelessness rate* for those receiving treatment for 2006. Those receiving treatment showed a decrease in reported homelessness comparing before and after treatment.

Additional NOMS measures will be reported in the near future, but these provide a sample of current and upcoming outcome measures related to substance abuse treatment. To learn more about NOMs, their website is:

<http://www.nationaloutcomemeasures.samhsa.gov/>

Figure 2 reports the employment rate or school rate before and after treatment using NOMs web reporting for 2006

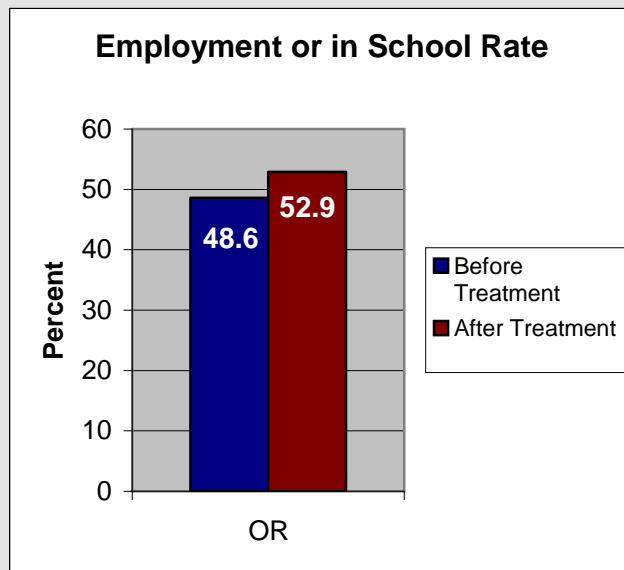


Figure 3 reports the homelessness rate before and after treatment using NOMs web reporting for 2006

