

Data Spotlight

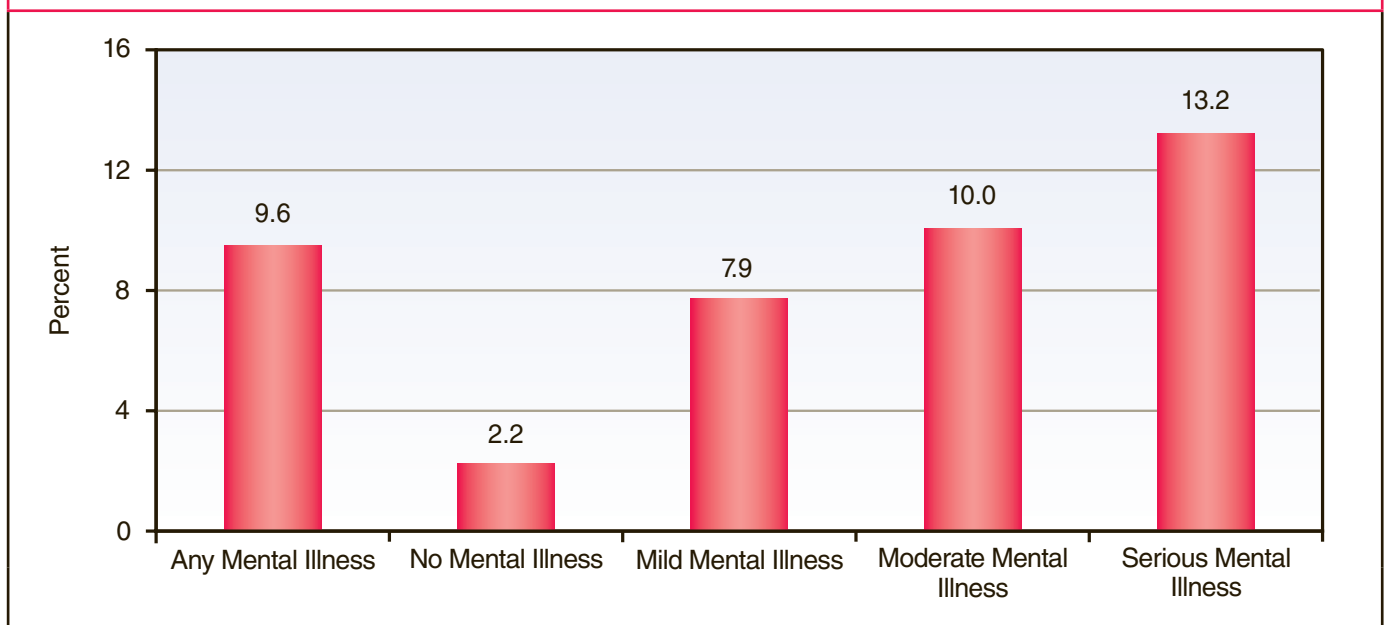
National Survey on Drug Use and Health

May 31, 2011

Alcohol Dependence Is More Likely among Adults with Mental Illness than Adults without Mental Illness

Alcohol dependence is 4 times as likely to occur among adults with mental illness than adults with no mental illness (9.6 percent vs. 2.2 percent; Figure). Furthermore, the rate of alcohol dependence increases as the severity of mental illness increases (Figure).¹ Providers working with individuals with either a substance use or a mental health problem may want to consider screening for a co-occurring disorder and providing an integrated treatment program.²

Alcohol Dependence in the Past Year among Adults, by Level of Mental Illness: 2009



¹ Severity of mental illness is defined by the level at which a mental disorder interfered with major life activities. This is consistent with SAMHSA's definition of severe mental illness. See Epstein J., Barker, P., Vorburger, M., & Murtha, C. (2004). *Serious mental illness and its co-occurrence with substance use disorders, 2002* (DHHS Publication No. SMA 04-3905, Analytic Series A-24). Rockville, MD: Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, Office of Applied Studies. [Available at <http://www.oas.samhsa.gov/CoD/Cod.htm#2.3.1>]

² Drake, R. E., Essock, S. M., Shaner, A., Carey, K. B., Minkoff, K., Kola, L., Lynde, D., Osher, F. C., Clark, R. E., & Rickards, L. (2001). Implementing dual diagnosis services for clients with severe mental illness. *Psychiatric Services*, 52, 469-476.

Source: The National Survey on Drug Use and Health (NSDUH) is an annual survey sponsored by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA). The survey collects data by administering questionnaires to a representative sample of the population through face-to-face interviews at their places of residence.

