

The DASIS Report

March 26, 2004

Admissions for Detoxification: 2001

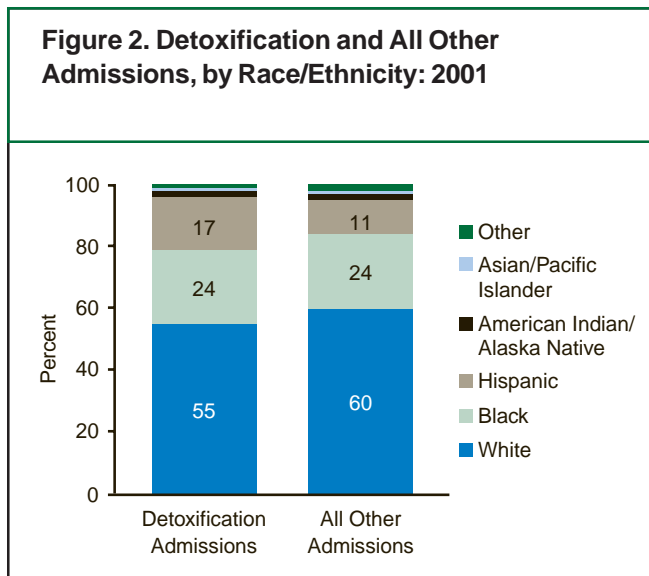
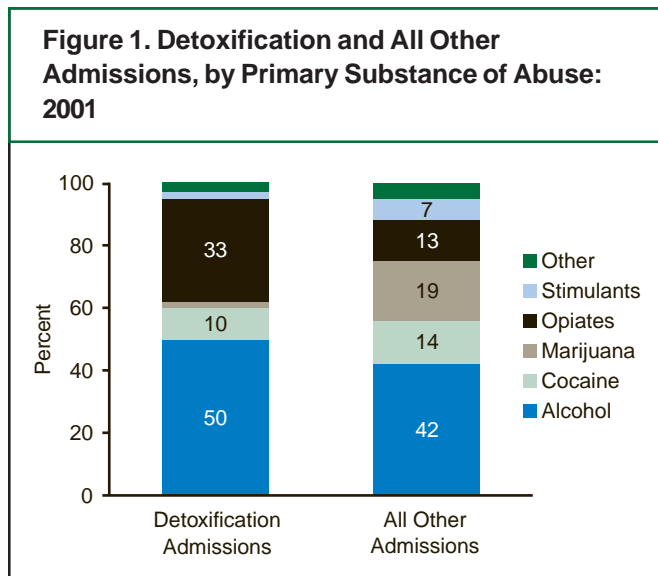
In Brief

- In 2001, the 436,000 admissions for detoxification accounted for 25 percent of all substance abuse admissions
- Alcohol was the primary substance of abuse in half (50 percent) of all detoxification admissions, followed by opiates (33 percent), cocaine (10 percent), marijuana (2 percent), stimulants (2 percent), and other drugs (3 percent)
- Detoxification admissions were more likely to have had five or more previous admissions (26 percent) compared with all other admissions (9 percent)

In the context of treating patients who are physically dependent on alcohol or illicit drugs, detoxification includes the period of time during which the body's physiology is adjusting to the absence of such substances.¹ In 2001, the 436,000 admissions for detoxification accounted for 25 percent of all substance abuse admissions reported to the Treatment Episode Data Set (TEDS). TEDS is an annual compilation of data on admissions to publicly funded substance abuse treatment across the nation. This issue focuses on differences between admissions for detoxification and admissions for all other types of substance abuse services.²

Primary Substance of Abuse

Detoxification admissions were more likely to be for primary abuse of alcohol or opiates than all other admissions.³ For example, primary abuse of alcohol accounted for half (50 percent) of detoxification admissions compared with 42 percent for all other admissions (Figure 1). Primary abuse of opiates was reported



Source: 2001 SAMHSA Treatment Episode Data Set (TEDS).

more frequently for detoxification admissions (33 percent) than for all other admissions (13 percent). Consequently, there were lower percentages of primary marijuana (2 percent), cocaine (10 percent), and stimulant (2 percent) abuse among admissions for detoxification than among all other admissions (19, 14, and 7 percent, respectively).

Planned use of methadone in the treatment of opiate abuse was reported by 24 percent of opiate detoxification admissions compared with 41 percent of all other opiate admissions. The initial treatment of opiate abuse with methadone may be classified as detoxification.

Demographics

Detoxification admissions were more likely to be Hispanic (17 percent) than all other admissions (11 percent) (Figure 2). Fifty-five percent of detoxification admissions were White compared with 60 percent of all other admissions. There was no difference between detoxification admis-

sions and all other admissions in the proportions of Black, Asian/Pacific Islander, or American Indian/Alaska Native admissions.

Detoxification admissions were 75 percent male compared with 68 percent of all other admissions.

Detoxification admissions were older than all other admissions, with an average age of 38 compared with an average age of 33 for all other admissions. Only 12 percent of detoxification admissions were younger than 25 compared with 29 percent of all other admissions (Figure 3). Sixty-four percent of detoxification admissions were between the ages of 25 and 44 compared with 56 percent of all other admissions, and 24 percent of detoxification admissions were aged 45 or older compared with 15 percent of all other admissions.

Source of Referral

Detoxification admissions were more likely to be self or individual referrals (63 percent) than

all other admissions (27 percent). Criminal justice referrals accounted for 10 percent of detoxification admissions but 43 percent of all other admissions.

Prior Treatment

Detoxification admissions were more likely to have had five or more previous admissions (26 percent) compared with all other admissions (9 percent) (Figure 4).

Frequency of Use

Daily use in the month prior to admission was reported by 82 percent of all detoxification admissions compared with 33 percent of all other admissions.

Employment

Although 27 percent of both detoxification admissions and all other admissions were unemployed (Figure 5), the two groups differed in other aspects of employment status at the time of admission.⁴ Some 16 percent of

Figure 3. Detoxification and All Other Admissions, by Age at Admission: 2001

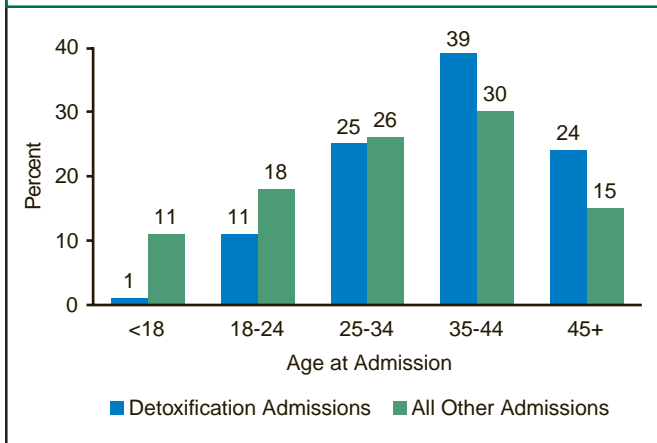
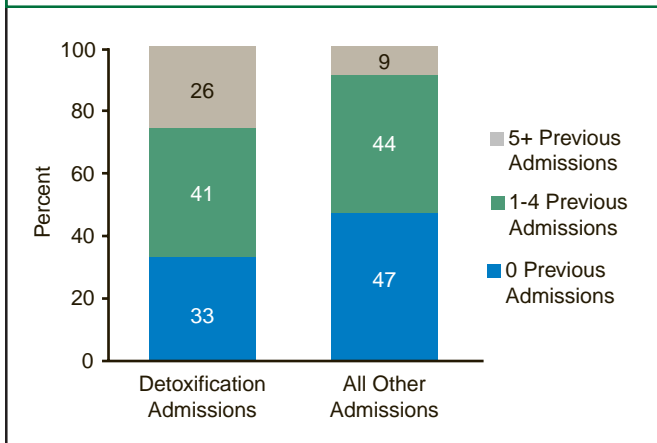


Figure 4. Detoxification and All Other Admissions, by Number of Previous Admissions: 2001



detoxification admissions were employed full-time compared with 29 percent of all other admissions.

End Notes

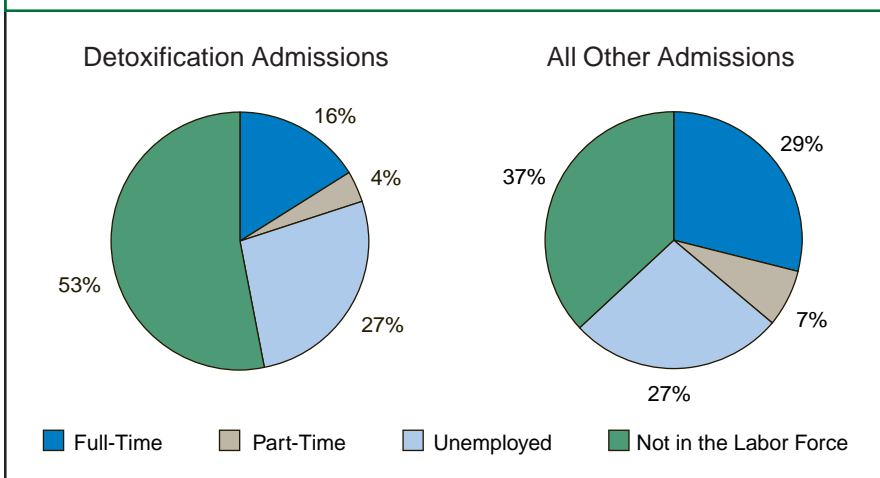
¹ Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, Center for Substance Abuse Treatment. *Detoxification from Alcohol and Other Drugs, Quick Guide for Clinicians*, DHHS Publication No. (SMA) 01-3573, Rockville, MD, 2001.

² TEDS records the type of service to which clients are admitted. The categories used are broadly defined as detoxification, residential/rehabilitation, and ambulatory. Detoxification services may be provided in hospitals, residential facilities, or in outpatient settings. Admissions to all three types of detoxification services (inpatient, residential, and outpatient) are included as detoxification admissions for purposes of this report.

³ The primary substance of abuse is the main substance reported at the time of admission.

⁴ Employment status is based on admissions between the ages of 19 and 64.

Figure 5. Detoxification and All Other Admissions, by Employment Status at Admission: 2001



The Drug and Alcohol Services Information System (DASIS) is an integrated data system maintained by the Office of Applied Studies, Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA). One component of DASIS is the Treatment Episode Data Set (TEDS). TEDS is a compilation of data on the demographic characteristics and substance abuse problems of those admitted for substance abuse treatment. The information comes primarily from facilities that receive some public funding. Information on treatment admissions is routinely collected by State administrative systems and then submitted to SAMHSA in a standard format. Approximately 1.7 million records are included in TEDS each year. TEDS records represent admissions rather than individuals, as a person may be admitted to treatment more than once.

The DASIS Report is prepared by the Office of Applied Studies, SAMHSA; Synectics for Management Decisions, Inc., Arlington, Virginia; and RTI, Research Triangle Park, North Carolina.

Information and data for this issue are based on data reported to TEDS through May 31, 2003.

Access the latest TEDS reports at: <http://www.oas.samhsa.gov/dasis.htm>

Access the latest TEDS public use files at: <http://www.oas.samhsa.gov/SAMHDA.htm>

Other substance abuse reports are available at: <http://www.oas.samhsa.gov>



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