Treatment Clients Less Likely to Be Receiving Care Solely for Alcohol Abuse

Substance abuse treatment clients are increasingly less likely to be treated solely for alcohol abuse, according to recently released data from an annual survey of all public and private substance abuse treatment facilities in the United States. The percentage of clients in treatment solely for the abuse of alcohol decreased from 30.5% in 1995 (the first year data was collected) to 18.5% in 2006 (the most recent year for which data are available). At the same time, the percentage of clients in treatment for other drug abuse increased from 23.4% to 35.1%. The proportion of clients being treated for both alcohol and other drug abuse remained relatively stable at around 46%. While these findings may reflect actual changes in substance abuse and dependence, it is also possible that they are a result of other factors, such as changes in insurance policies or access to treatment.

Type of Substance Abuse Problem Treated Among Clients in U.S. Treatment Facilities, 1995 to 2006

NOTES: More than 13,000 eligible substance abuse treatment facilities participated in the 2006 survey. Clients in treatment were defined as: 1) hospital inpatient and non-hospital residential clients receiving substance abuse services at the facility on March 31, 2006; and 2) outpatient clients who were seen at the facility for a substance abuse treatment or detoxification service at least once during the month of March 2006 and who were still enrolled in treatment as of March 31, 2006.