

Assessing Substance Abuse in the United States: Data from the Office of Applied Studies

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Office of Applied Studies: Mission

Collection, analysis, and dissemination of critical public health data to assist policymakers, service providers, and the public in making informed decisions regarding the prevention and treatment of mental and substance use disorders.

What Types of Data Are Needed?

- **Incidence and Prevalence**
 - **Prevalence of use, treatment need**
 - **Geographic, demographic differences**
- **Consequences**
 - **Adverse events**
 - **Health problems**
- **Treatment**
 - **Service availability**
 - **Service utilization, treatment outcomes**
 - **Patient characteristics**

OAS Data Systems

- **National Survey on Drug Use and Health (NSDUH)**
 - **Incidence and Prevalence**
 - **Associated factors**
 - **Treatment need, access**
- **Drug Abuse Warning Network (DAWN)**
 - **Deaths**
 - **Emergency dept visits**
- **Drug and Alcohol Services Information System (DASIS)**
 - **Treatment facilities (National Survey of Substance Abuse Treatment Services)**
 - **Treatment episodes (Treatment Episode Data Set)**

National Survey on Drug Use and Health (NSDUH)

- **Representative nationally and in each State**
- **Civilian, noninstitutional population, age 12+**
- **Face-to-face interview, 1 hour**
- **Computer-assisted, mainly self-administered**
- **67,500 respondents each year**
 - **3,600 in 8 large states; 900 in other states;**
 - **7,200 PSUs**
 - **Oversample age 12-25**
 - **Continuous data collection**

NSDUH Questionnaire - Core

- **Tobacco, Alcohol, Illicit Drug Use**
 - **Recency**
 - **Frequency**
 - **Initiation**
- **Demographics**

NSDUH Questionnaire - Supplemental Topics

- **Attitudes about drugs**
- **Risk/protective factors**
- **Dependence, abuse (DSM-IV)**
- **Treatment**
- **Mental health**
- **Workplace issues**
- **Income, program participation**

Drug Abuse Warning Network – Emergency Department Visits

- **National sample of hospitals**
 - **Oversample selected metropolitan areas**
 - **Short-term, general, non-Federal hospitals with 24-hour emergency departments**
 - **All visits in sample hospitals are screened**
- **2005 DAWN national estimates**
 - **355 participating hospitals**
 - **Response rate 39%**
 - **Drug-related: About 2.5% of all ED visits**

Drug Abuse Warning Network – Mortality

- **Medical examiners and coroners**
 - **Selected metropolitan areas**
 - **Selected States**
 - **Goal is census of jurisdictions in each area, in lieu of a sample**
- **Annual profiles of drug-related deaths in each participating jurisdiction**

DAWN Case Criterion

Drug related: Was the ED visit or death related to recent drug use?

Drug Misuse/Abuse

- **Any illegal drug,**
OR
- **Underage (<21) alcohol use ,**
OR
- **Alcohol in combination with other drug,**
OR
- **Nonmedical use of pharmaceuticals**
 - **Overmedication**
 - **Malicious poisoning**
 - **“Other”**

National Survey of Substance Abuse Treatment Services (N-SSATS)

- **Annual census of all substance abuse treatment facilities—13,371 in 2005**
- **Collects information on**
 - **location, characteristics, and services offered**
 - **service utilization through one-day census of clients in treatment**
- **Mixed mode: mail, web, telephone**
- **Data used for on-line treatment locator**

Treatment Episode Data Set (TEDS)

- **Client-level data on treatment admissions and discharges**
- **Conducted collaboratively with States**
 - States receive data from facilities
 - States recode to standardized variables and send data files to OAS
- **Coverage – primarily facilities receiving public funds; Varies by State and year**
- **1.8 million treatment admissions per year**

Dissemination of OAS Data (Printed and on Website)

- **National, State findings reports**
- **Detailed tabulations**
- **Ad hoc tabulations on request**
- **Analytic reports**
- **Short reports**
- **Research papers (journals, conferences)**
- **Methodological research studies**
- **Public use data files**
- **Treatment locator**

Substance Abuse and Mental Health Data Archive (SAMHDA)

- **Maintains public use data files and documentation on studies of substance abuse and mental health (more than 100)**
- **Data files can be downloaded free by researchers**
- **Toll-free helpline provides assistance**
- **On-line data analysis system**

Access to OAS Data

- Office of Applied Studies:

- 240-276-1212

- <http://www.oas.samhsa.gov/>

- Data Archive (SAMHDA):

- <http://www.icpsr.umich.edu/SAMHDA/>