

Returning Veterans and Substance Abuse Treatment

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Returning Veterans

- Major Clinical Complexities
 - Posttraumatic Stress Disorder
 - Anxiety
 - Depression
 - Substance Abuse
 - Excessive Drinking
 - Excessive Marijuana use
 - Misuse of Prescriptions (Francis Sparadeo, 2007)
- Over 95% of people with serious substance abuse disorders do not believe they need treatment.

Veterans and Substance Abuse (2002/2003)

- An estimated 8% (2 million) of veterans were dependent on or abusing alcohol or illicit drugs.
- An estimated 340,000 male veterans had co-occurring serious mental illness (SMI) and a substance use disorder.
- Within each age group of males, veterans had higher rates of co-occurring disorders than non-veterans.
- An estimated 13.2 percent of veterans reported driving while under the influence of alcohol or illicit drugs in the past year compared with 12.2 percent of comparable non-veterans.

Returning Veterans May Choose Community Providers

- Department of Veterans Affairs is the primary provider of mental health and substance use disorder care for returning service men and women.
- Returnees influenced by negative media seek other service providers.
- May not live proximate to a DVA facility.
- National Guard & Reservists may pass expiration date of their VA or Tri-care benefits.
- Family members of veterans may not have any coverage for substance abuse services.

NATIONAL SURVEY OF SUBSTANCE ABUSE TREATMENT SERVICES - 2005

Private non-profit = 7,912 (59%)

Private for Profit = 3,571 (27%)

Local Government = 947 (7%)

State Government = 453 (3%)

Federal Government:

- Dept of Veterans Affairs = 186 (1%)

- Dept of Defense = 93 (1%)

- Indian Health Service = 35 (,1%)

- Other = 4 (,1%)

Tribal Government = 170(1%)

Total = 13,371 (100%)

CSAT TREATMENT PROGRAMS – FY2007

Total \$2.2 billion

**Substance Abuse Prevention and
Treatment Block Grant \$1.8 Billion**

**Programs of Regional and National
Significance (discretionary) \$0.4 Billion**

SUBSTANCE ABUSE TREATMENT DISCRETIONARY GRANTS (2007)

Screening/Brief Intervention	\$30M
Access to Recovery	98M
Treatment for Homeless	34M
HIV/AIDS Treatment	63M
Criminal Justice/Drug Courts	24M
Co-Occurring Disorders	6M
Children/Families	29M
Opioid Treatment	8M
Treatment Expansion	30M
Recovery Community Services	9M
Other	<u>69M</u>
Total	\$400M

SCREENING, BRIEF INTERVENTION, AND REFERRAL (SBIRT)

- **Early identification in general medical, emergency room, campus settings to reduce progression to addiction.**
- **More than 500,000 screened to date.**
- **15% require brief intervention, 5% brief treatment, 2-3% referred for specialized treatment.**
- **New Medicaid HCPCS codes permit reimbursement.**
- **New AMA CPT Alcohol/Drug Screening codes promote reimbursement of medical professionals.**
- **New CSAT website to facilitate broad SBIRT adoption.**

ACCESS TO RECOVERY

- **Creative treatment approach**
 - Client choice of providers through use of vouchers.
 - Emphasis on recovery support services
 - Participation of new providers
 - Financial performance incentive
- **15 ending, 24 new grants (18 States, DC, 5 Tribes)**
- **25% methamphetamine treatment**
- **Highly positive results from first Cohort.**

RECOVERY-ORIENTED SYSTEMS OF CARE

- **Person-centered approach responsive to client and family needs.**
- **Support recovery services as integral part of comprehensive, integrated system.**
- **Recovery services: transportation, relapse prevention, housing, self-help groups, education, spiritual support, etc.**
- **Follow-up calls, meetings, e-mails, assertive linkage to recovery community.**
- **Increased involvement of grassroots organizations in the recovery process.**

ACCESS AND RETENTION IN TREATMENT

- **Network for the Improvement of Addiction Treatment (NIATx), with Robert Wood Johnson Foundation.**
 - Apply business principles
 - Reduce client wait times
 - Increase admissions
 - Increase retention in treatment
- **Strengthening Treatment Access and Retention – State Improvement (STAR-SI)**
- **Recently announced National ACTION Campaign**
 - 500 treatment agencies
 - Apply one of three interventions (rapid access, improved client engagements, or seamless transition between levels of care)
 - 55,000 clients reached over 18 months.

REDUCING STIGMA OF SUBSTANCE ABUSE

- **Know Your Rights Campaign**
 - Protection from discrimination, privacy, remedial actions
 - Brochure describing protections (housing, employment, health care, etc.)
 - Trainings held on federal laws for clients, family, providers, legal staff, etc.
 - Model being developed to incorporate State-specific information into trainings.
- **Recovery month**
 - Last 18 Septembers
 - Celebrates those who have achieved recovery and professionals who have helped them.
 - 654 community events across the Nation.
 - Printed material, website, PSAs, webcasts
 - PSAs reached 17.4 million households
 - Increased calls to national helpline 1-800-662-HELP