



***National Survey of Substance Abuse Treatment Services  
(N-SSATS), 2008***

## **Bibliographic Description**

Title: National Survey of Substance Abuse Treatment Services (N-SSATS), 2008

Alternate Title: N-SSATS, 2008

Principal Investigator(s): United States Department of Health and Human Services. Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration. Office of Applied Studies

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## **Scope of Study**

### **Summary:**

The National Survey of Substance Abuse Treatment Services (N-SSATS) is designed to collect information from all facilities in the United States, both public and private, that provide substance abuse treatment. N-SSATS provides the mechanism for quantifying the dynamic character and composition of the United States substance abuse treatment delivery system. The objectives of N-SSATS are to collect multipurpose data that can be used to assist the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) and state and local governments in assessing the nature and extent of services provided and in forecasting treatment resource requirements, to update SAMHSA's Inventory of Substance Abuse Treatment Services (I-SATS), to analyze general treatment services trends, and to generate the National Directory of Drug and Alcohol Abuse Treatment Programs and its online equivalent, the Substance Abuse Treatment Facility Locator .

Data are collected on topics including facility operation, services offered (assessment and pre-treatment, pharmacotherapies, testing, transitional, ancillary), detoxification, primary focus (substance abuse, mental health, both, general health, and other), hotline operation, Opioid Treatment Programs and medication dispensed/prescribed, counseling and therapeutic approaches, languages in which treatment is provided, type of treatment provided, number of clients (total and under age 18), number of beds, types of payment accepted, sliding fee scale, special programs offered, facility accreditation and licensure/certification, and managed care agreements.

Subject Term(s): alcohol abuse, drug abuse, drug treatment, health care services, HIV, intervention, substance abuse, substance abuse treatment, treatment facilities, treatment programs

Geographic Coverage: United States

Time Period: 2008

Date(s) of Collection: 2008-03-31 - 2008-10-17

Unit of Observation: facility

Universe: -

Data Type: survey data

**Data Collection Notes:** Data were collected by Mathematica Policy Research, Inc., Princeton, NJ, and prepared for release by Synectics for Management Decisions, Inc., Arlington, VA. N-SSATS is a point-prevalence survey. It provides information on the substance abuse treatment system and its clients on the reference date (March 31, 2008). Client counts do not represent annual totals. Rather, N-SSATS provides a "snapshot" of substance abuse treatment facilities and clients on an average day. N-SSATS collects data about facilities, not individual clients. Data on clients represent an aggregate of clients in treatment for each reporting facility. N-SSATS attempts to obtain responses from all known treatment and prevention facilities, but it is a voluntary survey. There is no adjustment for the approximately 5 percent facility nonresponse. To protect the privacy of respondents, financial data originally collected have been removed from the public use file. These modifications should not affect most analytic uses of the public use file.

For users who wish to calculate client counts and admissions, instructions are available on the N-SSATS Series page and at How to calculate N-SSATS client counts and admissions using SDA .

## **Methodology**

**Sample:** The Inventory of Substance Abuse Treatment Services (I-SATS) provides the sampling frame for N-SSATS. Two categories of treatment facilities in I-SATS may be distinguished. The largest group of facilities includes those that are licensed, certified, or otherwise approved by the state substance abuse agency to provide substance abuse treatment. The second group represents the SAMHSA effort in recent years to make I-SATS as comprehensive as possible by including treatment facilities that state substance abuse agencies, for a variety of reasons, do not license or certify. Many of these facilities are private, for-profit, small group practices, or hospital-based programs.

**Mode of Data collection:** mail questionnaire, telephone interview, web-based survey

**Extent of Processing:** Performed consistency checks. Created variable labels and/or value labels. Standardized missing values. Created online analysis version with question text. Performed recodes and/or calculated derived variables. Checked for undocumented or out-of-range codes.

## **Access and Availability**

**Note:** Some instruments administered as part of this study may contain contents from copyrighted instruments. Reproductions of the instruments are provided solely as documentation for the analysis of the data associated with this collection. Please contact the data producers for information on permissions to use the instruments for other purposes.

**Restrictions:** Users are reminded by the United States Department of Health and Human Services that these data are to be used solely for statistical analysis and reporting of aggregated information and not for the investigation of specific individuals or treatment facilities.

**Original Release:** 2010-01-20

**Version History:** The last update of this study occurred on 2016-02-23.

2014-04-25 - This study update was done in order to remove the geographic variables of County, MSA, and CBSA.

2013-11-27 - Updated ddi file to include variable-level groupings.

2012-01-27 - Updated the question text to fix minor typographical errors previously present.

2010-01-26 - Updated the codebook to include question text for MAINTTYP and APPROTH.

**Dataset(s):** DS1: National Survey of Substance Abuse Treatment Services (N-SSATS), 2008