

## National Mental Health Services Survey (N-MHSS), 2012

### Study Details:

The *National Mental Health Services Survey (N-MHSS)* is an annual survey designed to collect statistical information on the numbers and characteristics of all known mental health treatment facilities within the 50 States, the District of Columbia, and the U.S. territories. In every other year, beginning in 2014, the survey also collects statistical information on the numbers and demographic characteristics of persons served in these treatment facilities as of a specified survey reference date. The N-MHSS is the only source of national and State-level data on the mental health service delivery system reported by both publicly-operated and privately-operated specialty mental health treatment facilities, including: public psychiatric hospitals; private psychiatric hospitals, non-federal general hospitals with separate psychiatric units; U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs medical centers; residential treatment centers for children; residential treatment centers for adults; outpatient or day treatment or partial hospitalization mental health facilities; and multi-setting (non-hospital) mental health facilities.

The N-MHSS complements the information collected through SAMHSA's survey of substance abuse treatment facilities, the *National Survey of Substance Abuse Treatment Services (N-SSATS)*. Treatment facility information from the N-MHSS is used to populate the mental health component of SAMHSA's online Behavioral Health Treatment Services Locator <http://findtreatment.samhsa.gov/>

### Study Scope

#### Time period:

2012

#### Collection date:

September 2012 to February 2013

#### Geographic coverage :

United States

#### Data types:

survey data

#### Universe:

The initial N-MHSS universe of 22,457 facilities included all known specialty mental health facilities in the United States and its territories at the beginning of the data collection period. Most facilities in the 2012 N-MHSS frame were identified from the updated database produced after conducting the 2010 N-MHSS, and supplemented by the 2011 mental health augmentation and new facilities added to the I-BHS (Inventory of Behavioral Health Services facilities)

#### Notes:

Data were collected by Mathematica Policy Research, Inc., Princeton, NJ, and prepared for release by Synectics for Management Decisions, Inc., Arlington, VA.

N-MHSS is a point-prevalence survey. It provides information on the mental health treatment system and its clients as of a pre-selected reference date (April 30, 2012). Client counts do not represent

annual totals. Rather, the N-MHSS provides a "snapshot" of mental health treatment facilities and clients on an average day or month.

N-MHSS collects data about facilities, not individual clients. Data on clients represent an aggregate of clients in treatment for each reporting facility. The 2012 N-MHSS does not contain client-level data.

N-MHSS attempts to obtain responses from all known facilities, but it is a voluntary survey. There is no adjustment for the 9.5 percent facility non-response.

**Subject Terms:**

- mental health
- mental health services
- treatment facilities
- treatment programs

## **Study Methodology**

**Mode of data collection:**

mail questionnaire, web instrument, computer-assisted telephone interview (CATI)

**Sample:**

**Response rates:**

- Of the 22,457 mental health treatment facilities in the survey, 25.3 percent were found to be ineligible for the survey because they did not provide mental health treatment services, had a primary treatment focus of substance abuse services or general health care, provided treatment for incarcerated persons only (i.e., in jails or prisons), or were an individual or small group mental health practice not licensed or certified as a mental health center or clinic. Almost ninety-one percent (90.5) of the 16,782 eligible facilities completed the survey, including 1,208 facilities that provided administrative services only. More than half of the respondents (57.5 percent) completed the survey on the web and 42.5 percent on the telephone. A very small number of participants completed the survey through the mail.

**Versions:**

- 2014-07-17: Changed the Stata system data file from version 13 to version 12 for compatibility on a wider range of systems.
- 2014-04-03: Data were updated to remove errant value labels in the state (STFIPS) variable.

**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.