



***National Survey of Substance Abuse Treatment Services
(N-SSATS) -- Concatenated, 1997 to 2011***

Bibliographic Description

Title: National Survey of Substance Abuse Treatment Services (N-SSATS) -- Concatenated, 1997 to 2011

Alternate Title: N-SSATS, Concatenated, 1997 to 2011

Principal Investigator(s): United States Department of Health and Human Services. Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration. Center for Behavioral Health Statistics and Quality

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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.

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 medications 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.

N-SSATS was titled the Uniform Facility Data Set (UFDS) in 1997 and 1998. Data from these years along with N-SSATS 2000 and N-SSATS 2002 to N-SSATS 2011 are included in this concatenated dataset.

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: 1997 - 1998 - 2000 - 2002 - 2011

Date(s) of Collection: 1997-10-01 - 1998-03-31 - 1998-10-01 - 1999-03-31 - 2000-10-01 - 2001-04-30 - 2002-03-29 - 2002-10-01 - 2003-03-31 - 2003-10-01 - 2004-03-31 - 2004-10-01 - 2005-03-31 - 2005-10-01 - 2006-03-31 - 2006-10-03 - 2007-03-30 - 2007-10-17 - 2008-03-31 - 2008-10-17 - 2009-03-31 - 2009-10-17 - 2010-03-31 - 2010-10-18 - 2011-03-31 - 2011-10-24

Unit of Observation: facility

Universe: This concatenated file includes 173,590 records representing 31,477 individual treatment facilities. The universe for N-SSATS includes all active substance abuse treatment facilities on SAMHSA's I-SATS at a point six weeks before the survey reference date. Facilities added by State substance abuse agencies or through annual frame enhancement or discovered during the first three weeks of the survey are also included in the survey universe for each year.

The reference date for each year is:

1997: October 1

1998: October 1

2000: October 1

2002: March 29

2003: March 31

2004: March 31

2005: March 31

2006: March 31

2007: March 30

2008: March 31

2008: March 31

2008: March 31

2008: March 31

2009: March 31

2010: March 31

2011: March 31

Note: Data from 1999 are not publically available and no survey was conducted in 2001.

Data Type: survey data

Data Collection Notes: The Center for Behavioral Health Statistics and Quality was formerly named the Office of Applied Studies. The yearly N-SSATS data collected from 1997 to 2009 were collected under the Office of Applied Studies. In 2010 data began to be collected under the Center for Behavioral Health Statistics and Quality.

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. 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 facilities that provide substance abuse treatment, but it is a voluntary survey. There is no adjustment for facility nonresponse.

This is a concatenated file of the individual N-SSATS files. The 2008 survey was selected as the "base" year. The concatenated file includes equivalent variables from prior years. If an equivalent variable (i.e., with similar question wording) was not part of an earlier survey, the variable was constructed from the existing questions where possible. If an equivalent variable did not exist or could not be constructed, variables expressing a similar concept or topic were included.

The question text for most variables is based on the 2008 questionnaire. The question text for variables that have no equivalent in the 2008 survey was taken from the most recent questionnaire that included the variable. As question wording and definitions may vary slightly from year to year, the individual questionnaires should be consulted in any analysis.

General topics and data items that were discontinued before the 2008 survey are not included in the concatenated data set. The majority of these discontinuations occurred at the time of the major survey redesign prior to the 2000 survey. Discontinued data items were those where data reported was found to be unreliable and include facility revenue, percent of population representing specific groups, unduplicated client counts, wait list information, managed care ownership, and parent/affiliate relationships. Please see Table 4 of the PDF codebook for a crosswalk of the variables included in each survey year.

The concatenated file includes the facilities in the N-SSATS Annual Reports and public use files. Rules for the inclusion of facilities in the data file vary slightly. In 1997 only, facilities treating only DUI/DWI clients were ineligible to complete the survey. From 2000 on, non-state approved solo practitioners, and facilities where all clients were incarcerated were excluded.

In 1997, 1998, and 2000 the survey reference date was October 1. The reference date was changed to the last business day in March beginning with the 2002 survey. This change was made to help increase the timeliness of responses by facilities. As a result, no data were collected for 2001.

In 2002, a Web option for survey response was introduced and used by 20 percent of responding facilities. By 2010, this had increased to 61 percent.

Methodology

Sample: The Inventory of Behavioral Health Services (I-BHS) provides the sampling frame for N-SSATS and includes all active substance abuse treatment facilities, public and private, known to SAMHSA. The majority (approximately 80 percent) of facilities are those that are licensed, certified, or otherwise approved by the state substance abuse agency to provide substance abuse treatment. This group also includes programs operated by Federal agencies—the Department of Veterans Affairs, the Department of Defense, the Indian Health Service—and Opioid Treatment Programs certified by SAMHSA. The rest of facilities represent SAMHSA's effort since the mid-1990s to make the I-SATS as comprehensive as possible by including treatment facilities that State substance abuse agencies, for a variety of reasons, do not fund, license, or certify. Many of these facilities are private for-profit, small group practices, or hospital-based programs. Most of them are identified through periodic screening of alternative source databases. State substance abuse agencies are given the opportunity to review these facilities and to add them to the State agency-approved list, if appropriate.

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: -

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: 2011-06-01

Version History: The last update of this study occurred on 2014-04-25.

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

2013-11-19 - The value labels were added onto the COUNTY variable.

2013-11-15 - Added 2011 data to the N-SSATS concatenated data file.

2012-06-07 - Added 2010 data to the N-SSATS concatenated data file.

Dataset(s): DS1: National Survey of Substance Abuse Treatment Services (N-SSATS) -- Concatenated, 1997 to 2011