



*National Survey of Substance Abuse  
Treatment Services*

*(N-SSATS), 2015*

## Bibliographic Description

Title:	National Survey of Substance Abuse Treatment Services (N-SSATS), 2015
Alternate Title:	N-SSATS 2015
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
Funding Agency:	United States Department of Health and Human Services. Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration. Center for Behavioral Health Statistics and Quality

## Scope of Study

Summary:	<p>The 2015 National Survey of Substance Abuse Treatment Services (N-SSATS) was conducted between March and November 2015, with a reference date of March 31, 2015. It is the 38<sup>th</sup> in a series of national surveys begun in the 1970s. The surveys were designed to collect data on the location, characteristics, and use of alcohol and drug abuse treatment facilities and services throughout the 50 states, the District of Columbia, and other U.S. jurisdictions. The Center for Behavioral Health Statistics and Quality, Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA), U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, plans and directs N-SSATS. This report presents tabular information and highlights from the 2015 N-SSATS. It is important to note that percentages in charts, narrative lists, and percentage</p>
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distributions in tables may not add to 100 percent due to rounding.

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 U.S. substance abuse treatment delivery system. N-SSATS collects multipurpose data that can be used to:

- Assist SAMHSA and state and local governments in assessing the nature and extent of services provided in state-supported and other substance abuse treatment facilities and in forecasting substance abuse treatment resource requirements;
- **Update SAMHSA's Inventory of Behavioral Health Services (I-BHS)** which includes all known drug and alcohol abuse treatment facilities, both public and private;
- **Analyze substance abuse treatment services trends and** conduct comparative analyses for the nation, regions, and states;
- **Generate the** National Directory of Drug and Alcohol Abuse Treatment Programs, a compendium of facilities approved by state substance abuse agencies for the provision of substance abuse treatment;

and

- **Update the information in SAMHSA's Behavioral Health Treatment Facility Locator**, a searchable database of facilities approved by state substance abuse agencies for the provision of substance abuse treatment. The Treatment Facility Locator is available on the Internet at:

<https://findtreatment.samhsa.gov>

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: **2015**

Date(s) of Collection: 2015-03-31 - 2015-12-07

Unit of Observation: facility

Universe: The 2015 N-SSATS facility universe totaled 17,669 facilities, including all 16,601 active treatment **facilities on SAMHSA's I-BHS** at a point 6 weeks before the survey reference date and 1,068 facilities that were added by state substance abuse agencies or otherwise discovered during the first 3 months of the survey.

Data Type: survey data

Data Collection Notes: Three data collection modes were employed: a secure web-based questionnaire, a paper questionnaire sent by mail, and a telephone interview. Five weeks before the survey reference date of March 31, 2015, letters were mailed to all facilities to announce the survey. The letters also served to update records with new address information received from the U.S. Postal Service. During the last week of March 2015, a data collection packet (including the SAMHSA cover letter, state-specific letter of endorsement, state profile, information on completing the survey on the web, and a sheet of Frequently Asked Questions) was mailed to each facility. To ease the burden on respondents, many of the data items that typically do not change from year to year were prefilled in the web-based questionnaire for those facilities that had completed the 2014 survey. Respondents could also request a paper questionnaire be sent to them. During the data collection phase, contract personnel were available to answer **facilities' questions concerning the survey**. Web-based support for facilities completing the questionnaire on the web was also available. Three weeks after the initial data collection packet mailing, thank you/reminder letters were sent to all facilities. Approximately 8 weeks after the initial packet mailing, non-responding facilities were mailed a second packet. There was no questionnaire in the 2015 second packet. About 2 weeks after the second packet mailing, non-respondents received a reminder telephone call. A third packet containing a hard-copy questionnaire was mailed about 8 weeks after the second packet mailing. Those facilities that had not responded

within 3 to 4 weeks of the reminder call were telephoned and asked to complete the survey by computer-assisted telephone interview (CATI).

## Methodology

Sample:	There were 17,669 facilities in the survey universe. Of these facilities, 12 percent were found to be ineligible for the survey because they had closed or did not provide substance abuse treatment or detoxification. Of the remaining 15,537 facilities, 14,234 facilities (92 percent) completed the survey and 13,873 (89 percent) were eligible for this report.
Mode of Data collection:	computer-assisted telephone interview (CATI), mail questionnaire, telephone interview, web-based survey
Extent of Processing:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Performed consistency checks.</li><li>• Created variable labels and/or value labels.</li><li>• Standardized missing values.</li><li>• Created online analysis version with question text.</li><li>• Performed recodes and/or calculated derived variables.</li><li>• Checked for undocumented or out-of-range codes.</li></ul>

## 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:	2017-01-25

Version History: -

Dataset(s): DS1: National Survey of Substance Abuse Treatment  
Services (N-SSATS), 2015