

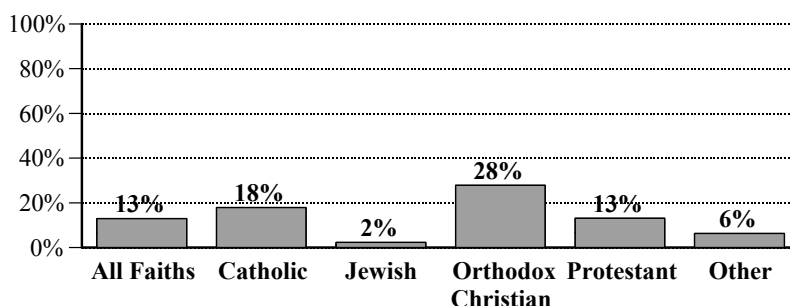
A Weekly FAX from the Center for Substance Abuse Research

University of Maryland, College Park

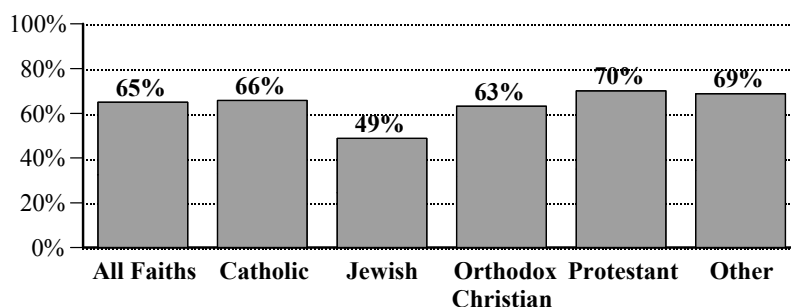
Clergy Members Receive Little Substance Abuse Training in Theology School

Only 13% of clergy members completed any coursework related to substance abuse during their clerical studies, according to a survey of 1,200 active clergy in New York, Florida, Iowa, and Washington. Orthodox Christians (28%) were most likely to have completed substance abuse-related coursework, followed by Catholics (18%), and Protestants (13%). Perhaps to fill this gap, nearly two-thirds (65%) of clergy reported that they had sought substance abuse training on their own since ordination (ranging from 49% among Jewish clergy to 70% among Protestant clergy) (see figures below). These findings suggest that theological training centers may need to expand their focus to include substance abuse training, especially if faith-based organizations are to play a greater role in providing substance abuse services.

Percentage of Clergy Members Who Completed Coursework on Substance Abuse in Theology School, 1999



Percentage of Clergy Members Who Subsequently Sought Substance Abuse Training on Their Own, 1999



SOURCE: Adapted by CESAR from The National Center on Addiction and Substance Abuse at Columbia University, "So Help Me God: Substance Abuse, Religion, and Spirituality," November 2001. Available online at http://www.casacolumbia.org/usr_doc/Spirituality%2Epdf