

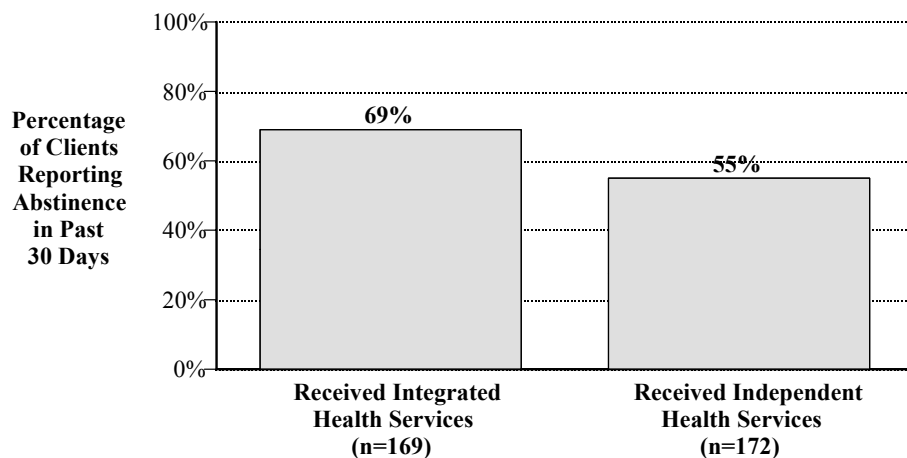
A Weekly FAX from the Center for Substance Abuse Research

University of Maryland, College Park

Providing Integrated Health Care and Substance Abuse Treatment Improves Treatment Outcomes

Offering health care services as part of a substance abuse treatment program improves treatment outcomes, according to a study of adults admitted to a substance abuse treatment program in California. Clients with substance abuse-related medical conditions who received health care as part of their treatment program were more likely than those who received health care independent of their program to be abstinent 6 months after leaving treatment (69% vs. 55%; $p < .01$). In addition, clients receiving integrated services had greater reductions in emergency department use and medical costs. The authors suggest that these differences are largely due to the relationship between the client and the physicians. Physicians within the addiction program may be more knowledgeable about their patients' substance abuse and program status and accordingly adjust medical evaluations and treatment" (p. 1722).

Abstinence of Treatment Clients with Substance Abuse-Related Medical Conditions Six Months After Treatment Exit, by Integrated or Independent Health Services



SOURCE: Adapted by CESAR from Weisner C., Mertens J., Parthasarathy S., Moore C., Lu Y. "Integrating Primary Medical Care with Addiction Treatment, A Randomized Controlled Trial," Journal of the American Medical Association 286(14):1715-1723. For more information, contact Dr. Constance Weisner at cmw@dor.kaiser.org.