

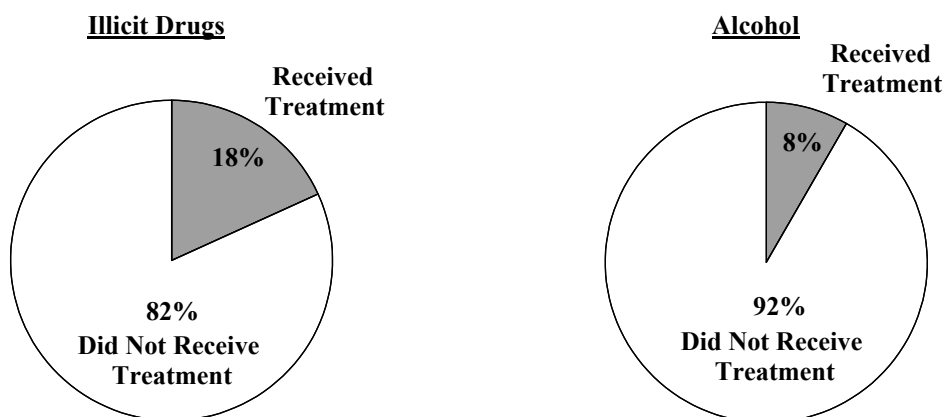
A Weekly FAX from the Center for Substance Abuse Research

University of Maryland, College Park

Majority of U.S. Residents With Illicit Drug and Alcohol Problems Receive No Treatment; Most Feel Treatment is Not Needed

The majority of United States residents who had an alcohol or illicit drug problem in 2002 did not receive treatment for their problem. The 2002 National Survey on Drug Use and Health (NSDUH) reports that of the estimated 7.7 million individuals who needed treatment for an illicit drug problem in the past year, only 18% (approximately 1.4 million) received treatment. Moreover, only 8% (approximately 1.5 million) of the 18.6 million individuals in need of alcohol treatment received treatment. One reason for not receiving treatment appears to be that many persons do not perceive a need for treatment. Nearly all (94% illicit drugs; 96% alcohol) individuals who needed but did not receive treatment reported that they did not feel a need for treatment. Furthermore, of the few people who felt they needed treatment, only a small proportion made an effort to seek treatment (24% illicit drugs; 35% alcohol), suggesting that there may be perceived barriers to treatment. (See *CESAR FAX* Volume 10, Issue 31, for more information on barriers to treatment).

Percentage of U.S. Residents Who Needed and Received Treatment for an Illicit Drug or Alcohol Problem in the Last Year, 2002



NOTES: Respondents were classified as *needing treatment* for a drug or alcohol problem if they met at least one of three criteria during the past year: (1) dependent on drugs or alcohol; (2) abuse of drugs or alcohol; (3) received treatment. *Receiving treatment* was defined as receiving treatment for a drug or alcohol problem at an inpatient or outpatient drug or alcohol rehabilitation facility, an inpatient hospital, or a mental health center. *Illicit drugs* are defined as marijuana/hashish, cocaine (including crack), inhalants, hallucinogens (including LSD and PCP), heroin, or any prescription-type psychotherapeutic drug used non-medically.

SOURCE: Adapted by Cesar from the Office of Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration. Results from the 2002 *National Survey on Drug Use and Health: National Findings*, 2003. Available online (<http://www.samhsa.gov/oas/nhsda.htm>).

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