

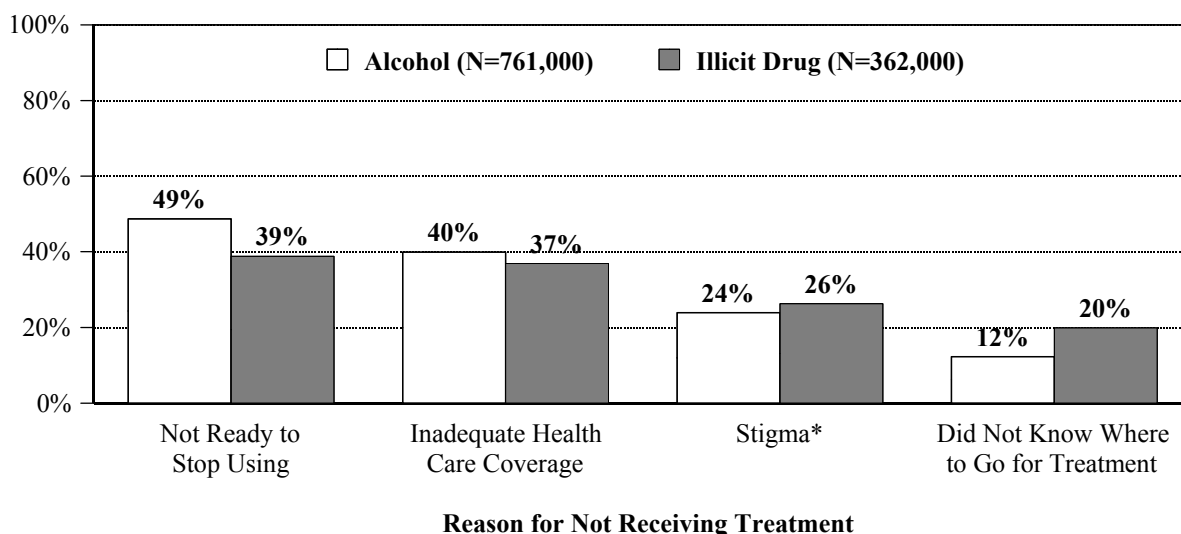
A Weekly FAX from the Center for Substance Abuse Research

University of Maryland, College Park

Reluctance to Stop Using and Inadequate Health Care Coverage Are Primary Reasons for Not Receiving Treatment for Alcohol and Illicit Drug Problems

The majority of United States residents who had an alcohol or illicit drug problem in 2002 did not receive treatment and did not feel they needed it, according to data from the National Survey on Drug Use and Health. Furthermore, only around 5% of those who felt they needed treatment actually sought treatment (see *CESAR FAX*, Volume 12, Issue 40). The most common reason given for not receiving needed alcohol or illicit drug treatment was that they were not ready to stop using (49% for alcohol treatment; 40% for illicit drug treatment). Approximately 40% reported that they did not seek alcohol or drug treatment because they couldn't afford the cost of treatment, either because they had no health care coverage or their health care plan didn't cover treatment. Other reasons reported for not receiving treatment were stigma associated with receiving treatment and not knowing where to receive treatment.

Percentage of U.S. Residents (Aged 12 or Older) with an Alcohol or Illicit Drug Problem Who Felt They Needed But Did Not Receive Treatment, by Reason for Not Receiving Treatment, 2002



NOTE: Stigma included (1) might cause neighbors or community to have negative opinion, (2) might have negative effect on job, and (3) ashamed/embarrassed/afraid to go to treatment or were afraid they would get in trouble with the police or social services.

SOURCE: Adapted by CESAR from Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA), "Reasons for Not Receiving Substance Abuse Treatment," *The NSDUH Report*, November 7, 2003. Available online at <http://www.samhsa.gov/oas/2k3/SAnoTX/SAnoTX.cfm>.

• 301-405-9770 (voice) • 301-403-8342 (fax) • CESAR@cesar.umd.edu • www.cesar.umd.edu •

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