

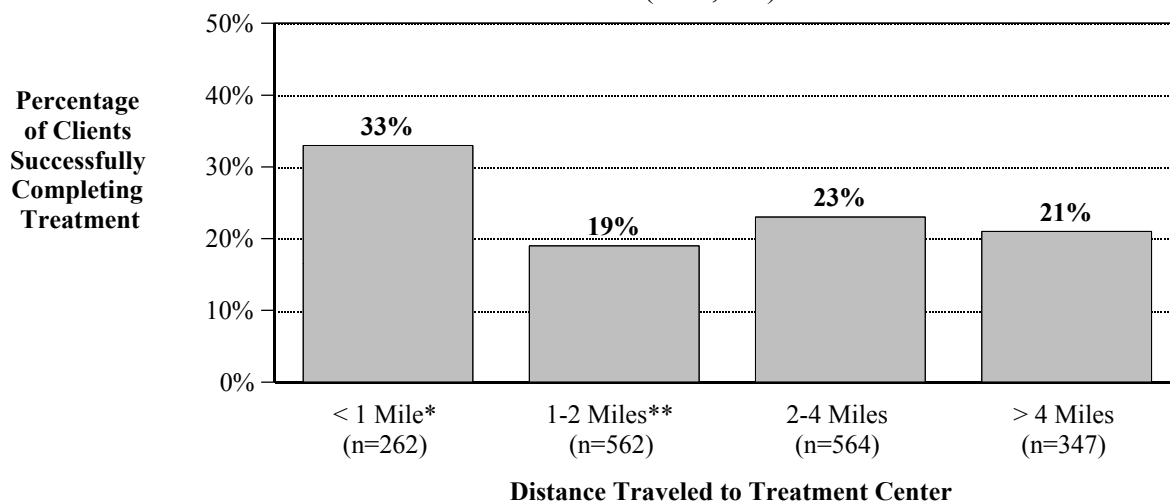
A Weekly FAX from the Center for Substance Abuse Research

University of Maryland, College Park

Outpatient Drug Treatment Clients Who Travel Less Than One Mile To the Program Are More Likely To Complete Treatment

Clients in outpatient drug treatment programs who travel a shorter distance to treatment are more likely to complete treatment programs, according to a study of clients in 30 different publicly-funded outpatient programs in Baltimore City. In fiscal year 1998, less than one-fourth (23%) of all clients who sought treatment at outpatient facilities completed treatment. However, 33% of clients traveling less than 1 mile for treatment completed their programs successfully, compared to 19% to 23% of clients traveling further. After controlling for the effects of demographic variables and type of drug problem, traveling more than 1 mile for treatment reduced the chances of client treatment completion by nearly 50% (data not shown). According to the authors, "These findings have important implications for the geographic placement of new treatment facilities, as well as the provision of transportation services to maximize treatment retention" (p. 279).

**Percentage of Clients Who Successfully Completed Outpatient Treatment in Baltimore City,
by Distance Traveled to Drug Treatment Center, Fiscal Year 1998**
(N=1,735)



*p<0.001; **p<0.05 (compared to all clients)

NOTE: Completion is defined by the counselor as successful completion of client's treatment goals.

SOURCE: Adapted by CESAR from Beardsley, K., Wish, E., Fitzelle, D., O'Grady, K., and Arria, A. "Distance Traveled to Outpatient Drug Treatment and Client Retention," *Journal of Substance Abuse Treatment* 25 (4):279-285, 2003. For more information, contact Dr. Amelia Arria at aarria@cesar.umd.edu.

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