

A Weekly FAX from the Center for Substance Abuse Research

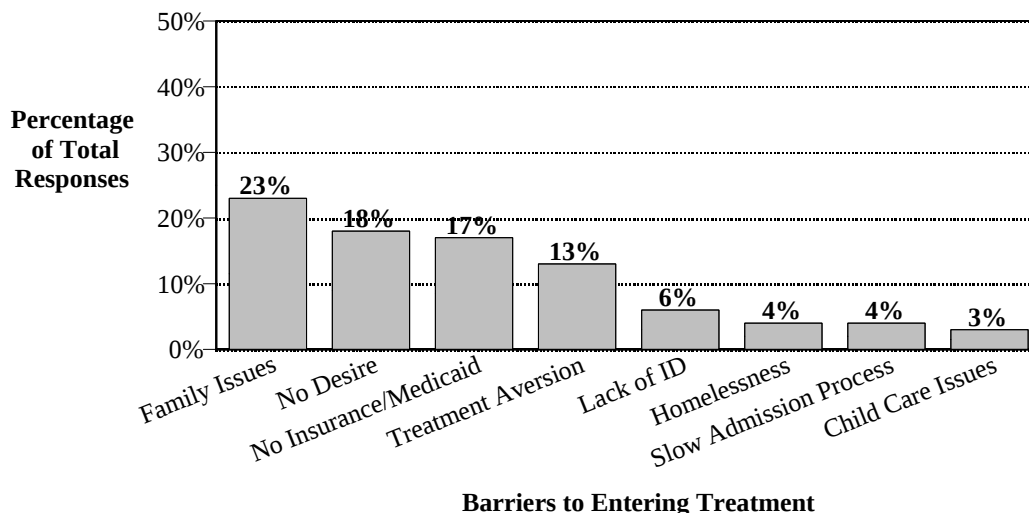
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Family Issues Main Barrier to Treatment for Injection Drug Users in New York City

Family issues were cited by injection drug users as the main obstacle to enrolling in treatment, according to a study of injection drug users (IDUs) contacted by street outreach workers in New York City. Nearly one-fourth (23%) of the barriers mentioned could be characterized as family reasons, such as wanting to conceal addiction from a spouse, having to care for an ill family member, or being the sole breadwinner in the family. Other barriers cited included a lack of desire to enter treatment (18%), a lack of insurance or Medicaid (17%), an aversion to treatment (13%), and a lack of personal identification (6%). When asked for suggestions of what would make it easier to get into treatment programs, IDUs most often suggested admitting people without insurance or Medicaid, admitting those without identification, and reducing waiting periods (data not shown). The authors conclude that, "The research reported here strongly suggest that there are significant limits on the availability and accessibility of AOD services for injecting street outreach clients, and perhaps, for IDUs generally," therefore the "health services community is also losing ground in its effort to reduce the incidence of a fatal disease, HIV/AIDS, among a major group involved in its transmission" (p. 151).

Barriers to Enrollment in Drug Abuse Treatment Reported by Street Injecting Drug Users in New York City, April 2000 to February 2001

(N=209 responses mentioned by 144 IDUs)



SOURCE: Adapted by CESAR from Appel, P., Ellison, A., Jansky, H., and Oldak, R. "Barriers to Enrollment in Drug Abuse Treatment and Suggestions for Reducing Them: Opinions of Drug Injecting Street Outreach Clients and Other System Stakeholders," *The American Journal of Drug and Alcohol Abuse* 30(1):129-153, 2004. For more information contact Dr. Philip W. Appel at appelp@oasas.state.ny.us.

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