

A Weekly FAX from the Center for Substance Abuse Research

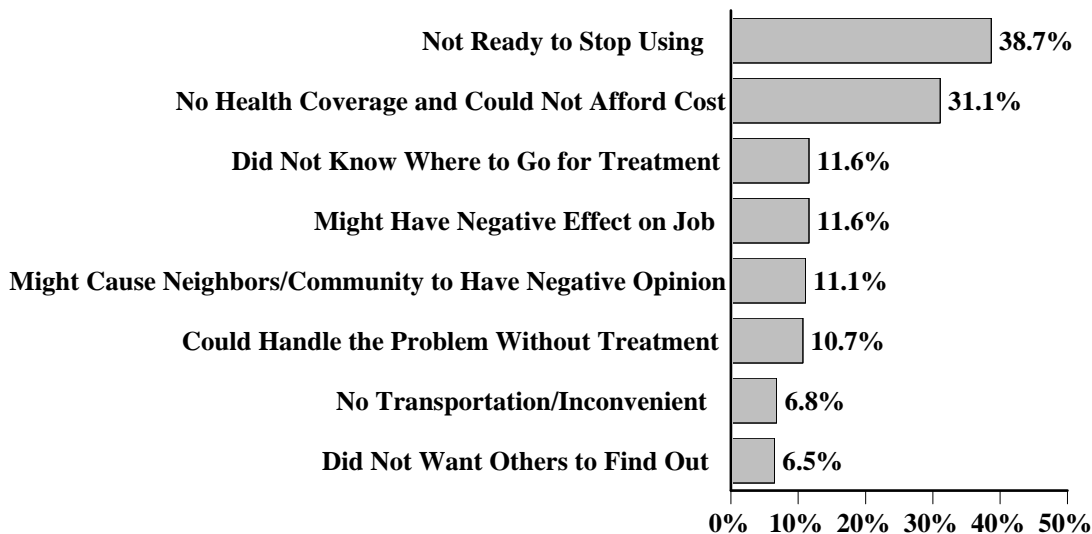
University of Maryland, College Park

***Lack of Motivation to Quit and Health Coverage
Top Reasons for Not Receiving Needed Alcohol or Drug Treatment***

An estimated 17.7 million people who needed alcohol treatment in the past year and 6.2 million who needed illicit drug treatment did not receive it, according to data from the 2007 National Household Survey on Drug Use and Health (NSDUH). The primary reason for not receiving treatment among those who were classified as needing—and felt they needed—treatment was not being ready to stop using alcohol or illicit drugs (38.7%). The second most commonly cited reason for not receiving treatment was having no health coverage and not being able to afford the cost (31.1%). Other reasons given were not knowing where to go for treatment, thinking that going to treatment might have a negative effect on their job or social relationships, or that they could handle the problem without treatment (see figure below).

**Reasons Given for Not Receiving Alcohol or Illicit Drug
Treatment in the Past Year, 2004 to 2007 Annual Averages**

(N=1,167,000 U.S. residents ages 12 and older classified as needing and perceiving a need for—but not receiving—treatment)



NOTES: Respondents were classified as *needing treatment* if in the past year they met the diagnostic criteria for abuse or dependence on the substance or received treatment for the substance at a specialty facility. A *specialty facility* was defined as an inpatient or outpatient rehabilitation facility, an inpatient hospital, or a mental health center.

SOURCE: Adapted by CESAR from Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA), *Results from the 2007 National Household Survey on Drug Use and Health: National Findings*, 2008. Available online at <http://www.oas.samhsa.gov/nsduhLatest.htm>.