

A Weekly FAX from the Center for Substance Abuse Research

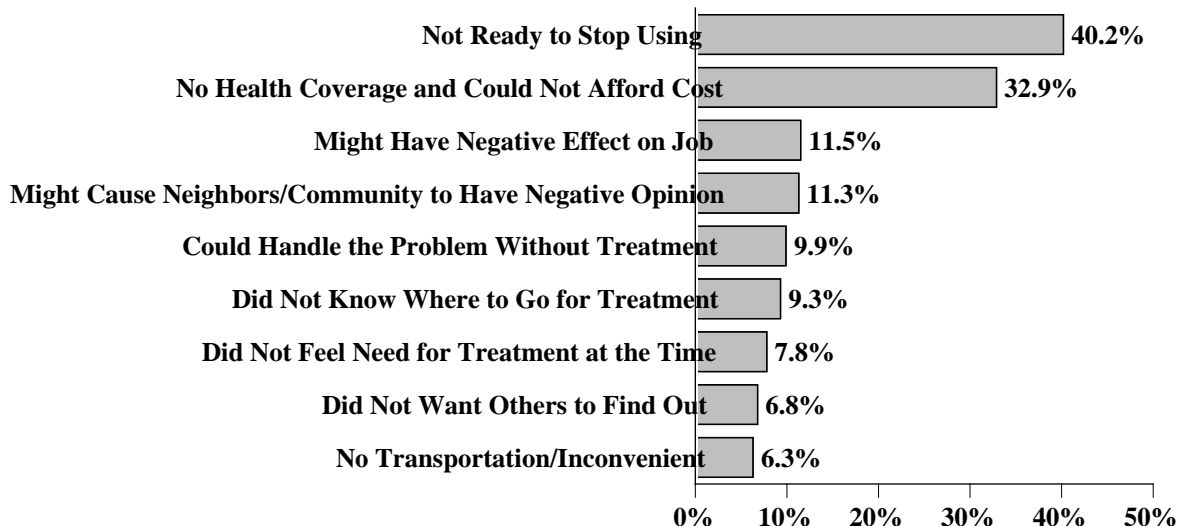
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Lack of Motivation to Quit and Health Coverage Top Reasons for Not Receiving Needed Alcohol or Drug Treatment

An estimated 20.5 million people needed but did not receive alcohol or drug treatment in the past year, according to data from the 2010 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 (40.2%). The second most commonly cited reason for not receiving treatment was having no health coverage and not being able to afford the cost (32.9%). People in need of alcohol treatment were more likely than those in need of drug treatment to cite not being ready to stop using (45.1% vs. 30.7%; data not shown), while those needing drug treatment were more likely to cite not having health coverage and could not afford the cost (41.8% vs. 30.9%; data not shown). 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 thinking 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, 2007 to 2010 Annual Averages

(N=an estimated 1,341,000 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 2007-2010 National Household Survey on Drug Use and Health: National Findings*, 2010. Available online at <http://www.samhsa.gov/data/NSDUH/2k10ResultsTables/Web/PDFW/Cover.pdf>.