

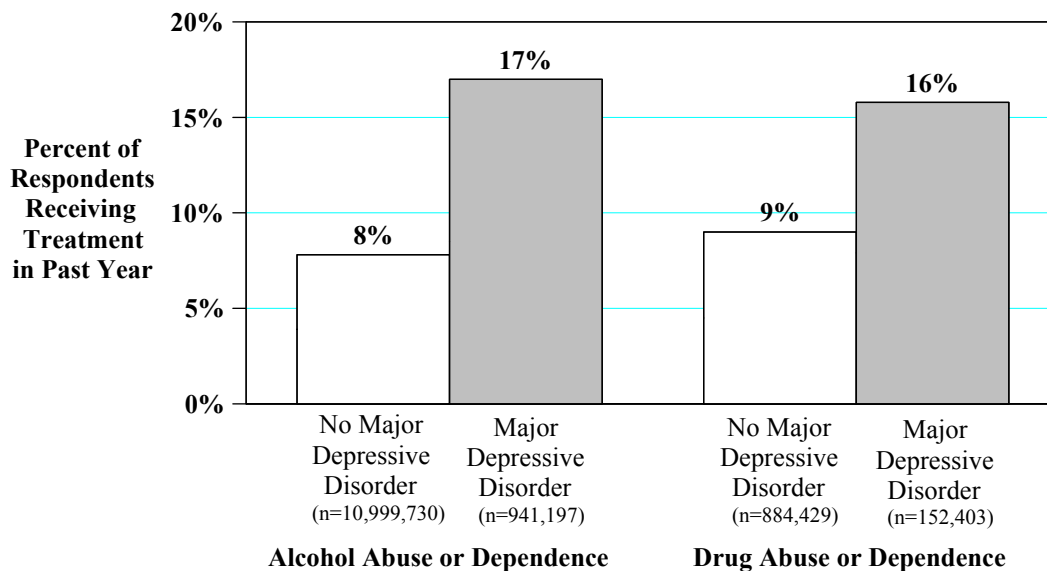
A Weekly FAX from the Center for Substance Abuse Research

University of Maryland, College Park

Association Between Substance Use and Major Depression in Treatment Populations May be Influenced by Increased Treatment Seeking

Household survey data from the National Longitudinal Alcohol Epidemiologic Survey (NLAES) have been analyzed to examine the influence of comorbid major depression and substance use disorders on alcohol and drug treatment. Respondents with both a major depressive and a drug or alcohol use disorder (abuse/dependence based on DSM-IV criteria) were approximately twice as likely as those without a major depressive disorder to report that they had received substance abuse treatment in the past year. According to the author, "these findings suggest that the magnitude of the association between substance use disorders and major depression seen in clinical samples is, in part, due to increased treatment-seeking behavior in comorbid individuals" (p. 13). Future analyses of the NLAES data will investigate the factors that influence treatment entry.

Percentage of Respondents Receiving Alcohol/Drug Treatment in the Past Year, by Presence of a Major Depressive and Alcohol or Drug Disorder



SOURCE: Adapted by CESAR from data from Bridget Grant, "The Influence of Comorbid Major Depression and Substance Use Disorders on Alcohol and Drug Treatment: Results of a National Survey," *Treatment of Drug-Dependent Individuals with Comorbid Mental Disorders*, National Institute on Drug Abuse Research Monograph No. 172, 1997, 172:4-15. For more information, contact Dr. Bridget Grant at 301-443-3306.

Mental Illness and Substance Abuse Conference to be Held in Baltimore, Md.

A conference on "Integrated Approaches to Co-occurring Mental Illness and Substance Abuse" will be held September 21-23, 1997 at the Omni Inner Harbor Hotel in Baltimore, Md. For more information, contact Colleen Dunne by phone (215-842-4380) or e-mail (dunne@auhs.edu).

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