

Scope of Study

STATE SUBSTANCE ABUSE TREATMENT FOR ADULTS

Throughout the United States, substance abuse is a major social, health, and criminal justice problem, involving significant public investment in prevention, treatment, and law enforcement services. Effective policies and programs for addressing the misuse of alcohol and drugs can help users achieve recovery, improve public health and community well-being, and reduce crime and violence.

In Connecticut, the Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services (DMHAS) is the lead state agency for substance abuse prevention and treatment. DMHAS, in addition to administering and funding community-based prevention efforts, operates three inpatient substance abuse treatment facilities. It also funds and monitors more than 170 alcohol and drug abuse programs that range from ambulatory and outpatient care, to intensive and intermediate residential services, partial hospitalization, long-term rehabilitation, and aftercare. During FY 05, the department expended over \$128 million on treatment services related to alcohol and drug abuse. This represents nearly 64 percent of estimated total spending by all state entities on substance abuse treatment that year (\$202 million).

Other state entities, including the Department of Correction (DOC), the Department of Children and Families (DCF), and the Judicial Branch, have roles in providing treatment services as well as in drug and alcohol law enforcement. The DOC addiction services unit administers substance abuse treatment programs for the state's offender population while DCF, as the state agency for children's behavioral health, is responsible for alcohol and drug abuse services for those age 18 and under. The Judicial Branch Court Support Services Division (CSSD) oversees and funds substance abuse prevention and treatment services for individuals diverted from the criminal justice system including persons placed on probation. DMHAS, however, has primary responsibility for statewide planning and data analysis related to substance abuse services, and must coordinate all state alcohol and drug abuse prevention and treatment activities.

AREA OF FOCUS

The study will focus on how DMHAS carries out its substance abuse treatment mission, including its responsibilities for coordinating state agency treatment activities. It will also examine how alcohol and drug abuse treatment services are provided to adults by the Department of Correction and the Court Support Services Division. In addition, the study will evaluate how DMHAS determines the effectiveness of various state treatment programs and services.

AREAS OF ANALYSIS

1. Identify the state's major substance abuse treatment policies and the agency mission, goals, and objectives related to substance abuse treatment of DMHAS, DOC, and CSSD.
2. Identify and categorize the substance abuse programs and services provided by DMHAS, DOC, and CSSD.

3. Describe the adults who receive substance abuse services from each of these three agencies (e.g., demographics, problem substance, service needs, etc.)
4. Describe and compare each agency's procedures for:
 - a. intake and screening;
 - b. delivering clinical treatment and support services;
 - c. procuring services (contracting and contract management);
 - d. maintaining client recovery (aftercare); and
 - e. evaluating effectiveness.
5. Analyze available information on program and service effectiveness.
6. Examine access to services and system capacity issues (e.g., waiting lists).
7. Analyze state expenditures for substance abuse treatment services and available information on cost-effectiveness.
8. Compare current state agency procedures to best practices and models for implementing substance abuse treatment.

AREAS NOT UNDER REVIEW

The study would not examine primary prevention services or state criminal justice policies and procedures (enforcement/sanctions) related to substance abuse. Substance abuse services for those age 18 and under would also be excluded from this study scope.