

Wyoming Substance Abuse Social Indicator and Unmet Treatment Need and Demand Study

Research Brief

Prepared
by

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INTRODUCTION

In 2004, DATACORP studied the need for treatment of substance abuse problems in Wyoming's counties. The study examined the prevalence of problems related to substance abuse, and it examined unmet need and unmet demand for treatment. This Research Brief highlights the major findings from the study. The findings can be used to plan for new treatment programs and to consider how to allocate additional resources.

METHODS

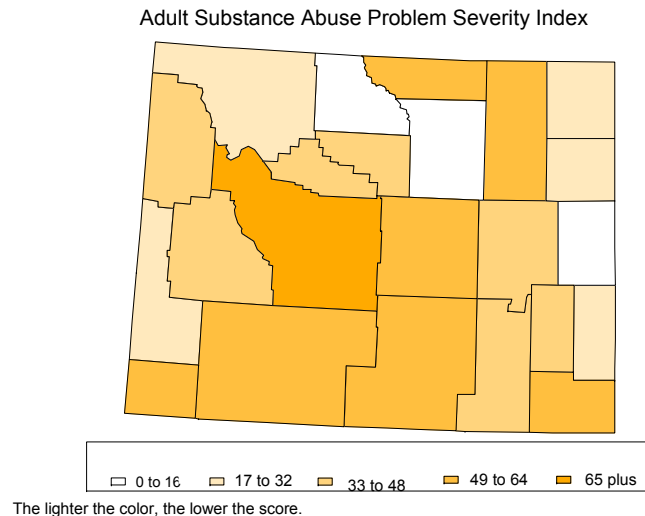
Three major analyses were undertaken. In the first analysis, researchers combined Wyoming county-level social indicators into alcohol, drug, and substance abuse problem severity indices. The second analysis estimated the number of people who needed treatment but did not receive it; while the third analysis estimated the number of people who attempted to get treatment but did not receive it.

Prior to calculating the indices, each set of indicators was screened for reliability, normality, and divergent/convergent validity. Eight indicators passed screening and were used in the creation of the indices: 1) adult alcohol-related arrests, 2) adult indirect alcohol-related arrests, 3) adult alcohol-related hospital discharges, 4) adult drug-related arrests, 5) adult indirect drug-related arrests, 6) adult drug-related hospital discharges, 7) sexually transmitted disease cases, and 8) hepatitis B or C cases. The first three indicators were combined to calculate the alcohol problem severity index (A-PSI). The later five were combined to calculate the drug problem severity index (D-PSI). All of the indicators were used to form the substance abuse problem severity index (SA-PSI). Higher values suggest greater problem severity in the relevant county. The SA-PSI is presented in this report.

The second and third analyses evaluated unmet need and demand for substance abuse treatment in Wyoming's counties. The analysis on unmet need identified a gap in services for those Wyoming residents that needed substance abuse treatment but did not receive it. Unmet demand, the second treatment gap, determined the number of residents that needed treatment, attempted to receive it, but were unable to receive it. Both treatment gaps were calculated based on the national results of the non-metropolitan statistical area regions in the National Survey on Drug Use and Health (NSDUH) data for specific demographic groups. The results from the NSDUH for each demographic group were multiplied by the number of county residents falling into each demographic category. This resulted in a synthetic estimation of the number of county residents that had unmet treatment need or demand.

SUBSTANCE ABUSE PROBLEM SEVERITY INDEX

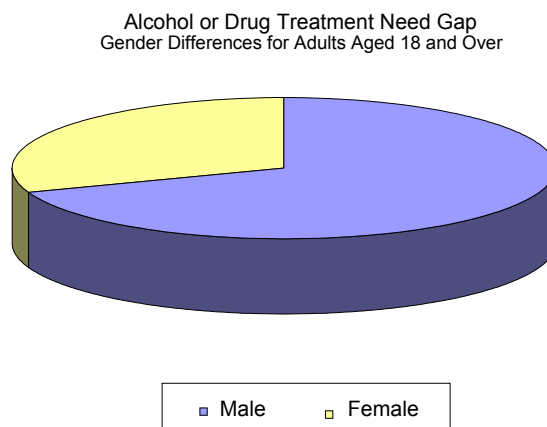
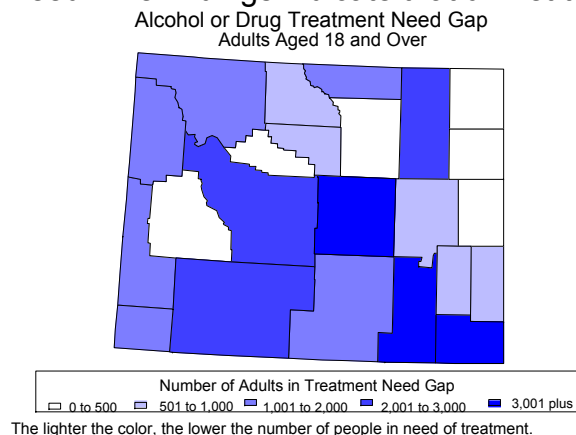
The map below depicts the distribution of the Substance Abuse Problem Severity Index by county. Larger index values signify greater substance abuse problems and more need for treatment. The four counties with the highest index ratings were Fremont, Natrona, Carbon, and Campbell. It should be noted that only Fremont and Natrona were Tier 1 Comprehensive Substance Abuse Center (CSAC) counties. The counties with the lowest rates on the index were Big Horn, Johnson, and Niobrara.



UNMET SUBSTANCE ABUSE TREATMENT NEED

The estimated county distribution of unmet need for adult substance abuse treatment is displayed in the map below. Larger values indicate higher estimates of unmet treatment need. The top three counties for unmet treatment need were Laramie, Natrona, and Albany. Albany is the only county in the top three that does not have a Tier 1 CSAC. There was a near tie for fourth place among Sweetwater, Campbell, and Fremont counties, which differed by only a few people in each county.

The pie chart indicates the gender distribution for unmet substance abuse treatment need. The findings indicate that unmet treatment need was more prevalent among men.

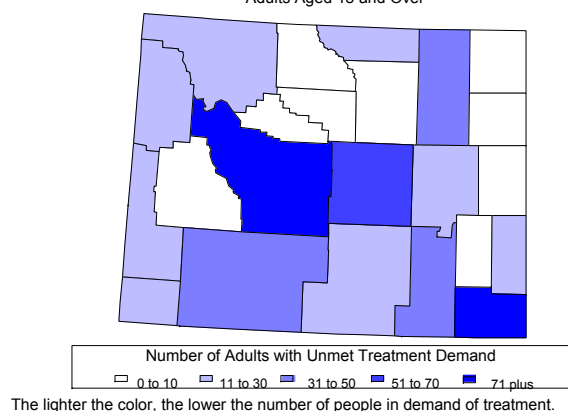


UNMET SUBSTANCE ABUSE TREATMENT DEMAND

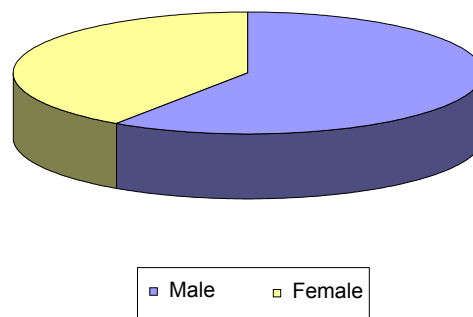
The figures below present the distribution of adults who reported attempting to access substance abuse treatment but were not able to receive it. The top four counties were Laramie, Fremont, Natrona, and Sweetwater. All four of these counties have a Tier 1 CSAC. Albany and Campbell counties followed closely behind the top four. Neither Albany nor Campbell have a Tier 1 CSAC.

Findings related to gender are depicted in the pie chart below. More men in need of substance abuse treatment attempted to get it but were unable to receive it. The reasons for the gap in services were unknown, but possible barriers include transportation, cost, and insurance.

Alcohol or Drug Unmet Treatment Demand Gap
Adults Aged 18 and Over



Alcohol or Drug Treatment Demand Gap
Gender Differences for Adults Aged 18 and Over



The table below presents the absolute numbers for each of the estimated categories.

County	Estimated Unmet Need Population	Estimated Unmet Demand Population	Estimated Outreach Population*
Laramie	5537	83	554
Natrona	4381	56	438
Albany	3230	37	323
Sweetwater	2498	31	250
Campbell	2492	29	249
Fremont	2493	75	249
Sheridan	1637	23	164
Park	1599	20	160
Teton	1373	19	137
Uinta	1268	15	127
Carbon	1027	15	103
Lincoln	888	10	89
Goshen	756	9	76
Converse	750	9	75
Big Horn	634	8	63
Platte	497	6	50
Washakie	444	6	44
Johnson	421	6	42
Weston	414	6	41
Sublette	371	4	37
Crook	336	4	34
Hot Springs	252	3	25
Niobrara	124	1	12

*Note: As a rule of thumb, the Estimated Outreach Population is 10% of the Estimated Unmet Need Population, which represents the greatest number of persons a provider could expect in addition to those it already serves.