



DADS Says...

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Treatment Need versus Reality

This is an update of data reported by the Alcohol & Drug Services Research Institute in 1998. We reported on the utilization of substance abuse services in Santa Clara County based on equity rather than parity. Parity assumes that the level of care is adequate if the percentage of a population group receiving treatment is the same as the group's percentage in the general population. However, this does not take into account the fact that a group may have a higher level of need. Equity estimates compensate for this by estimating the rates of service that would be equitable for the group. The numbers presented in the table indicate the percent of clients by ethnic group and their associated need for service based on the 2000 U. S. Census.

| Ethnicity | Estimated Percent of each Ethnic Group In Need of Treatment (equity) * | Percent of Each Ethnic Group in Santa Clara County Population | Percent of Treatment Population, if at Equity | Percent of Clients Served by Ethnic Group for Calendar Year 2000 | Percent of Deviation from Equity |
|--------------------------------|--|---|---|--|----------------------------------|
| Non-Hispanic White | 6 | 44 | 50 | 37 | -13 |
| Hispanic | 6 | 24 | 30 | 45 | +15 |
| Non-Hispanic Black | 7 | 3 | 4 | 7 | +3 |
| American Indian/Alaskan Native | 11 | <1 | <1 | 1 | +1 |
| Asian/Pacific Islander | 3 | 26 | 16 | 8 | -8 |
| Other Races ** | NA | <1 | NA | 2 | NA |
| Two Races ** | NA | 3 | NA | NA | NA |

* Taken from *Santa Clara County Department of Alcohol and Drug Services: Needs Assessment Study (Concentration on Asian Americans)* by Martha C. Beattie, Ph.D. (1998)

** Estimates of treatment needs are not available for these populations at this time.

Conclusion: The data indicate that the estimated percent of need for treatment for White clients is 6 percent. Based on this number and the percent of White people in the population in Santa Clara County, 50 percent of the treatment population, if at equity, would be White. In CY 2000 37 percent of clients served by DADS were White. This indicates that White clients underutilized DADS services in CY 2000. However, Hispanic and African-Americans over-utilized treatment services based on their equitable need for service. Asian/Pacific Islanders, who comprise 26 percent of Santa Clara County's population, should make up 16 percent of DADS treatment population, however, only 8 percent of DADS Adult System of Care clients are Asian/Pacific Islanders.