

Highlights From the 1989 National Drug and Alcoholism Treatment Unit Survey (NDATUS)

The most recent findings of the 1989 National Drug and Alcoholism Treatment Unit Survey (NDATUS) were released in July 1990 (332a). These findings are based on data collected as of the point-prevalence date of September 30, 1990. A total of 9,608 facilities reported to the 1989 survey. Drug treatment was provided by 6,287 facilities, including drug-only and drug-and-alcohol combined facilities. Overall, 79.4 percent of all reported drug treatment capacity was being utilized; however, the utilization rate for drug-only units was 90.1 percent. A 12-month total of 995,994 drug abuse clients treated at 5,024 facilities was reported to NDATUS (332a).

A total of 351,430 drug abuse clients were in treatment at these facilities on September 30, 1989. The large majority of these clients, 84.6 percent, were in an outpatient environment; 11.6 percent were in a residential environment; and 3.8 percent were in a hospital inpatient environment. Drug-free treatment was the most common form of treatment

with 68.6 percent of all drug abuse clients. Of clients in drug-free programs, the majority 81.1 percent were receiving outpatient treatment; 15.5 percent were in residential treatment and 3.4 percent were in hospital inpatient programs. Of all drug abuse clients, 27.1 percent were in maintenance and 4.4 percent in detoxification. Nearly all clients in maintenance, 97.6 percent, were in an outpatient setting. Of all the detoxification clients, 57.7 percent were in an outpatient environment (332a).

Because of concerns about the spread of HIV infection, the 1989 survey asked treatment facilities to report the percentage of their clients who were intravenous (IV) drug users at the time they started treatment. The estimated number of clients as of September 30, 1989 who were intravenous drug users at the time they started treatment was 129,985. Of these 112,257, 86.3 percent, were listed as drug clients, and 17,728, 13.7 percent, were listed as alcohol clients (332a).