

Alcohol and Drug Use, Abuse and Dependence

Among Families Receiving Public Assistance: Colorado 2001

The Alcohol and Drug Abuse Division (ADAD) in the Department of Human Services funded a telephone survey among adults receiving Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF), Baby Care/Kids Care participants, and pregnant women presumptively eligible for assistance. The survey was designed to provide estimates of alcohol and drug use, abuse, and dependence among this population. The Survey Research Unit at the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment conducted the survey between March 2000 and July 2001.

The survey included questions about alcohol, marijuana, cocaine, hallucinogens, stimulants, sedatives, heroin and other opiates, and inhalant use. Sixty-nine percent (2,311) of randomly selected Medicaid recipients for whom telephone numbers could be obtained responded to the survey. Females accounted for the vast majority of respondents (90 percent). The respondents, though slightly younger, were representative of the population (TANF, BC/KC) from which the sample was drawn.

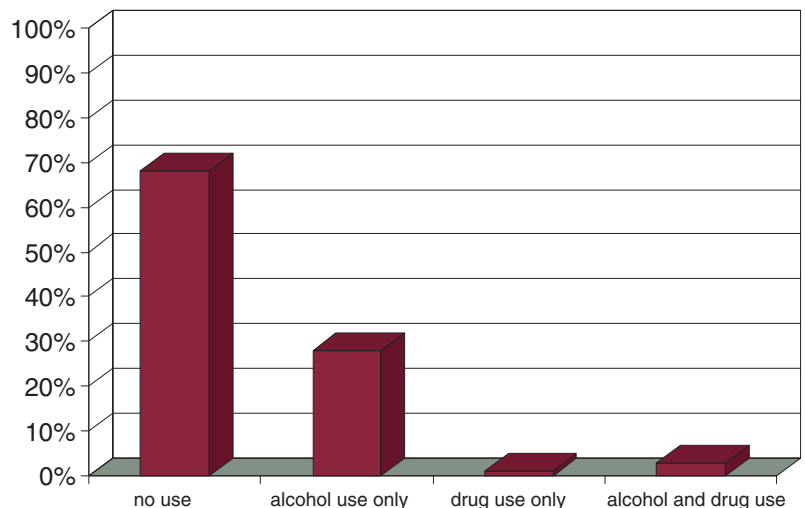
Findings

40% reported using only alcohol during their lifetime, while 52% report using both alcohol and drugs at some point during their lifetime. 8% had never used any alcohol or drugs

Use decreased dramatically when limited to the past year. 42% reported no use in the past year, 47% alcohol only, 2% drugs only, and 9% alcohol and drugs.

When limited to the past 30 days, 68% reported no use, 28% alcohol only, 1% drugs only, and 3% alcohol and drugs (Figure 1).

Figure 1. Reported Use in Last Thirty Days by All Respondents



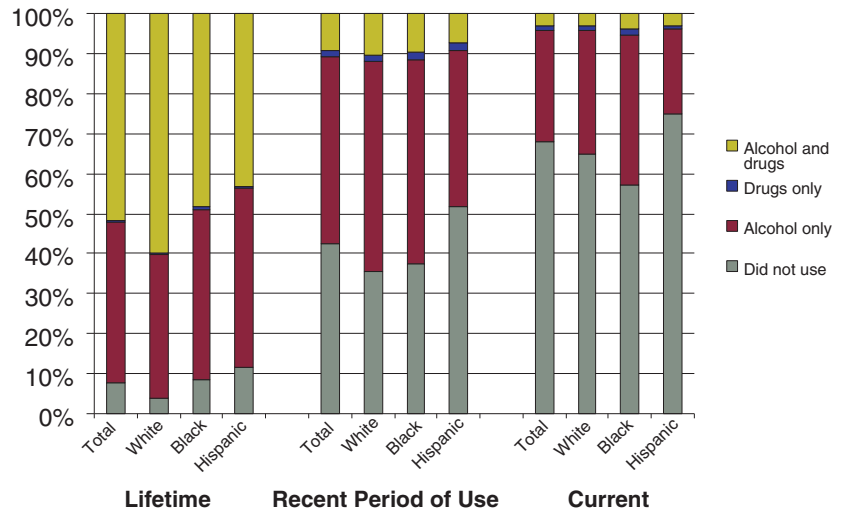
31% reported using alcohol and 4% marijuana in the past 30 days. Not more than 0.5% of respondents reported using any other drug in the past 30 days

Respondents reported ever using alcohol (92%), marijuana (51%), cocaine (18%), hallucinogens (13%), stimulants (10%), sedatives (5%), inhalants (2%) and heroin/other opiates (2%).

(Findings continued)

Substance use in the past 30 days varied by gender, age group, and race/ethnicity with females and Hispanics less likely to use a substance.

Figure 2. Reported Use by Race/Ethnicity



Using DSM-IV criteria, 14% of respondents were identified as having substance abuse or dependence problems at some point in their lifetime.

6% of all respondents had an identified abuse or dependence problem during the past year.

Of the women with an abuse or dependence problem in the past year, 47% had also been pregnant during that time. Of those who had been pregnant, only one in four had received substance use treatment during the year.

Of all those with an abuse/dependence problem in the past year, 83% had been responsible for children during the same period and only one in four had received substance use treatment during the year.

This project was funded by the Center for Substance Abuse Treatment in the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

This Fact Sheet, and Full Report are available by contacting:

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