



North Carolina Treatment Outcomes and Program Performance  
System

**Annual Report on Special Populations: Assessments Received  
July 1, 2003 to June 30, 2004**

**Methadone**

**Clients in Methadone Programs**

**Sponsored by**

Community Policy Management Section of the North Carolina Division of Mental Health, Developmental Disabilities, and Substance Abuse Services through funding provided in the Substance Abuse Prevention and Treatment Block Grant (SAPTBG) from the Center for Substance Abuse Treatment (CSAT) of the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA).

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**Report produced by**

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<b>Intro</b>	<b>Introduction to NC-TOPPS Report</b>  Purpose of report, numbers of cases included in this report, and general information on interpreting data and graphics in the report.
<b>Page 1</b>	<b>Initial Assessments: Demographics and Client Characteristics</b>  This page provides an overall description of the gender, age, ethnicity, educational background and marital status of clients for whom Initial Assessments were received from July 1, 2003 to June 30, 2004. In addition, primary substance problem, prior treatment enrollment, referral source and treatment population are shown.
<b>Page 2</b>	<b>Initial Assessments: Pre-treatment Behaviors, Indicators, and Ratings</b>  This page continues to show information on the same clients described on Page 1. Health insurance, correctional supervision, referral sources, living situation, child and pregnancy issues, DSS involvement, and service needs are detailed.
<b>Page 3</b>	<b>Initial Assessments: Pre-treatment Behaviors, Indicators, and Ratings</b>  Page 3 continues to show information on Initial Assessments. Client responses to questions regarding their substance use, participation in the labor force, ratings of family life and health are shown. In addition, average GAF scores from client medical records are reported.
<b>Page 4</b>	<b>3-Month Update Assessments Section I: Service Needs, Services Rendered and Drug Test</b>  This page reports on clients for whom a 3-month Update Assessment was received from July 1, 2003 to June 30, 2004. These clients may overlap somewhat with the clients who had an Initial Assessment during this period, but also includes any 3-Month Assessments received during the fiscal year and include clients whose Initial Assessment was done in the previous fiscal year. Page 4 shows Update Assessment items that are completed by the clinician from medical records (Section I)
<b>Page 5</b>	<b>3-Month Update Assessments Section II: Client Behaviors</b>  This page reports on clients for whom a 3-month Update Assessment was received from July 1, 2003 to June 30, 2004 and includes items from Section II of the interview. Information can be obtained from direct client interview in-person or by phone or from the client's clinical record, if the client is not available for an interview.
<b>Page 6</b>	<b>3-Month Update Assessments Section III: In-Person Interview Items</b>  This page reports on clients for whom a 3-month Update Assessment was received from July 1, 2003 to June 30, 2004 and includes items from Section II of the interview. Information can be obtained from direct client interview in-person or by phone or from the client's clinical record, if the client is not available for an interview.
<b>Page 7</b>	<b>Behaviors, Indicators, and GAF Scores: Initial Compared to 3-Months</b>  Page 7 compares the behaviors of a group of clients before and during treatment. Information on before treatment behaviors was obtained from the Initial Assessment conducted at the beginning of treatment while information on during treatment behavior was obtained at the 3-month Update Assessment. Unduplicated 3-month Update Assessments with an in-person interview for whom a matching Initial Assessment could be identified (going back the past 2 State fiscal years) are included. This is a change from the methodology used in past year annual reports.
<b>Page 8</b>	<b>Behaviors, Indicators, and GAF Scores: Initial Compared to 6-Months</b>  Page 8 compares the behaviors of a group of clients before and during treatment. Information on before treatment behaviors was obtained from the Initial Assessment conducted at the beginning of treatment while information on during treatment behavior was obtained on the 6-Month Update Assessment. Unduplicated Discharge Assessments for clients who "completed treatment" with an in-person interview for whom a matching Initial Assessment could be identified (going back the past 2 State fiscal years) are included. The 6-Month time period is shown for Methadone clients (instead of Discharge - Completed treatment) since the number of discharges is very low for Methadone programs.

## Purpose

This feedback report is for use of the NC Community Policy Management Section and Area and Specialty programs to assist in monitoring, comparing, and managing their substance abuse services. The report provides both cross sectional and longitudinal data to describe clients at key points in the treatment episode. The table below indicates the numbers of assessments received during this fiscal year on which this report is based.

## Number of Methadone Assessments Received, by Assessment Type and In-Person Status

(note in-person status for Update Assessments refers to Section III)

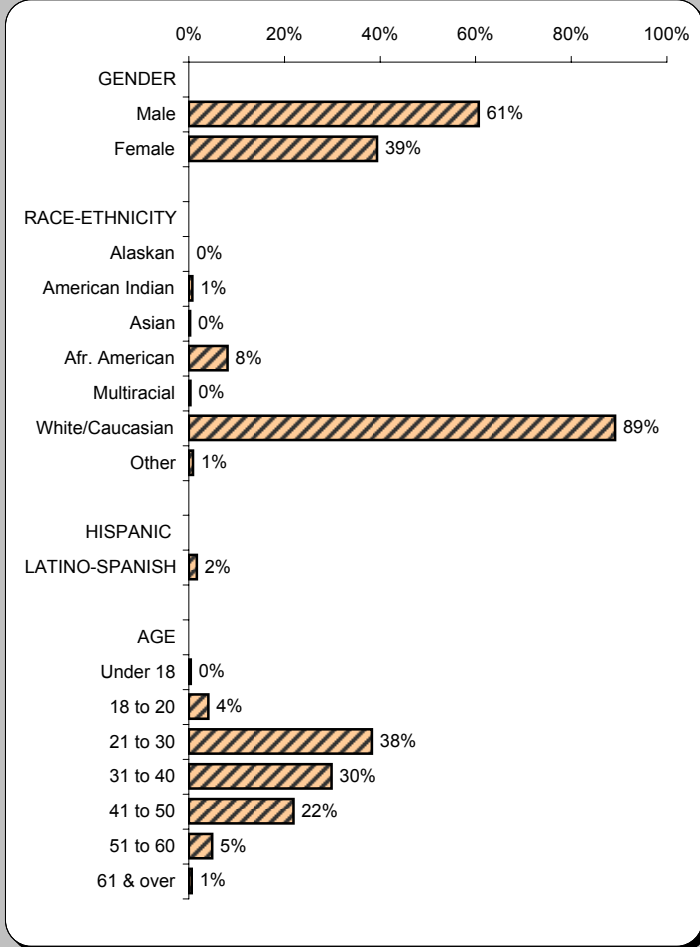
Type of Assessment	Number	Number with In-person Interviews	Percent with In-person Interviews
Initial Assessments	3,161	3,161	100%
3-Month Update Assessments	1,299	1,106	85%
6-Month Update Assessments	1,010	881	87%
12-Month & Other Annual Update Assessments	1,431	1,317	92%
Discharge or Transfer Assessments:			
-Completed Treatment	72	10	14%
-Transferred to another program	349	33	9%
-Treatment non-completion(a)	1,453	20	1%

(a) Includes those who did not return as scheduled, discharged at program initiative, refused treatment, were incarcerated, institutionalized, or died.

## General Information on Interpreting Tables

- Types of Statistics**
- ▶ A count shows the actual number (often designated by the letter “n”) of clients.
  - ▶ A percentage is the number of clients with a characteristic or behavior divided by all the clients in the group of interest multiplied by 100. Percentages will be designated with a % sign next to the number.
  - ▶ An average is the sum of a set of numbers divided by the number of numbers in the set. When a number in a cell is an average, the word average will appear in the row descriptor.
  - ▶ A median is the middle number in a set of numbers, arranged from lowest to highest. For example, the median for the following numbers: 9, 12, 12, 15, 17, 20, **22**, 23, 25, 28, 31, 35, 62 is the bolded number, 22. Medians are important measures of central tendency, especially when a mean may be skewed by a very high or a very low value. When a number in a cell is a median, the word median will appear in the row descriptor.
- Missing Data**
- For many of the NC-TOPPS forms received, a particular item or question may have been left blank. In calculating the means, medians, and percentages in cells of questionnaire items, this missing data is excluded from the calculation. For example, program X may have turned in 50 NC-TOPPS Initial Assessment forms, but in 2 of the forms, gender was left blank. When the percent of males is calculated, the 25 males are shown as 52% (25/48 \* 100).
- Multiple Response**
- “Multiple response” indicates a “mark all that apply” type question in which more than one response to a question is allowed. The total of responses may add to greater than 100%. Examples are health insurance or referral source. This is in contrast to items such as gender or age, where only a single response is allowed and responses total to 100%.
- Urinalysis Tests**
- There are differences across facilities in the way in which urinalyses are conducted. The issues include: (1) completely random or for "cause"; (2) observed or non-observed; and (3) frequency of tests. Based on the way the data is currently collected, it is not possible to resolve all of the differences. However, some features of the report help clarify some of these differences. The percentage of cases with urine tests and the average number of tests done per client are shown to help contextualize the interpretation of the subsequent urinalysis results.
- The average number of urine tests is calculated based on those clients who had at least one test done.
  - The percent of clients tested that were positive for specific substances is based only on those clients who were tested.

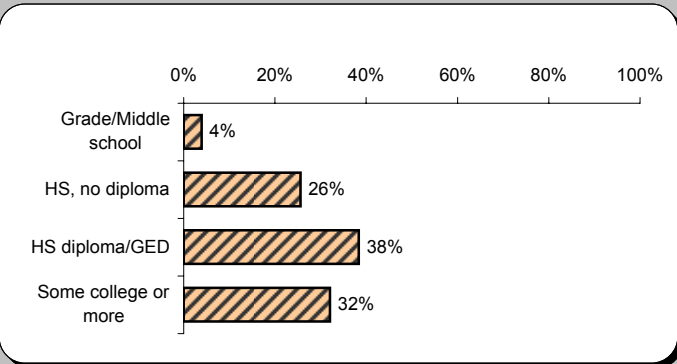
**1-1: Demographics**



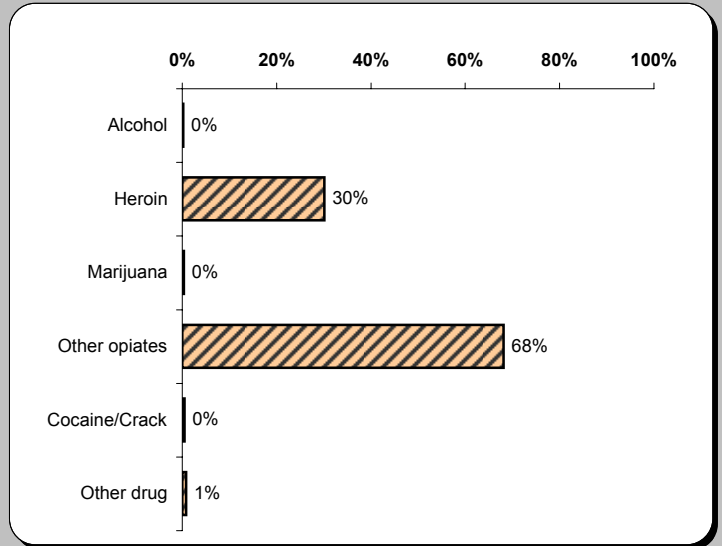
**1-2: Marital Status**

Marital Status	Methadone
Never married	32%
Married or living as	39%
Divorced/Widowed/Separated	29%

**1-3: Highest Educational Achievement**



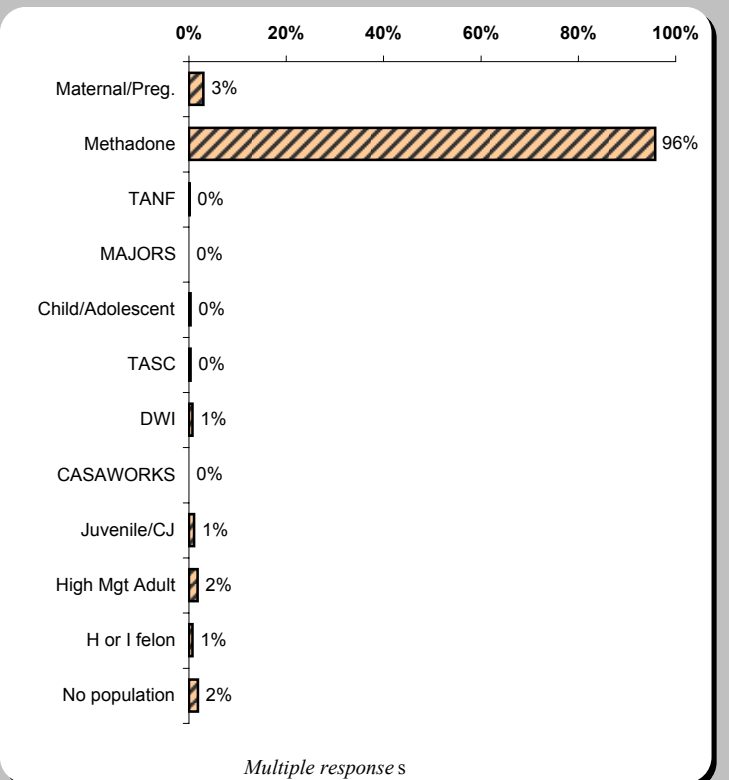
**1-4: Primary Substance Problem**



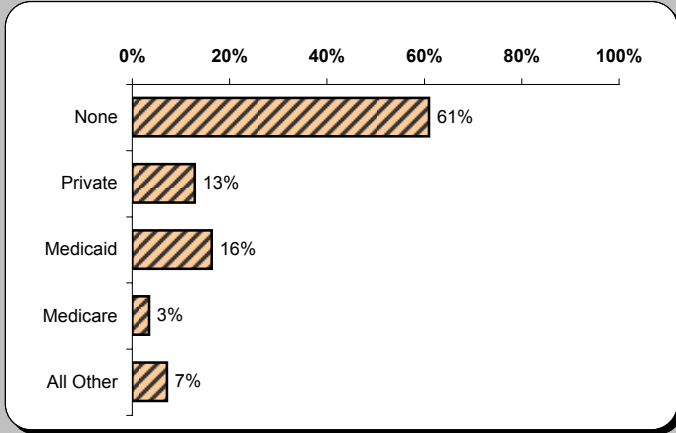
**1-5: Prior Enrollment in Substance Abuse Treatment**

18% of clients were enrolled in substance abuse treatment (not including detox) in the 3 months prior to the current admission. Overall, 47% had prior outpatient substance abuse treatment during their lifetime.

**1-6: Special Populations**



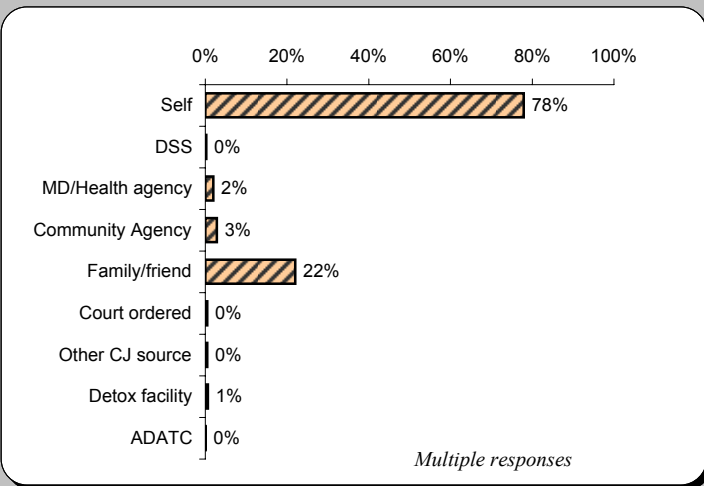
**2-1: Health Insurance**



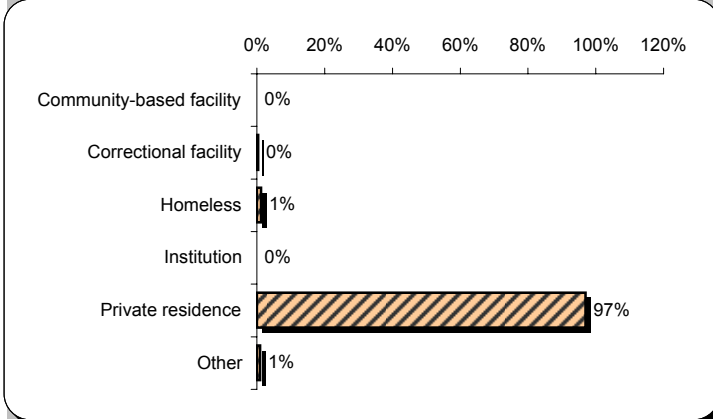
**2-2: Correctional Supervision**

13% of clients are under correctional supervision at admission.

**2-3: Referral Sources**



**2-4: Where Lived**



**2-5: Children Under 18**

53% of Methadone clients have children under age 18.

**Of those with children...**

Have custody of all children	69%
Have custody of some children	8%
Have custody of none of children	23%

**2-6: Pregnancy Status**

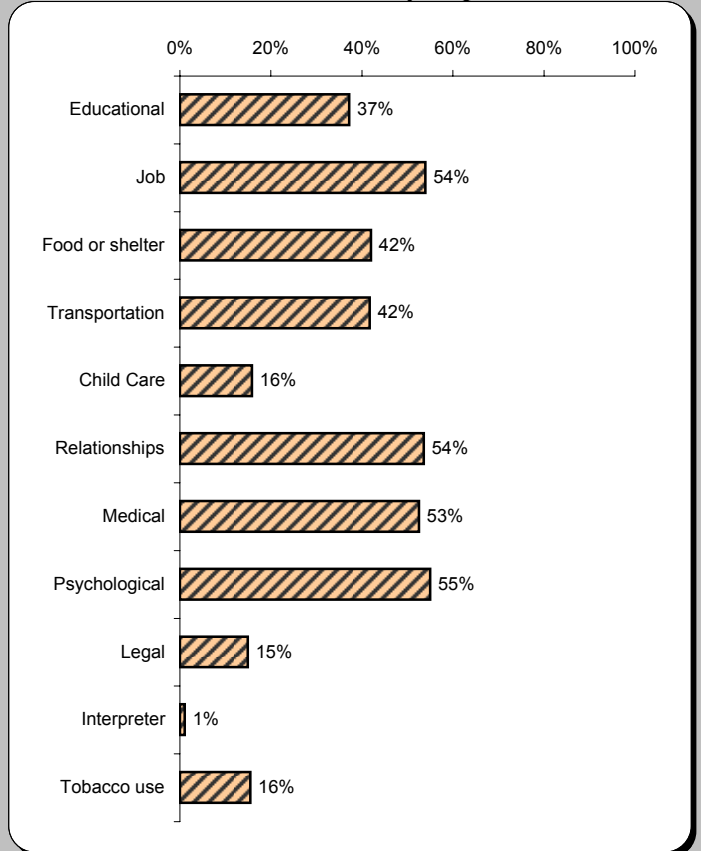
Number currently pregnant	52
Number uncertain about pregnancy status	9
Number in first trimester	12
Number in second trimester	19
Number in third trimester	16

Note: Numbers may not add, due to missing data.

**2-7: DSS Involvement**

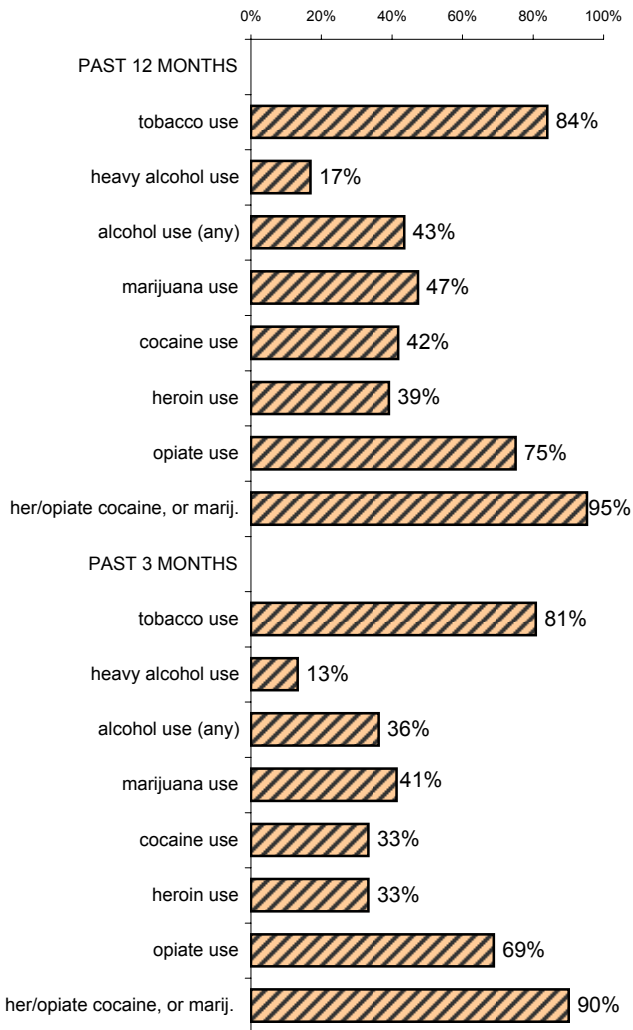
Investigated by DSS for child abuse or neglect	3%
Admission to treatment required by DSS	0%

**2-8: Service Needs Rated "Very Important"**



### 3-1: Self-Report Substance Use

Bars show % with any use



### 3-2: Injection Drug Use

52% of Methadone clients report that they have injected drugs.

### 3-3: 90-Day Abstinence

Clients were asked how long they have been abstinent at this time. 7% of Methadone clients reported abstinence for at least the past 90 days.

### 3-4: General Assessment of Functioning (GAF)

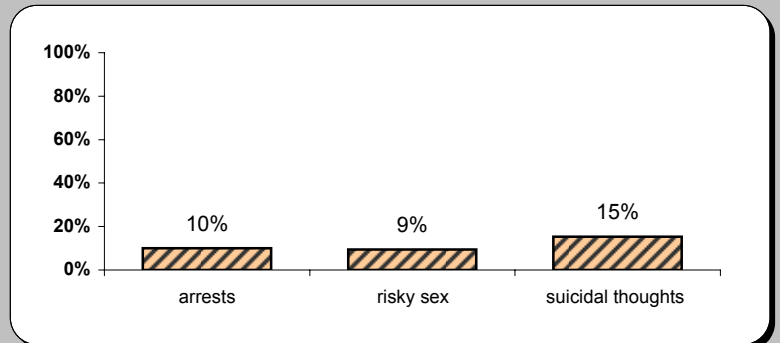
GAF scores were reported for 95% of Methadone clients. The average score was 48.4 and the median score was 45.

### 3-5: Employment, Past 3 Months

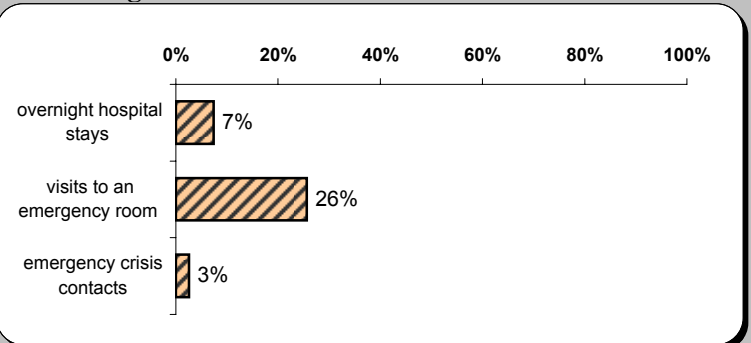
79% of Methadone clients are in the labor force meaning that they are working, or unemployed and looking for work.

Of those in the labor force	Methadone
Percent employed full-time	51%
Percent employed part-time	20%
Percent unemployed (seeking work)	29%

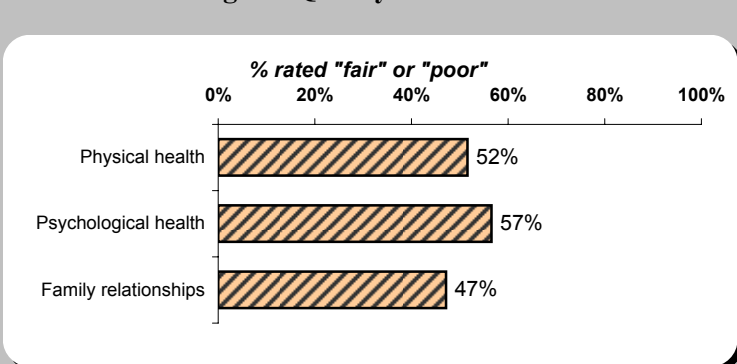
### 3-6: Problem Indicators, Percent with Problem in Past 3 Months



### 3-7: Health Care Utilization: Percent Using Services in the Past 3 Months



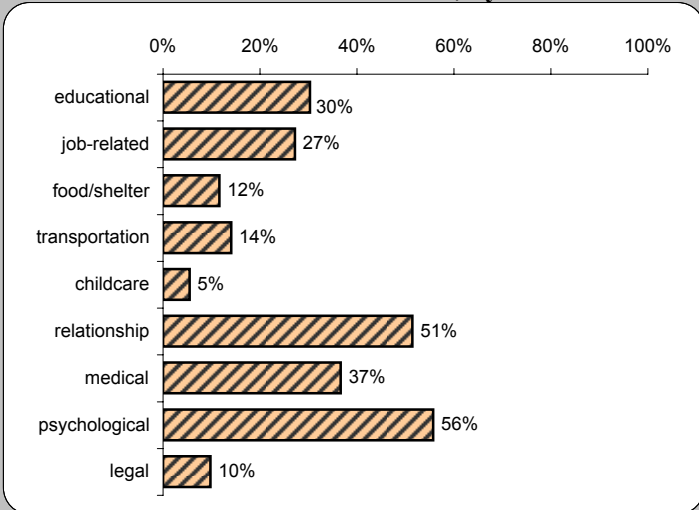
### 3-8: Client Ratings on Quality of Life Indicators



**4-1: Clients Reported on Page 4 & Page 5**

Client Characteristics	
Male	59%
African American	9%
White/Caucasian	88%
30 years and younger	52%

**4-2: Percent who Still Need Services, by Service Area**



Note: Services may have been delivered in these areas, but are still needed.

**4-3: HIV, TB, & HIV Screening & Referral**

Percent screened	42%
Percent who still need to be screened	14%
Percent referred for treatment	5%

**4-4: Treatment Participation - Group Sessions**

Group sessions were scheduled for 54% of Methadone clients. Among those scheduled for sessions, the AVERAGE number of attended was 5 sessions and the MEDIAN number attended was 1.

**4-5: Treatment Participation - Individual Sessions**

Individual sessions were scheduled for 92% of Methadone clients. Among those scheduled for sessions, the AVERAGE number of attended for was 5.4, and the MEDIAN number sessions attended was 6.

**4-6: Treatment Participation - Residential**

Residential treatment was attended by 1.5% of Methadone clients. Those receiving residential treatment were in treatment an average of 49 days.

**4-7: Family Involvement**

Percent with face to face contact of client's family with program staff.	12%
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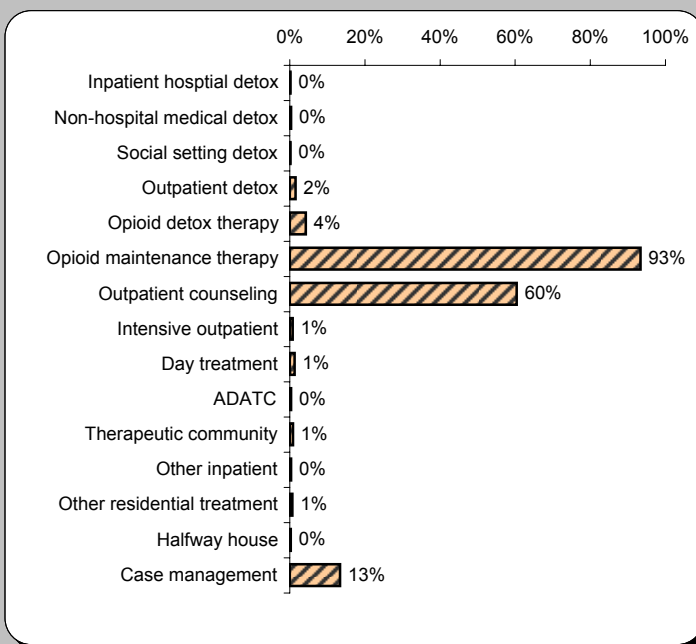
**4-8: Methadone Dose**

1146 Methadone clients were receiving methadone. The average dose for these clients was 83.6 mg.

**4-9: General Assessment of Functioning (GAF)**

A GAF score was reported for 86.6% of Methadone clients. The average GAF score was 49.9.

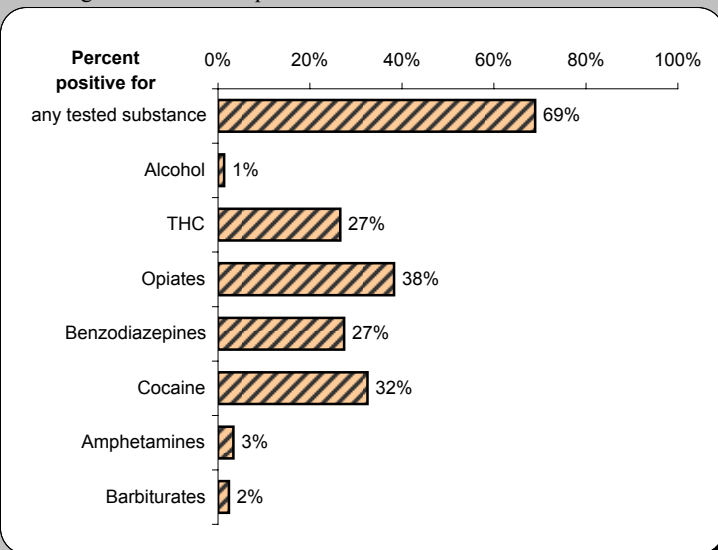
**4-10: Types of Treatment Rendered**



Multiple response

**4-10: Drug Test Results**

# of cases with urine tests	1269
% of cases with urine tests	98%
Average # of urine tests per client tested	3.8



### 5-1: Item Source

Whether questions asked on this page were responded to by the client or by the clinician from the clinical records. There is a possibility of multiple response so items may total to greater than 100%.

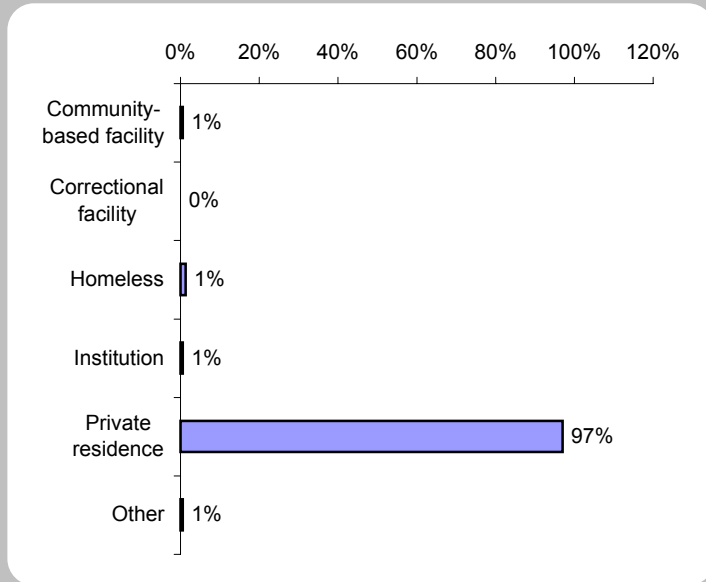
In-person interview	82%
Telephone interview	1%
Clinical records/notes	20%

### 5-2: Employment, Past Month

81% of Methadone clients are in the labor force meaning that they are working, or unemployed and seeking work.

Of those in labor force	Methadone
Percent employed full-time	58%
Percent employed part-time	18%
Percent unemployed	25%

### 5-3: Where lived most of time?



### 5-4: Children Under 18 & Custody Issues

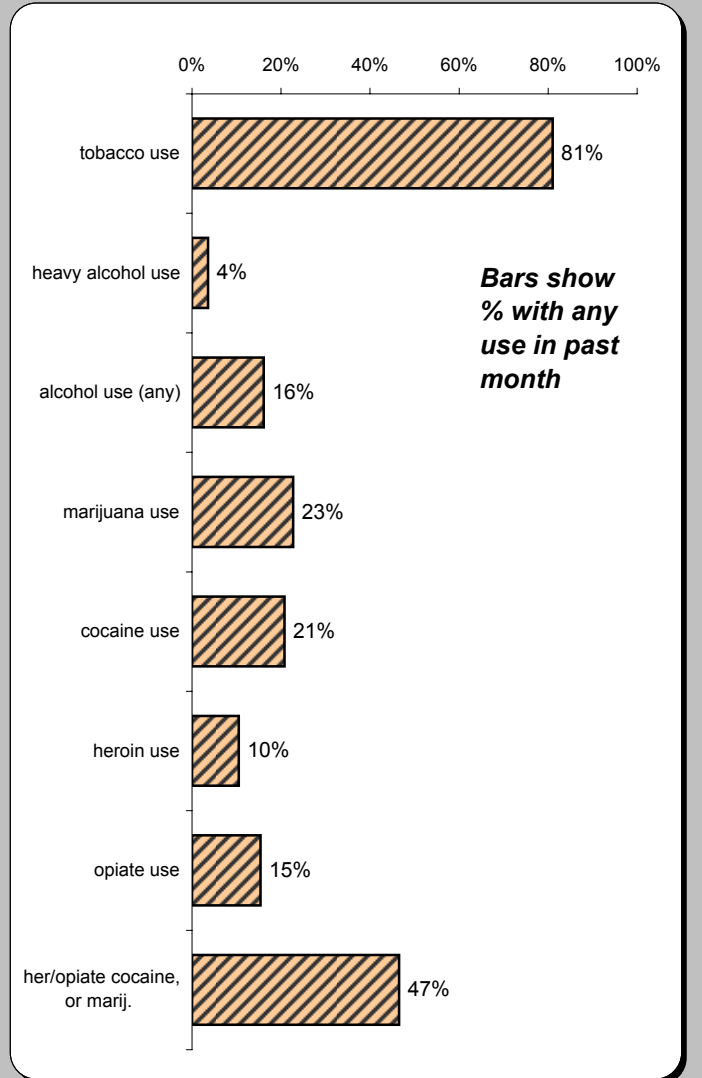
49% of Methadone clients have children under the age of 18.

Number of clients who...	Number
Have children under 18	626
Gained custody of a child(ren)	7
Lost custody of a child(ren)	11
Started seeking custody	6
Stopped seeking custody	2
Continued seeking custody	14
Had a new baby who was removed from legal custody	1

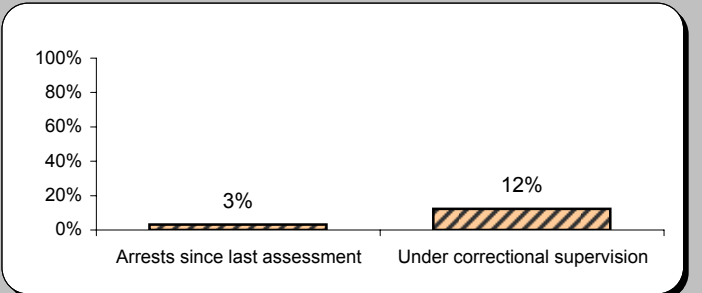
### 5-5: Numbers of Births

Number of births, since last assessment	14
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### 5-6: Substance Use



### 5-7: Correctional Supervision and Arrests Since Last Assessment



**6-1: Clients Reported on this Page**

Client Characteristics	Methadone
Male	58%
African American	9%
White/Caucasian	88%
30 years and younger	52%

**6-2: Pregnancy**

Number currently pregnant	15
Number uncertain about pregnancy status	3

**6-3: Support and Motivation**

Item	
Have sponsor	7%
Use faith, prayer, religion, or spiritual involvement regularly	51%
Attend self-help/support group weekly	19%

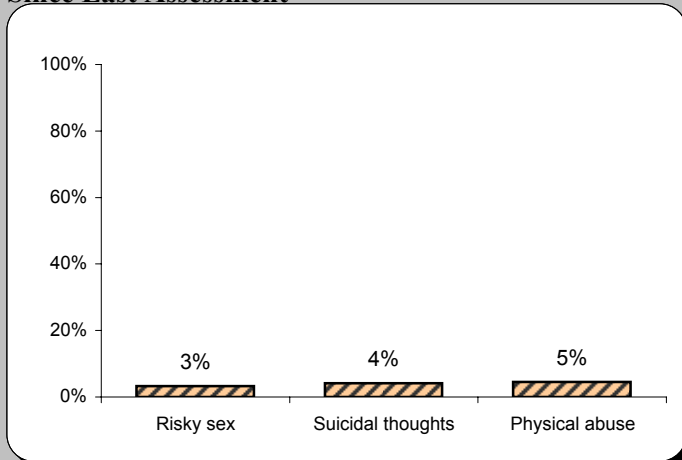
**6-4: 90-Day Abstinence**

Clients were asked how long they had been abstinent at this time. 40% of Methadone clients reported abstinence for the past 90 days.

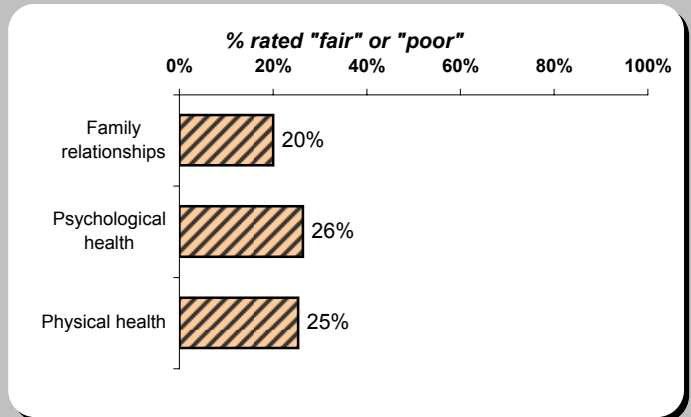
**6-5: Injection Drug Use, Since Last Assessment**

10% of Methadone clients reported that they have injected drugs since the last assessment.

**6-6: Problem Indicators, Percent with Problem Since Last Assessment**

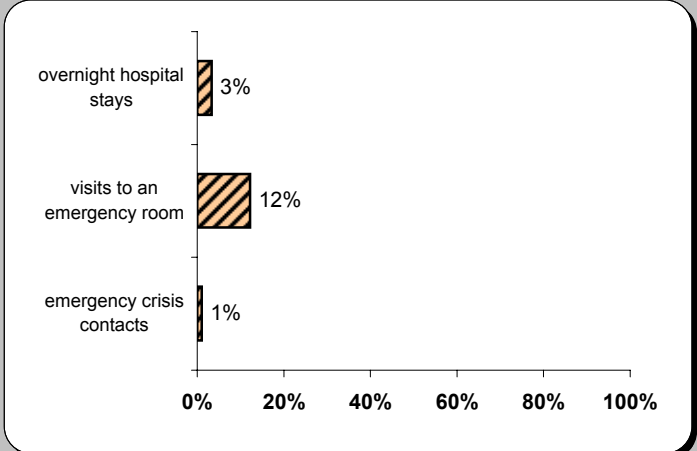


**6-7: Client Ratings on Quality of Life Indicators**

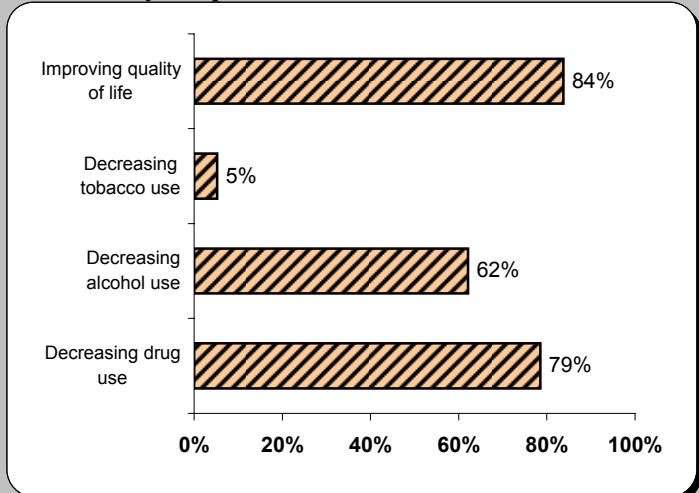


**6-8: Health Care Utilization: Percent**

**Using Services Since Last Assessment**



**6-9: Percent of Clients Indicating Program Services were "Very Helpful"**



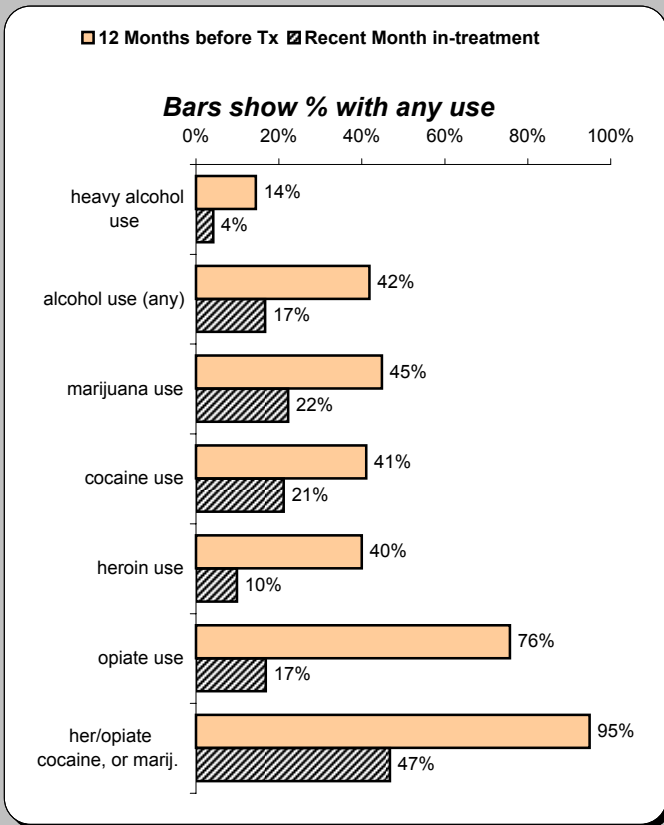
### Interpreting Matched Record Data

Charts and tables on this page compare information from a subgroup of clients on pages 3 and 4 who have both an Initial and a 3-month Update Assessment. Assessment responses to similar items at different time frames are compared. Initial Assessment time frames refer to the past 12 months or past 3 months before the interview (solid or orange bar) while Update Assessment time frames (diagonal striped bar) refer to "since the last assessment" or the most recent month prior to the assessment.

#### 7-1: Demographics

Measure	(n=1031)
Male	59%
African American	9%
White/Caucasian	88%
30 years and younger	43%

#### 7-2: Substance Use Before & During Treatment



#### 7-3: Injection Drug Use and Abstinence

Measure	Before	During
Injection use*	49%	9%
90 days or more abstinence	6%	39%

\*Ever injected before initial is compared to since last assessment.

#### 7-4: Employment

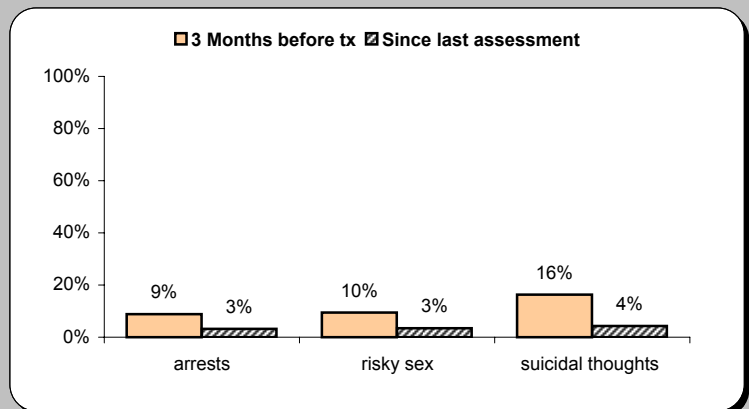
Employment Indicator	Before Initial	Month in-treatment
In Labor Force	78.6% (n=788)	82% (n=822)
Employed full-time*	53.2% (n=419)	59.7% (n=491)
Employed part-time*	18.8% (n=148)	17% (n=140)
Unemployed*	28% (n=221)	23.2% (n=191)

\* of those in the labor force. Missing data are excluded from percentage calculations.

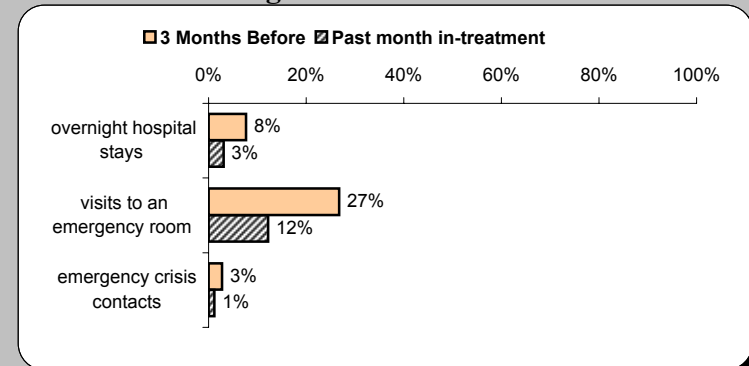
#### 7-5: GAF Score at Initial and Update

Measure	Initial	Update
% with GAF scores	96%	86%
Mean	49.4	50.1
Median	45	45

#### 7-6: Problem Indicators



#### 7-7: Percent Using Health Care Services



#### 7-8: Average Days Between Assessments

The average number of days between the Initial and Update Assessment was 96 days.

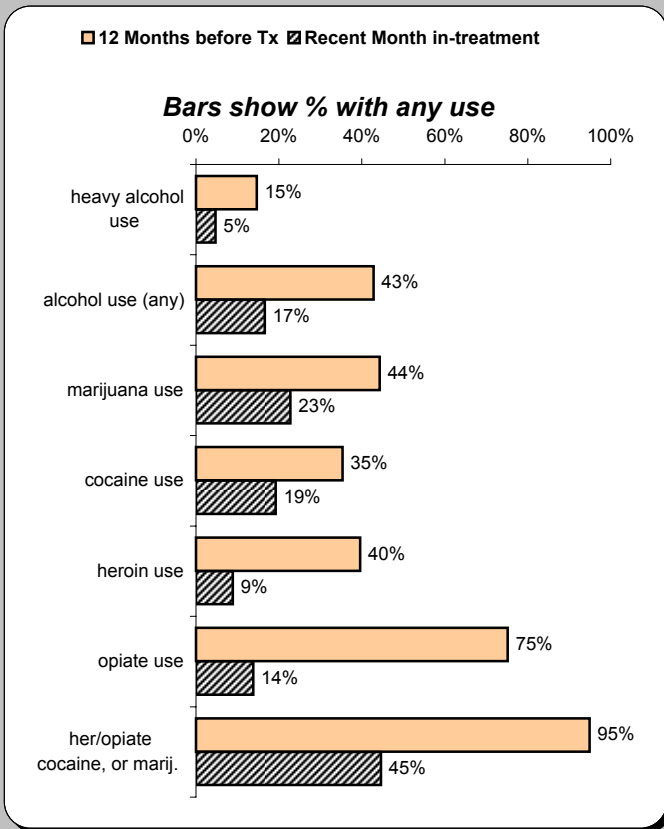
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#### 8-1: Demographics

Measure	(n=861)
Male	61%
African American	8%
White/Caucasian	89%
30 years and younger	41%

#### 8-2: Substance Use Before & During Treatment



#### 8-3: Injection Drug Use and Abstinence

Measure	Before	During
Injection use*	49%	9%
90 days or more abstinence	6%	44%

\*Ever injected before initial is compared to since last assessment.

#### 8-4: Employment

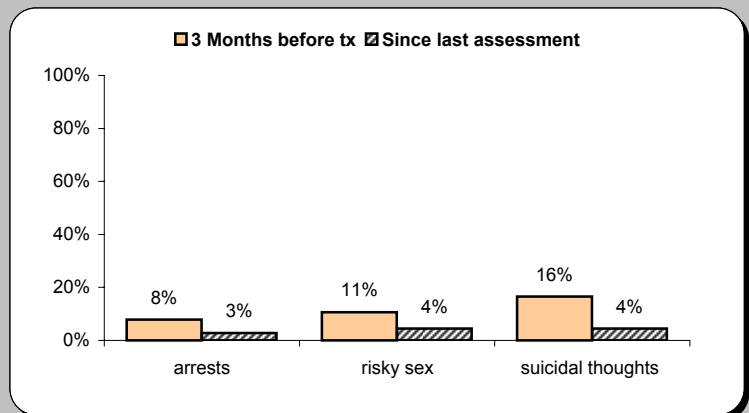
Employment Indicator	3 Months Before Initial	Last Month of trmt
In Labor Force	77.3% (n=640)	79.6% (n=659)
Employed full-time*	57.8% (n=370)	62.5% (n=412)
Employed part-time*	15.8% (n=101)	17.9% (n=118)
Unemployed*	26.4% (n=169)	19.6% (n=129)

\* of those in the labor force.

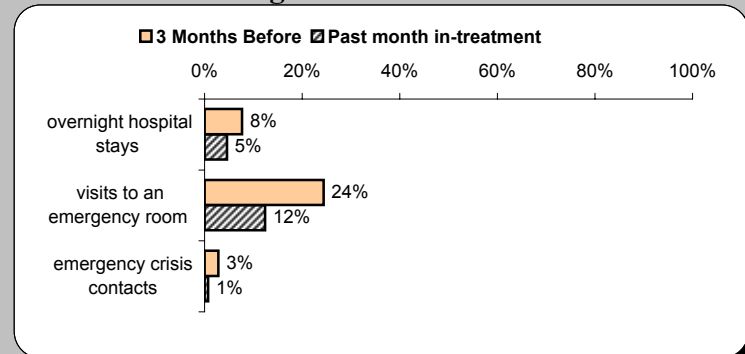
#### 8-5: GAF Score at Initial and Update

Measure	Initial	Update
% with GAF scores	98%	89%
Mean	49.4	50.7
Median	45	45

#### 8-6: Problem Indicators



#### 8-7: Percent Using Health Care Services



#### 8-8: Average Days Between Assessments

The average number of days between the Initial and Six-Month Update Assessment was 196 days.