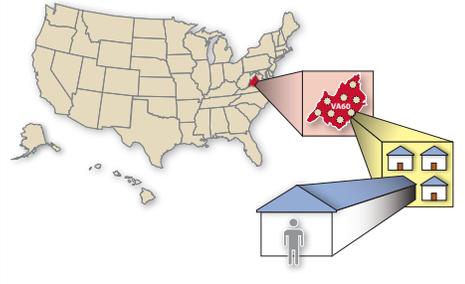


# The NSDUH Report

Data Spotlight

October 24, 2013



## Hispanic Subgroups Differ in Rates of Substance Use Treatment Need and Receipt

Hispanics are often presented as a single group. Data from 2004 to 2011 National Surveys on Drug Use and Health (NSDUH) show that an annual national average of 3.4 million (9.9 percent) Hispanics aged 12 or older need treatment for illicit drug or alcohol use.<sup>1,2</sup> However, this grouping ignores the diversity within the total Hispanic population and can hide health concerns within Hispanic subgroups.<sup>3</sup>

Hispanics subgroups differ in their need for and receipt of treatment.<sup>4</sup> Mexicans and Puerto Ricans were most likely to need treatment (10.4 and 10.1 percent, respectively), whereas Central or South Americans were least likely. Puerto Ricans who needed treatment were more likely to have received it than persons in other Hispanic subgroups in need of treatment.

Understanding how substance use treatment needs vary among Hispanic subgroups may help providers address outreach efforts in their community. Future research may assess reasons why these subgroups may be less likely to receive treatment and help explain specific barriers to care among Hispanic subgroups.

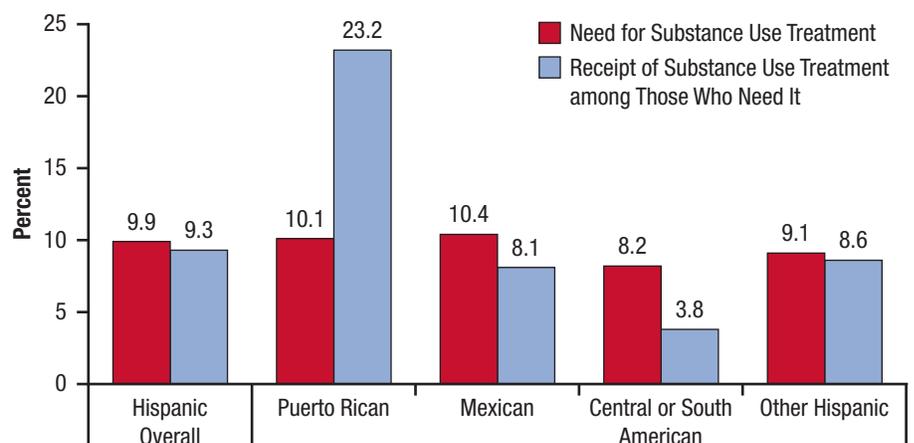
1. NSDUH classifies persons as needing substance use treatment if they meet the criteria in the fourth edition of the *Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders* (DSM-IV) for dependence or abuse (based on symptoms they report) or if they received substance use treatment at a specialty facility in the past year. For details, see: American Psychiatric Association. (1994). *Diagnostic and statistical manual of mental disorders* (4th ed.). Washington, DC: Author. Substance use treatment at a specialty facility is defined as treatment received at drug or alcohol rehabilitation facilities (inpatient or outpatient), hospitals (inpatient services only), and mental health centers; it excludes treatment received in an emergency room, private doctor's office, self-help group, prison or jail, or hospital as an outpatient.

2. Illicit drugs include marijuana/hashish, cocaine (including crack), heroin, hallucinogens, inhalants, or prescription-type psychotherapeutics used nonmedically, including data from original methamphetamine questions but not including new methamphetamine items added in 2005 and 2006.

3. An annual average of 34.8 million persons aged 12 or older (14.0 percent of the total population) identified themselves as Hispanic. Slightly more than three fifths (62.6 percent) of Hispanics aged 12 or older were of Mexican origin, 13.8 percent were of Central or South American origin, 10.2 percent were of Puerto Rican origin, and 13.4 percent were of other Hispanic origin.

4. NSDUH asks respondents whether they are of Hispanic origin and, if so, what Hispanic subgroup best describes them. Response options included "Mexican/Mexican American/Mexicano/Chicano," "Puerto Rican," "Central or South American," "Cuban/Cuban American," "Dominican (from the Dominican Republic)," "Spanish (from Spain)," and "Other (Specify)." Respondents were also asked to identify their race. In this report, all respondents identifying themselves as Hispanic were assigned to the Hispanic group regardless of their racial identification.

**Need for and Receipt of Specialty Substance Use Treatment in the Past Year among Hispanics Aged 12 or Older, Overall and by Subgroup: 2004-2011**



Source: National Surveys on Drug Use and Health (NSDUHs), 2004 to 2005, 2006 to 2010 (revised March 2012), and 2011. NSDUH is an annual survey sponsored by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA). The survey collects data by administering questionnaires to a representative sample of the population through face-to-face interviews at their places of residence.

The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) is the agency within the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services that leads public health efforts to advance the behavioral health of the nation. SAMHSA's mission is to reduce the impact of substance abuse and mental illness on America's communities. The **Data Spotlight** may be copied without permission. Citation of the source is appreciated. Find this report and those on similar topics online at <http://www.samhsa.gov/data/>.

