

Metro

BRIEF



Substance Abuse Treatment in Metropolitan Areas

Office of Applied Studies



This report is one in a series of reports that provide a snapshot of substance abuse treatment in various metropolitan areas nationwide. This report focuses on substance abuse treatment admissions and treatment facilities in the Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA)¹ of New Orleans, Louisiana,² hereafter referred to as New Orleans.

Data presented in this report are derived from the Treatment Episode Data Set (TEDS),³ which collects information on the characteristics of persons admitted to substance abuse treatment, and the National Survey of Substance Abuse Treatment Services (N-SSATS),⁴ an annual survey of treatment facilities. Both TEDS and N-SSATS are conducted by the Office of Applied Studies, Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA).

Demographic Characteristics of Treatment Admissions

- In 2008, there were approximately 3,500 total substance abuse treatment admissions in New Orleans: 67 percent were male and 33 percent were female.

The age and race/ethnicity of treatment admissions in New Orleans are shown below in Figures 1 and 2.

Figure 1. Treatment Admissions by Age: New Orleans: TEDS 2008

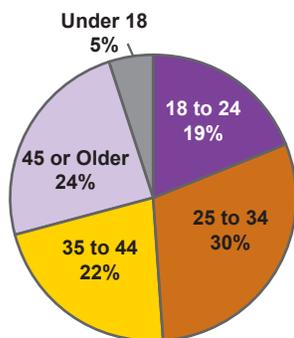
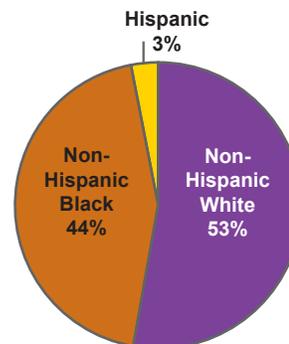


Figure 2. Treatment Admissions by Race/Ethnicity: New Orleans: TEDS 2008



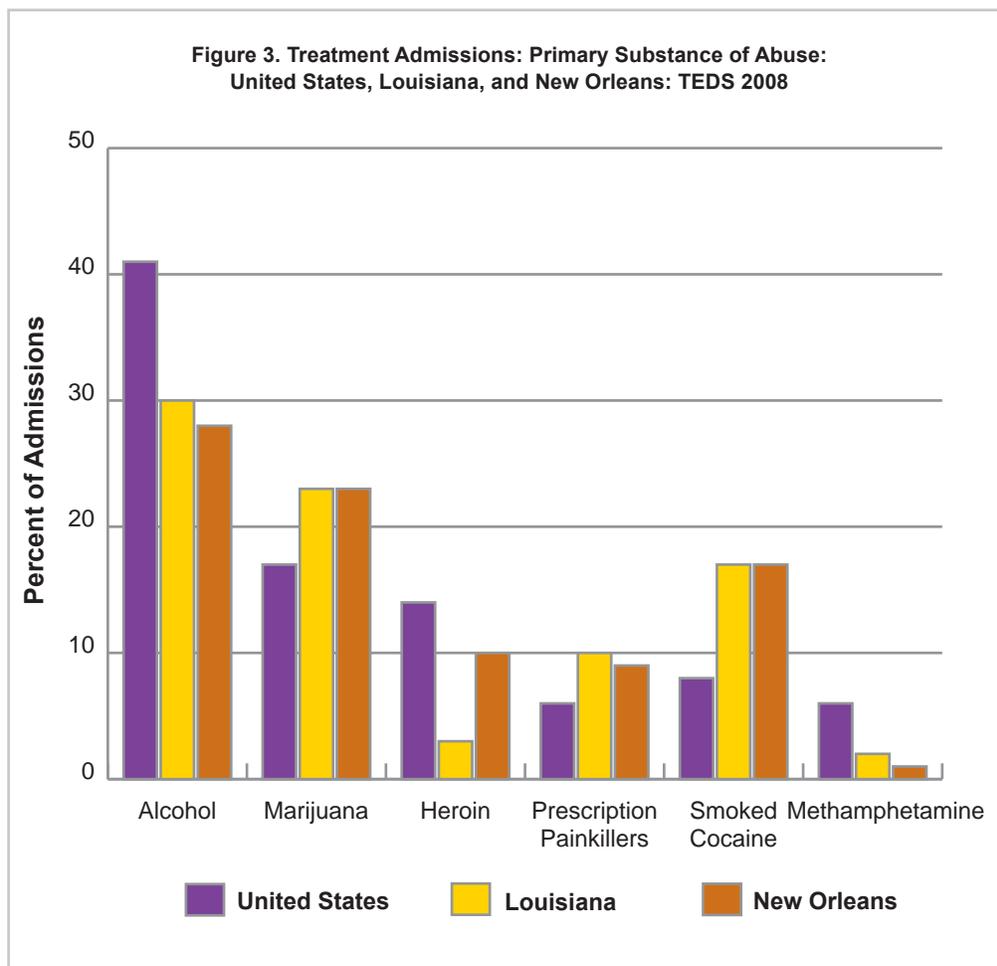
Source: Treatment Episode Data Set (TEDS) 2008



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration
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Primary Substance of Abuse⁵ Reported at Treatment Admission

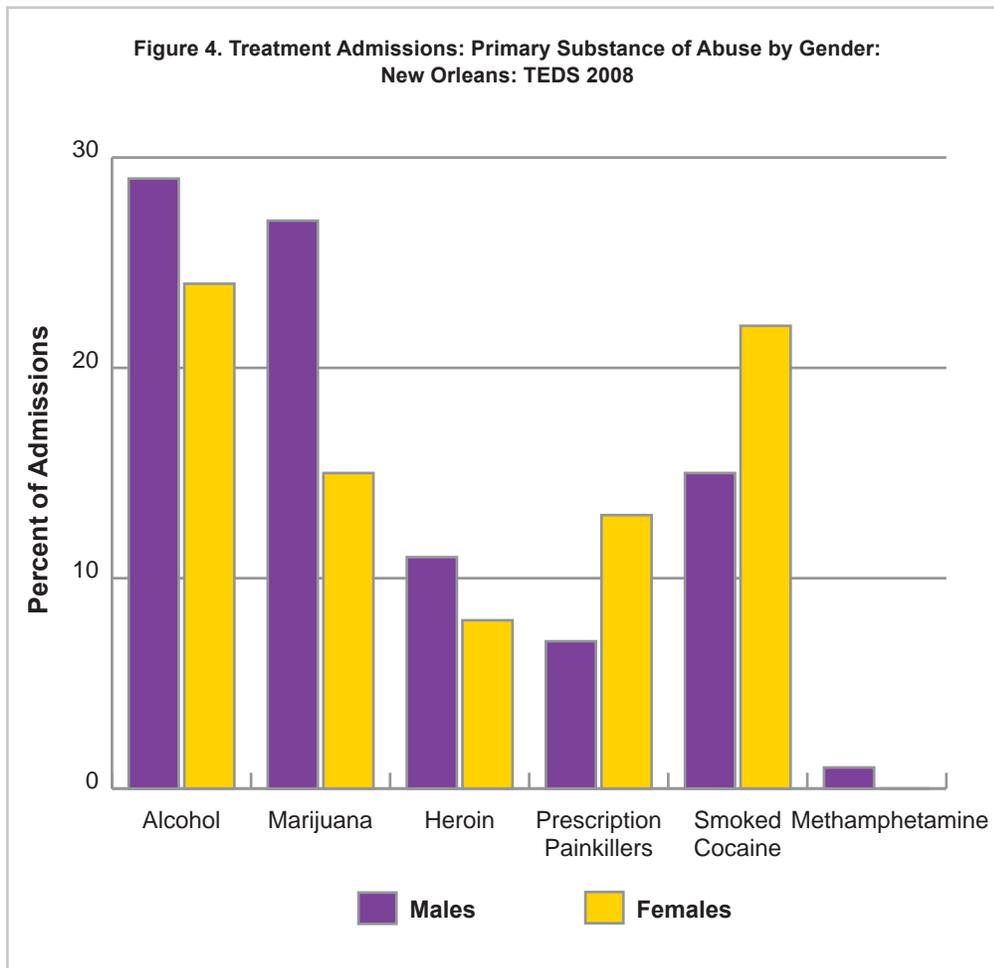
- Compared with the Nation as a whole and the State of Louisiana, treatment admissions in New Orleans were:
 - less likely to report primary alcohol,
 - equally likely as admissions in Louisiana as a whole but more likely than all U.S. admissions to report marijuana or smoked cocaine, and
 - less likely than all U.S. admissions, but more likely than Louisiana admissions as a whole to report heroin (Figure 3).



Source: Treatment Episode Data Set (TEDS) 2008

By Gender

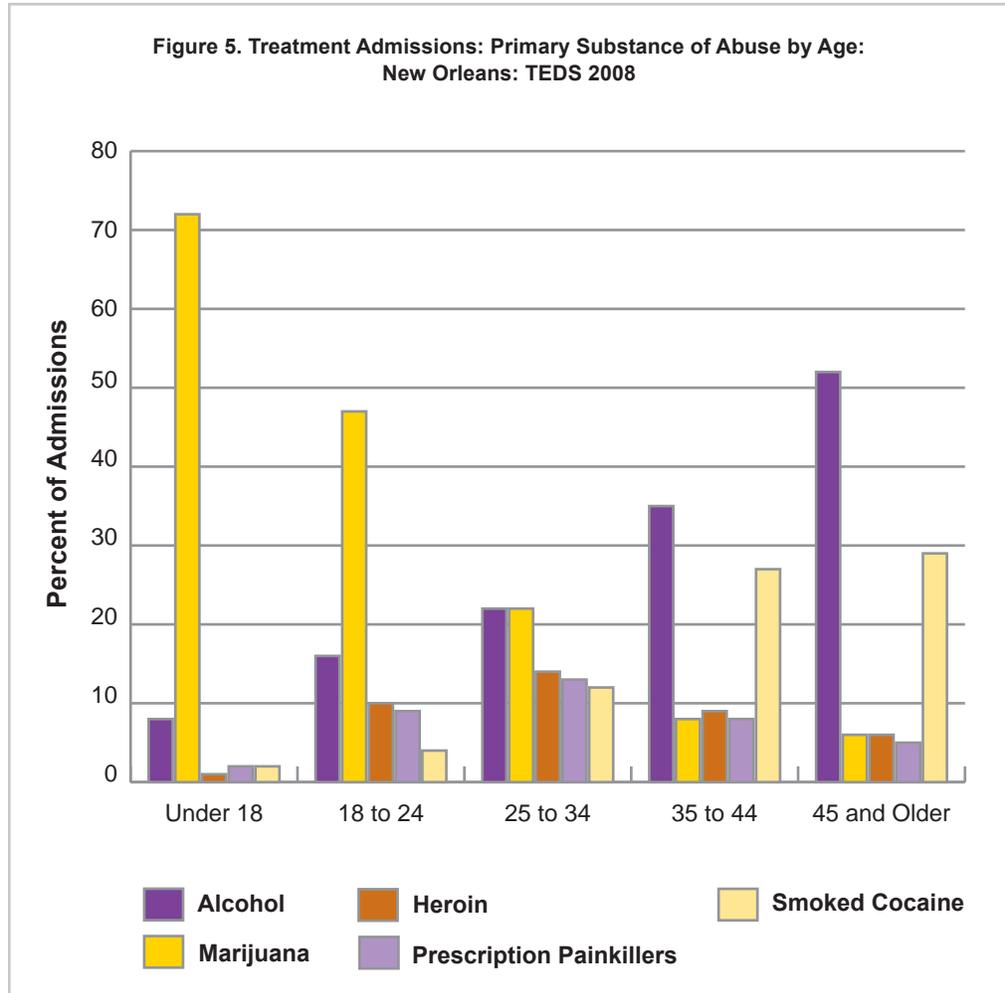
- Males and females reported alcohol as their primary substance of abuse more often than other substances.
- Second to alcohol, females reported smoked cocaine, and males reported marijuana more often than other substances.
- Compared with males, females were more likely to report prescription painkillers and smoked cocaine and less likely to report alcohol, marijuana, and heroin (Figure 4).



Source: Treatment Episode Data Set (TEDS) 2008

By Age

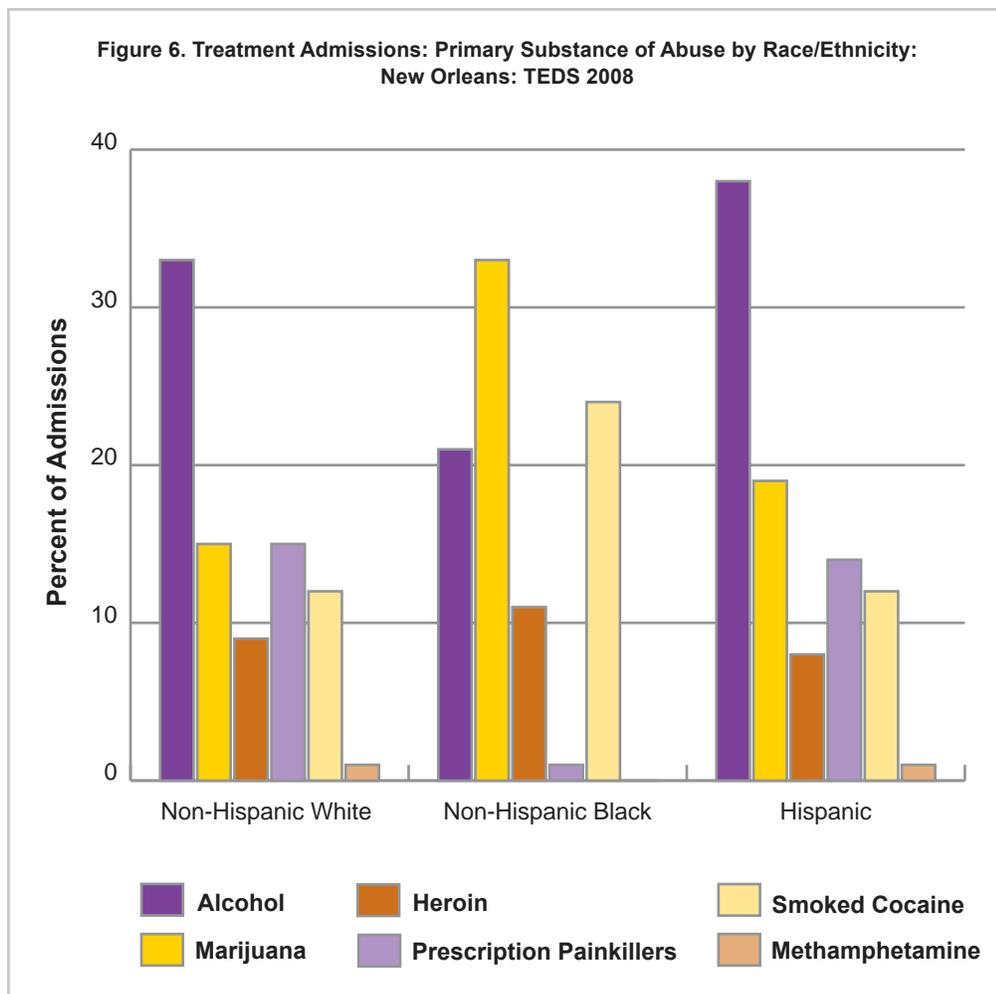
- Admissions under the age of 25 reported marijuana as their primary substance of abuse more often than other substances. Reports of marijuana decreased with age.
- Conversely, reports of alcohol increased with age. Alcohol and smoked cocaine were the most prevalent primary substances of abuse among admissions aged 35 and older.
- Among admissions age 25 and older, prescription painkillers were reported about as often as heroin (Figure 5).



Source: Treatment Episode Data Set (TEDS) 2008

By Race/Ethnicity

- Non-Hispanic White and Hispanic admissions reported alcohol as a primary substance of abuse more often than other substances; non-Hispanic Black admissions reported marijuana, followed by smoked cocaine.
- Non-Hispanic White and Hispanic admissions were more likely than non-Hispanic Black admissions to report prescription painkillers (Figure 6).



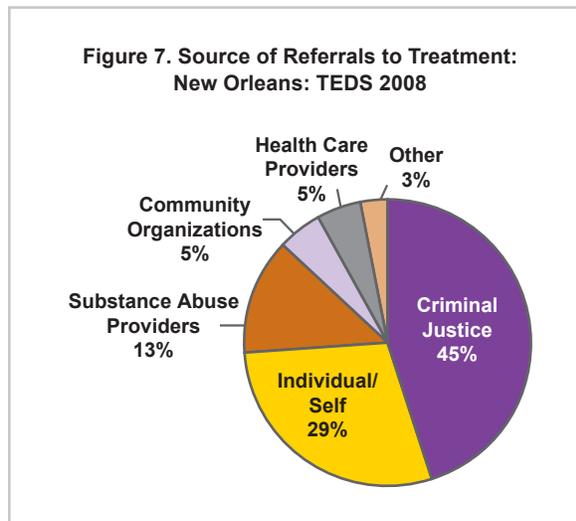
Source: Treatment Episode Data Set (TEDS) 2008

Injection Drug Use

- Of the total admissions in New Orleans, 13 percent reported injection drug use.

Sources of Referral

- The criminal justice system was the primary source of referral to treatment in New Orleans (45 percent), followed by individual/self-referral (29 percent), substance abuse providers (13 percent), health care providers (5 percent), and community organizations (5 percent) (Figure 7).



Source: Treatment Episode Data Set (TEDS) 2008

Substance Abuse Treatment Facilities

Types of Care

- In 2008, 38 facilities in New Orleans offered various types of substance abuse treatment services: 30 facilities offered outpatient care, 10 facilities offered non-hospital residential care, and 3 facilities offered hospital inpatient care. (Some facilities offered more than one type of care.)

Outpatient Care

- Of the 30 facilities that offered outpatient substance abuse care, 67 percent provided intensive outpatient services, and 10 percent offered day treatment/partial hospitalization.
- Regular outpatient treatment services were offered by 93 percent of outpatient facilities.

Residential Care

- Of the 10 residential facilities in New Orleans, 80 percent offered long-term residential treatment (more than 30 days), and 40 percent offered short-term residential treatment (30 days or less).

Detoxification Programs

- A total of 12 facilities offered detoxification services. Of these facilities, 100 percent provided detoxification from opiates (heroin and prescription painkillers), 67 percent from cocaine, and 67 percent from alcohol.

Opioid Treatment Programs

Opioid treatment programs (OTPs) provide medication-assisted therapy with methadone and/or buprenorphine for the treatment of addiction to opiates such as heroin and prescription painkillers.

- In 2008, 3 of the 38 treatment facilities (8 percent) in New Orleans operated OTPs. On a typical day,⁶ 1,417 clients at these OTPs were receiving medication-assisted opioid therapy with methadone or buprenorphine.⁷

References

U.S. Census Bureau. (2009). Metropolitan and micropolitan statistical areas. Retrieved on December 2, 2009, from <http://www.census.gov/population/www/metroareas/metrodef.html>

End Notes

- ¹ MSAs are geographic entities used by Federal statistical agencies to collect, analyze, and publish Federal statistics and are defined by the U.S. Office of Management and Budget.
- ² The New Orleans, Louisiana MSA includes the following parishes: St. John the Baptist, St. Charles, St. Bernard, Plaquemines, Orleans, Jefferson, and St. Tammany.
- ³ The Treatment Episode Data Set (TEDS) is a compilation of data on the demographic and substance abuse problems of those admitted for substance abuse treatment. The information comes primarily from facilities that receive some public funding. Information on treatment admissions is routinely collected by State administrative systems and submitted to the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) in a standard format. TEDS records represent admissions rather than individuals, because a person may be admitted to treatment more than once. See the annual TEDS reports at <http://www.oas.samhsa.gov/dasis.htm#teds3>.
- ⁴ The National Survey of Substance Abuse Treatment Services (N-SSATS) is designed to collect information from all facilities in the United States, both public and private, that provide substance abuse treatment. N-SSATS does not collect information from the following three types of facilities: non-treatment halfway houses; jails, prisons, or other organizations that treat incarcerated clients exclusively; and solo practitioners.
- ⁵ TEDS collects information on up to three substances of abuse that lead to the treatment episode. The main substance abused by the client is known as the “primary substance of abuse.”
- ⁶ N-SSATS collected information on the number of clients in treatment at each facility on the survey reference date of March 31, 2008.
- ⁷ It is possible that the number of clients receiving treatment at opioid treatment programs (OTPs) on the N-SSATS reference date will appear relatively large in comparison with the number of annual treatment admissions based on data from TEDS. Reasons for this include: (1) persons receiving medication-assisted opioid therapy often remain in treatment for extended periods of time and thus do not show up in an annual count of admissions to treatment; and (2) some private for-profit OTPs do not report to TEDS but are surveyed in the N-SSATS.