

The CBHSQ Spotlight

CENTER FOR BEHAVIORAL HEALTH
STATISTICS AND QUALITY



National Survey of Substance Abuse Treatment
Services

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Changes in integrated HIV care in substance use treatment facilities (2015-2020)

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The White House, in collaboration with federal partners and with input from the HIV community across the United States, released the [National HIV/AIDS Strategy \(2022-2025\)](#) (NHAS). The fourth goal of NHAS emphasizes the need for integrated care of substance use services as a strategy to end the HIV epidemic. People who use/misuse substances are at increased risk of contracting HIV¹. Early intervention should cover services that include routine offering and encouragement of HIV/STI (sexually transmitted infections) counseling, testing, and the provision of prophylactic and anti-viral prescriptions². Research shows that HIV testing and early intervention are important for reducing the spread of HIV and for improving outcomes of people living with HIV (“PLHIV”)^{3,4}. The aim of this analysis was to develop a baseline of substance use treatment services provided by facilities. The [National Survey of Substance Abuse Treatment Services](#) (N-SSATS) was used for this analysis for the years 2015-2020. The N-SSATS is an annual census of facilities providing treatment services for substance use disorders⁵. Three variables were selected and collected through N-SSATS: early intervention, HIV testing and STI testing.

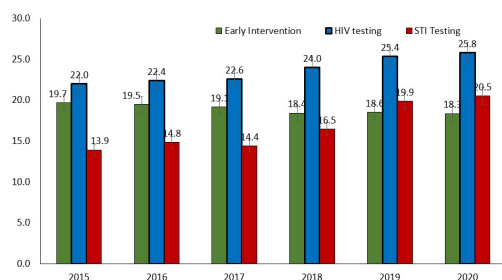


Figure 1. Change in percent of HIV testing, STI testing and early intervention services in substance use treatment facilities in US. (percent error bars)

Figure 1 shows that whereas provision of early intervention remained relatively even over the years, there was a change in HIV testing (22 percent) and STI testing (14 percent) from 2015 to 26 percent and 21 percent, respectively, by 2020. Increased early intervention, HIV testing, and STI testing, particularly through the availability of pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP), may have significantly contributed to the improvement of health outcomes of PLHIV who use or misuse substances. SAMHSA supports harm reduction efforts such as PrEP and syringe support services through various programs, grants, and evidence-based planning strategies for PLHIV. These efforts significantly support the NHAS strategy and assist in overcoming individual and health system barriers to implement effective integration of substance-use prevention and treatment.

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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.

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