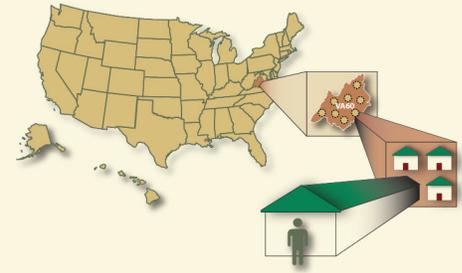


The NSDUH Report

May 14, 2013

Need for and Receipt of Substance Use Treatment among Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders



The 2010 Census notes that non-Hispanic Asian Americans or Pacific Islanders make up about 5 percent of the country's population.¹ Between 2000 and 2010, the Asian American or Pacific Islander population grew by over 43 percent, while the total population grew by 9.7 percent. The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) is committed to reducing disparities in access to and quality of care for racial and ethnic minorities.² The overall health and well-being of the Nation is improved by the extent to which the entire population has access to substance use treatment when it is needed. Understanding whether Asian Americans or Pacific Islanders seek and receive specialty treatment may help improve outreach and treatment programs for this population.

The National Survey on Drug Use and Health (NSDUH) gathers information about the need for substance use treatment, use of services, and reasons people do not receive treatment. NSDUH classifies persons as needing substance use treatment if they meet the criteria for dependence or abuse (based on symptoms they report) or if they received substance use treatment at a specialty facility in the past year.^{3,4,5} Respondents are also asked if there was a time in the past 12 months when they felt they needed substance use treatment. Persons who felt the need for treatment but did not receive treatment are asked if they made an effort to receive treatment.

This issue of *The NSDUH Report* looks at the need for and receipt of substance use treatment among Asian Americans or Pacific Islanders and persons of other racial and ethnic groups aged 12 or older.⁶ Estimates in this report are annual averages based on the combined 2003 to 2011 data.

Need for and Receipt of Specialty Treatment in the Past Year

Among persons aged 12 or older, Asian Americans or Pacific Islanders were less likely than persons of other racial and ethnic groups to need treatment for substance use in the past year. That is, 4.9 percent of

IN BRIEF

Combined 2003 to 2011 data indicate that among persons aged 12 or older, non-Hispanic Asian Americans or Pacific Islanders were less likely than persons of other racial and ethnic groups to need alcohol or illicit drug use treatment (4.9 vs. 9.5 percent)

Among persons in need of alcohol or illicit drug use treatment, Asian Americans or Pacific Islanders were less likely than persons of other racial and ethnic groups to receive treatment at a specialty facility in the past year (5.3 vs. 10.4 percent)

Among persons who needed but did not receive treatment in the past year, Asian Americans or Pacific Islanders were more likely than persons of other racial and ethnic groups to not feel the need to get specialty treatment (97.9 vs. 94.7 percent)

Asian Americans or Pacific Islanders (558,000 persons) and 9.5 percent of other racial and ethnic groups (22.5 million persons) needed treatment for alcohol or illicit drug use (Figure 1). Among persons aged 12 years or older, Asian Americans or Pacific Islanders were less likely than persons of other racial or ethnic groups to have needed treatment for alcohol use (3.9 vs. 7.8 percent). Similarly, Asian Americans or Pacific Islanders were less likely than persons of other racial or ethnic groups to have needed treatment for illicit drug use (1.4 vs. 3.2 percent).

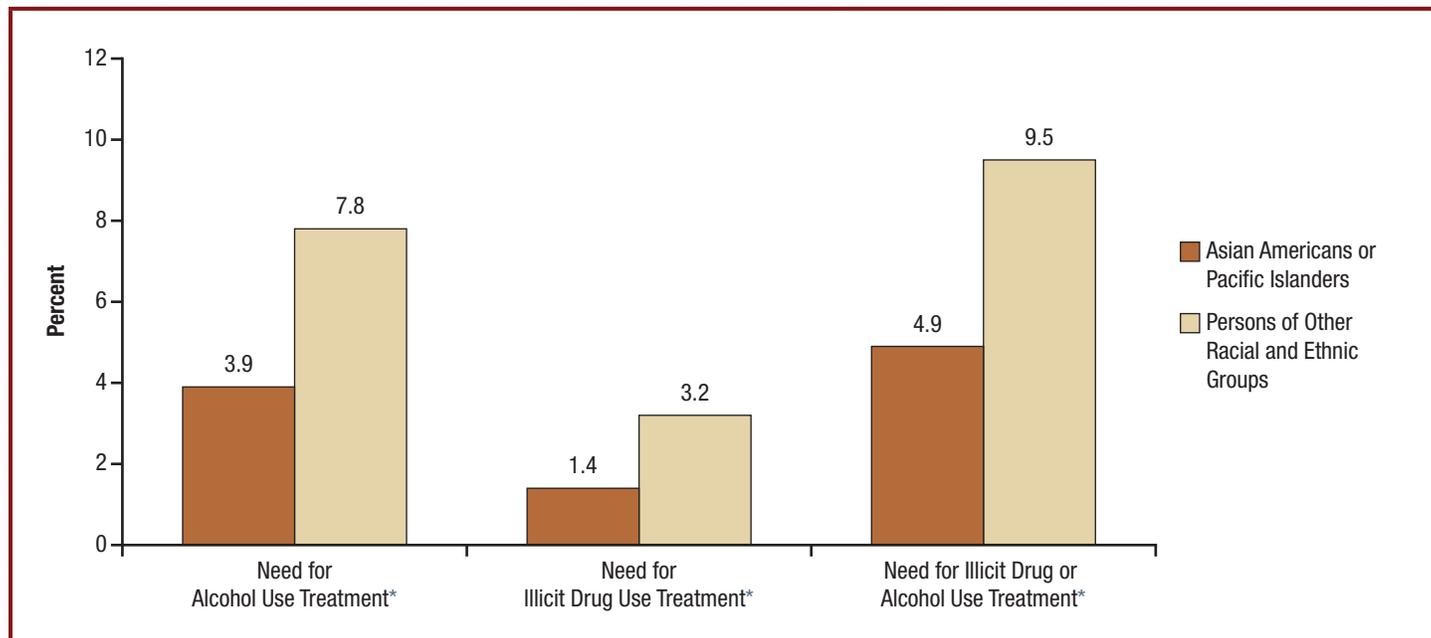
Among those aged 12 or older in need of substance use treatment, Asian Americans or Pacific Islanders were less likely than persons of other racial and ethnic groups to receive specialty treatment. An estimated 30,000 Asian Americans or Pacific Islanders (5.3 percent) and 2.3 million persons of other racial and ethnic groups

(10.4 percent) needed and received specialty treatment for illicit drug or alcohol use (Figure 2).

Self-Perceived Need for and Efforts Made to Receive Specialty Treatment

An estimated 529,000 Asian Americans or Pacific Islanders needed but did not receive specialty substance use treatment in the past year, compared with 20.1 million persons of other racial and ethnic groups. Among Asian Americans or Pacific Islanders who needed but did not receive specialty substance use treatment, 97.9 percent did not feel the need for treatment, 0.7 percent felt the need for treatment and made an effort to receive it, and 1.3 percent felt the need but did not make an effort to get treatment (Figure 3). In comparison, among persons of other racial and ethnic groups, 94.7 percent did not feel the

Figure 1. Need for Substance Use Treatment in the Past Year among Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders Aged 12 or Older Compared with Persons of Other Racial and Ethnic Groups Aged 12 or Older, By Substance: 2003 to 2011



*Difference between Asian Americans or Pacific Islanders and persons of other racial and ethnic groups is significant at the .05 level.

Source: SAMHSA, Center for Behavioral Health Statistics and Quality, National Surveys on Drug Use and Health (NSDUHs), 2003 to 2005, 2006 to 2010 (revised March 2012), and 2011.

Figure 2. Receipt of Specialty Substance Use Treatment in the Past Year among Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders Aged 12 or Older in Need of Treatment Compared with Persons of Other Racial and Ethnic Groups Aged 12 or Older in Need of Treatment, By Substance: 2003 to 2011

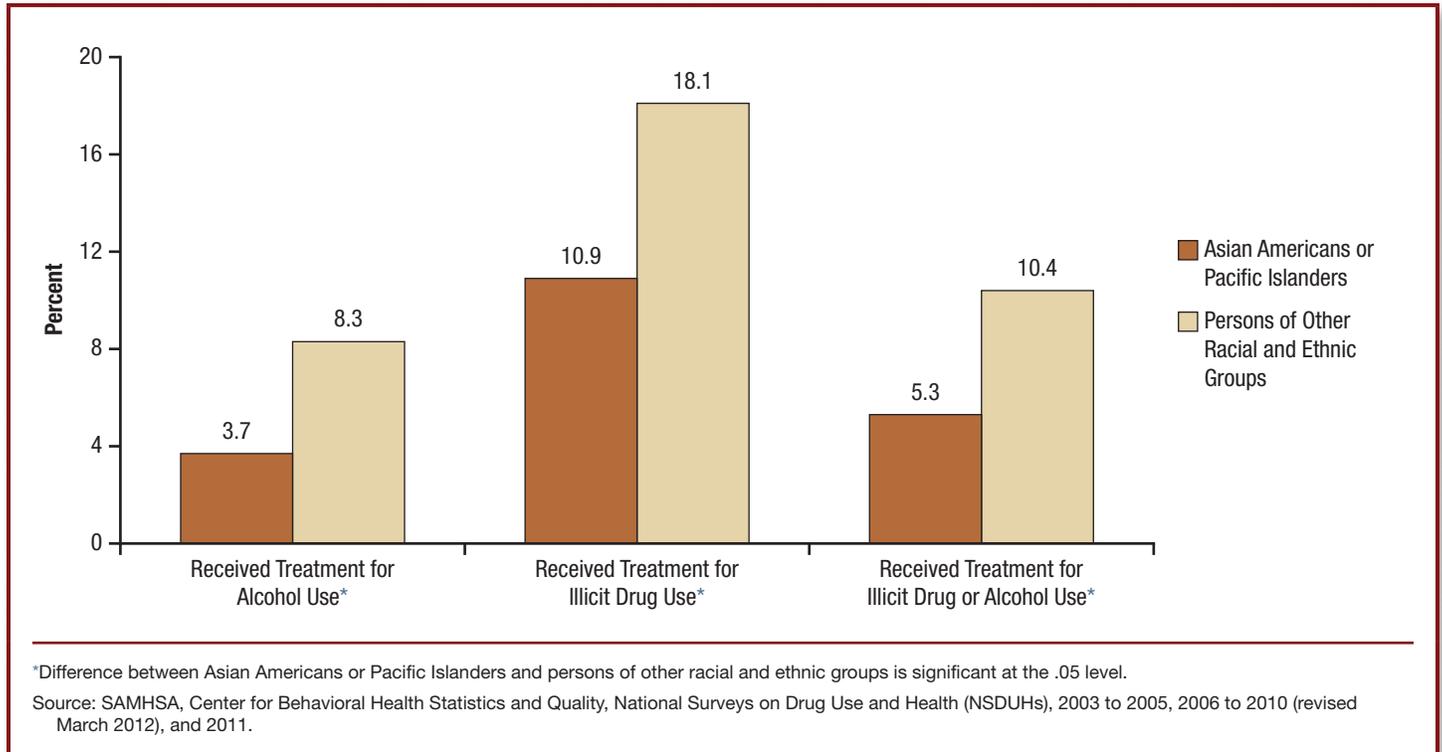
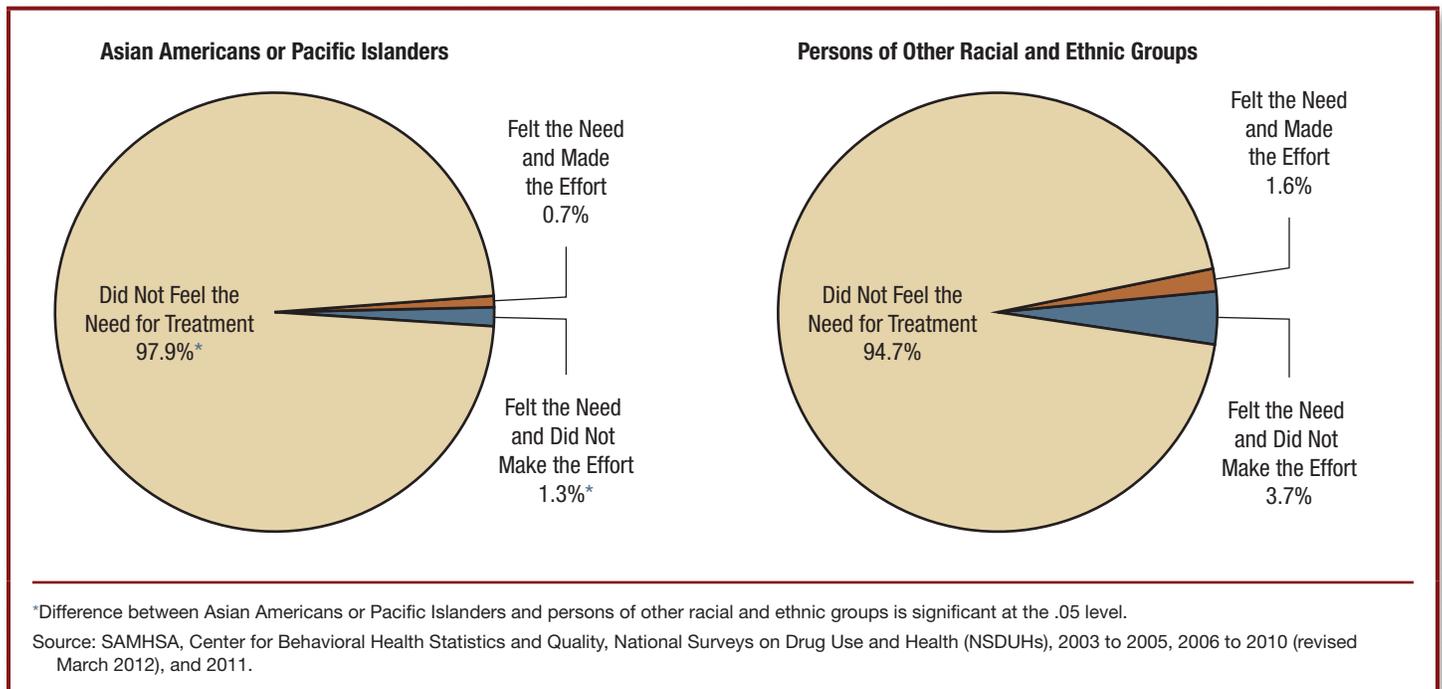


Figure 3. Past Year Perceived Need for and Effort Made to Receive Specialty Treatment among Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders Aged 12 or Older Needing but Not Receiving Specialty Substance Use Treatment Compared with Persons of Other Racial and Ethnic Groups Aged 12 or Older Needing but Not Receiving Specialty Substance Use Treatment: 2003 to 2011



need for treatment, 1.6 felt the need and made an effort to get it, and 3.7 percent felt the need and did not make an effort to get it.

Demographic Characteristics of Individuals Needing and Receiving Treatment

Asian Americans or Pacific Islanders in each age, gender, income, Federal Poverty Level (FPL), and health insurance coverage group were less likely than persons of other racial or ethnic groups to need substance use treatment (Table 1). For example, 6.7 percent of male Asian Americans or Pacific Islanders needed substance use treatment, whereas 12.7 percent of males of other racial or ethnic groups needed treatment. Almost 14 percent of Asian Americans or Pacific Islanders who were 18 to 25 years of age needed substance use treatment compared with 21.5 percent of persons of other racial or ethnic groups.

Among those who needed substance use treatment in the past year, Asian Americans or Pacific Islanders in most age, income, FPL, and health insurance coverage groups were less likely than persons of other racial or ethnic groups to receive substance use treatment. For persons aged 12 to 17 and females who needed treatment, there was no difference between Asian Americans or Pacific Islanders and persons of other racial or ethnic groups in whether they received specialty treatment.

Discussion

SAMHSA aims to reduce the impact of substance abuse and to improve access to quality services and support. This report shows that non-Hispanic Asian Americans or Pacific Islanders are less likely to need substance use treatment than individuals of other racial or ethnic groups. Among those who needed treatment for illicit

Table 1. Need for and Receipt of Treatment at a Specialty Facility for Substance Use in the Past Year among Asian Americans or Pacific Islanders Aged 12 or Older, Compared with Persons of Other Racial and Ethnic Groups Aged 12 or Older, by Selected Sociodemographic Characteristics: Percentages, 2003 to 2011

Sociodemographic Characteristic	Needed Substance Use Treatment: Asian Americans or Pacific Islanders	Needed Substance Use Treatment: Persons of Other Racial and Ethnic Groups	Received Substance Use Treatment: Asian Americans or Pacific Islanders Who Needed Treatment	Received Substance Use Treatment: Persons of Other Racial and Ethnic Groups Who Needed Treatment
Total	4.9	9.5	5.3	10.4
Aged 12 to 17	3.8*	8.2	7.7	8.0
Aged 18 to 25	13.9*	21.5	3.6*	7.7
Aged 26 or Older	3.3*	7.6	6.3*	12.1
Male	6.7*	12.7	4.9*	10.7
Female	3.2*	6.5	6.1	9.9
Less than 100% Federal Poverty Level (FPL)**	6.7*	12.8	—	18.4
100%-199% FPL	4.7*	9.7	5.1*	12.8
200% or More FPL	4.1*	8.7	3.5*	8.0
Health Insurance Coverage	4.4*	8.4	5.1*	9.6
No Health Insurance Coverage	7.8*	15.9	6.1*	13.0

*Difference between Asian Americans or Pacific Islanders and persons of other racial and ethnic groups is significant at the .05 level.

** Estimates are based on a definition of the Federal Poverty Level that incorporates information on family income, size, and composition and is calculated as a percentage of the U.S. Census Bureau's poverty thresholds. Respondents aged 18 to 22 who were living in a college dormitory were excluded. Estimates for poverty are only based on 2005 to 2011 data.

— Data suppressed due to low precision.

Source: SAMHSA, Center for Behavioral Health Statistics and Quality, National Surveys on Drug Use and Health (NSDUHs), 2003 to 2005, 2006 to 2010 (revised March 2012), and 2011.

drug or alcohol use in the past year, Asian Americans or Pacific Islanders are also less likely than persons of other racial or ethnic groups to receive specialty treatment. Asian Americans or Pacific Islanders who need but do not receive treatment are less likely to recognize their need for treatment and less likely to make an effort to receive specialty treatment. As the Asian American or Pacific Islander population continues to grow, increasing the awareness of Asian Americans or Pacific Islanders about their need for specialty treatment and access to specialty treatment facilities becomes even more important.

End Notes

1. Humes, K. R., Jones, N. A., & Ramirez, R. R. (2011, March). *Overview of race and Hispanic origin: 2010* (Census Briefs C2010BR-02). Washington, DC: U.S. Department of Commerce, Economics and Statistics Administration, U.S. Census Bureau.
2. U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. (2011, April). *HHS action plan to reduce racial and ethnic disparities: A Nation free of disparities in health and health care*. Washington, DC: Author.
3. NSDUH defines dependence on or abuse of alcohol or illicit drugs using criteria in the *Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders* (DSM-IV), which include such symptoms as withdrawal, tolerance, use in dangerous situations, trouble with the law, and interference with major obligations at work, school, or home during the past year. For details, see: American Psychiatric Association. (1994). *Diagnostic and statistical manual of mental disorders* (4th ed.). Washington, DC: Author.
4. 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.
5. 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.

6. NSDUH asks a series of questions about race/ethnicity. First, respondents are asked about their Hispanic origin; then they are asked to identify which racial grouping best describes them: white, black/ African American, American Indian or Alaska Native, Native Hawaiian, other Pacific Islander, Asian, or other. Respondents may select more than one race. For this report, respondents identifying themselves as Hispanic were assigned to the Hispanic group regardless of their racial identification. Asian American or Pacific Islander refers to persons identifying themselves as Asian, Native Hawaiian, or other Pacific Islander only. Persons identifying themselves as Asian or Pacific Islander and another racial group are included in the category of persons selecting two or more races.

Suggested Citation

Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, Center for Behavioral Health Statistics and Quality. (May 14, 2013). *The NSDUH Report: Need for and Receipt of Substance Abuse Treatment among Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders*. Rockville, MD.

The National Survey on Drug Use and Health (NSDUH) is an annual survey sponsored by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA). The 2003 to 2011 data used in this report are based on information obtained from 22,000 non-Hispanic Asian Americans or Pacific Islanders aged 12 or older, and 590,000 persons of other racial and ethnic groups, aged 12 or older. The survey collects data by administering questionnaires to a representative sample of the population through face-to-face interviews at their place of residence.

The NSDUH Report is prepared by the Center for Behavioral Health Statistics and Quality (CBHSQ), SAMHSA, and by RTI International in Research Triangle Park, North Carolina. (RTI International is a trade name of Research Triangle Institute.)

Information on the most recent NSDUH is available in the following publication:

Center for Behavioral Health Statistics and Quality. (2012). *Results from the 2011 National Survey on Drug Use and Health: Summary of national findings* (HHS Publication No. SMA 12-4713, NSDUH Series H-44). Rockville, MD: Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration.

Also available online: <http://www.samhsa.gov/data/>.



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES
Substance Abuse & Mental Health Services Administration
Center for Behavioral Health Statistics and Quality
www.samhsa.gov/data

Supporting Data Tables

Table 1. Estimated Numbers (in Thousands), Percentages, and Standard Errors of Percentages of Need for Substance Use Treatment in the Past Year among Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders Aged 12 or Older Compared with Persons of Other Racial and Ethnic Groups Aged 12 or Older, by Substance: 2003 to 2011

Need/Receipt of Treatment	Asian Americans or Pacific Islanders: Number	Asian Americans or Pacific Islanders: Percentage	Asian Americans or Pacific Islanders: Standard Error	Persons of Other Racial and Ethnic Groups: Number	Persons of Other Racial and Ethnic Groups: Percentage	Persons of Other Racial and Ethnic Groups: Standard Error
Need for Alcohol Use Treatment	452	3.9	0.19	18,483	7.8	0.06
Need for Illicit Drug Use Treatment	163	1.4	0.11	7,484	3.2	0.03
Need for Illicit Drug or Alcohol Use Treatment	558	4.9	0.21	22,479	9.5	0.07

NOTE: Respondents were classified as needing treatment for an illicit drug or alcohol problem if they met at least one of three criteria during the past year: (1) dependent on illicit drugs or alcohol; (2) abuse of illicit drugs or alcohol; or (3) received treatment for illicit drug or alcohol use at a specialty facility (i.e., drug and alcohol rehabilitation facility [inpatient or outpatient], hospital [inpatient only], or mental health center).

NOTE: 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.

Source: SAMHSA, Center for Behavioral Health Statistics and Quality, National Surveys on Drug Use and Health (NSDUHs), 2003 to 2005, 2006 to 2010 (revised March 2012), and 2011.

Table 2. Estimated Numbers (in Thousands), Percentages, and Standard Errors of Percentages of Receipt of Specialty Substance Use Treatment in the Past Year among Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders Aged 12 or Older in Need of Treatment Compared with Persons of Other Racial and Ethnic Groups Aged 12 or Older in Need of Treatment, by Substance: 2003 to 2011

Need/Receipt of Treatment	Asian Americans or Pacific Islanders: Number	Asian Americans or Pacific Islanders: Percentage	Asian Americans or Pacific Islanders: Standard Error	Persons of Other Racial and Ethnic Groups: Number	Persons of Other Racial and Ethnic Groups: Percentage	Persons of Other Racial and Ethnic Groups: Standard Error
Received Treatment for Alcohol Use among those Who Needed Alcohol Treatment	17	3.7	0.99	1,530	8.3	0.22
Received Treatment for Illicit Drug Use among those Who Needed Illicit Drug Treatment	18	10.9	3.18	1,351	18.1	0.43
Received Treatment for Illicit Drug or Alcohol Use among those Who Needed Illicit Drug or Alcohol Treatment	30	5.3	1.18	2,338	10.4	0.21

NOTE: Respondents were classified as needing treatment for an illicit drug or alcohol problem if they met at least one of three criteria during the past year: (1) dependent on illicit drugs or alcohol; (2) abuse of illicit drugs or alcohol; or (3) received treatment for illicit drug or alcohol use at a specialty facility (i.e., drug and alcohol rehabilitation facility [inpatient or outpatient], hospital [inpatient only], or mental health center).

NOTE: 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.

Source: SAMHSA, Center for Behavioral Health Statistics and Quality, National Surveys on Drug Use and Health (NSDUHs), 2003 to 2005, 2006 to 2010 (revised March 2012), and 2011.

Table 3. Estimated Numbers (in Thousands), Percentages, and Standard Errors of Percentages of Past Year Perceived Need for and Effort Made to Receive Specialty Treatment among Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders Aged 12 or Older Needing but Not Receiving Specialty Substance Use Treatment Compared with Persons of Other Racial and Ethnic Groups Aged 12 or Older Needing but Not Receiving Specialty Substance Use Treatment: 2003 to 2011

Need/Receipt of Treatment	Asian Americans or Pacific Islanders: Number	Asian Americans or Pacific Islanders: Percentage	Asian Americans or Pacific Islanders: Standard Error	Persons of Other Racial and Ethnic Groups: Number	Persons of Other Racial and Ethnic Groups: Percentage	Persons of Other Racial and Ethnic Groups: Standard Error
Did Not Feel Need for Treatment ¹	518	97.9	0.68	19,072	94.7	0.17
Felt the Need and Made Effort to Get Treatment ¹	4	0.7	0.46	321	1.6	0.09
Felt the Need and Did not Make the Effort to Get Treatment ¹	7	1.3	0.49	748	3.7	0.14

NOTE: Respondents were classified as needing treatment for an illicit drug or alcohol problem if they met at least one of three criteria during the past year: (1) dependent on illicit drugs or alcohol; (2) abuse of illicit drugs or alcohol; or (3) received treatment for illicit drug or alcohol use at a specialty facility (i.e., drug and alcohol rehabilitation facility [inpatient or outpatient], hospital [inpatient only], or mental health center).

NOTE: Needing but not receiving treatment refers to respondents classified as needing treatment for illicit drugs or alcohol, but have not received treatment for an illicit drug or alcohol problem at a specialty facility.

¹ Felt Need for Treatment includes persons who did not receive but felt they needed treatment for an illicit drug or alcohol problem, as well as persons who received treatment at a location other than a specialty facility but felt they needed additional treatment.

Source: SAMHSA, Center for Behavioral Health Statistics and Quality, National Surveys on Drug Use and Health (NSDUHs), 2003 to 2005, 2006 to 2010 (revised March 2012), and 2011.

Table 4. Estimated Numbers (in Thousands), Percentages, and Standard Errors of Percentages of Need for Treatment in the Past Year among Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders Aged 12 or Older Compared with Persons of Other Racial and Ethnic Groups Aged 12 or Older, by Selected Sociodemographic Characteristics: 2003 to 2011

Demographic Characteristic	Asian Americans or Pacific Islanders: Number	Asian Americans or Pacific Islanders: Percentage	Asian Americans or Pacific Islanders: Standard Error	Persons of Other Racial and Ethnic Groups: Number	Persons of Other Racial and Ethnic Groups: Percentage	Persons of Other Racial and Ethnic Groups: Standard Error
Total	558	4.9	0.21	22,479	9.5	0.07
Aged 12 to 17	42	3.8	0.32	1,960	8.2	0.08
Aged 18 to 25	232	13.9	0.55	6,733	21.5	0.14
Aged 26 or Older	284	3.3	0.24	13,787	7.6	0.08
Male	367	6.7	0.33	14,551	12.7	0.11
Female	192	3.2	0.26	7,928	6.5	0.07
Less Than 100% Federal Poverty Level (FPL) ¹	95	6.7	0.66	3,935	12.8	0.22
100% to 199% FPL	91	4.7	0.45	4,578	9.7	0.15
200% or More FPL	343	4.1	0.27	13,817	8.7	0.09
Health Insurance Coverage	437	4.4	0.21	16,986	8.4	0.07
No Health Insurance Coverage	122	7.8	0.74	5,493	15.9	0.19

NOTE: Respondents were classified as needing treatment for a substance use problem if they met at least one of three criteria during the past year: (1) dependent on the substance; (2) abuse of the substance; or (3) received treatment for substance use at a specialty facility (i.e., drug and alcohol rehabilitation facility [inpatient or outpatient], hospital [inpatient], or mental health center).

¹ Estimates are based on a definition of Poverty Level that incorporates information on family income, size, and composition and is calculated as a percentage of the U.S. Census Bureau's poverty thresholds. Respondents aged 18 to 22 who were living in a college dormitory were excluded. Estimates for poverty are only based on 2005 to 2011 data.

Source: SAMHSA, Center for Behavioral Health Statistics and Quality, National Surveys on Drug Use and Health (NSDUHs), 2003 to 2005, 2006 to 2010 (revised March 2012), and 2011.

Table 5. Estimated Numbers (in Thousands), Percentages, and Standard Errors of Percentages of Receipt of Treatment at a Specialty Facility for Substance Use in the Past Year among Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders Aged 12 or Older in Need of Substance Use Treatment Compared with Persons of Other Racial and Ethnic Groups Aged 12 or Older in Need of Substance Use Treatment, by Selected Sociodemographic Characteristics: 2003 to 2011

Demographic Characteristic	Asian Americans or Pacific Islanders: Number	Asian Americans or Pacific Islanders: Percentage	Asian Americans or Pacific Islanders: Standard Error	Persons of Other Racial and Ethnic Groups: Number	Persons of Other Racial and Ethnic Groups: Percentage	Persons of Other Racial and Ethnic Groups: Standard Error
Total	30	5.3	1.18	2,338	10.4	0.21
Aged 12 to 17	3	7.7	2.52	158	8.0	0.28
Aged 18 to 25	8	3.6	0.87	518	7.7	0.17
Aged 26 or Older	18	6.3	2.09	1,662	12.1	0.33
Male	18	4.9	1.20	1,552	10.7	0.28
Female	12	6.1	2.57	786	9.9	0.32
Less Than 100% Federal Poverty Level (FPL) ¹	—	—	—	723	18.4	0.71
100% to 199% FPL	5	5.1	2.09	587	12.8	0.56
200% or More FPL	12	3.5	1.07	1,103	8.0	0.29
Health Insurance Coverage	22	5.1	1.33	1,623	9.6	0.23
No Health Insurance Coverage	7	6.1	2.59	715	13.0	0.47

— Low precision; no estimate reported.

NOTE: Respondents were classified as needing treatment for a substance use problem if they met at least one of three criteria during the past year: (1) dependent on the substance; (2) abuse of the substance; or (3) received treatment for substance use at a specialty facility (i.e., drug and alcohol rehabilitation facility [inpatient or outpatient], hospital [inpatient], or mental health center).

NOTE: Received Substance Use Treatment at a Specialty Facility refers to treatment received at a hospital (inpatient), rehabilitation facility (inpatient or outpatient), or mental health center in order to reduce or stop illicit drug or alcohol use, or for medical problems associated with illicit drug or alcohol use. Estimates include persons who received treatment specifically for illicit drugs or alcohol, as well as persons who received treatment but did not specify for what substance(s).

¹ Estimates are based on a definition of Poverty Level that incorporates information on family income, size, and composition and is calculated as a percentage of the U.S. Census Bureau's poverty thresholds. Respondents aged 18 to 22 who were living in a college dormitory were excluded. Estimates for poverty are only based on 2005 to 2011 data.

Source: SAMHSA, Center for Behavioral Health Statistics and Quality, National Surveys on Drug Use and Health (NSDUHs), 2003 to 2005, 2006 to 2010 (revised March 2012), and 2011.