

Data Spotlight

National Survey of Substance Abuse Treatment Services

May 19, 2011

Availability of Asian Language Substance Abuse Treatment Counselors Varies by Region

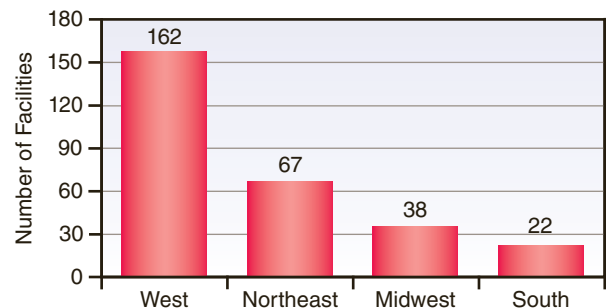
Each year, an estimated one half million Asian American adults need treatment for an illicit drug or alcohol problem.¹ Some of these Asian American adults do not speak English as their first language and need to receive substance abuse treatment services that are culturally sensitive and tailored to their specific linguistic needs. In the United States, demand for substance abuse treatment services that are tailored to various Asian cultures and languages may be greatest in the geographic area with the highest concentration of Asian or Asian American individuals—the Western region.² This *Data Spotlight* presents data on the percentage of substance abuse treatment facilities located in different geographical regions that deliver services in one or more of the following Asian languages: Chinese (any), Hmong, Korean, Tagalog, or Vietnamese.

Among substance abuse treatment facilities included in the 2009 National Survey of Substance Abuse Treatment Services (N-SSATS), 291 (2 percent) provided services in Chinese (any), Hmong, Korean, Tagalog, or Vietnamese through staff counselors. The proportion of facilities offering Asian language counselors varied by region of the United States, ranging from 4 percent of facilities located in the West (162 facilities) to 1 percent of facilities in the South (22 facilities; Figure). Tagalog was the most commonly provided Asian language service among facilities in the West (63 facilities), and Chinese (any) was the most commonly provided Asian language service among facilities in the Northeast (25 facilities), Midwest (17 facilities), and South (9 facilities; Table).

¹ Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, Office of Applied Studies. (May 20, 2010). *The NSDUH Report: Substance use among Asian adults*. Rockville, MD.

² U.S. Census Bureau (December, 2010). *Table 16: Regional distribution of the population by sex, for Asian alone or in combination and white alone, not Hispanic: 2009*. Retrieved from <http://www.census.gov/population/socdemo/race/api/ppl-ac09/ac09tab16.xls>.

Substance Abuse Treatment Facilities That Provide Services through Staff Counselors in Selected Asian Languages,* by Region: 2009



* Includes Chinese (any), Hmong, Korean, Tagalog, and Vietnamese.

Number of Substance Abuse Treatment Facilities That Provide Services through Staff Counselors Speaking an Asian Language, by Specific Asian Language and Region: 2009

Asian Language	Total*	Region			
		West	Northeast	Midwest	South
Chinese (any)	101	49	25	17	9
Hmong	46	31	5	10	0
Korean	60	30	20	2	7
Tagalog	91	63	19	5	2
Vietnamese	83	52	15	9	7
Total**	291	162	67	38	22

*Total column includes the four regions, as well as U.S. jurisdictions and territories.

**The sum of each column will not necessarily equal the "total facilities" line because some facilities offered services in multiple Asian languages.

Source: 2009 Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) National Survey of Substance Abuse Treatment Services (N-SSATS). N-SSATS is an annual survey of all substance abuse treatment facilities in the United States, both public and private, that are known to SAMHSA. N-SSATS is one component of the Drug and Alcohol Services Information System (DASIS), an integrated data system maintained by the Center for Behavioral Health Statistics and Quality, SAMHSA. Information and data for this report are based on data reported to N-SSATS for the survey reference date March 31, 2009.

