

# OAS Data Spotlight

National Survey of Substance Abuse Treatment Services

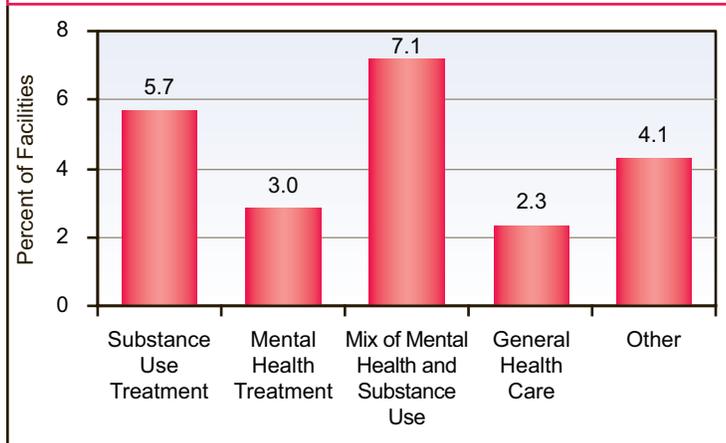
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## Substance Abuse Treatment Programs for Gays and Lesbians

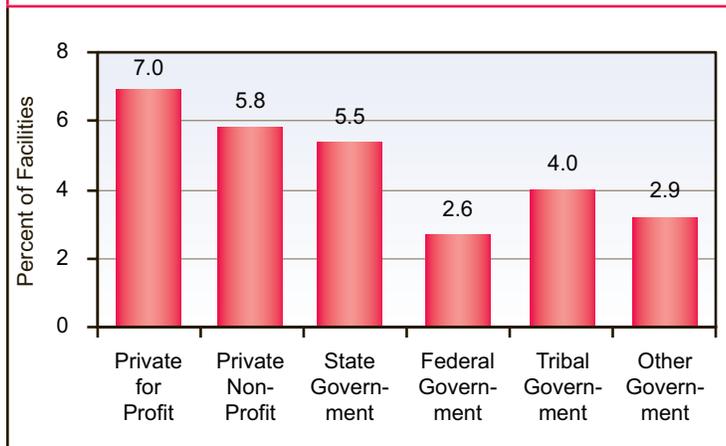
The extent of substance abuse disorders among the lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (LGBT) population is not well known, although a variety of research studies suggest that the rates may be 20 to 30 percent—rates which are higher than in the general population. Further, the clinical issues associated with LGBT clients may vary substantially within this population and in comparison with other clients.<sup>1</sup>

The National Survey of Substance Abuse Treatment Services (N-SSATS) provides information on the extent to which special programs for LGBT clients are available through the Nation's treatment network. Two characteristics of facilities—type of ownership and primary focus of the facility—are often associated with the available mix of services. In 2008, 777 of 13,688 (or 6 percent) of surveyed facilities offered these specialized programs. Figure 1 shows that facilities whose primary focus is a mix of substance abuse and mental health were more likely than other types of facilities to offer special groups for LGBT clients. Similarly, Figure 2 shows that facilities operated by private-for-profit entities were more likely to offer such programs.

**Figure 1. Percent of Facilities with Special Groups for Gays or Lesbians by Primary Focus of the Facility**



**Figure 2. Percent of Facilities Offering Special Programs for Gays or Lesbians by Ownership Status**



<sup>1</sup> Center for Substance Abuse Treatment. (2001). *A provider's introduction to substance abuse treatment for lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender individuals* (DHHS Publication No. SMA 01-3498). Rockville, MD: Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration. [Available at <http://kap.samhsa.gov/products/manuals/pdfs/lgbt.pdf>].

Source: 2008 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 the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA). N-SSATS is one component of the Drug and Alcohol Services Information System (DASIS), an integrated data system maintained by the Office of Applied Studies, SAMHSA.

