

Women and Adolescent Treatment Specialist Services

Office of Substance Abuse and Mental Health Service (SAMHS)

Maine Department of Health and Human Services

The Issue in Maine:

The SAMHS Treatment Data System reported in SFY 2013:

- ❑ 43% of the individuals in treatment were women whereas 57% were men. Women report in focus groups lack of participation in treatment due to access to services and stigma associated with being a female with an addiction.
- ❑ 50% of individuals in treatment reported their age at first use of substances as under the age of 18, with 43.3% beginning use between the ages of 14 and 18.

The 2013 Maine Integrated Youth Health Survey data indicates:

- ❑ 14.8% of high school students report they have had 5 or more alcoholic drinks in a row in the past month.
- ❑ 21.8% of high school students report they have been offered, sold, or given an illegal drug on school property.



Paul R. LePage, Governor

Mary C. Mayhew, Commissioner

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The SAMHS Treatment Team is responsible for assisting service providers with the coordination, planning, and implementation of alcohol and drug abuse programs. The Women and Adolescent Treatment specialist works directly with treatment programs that provide services to Women and Adolescents in Maine.

Program Goals:

- ❑ To increase the access and retention of treatment for Women and Adolescent populations
- ❑ To increase public awareness of issues related to substance abuse treatment services for Women and Adolescents.
- ❑ To collaborate with statewide programs dealing with Women and Adolescent treatment issues.
- ❑ To provide direct and indirect support for program development, content, and best practice resources for Women and Adolescent treatment programs.

Priority Populations:

- ❑ The priority population for women includes pregnant women who are IV drug users.
- ❑ The adolescent population includes youth 18 and under.

Program Activities:

- ❑ Assess and monitor contracts with agencies to ensure that Evidence Based Practices are being utilized.
- ❑ Assess and monitor contracts with agencies to ensure that the priority populations are being served.
- ❑ Assess and monitor data provided by agencies through our Treatment Data System to ensure access and retention measures are met.
- ❑ Collaborate with local agencies and groups including Women's Task Forces, Office of Child and Family Services, Youth Advocacy programs and other local initiatives to advocate for services for women and adolescents.
- ❑ Analyze policy options, at both state and local levels, for increasing the effectiveness of services provided to women and adolescents.
- ❑ Develop and provide technical assistance and trainings for agencies providing services to Women and Adolescents.
- ❑ Partner with other stakeholders on strategies to strengthen access to treatment for Women and Adolescents.
- ❑ Involvement in a wide range of committees concerned with substance abuse, coexisting disorders of substance abuse and mental illness, and the treatment system.