

Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA)

Programs Deliver Key Services to People Living with and At-Risk for HIV/AIDS

SAMHSA provides prevention, diagnosis, and treatment services for substance abuse and mental illness, that are especially important to people living with and at risk for HIV/AIDS:

- One-third of adult AIDS cases and over one-half of pediatric AIDS cases in the U.S. are linked to injection drug use—through sharing needles, having sex with an injection drug user, or having a mother infected through these behaviors.
- A large number of Americans use drugs that are administered intravenously. Helping these individuals avoid future IV drug use is an important element of the fight against the HIV/AIDS epidemic.
- In 2002, 166,000 people in the U.S. were heroin users, 597,000 were methamphetamine users, and 2.0 million were cocaine users. Reducing alcohol and drug use has been shown to decrease the likelihood that people will engage in behaviors that put them at risk for HIV/AIDS infection.
- HIV is a significant problem among people with serious mental illness. A study of Medicaid-insured patients living with HIV in New Jersey found that six percent suffered from schizophrenia and seven percent from a major affective disorder, such as a major depressive or bipolar disorder. In comparison, schizophrenia affects only one percent of the general population.

SAMHSA Services for Individuals Abusing Alcohol and Drugs

There are numerous programs that provide alcohol and drug abuse counseling and prevention services at risk of HIV/AIDS:

- Substance Abuse Prevention and Treatment Block Grant supports treatment services for individuals whose health insurance fails to cover alcohol and drug services, who have no insurance and who are unable to pay for those services themselves.
- Center for Substance Abuse Treatment (CSAT) plays a crucial leadership role in steering resources to underserved populations and meeting emerging needs of women, adolescents, communities of color, and homeless individuals.
- Center for Substance Abuse Prevention (CSAP) addresses current and anticipated gaps in the availability of alcohol and drug prevention services, seeking to make sure that every community has the ability to implement effective prevention.

FY 2005 Funding Needs

Center for Substance Abuse Prevention (CSAP)	\$248,600,000
Center for Substance Abuse Treatment (CSAT) (including block grant)	\$2,448,600,000
Center for Mental Health Services (CMHS) (including block grant)	\$970,200,000
Block Grant	\$489,000,000
Grants for the Benefit of Homeless Individuals (GBHI)	\$100,000,000
Projects for Assistance in Transition from Homelessness (PATH)	\$56,000,000

SAMHSA Services for Individuals with Mental Illness

Center for Mental Health Services Block (CMHS) Grant supports comprehensive, community-based care for adults with serious mental illnesses and children with serious emotional disorders. The program is the cornerstone of the federal partnership with states to plan and deliver state-of-the-art, community-based mental health services through outreach, mental and other health care services, individualized supports, rehabilitation, employment, housing, and education.

CMHS is developing programs to provide mental health services for individuals, their families, and others who may experience severe psychological distress as a result of their diagnosis and to identify models of effective mental health services delivery for people with HIV/AIDS. CMHS also trains mental health providers to identify and treat people with mental illnesses who may be at increased risk for HIV/AIDS. It also trains primary health care and support services providers to recognize, refer, and treat people with emotional trauma, depression, anxiety, severe mental disorders, and dementia associated with HIV/AIDS.

SAMHSA Services for the Homeless

Through the Grants for the Benefit of Homeless Individuals (GBHI) and Projects for Assistance in Transition from Homelessness (PATH), SAMHSA provides critical support services to homeless individuals with mental health, drug and alcohol problems who may also have HIV/AIDS.