

What is NASW's Practice Research Network?

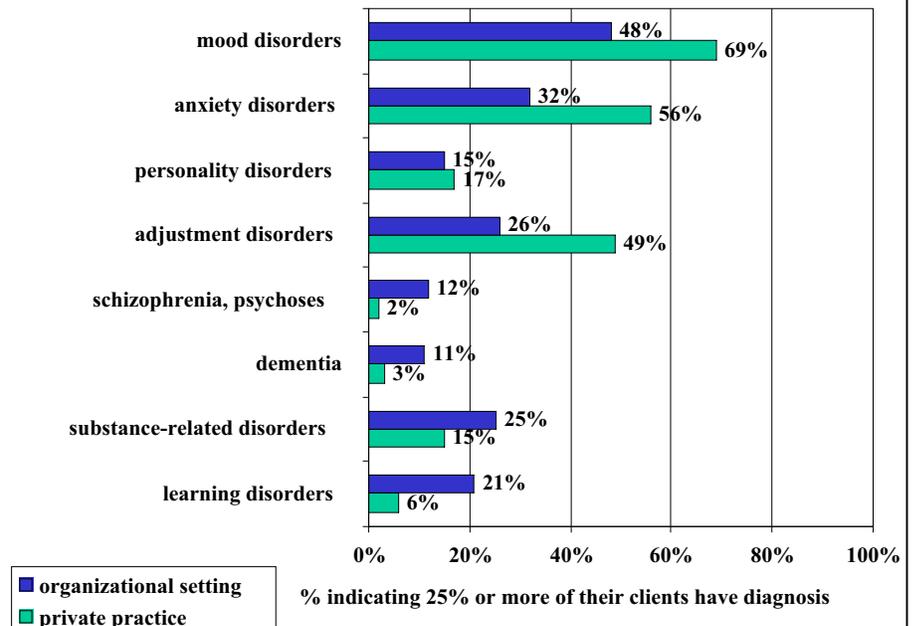
Through funding provided by the Center for Substance Abuse Treatment (CSAT) of the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA), NASW created the concept of a Practice Research Network (PRN). The goal of the PRN project is to collect data from social work practitioners, and to use the data to develop best practices, inform policy, and improve service delivery. NASW is designing and conducting a series of practice-based research surveys to help meet this goal. The information presented in this Datagram is from the second survey, conducted in 2002. This survey included elements about client and provider demographics, as well as more detailed information about substance abuse treatment provided by social workers. The second PRN survey follows the initial effort in 2000, focusing on clinical social work practice and substance abuse-services issues relevant to the profession.

Practice Research Network Survey 2002

- Conducted during Fall, 2002
- Randomly administered to 2,000 NASW regular members
- Response rate of 78% (n=1,560), making the data highly representative; margin of error of +/- 2.5% at a 95% confidence level

A new question in the 2002 PRN survey asked social workers to estimate the percentage of their clients having each of 10 primary diagnoses.

High Frequency Primary Diagnoses

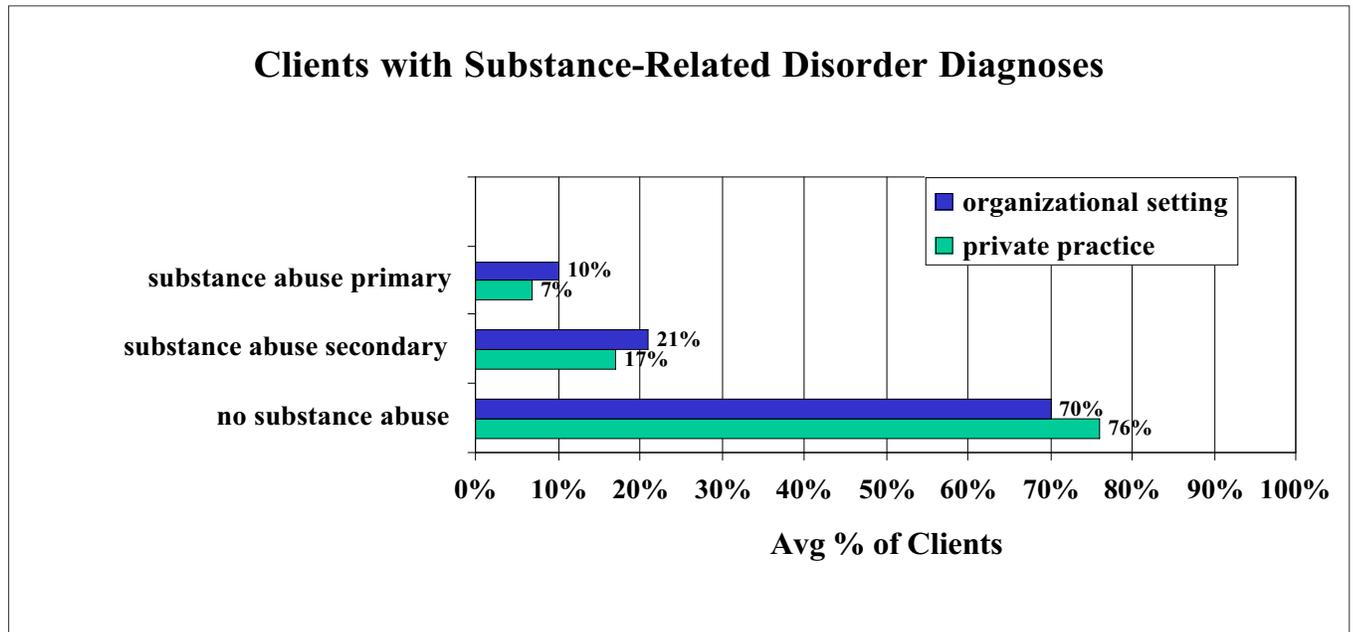


Of the primary diagnoses, social workers in private practice see more individuals with primary diagnoses of mood disorders, anxiety disorders, and adjustment disorders, than do social workers in organizational/institutional settings.

Social workers in organizational/institutional settings see more clients with a primary diagnosis of substance-related disorders compared to their colleagues in private practice. In addition, individuals with primary diagnoses of schizophrenia/psychoses and learning disorders are seen more frequently in organizational settings than by social workers in private practice.

Diagnoses of Substance-Related Disorders

In 2002, social workers employed in organizational/institutional settings reported an increase of 1.7% in the number of clients with substance-related disorders. Social workers in private practice reported an increase of 4.5% in this client population.



Type of Substance-Related Disorders

Of clients diagnosed with a substance-related disorder, nearly half (49%) of those seen in the organizational/institutional settings are treated for both alcohol and drug related problems. Over one-third (36%) of clients seen in private practice are treated for both.

