



## Description of Admissions Fact Sheet - Persons Who Inject Drugs FY 2017



This annual report provides information on persons who inject drugs admitted to BSAS funded and/or licensed services. In FY 2017, there were 47,839 admissions where the client reported injecting drugs in the year preceding admission. Starting in FY 2017, this fact sheet includes all age groups (including <18 years of age). To ensure proper interpretation of this data, please read the footnotes and refer to the appendix at the end of this report.

### Characteristics of Admissions

- The average age at admission for persons who inject drugs was 31.8 years.
- 24.0% had children under six years of age; 32.3% had children 6-18 years old.
- 3.3% lived with children under six years of age; 4.2% lived with children 6-18 years old.

|  |                                       | % of Enrollments |
|--|---------------------------------------|------------------|
| <b>Gender</b>  |                                       |                  |
|  | Female                                | 31.6%            |
|  | Male                                  | 68.3%            |
|  | Transgender                           | 0.0%             |
| <b>Race/Ethnicity</b>  |                                       |                  |
|  | Black, Non-Hispanic                   | 3.7%             |
|  | Hispanic                              | 14.2%            |
|  | Multi-Racial                          | 3.3%             |
|  | Other                                 | 2.4%             |
|  | White, Non-Hispanic                   | 76.3%            |
| <b>Education Level</b>   |                                       |                  |
|  | No Education or Less Than High School | 28.4%            |
|  | High School Diploma / GED             | 45.8%            |
|  | Beyond High School, No College Degree | 20.3%            |
|  | College Degree or Higher              | 3.7%             |
|  | Other                                 | 1.9%             |
| <b>Age</b>   |                                       |                  |
|  | Less Than 18                          | 0.2%             |
|  | 18 to 25                              | 17.0%            |
|  | 26 to 30                              | 27.9%            |
|  | 31 to 40                              | 35.6%            |
|  | 41 to 50                              | 13.5%            |
|  | 51 and Older                          | 5.8%             |
| <b>Employment (N= 18,930; excludes <a href="#">not in labor force</a>)</b>   |                                       |                  |
|  | Employed                              | 26.0%            |
|  | Not Employed                          | 74.0%            |
| <b>Homeless at Enrollment (N= 33,652 ; excludes cases where housing disposition at enrollment could not be determined)</b> |                                       |                  |
|  | No                                    | 58.9%            |
|  | Yes                                   | 41.1%            |
| <b>Marital Status</b>  |                                       |                  |
|  | Married                               | 5.1%             |
|  | Divorced                              | 8.2%             |
|  | Separated                             | 3.3%             |
|  | Never Married                         | 81.0%            |
|  | Partnership                           | 1.5%             |
|  | Widowed                               | 0.9%             |



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| <b>Client's Region of Residence</b>                           |       |
|---|-------|
| Central   | 14.0% |
| Greater Boston  | 18.3% |
| Metro West  | 10.2% |
| Northeast   | 16.5% |
| Southeast   | 23.7% |
| Western   | 16.7% |
| Out of State  | 0.5%  |
| <b>Prior Mental Health Treatment</b>                          |       |
| No  | 54.7% |
| Yes   | 45.3% |
| <b>Prior Mental Health Medication (in the past 12 months)</b> |       |
| No  | 65.5% |
| Yes   | 34.5% |



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### Substance Use Trends

#### Primary Substance of Use

Table 1 provides a summary of the "primary drug" reported at admission.

**Table 1**  
**Primary Drug Trend: FY 2008 - FY 2017**

|         | Total Admissions | Marijuana | Opioids |               | Other | Sedatives/Hypnotics |                           | Stimulants    |                  |
|---------|------------------|-----------|---------|---------------|-------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------|------------------|
|         |                  | Marijuana | Heroin  | Other Opioids | Other | Alcohol             | Other Sedatives/Hypnotics | Crack/Cocaine | Other Stimulants |
| FY 2008 | 34,443           | 0.6%      | 86.3%   | 2.9%          | 0.2%  | 5.5%                | 0.5%                      | 3.8%          | 0.2%             |
| FY 2009 | 37,474           | 0.6%      | 85.8%   | 3.3%          | 0.2%  | 6.1%                | 0.8%                      | 3.1%          | 0.1%             |
| FY 2010 | 41,179           | 0.6%      | 84.9%   | 4.5%          | 0.1%  | 6.2%                | 1.0%                      | 2.7%          | 0.1%             |
| FY 2011 | 39,757           | 0.6%      | 82.9%   | 6.3%          | 0.1%  | 5.8%                | 1.2%                      | 2.9%          | 0.1%             |
| FY 2012 | 43,111           | 0.4%      | 85.3%   | 5.5%          | 0.1%  | 4.7%                | 1.2%                      | 2.7%          | 0.2%             |
| FY 2013 | 46,579           | 0.5%      | 88.4%   | 3.2%          | 0.2%  | 4.3%                | 1.0%                      | 2.3%          | 0.2%             |
| FY 2014 | 53,076           | 0.5%      | 89.4%   | 2.1%          | 0.1%  | 4.7%                | 0.9%                      | 2.0%          | 0.2%             |
| FY 2015 | 48,940           | 0.4%      | 89.5%   | 1.8%          | 0.1%  | 5.3%                | 0.8%                      | 1.9%          | 0.3%             |
| FY 2016 | 48,392           | 0.5%      | 89.1%   | 1.5%          | 0.2%  | 5.4%                | 1.0%                      | 2.2%          | 0.3%             |
| FY 2017 | 47,839           | 0.5%      | 86.5%   | 1.8%          | 0.2%  | 6.0%                | 1.3%                      | 3.3%          | 0.5%             |

**- Drug Categories:**

**Other Opioids** includes: Prescription and Non Prescription Opioids.

**Other** includes: PCP, Other Hallucinogens, Inhalants, OTC, and Other.

**Other Sedatives/Hypnotics** includes: Benzodiazepines, Other Tranquilizers, Barbituates, and Other Sedatives.

**Other Stimulants** includes: Methamphetamine, Other Amphetamines, Other Stimulants, and Club Drugs.

- The total admissions reported in this table may vary from the total admissions for persons who inject drugs; for additional information, please refer to the appendix.

#### Past Year Substance Use

At admission, clients are asked to report on all substances used in the past 12 months. Due to poly-substance use\*, percentages may add up to more than 100%. Table 2 shows the distribution of past year substance use for all substances. This table includes information about admissions that reported past year substance use.

**Table 2**  
**Past Year Substance Use Trend: FY 2008 - FY 2017**

|         | Total Admissions | Marijuana | Opioids |               | Other | Sedatives/Hypnotics |                           | Stimulants    |                  |
|---------|------------------|-----------|---------|---------------|-------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------|------------------|
|         |                  | Marijuana | Heroin  | Other Opioids | Other | Alcohol             | Other Sedatives/Hypnotics | Crack/Cocaine | Other Stimulants |
| FY 2008 | 34,299           | 23.0%     | 93.5%   | 22.2%         | 4.4%  | 39.3%               | 23.7%                     | 44.7%         | 2.9%             |
| FY 2009 | 37,381           | 23.5%     | 94.3%   | 25.4%         | 3.7%  | 38.3%               | 26.9%                     | 39.0%         | 2.8%             |
| FY 2010 | 41,086           | 22.2%     | 93.5%   | 25.9%         | 3.3%  | 36.3%               | 26.6%                     | 35.9%         | 2.6%             |
| FY 2011 | 39,658           | 22.4%     | 92.2%   | 29.1%         | 3.4%  | 36.8%               | 29.3%                     | 38.0%         | 3.1%             |
| FY 2012 | 43,032           | 22.9%     | 93.4%   | 28.0%         | 3.6%  | 35.7%               | 29.4%                     | 36.9%         | 3.2%             |
| FY 2013 | 46,437           | 23.5%     | 94.5%   | 21.9%         | 4.8%  | 34.9%               | 27.3%                     | 35.0%         | 3.8%             |
| FY 2014 | 52,942           | 21.4%     | 95.1%   | 17.1%         | 3.9%  | 32.8%               | 26.6%                     | 33.5%         | 4.3%             |
| FY 2015 | 48,819           | 21.2%     | 95.7%   | 14.6%         | 3.7%  | 33.4%               | 24.6%                     | 32.5%         | 4.6%             |
| FY 2016 | 48,229           | 21.5%     | 95.5%   | 13.3%         | 3.7%  | 34.2%               | 23.5%                     | 35.0%         | 4.9%             |
| FY 2017 | 47,677           | 21.2%     | 94.3%   | 12.7%         | 3.4%  | 34.7%               | 24.1%                     | 39.7%         | 5.8%             |

**- Drug Categories:**

**Other Opioids** includes: Prescription and Non Prescription Opioids.

**Other** includes: PCP, Other Hallucinogens, Inhalants, OTC, and Other.

**Other Sedatives/Hypnotics** includes: Benzodiazepines, Other Tranquilizers, Barbituates, and Other Sedatives.

**Other Stimulants** includes: Methamphetamine, Other Amphetamines, Other Stimulants, and Club Drugs.

- The total admissions reported in this table may vary from the total admissions for persons who inject drugs; for additional information, please refer to the appendix.

\* Poly-substance use refers to either the use of multiple substances at the same time, or the use of multiple substances during a specified time frame.



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### Service Utilization

#### **Service Utilization**

Table 3 contains a list of the types of services utilized by persons who inject drugs.

**Table 3  
Service Category Trend: FY 2008 - FY 2017**

|         | Total Admissions | Acute Treatment Services | County Corrections | Engagement, Assessment and Referral | Intervention | Medication Assisted Treatment | Outpatient | Post Detox Stabilization | Recovery High School | Recovery Support | Residential | Supportive Case Management |
|---------|------------------|--------------------------|--------------------|-------------------------------------|--------------|-------------------------------|------------|--------------------------|----------------------|------------------|-------------|----------------------------|
| FY 2008 | 34,356           | 54.7%                    | 1.5%               | 0.0%                                | 0.0%         | 11.5%                         | 15.6%      | 7.8%                     | 0.0%                 | 0.0%             | 8.0%        | 1.0%                       |
| FY 2009 | 37,405           | 54.6%                    | 1.1%               | 0.0%                                | 0.0%         | 12.9%                         | 12.0%      | 10.9%                    | 0.0%                 | 0.0%             | 7.5%        | 1.0%                       |
| FY 2010 | 41,125           | 53.6%                    | 0.8%               | 0.0%                                | 0.0%         | 12.0%                         | 10.4%      | 14.4%                    | 0.0%                 | 0.1%             | 7.6%        | 1.1%                       |
| FY 2011 | 39,700           | 53.9%                    | 1.0%               | 0.0%                                | 0.0%         | 10.5%                         | 10.0%      | 15.7%                    | 0.0%                 | 0.0%             | 7.9%        | 1.0%                       |
| FY 2012 | 43,071           | 53.2%                    | 1.0%               | 0.0%                                | 0.0%         | 11.1%                         | 10.2%      | 15.0%                    | 0.0%                 | 0.0%             | 8.5%        | 1.0%                       |
| FY 2013 | 46,493           | 55.2%                    | 1.0%               | 0.0%                                | 0.0%         | 10.9%                         | 9.6%       | 14.2%                    | 0.0%                 | 0.0%             | 8.2%        | 0.9%                       |
| FY 2014 | 53,021           | 57.0%                    | 0.9%               | 0.0%                                | 0.0%         | 9.0%                          | 8.7%       | 15.1%                    | 0.0%                 | 0.1%             | 8.4%        | 0.9%                       |
| FY 2015 | 48,937           | 59.3%                    | 1.0%               | 0.0%                                | 0.0%         | 4.2%                          | 9.2%       | 16.4%                    | 0.0%                 | 0.0%             | 8.7%        | 1.2%                       |
| FY 2016 | 48,388           | 57.0%                    | 1.0%               | 0.0%                                | 0.0%         | 5.0%                          | 9.3%       | 17.0%                    | 0.0%                 | 0.3%             | 9.4%        | 1.0%                       |
| FY 2017 | 47,831           | 53.8%                    | 0.9%               | 0.0%                                | 0.0%         | 7.0%                          | 8.4%       | 18.1%                    | 0.0%                 | 1.7%             | 9.1%        | 1.0%                       |

- The total admissions reported in this table may vary from the total admissions for persons who inject drugs; for additional information, please refer to the appendix.
- Service types are classified into service categories based on setting.
- Engagement, Assessment and Referral includes opioid urgent care centers
- Medication Assisted Treatment includes all three FDA-approved MAT treatments: methadone, buprenorphine and extended-release injectable naltrexone
- Acute Treatment Services includes acute treatment services and section 35



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### Appendix

#### **General Notes**

- To protect client confidentiality, the data in cells containing 5 or fewer counts are suppressed.
- Data includes primary clients only; a primary client is defined as a person seeking treatment for their personal substance use problem(s).
- Missing/unknown/not applicable responses are excluded from the data. Therefore, the number of admissions for each category/table may vary from the total number of admissions.
- In 2014, a new system of reporting was adopted by some Methadone treatment providers. Due to this system change, the reported enrollment numbers for FY 2014 may be higher than the actual number of enrollments. This also influences any assessment data captured in the trend tables starting from 2014 onward.
- Homelessness at enrollment is determined based on the client's housing disposition at the time of enrollment.
- Due to data updates and changes to definitions, data included in this fact sheet **should not be compared** to similar data published in prior years.
- Data and definitions used were as of *July 6, 2018*.
- Prepared by: Massachusetts Department of Public Health, Bureau of Substance Addiction Services, Office of Statistics and Evaluation on *August 13, 2018*.

#### **Not Applicable Values**

The table below shows values that reflect a valid response for the element, but were excluded from the percent calculations. Specifically, in the calculation of the % employed, we exclude clients who are not in the labor force and clients who reported an employment status of other.

| Category   | Response           | % of Total Admissions |
|------------|--------------------|-----------------------|
| Employment | Not In Labor Force | 59.3%                 |
|            | Other              | 0.3%                  |