Trends in Substances of Abuse Among Pregnant Women and Women of Childbearing Age in Treatment

According to information from the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) “Treatment Episode Data Set (TEDS), 2000-2010,” the proportion of female substance abuse treatment admissions aged 15 to 44 who were pregnant at treatment entry remained relatively stable between 2000 and 2010 (4.4 and 4.8 percent). However, there were shifts in the types of substances reported by these treatment admissions. The percentage of pregnant admissions reporting alcohol abuse (with or without drug abuse) decreased from 46.6 percent in 2000 to 34.8 percent in 2010, and the percentage reporting drug abuse but not alcohol abuse increased from 51.1 percent in 2000 to 63.8 in 2010 (Figure 1).
Non-pregnant female admissions aged 15 to 44 show a similar pattern (Figure 2).

According to SAMHSA, the change in substances of abuse reported by admissions involving women of childbearing age, regardless of pregnancy status, may highlight the need to focus greater attention on addressing drug abuse among this population.

For more information on this Treatment Episode Data Set (TEDS), 2000-2010, please see http://store.samhsa.gov/product/TIP-51-Substance-Abuse-Treatment-Addressing-the-Specific-Needs-of-Women/SMA12-4426
For further information regarding women and substance abuse, please contact Dr. Karen Kuehn Howell at the Center for Maternal Substance Abuse and Child Development, Emory University School of Medicine, Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences, 12 Executive Park Drive NE, Atlanta, Georgia, 30329. You can also phone us at 404-712-9829 or visit our website at http://www.emory.edu/MSACD

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