

BASELINE SURVEY OF TREATMENT OUTCOMES UTILIZING THERAPEUTIC COMMUNITY IN GOVERNMENT SUBSTANCE ABUSE TREATMENT AND REHABILITATION CENTERS: THE PHILIPPINE EXPERIENCE

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Background: The treatment of substance dependence in the Philippine only recently shifted from a penal orientation to a medical one: The government drug “rehabilitation” centers were converted into Substance Abuse Treatment and Rehabilitation Centers (SATRCs) that employed the Therapeutic Community approach. This study aimed to create baseline survey of the patients who were admitted in Philippine SATRCs.

Methods: A cross sectional study was done utilizing records of patients who were admitted in three Philippine SATRCs as of February 28, 2010. A profile of the 447 patients was determined using their socio-demographic data and history of drug use and rehabilitative treatment. The characteristics of the first-time admitted clients were analyzed with those who had already previous admission in any setting. Using all these, we tried to establish a correlation between these factors and readmission.

Results: The baseline population appeared largely to be single, unemployed, Roman Catholic males with a mean age of 29 years old, coming from urban origins with at least a high school level education. Most are cigarette smokers (81.4%) who use stimulants (61.5%) along with other substances (54.1%) about 3 times weekly having used them for an average of 7 years, and having started before the age of 18 years old (66.2%). The trend was admission under legal pretexts (83.0%), mostly first-time admissions (60.2%), who have been admitted less than six months (49%), and who were dependent upon the stimulant or depressant upon admission

(76.3%). Clients with multiple admissions tended to be slightly older (mean = 31.8 yrs. old), single, stimulant users, who have been using for 8.6 years, staying more than six months, and being dependent upon admission. Readmission had is associated with age upon admission, age first taken, number of years used, and the frequency of substance use.

Conclusion: There is a high prevalence rate of readmissions among patients admitted in SATRC utilizing Therapeutic Community approach in the three SATRCs in the country among patients with age <18 years old, male sex, length of stay in SATRC, alcohol as primary drug of abuse, >10 years of drug use.

Recommendation: Evaluation of therapeutic community approach and other substance use interventions and its outcomes in relation patient's characteristics may be necessary to improve SATRC treatment outcomes.