

Client access to professionally trained counseling staff: Differences by type of program

J. Aaron Johnson, Ph.D.
Lori J. Ducharme, Ph.D.
Paul M. Roman, Ph.D.
Hannah K. Knudsen, Ph.D.

The University of Georgia

With research grant support from the National Institute
on Drug Abuse (R01DA14976 and R01DA14482)



The University of Georgia

Background

- Concern about adoption and implementation of “evidence-based practices” in addiction treatment field - “research to practice gap”
 - Substantial resources devoted to development of treatment techniques, including medications and psycho-social approaches
 - Substantial resources devoted to “bridging” gap – NIDA CTN, SAMHSA ATTC’s, etc.
 - Environmental constraints, organizational barriers to innovation adoption
 - Our research – devoted to identifying barriers as well as factors facilitating adoption
- Previous research on innovation adoption in addiction treatment:
 - Significant differences in adoption across different types of programs
 - Master’s level counselors – higher awareness, training, receptivity to evidence-based psycho-social techniques and pharmacotherapies (Forman, et al., 2001; Ball et al. 2002; Knudsen, et al., In Press)
 - Adoption more likely in programs employing higher percentage of Master’s level counselors (Roman & Johnson, 2002; Knudsen & Roman, 2004; Knudsen, et al., In Press; Fuller, et al., 2005)



Research Questions

- What are the characteristics of programs employing Master's level counselors?
- In terms of client access to professionally educated clinicians utilizing evidence-based practices, what are the implications of these findings?



The National Treatment Center Study

- Monitoring the organization, management, delivery, and content of addiction treatment in the U.S.
- Includes Nationally Representative Samples of:
 - Privately-funded treatment programs (N=401)
 - Publicly-funded treatment programs (N=362)
- Programs must offer a level of care for addiction treatment at least equivalent to structured outpatient as defined by ASAM
 - Excludes: methadone maintenance-only facilities, clinicians in private practice, DUI-only programs, halfway houses



NTCS Instrument Design

- Multiple data collection methods used:
 - Detailed on-site interviews with program administrator
 - Focuses on organizational characteristics, services offered, and use of innovations
 - Mail questionnaire from program administrator
 - Focuses on leadership and management practices
 - Mail questionnaire from counselors
 - Focuses on services received by clients and attitudes toward innovations
 - Brief telephone follow-ups w/ program administrator at six month intervals
 - Focuses on major changes within the center
- Today's presentation: data from on-site interviews and counselor questionnaires collected between July 2002 and June 2004



Demographic Characteristics of Master's level counselors

	% with Master's		% with Master's
Overall	42.8		
Male	39.3	Certified	36.4
Female*	44.7	Non-certified*	50.8
Caucasian	47.7	In Recovery	26.6
Minority*	29.7	Not in Recovery*	59.7



Relationship between certification and recovery status

	% Certified (CAC, CADAC)
In Recovery	67.2
Not in Recovery	44.2

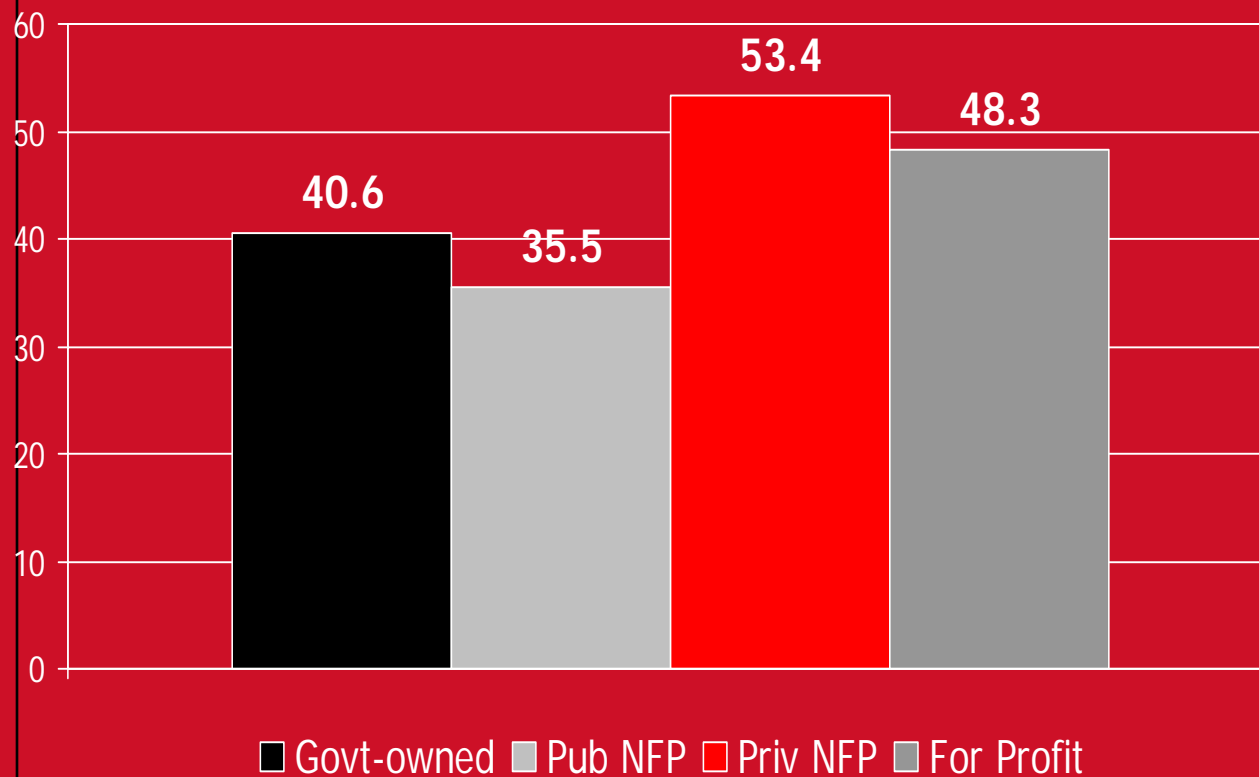


Characteristics of programs employing Master's level counselors



The University of Georgia

Percentage of Master's level counselors by Program Type



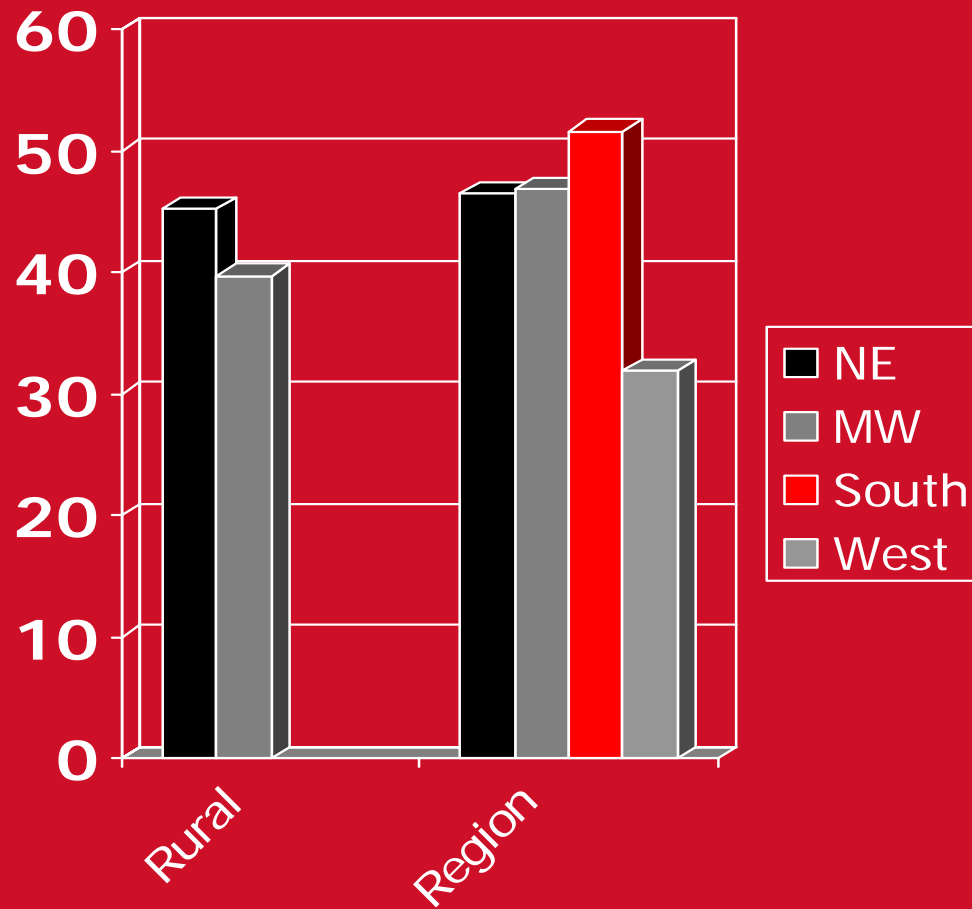
- Significantly higher % MA counselors in Private NFP and For Profit



Organizational Factors Associated with % Master's level Counselors



Labor Market Factors Associated with % Master's level Counselors



Final Multivariate OLS Regression Model Predicting % Master's Level Counselors

- Labor Market (Geographic Location)
 - Rural program (-)
 - South, Midwest, Northeast
- Organizational
 - Size (FTEs) (unexpectedly -)?
 - Physician on staff
 - Integrated CD and Mental Health
- Program Caseload
 - Percent Adolescents
 - Percent Racial/Ethnic Minority (-)
 - Percent Probation/Parole (-)



Conclusions

- Two-tiered system (Yahr, 1988) not public vs. private, but rural/nonrural
- Western states trail the rest of the country
- The highest percentages of professionally trained staff employed in programs with physicians on staff and offering integrated tx for CD and MH
- Minorities and Parolees have less access to professionally trained staff



For more information...

- Visit us at www.uga.edu/ntcs
- Data summaries
- Recent and upcoming presentations
- Publication abstracts

