



**Assessment and Treatment of Co-occurring Eating Disorders in Publicly Funded Addiction Treatment Programs**

Gordon S, JA Johnson, SF Greenfield, L Cohen, T Killeen & PM Roman  
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Objective: Publicly-funded addiction treatment programs were surveyed to increase understanding of current treatment options for this population. Methods: Data were collected from face-to-face interviews with program directors of a nationally representative sample of 351 addiction treatment programs between 2002 and 2004. Results: Half of the programs screen patients for eating disorders; 29% admit all eating disorder cases and 48% admit cases of low severity. Few programs attempt to treat eating disorders. Programs that do admit and treat patients with eating disorders are more likely to emphasize a medical/psychiatric model of addiction, use psychiatric medications, admit patients with other psychiatric disorders, and have a lower caseload of African-American patients. Conclusions: Generally, patients with co-occurring eating and substance use disorders do not appear to receive structured assessment or treatment for eating disorders in addiction treatment programs. These results highlight the need for education of addiction treatment professionals in assessment of eating disorders.