

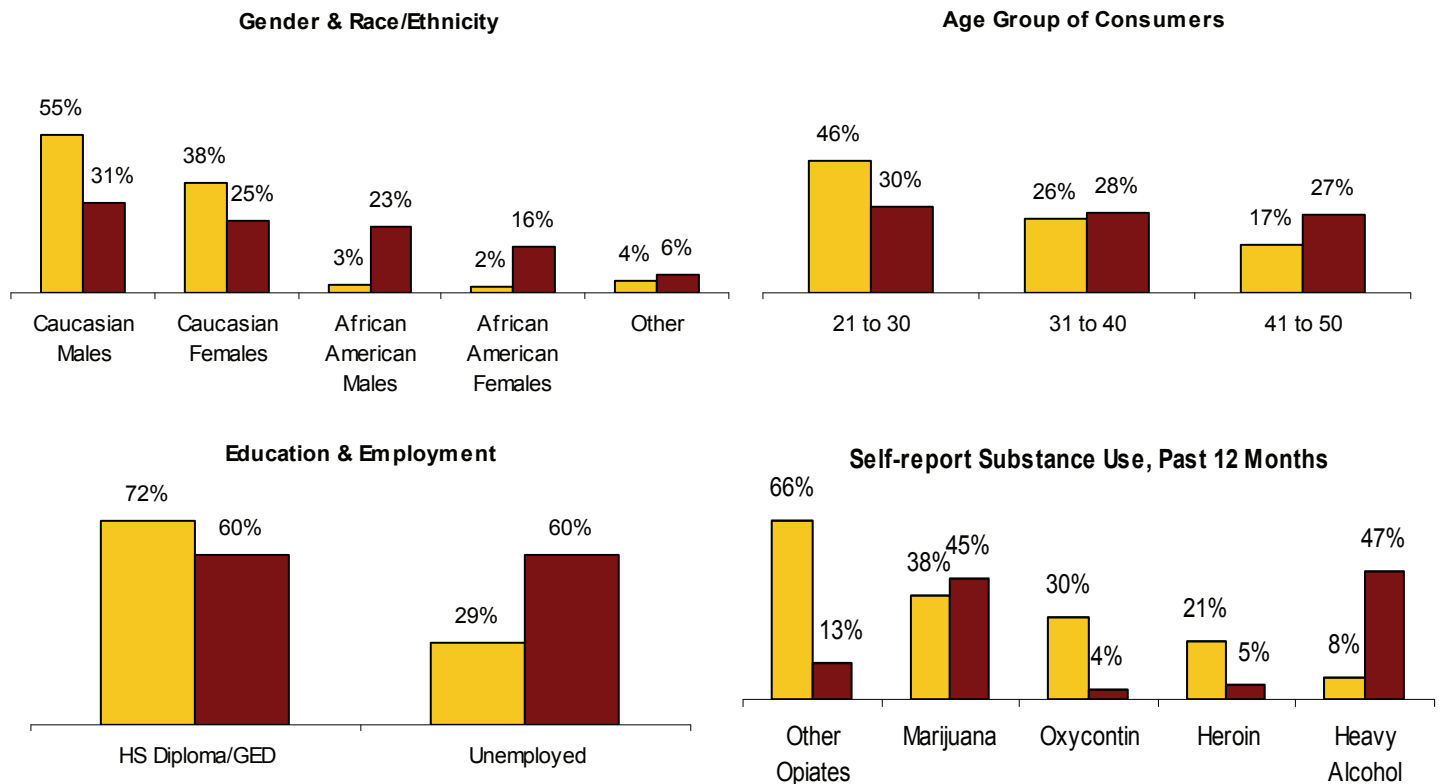


NC-TOPPS SNAPSHOT

Adult Consumers in Opioid Treatment Programs

The treatment regime for opioid addiction differs substantially from most other outpatient substance abuse (SA) treatments delivered within the state of North Carolina. Due to these differences, NC-TOPPS reports and Snapshots on consumers who abuse substances generally omit individuals participating in opioid programs. Opioid maintenance therapy (OMT) utilizes methadone, a long-acting opioid medication, or other FDA approved drug along with rehabilitation and medical services to treat individuals addicted to heroin and other narcotic drugs. In general, attendance by consumers in opioid treatment programs is consistently maintained over an extended period of time. Nearly all NC opioid treatment programs collect information through NC-TOPPS, and special questions related to opioid use are asked during the interviews. It is because of these differences in treatment, attendance, and completion rates that data from opioid programs are always reported separately from other SA treatment. This Snapshot examines differences in consumer characteristics and substance use patterns between two substance abuse treatment populations, consumers in opioid treatment programs and those in non-opioid SA treatment programs. * An **opioid** is a chemical substance that has a morphine-like action in the body. The main use is for pain relief. (Wikipedia)

■ Opioid Treatment (N = 4,976) ■ Non-Opioid SA Treatment (N = 18,449)



Summary.

Consumers enrolled in opioid treatment programs are predominately Caucasian with less than 10% of enrollees representing other races/ethnicities. A substantially larger percentage of opioid treatment program consumers are between the ages of 21 and 30. Over 70% have at least completed high school or obtained a GED, and less than a third are unemployed. Substances most widely used include other opiates (other than heroin or oxycontin), marijuana, and oxycontin. In contrast, non-opioid substance abuse treatment programs have a higher percentage of African American consumers, and participants are equally distributed among various age groups. Twice as many are unemployed compared to those in opioid treatment programs, and only 60% have at least a high school diploma. Unlike those in opioid treatment programs, less than 14% report using other opiates, oxycontin, or heroin. Cocaine and heavy use of alcohol, and marijuana were the most used substances within the past 12 months among non-opioid treatment consumers.

TIME PERIOD: INITIAL ASSESSMENTS CONDUCTED JULY 1, 2007– JUNE 30, 2008

SOURCE: (1) NC-TOPPS OPIOID PROGRAMS: STATEWIDE

(2) ADULT SUBSTANCE ABUSE CONSUMERS: STATEWIDE