



COMMUNITY OF PRACTICE:

Barriers to Treatment

for Women with Substance Use Disorder

The Community of Practice (CoP) was developed through a partnership with IMPACT WV and the WV Home Visiting Program to help participants exchange technical information and share experiences about serving clients currently experiencing or who have past experiences with substance use and neonatal abstinence syndrome (NAS).

***The information in this IMPACT WV product was taken from a CoP presentation by Karen Allen, PhD, RN, FAAN, Dean and Professor of Nursing, College of Nursing and Health Professionals at Valparaiso University and author of the Allen Barriers to Treatment Instrument (ABTI).**

Aim

The purpose of this CoP:

- Understand the definition and have a conceptualization of Barriers to Treatment
- Examine studies conducted on Barriers to Treatment and its evolution over time
- Delineate Barriers to Treatment women with a substance use disorder have in the WV Community
- Contribute to strategic thinking and planning for removal of these Barriers to Treatment so that the lives of women and children can be changed for the better

General Information

In general, women across the country face endless barriers, especially increased healthcare costs during their reproductive years. Women with a substance use disorder, during this time frame, are at higher risk.

What is a **barrier**?

- A circumstance or obstacle that keeps people or things apart, or prevents communication or progress
(Oxford Dictionary)

What is **treatment**?

- Detox
- Residential inpatient
- Outpatient
- Medication assisted treatment (MAT)
- Emergency, life-saving treatments (i.e. Naloxone)
- Mental health diagnosis and treatment
- Home-based healthcare

Barriers to Care for Women (*JAMA*. 2019;321(22):2154.)

- Women incur greater healthcare costs, thus more likely to not receive care
- Younger women are more likely to not have a regular clinician established, thus receiving less preventative care
- Women are more likely to have pre-existing conditions, and are at greater risk for financial strain from losing coverage or paying more for insurance

Issues Surrounding Attrition and Women Leaving Treatment

- Relationship issues in treatment programs
- Obligations to families and significant others
- Inability to get women into treatment
- Lack of care and understanding of what they are going through



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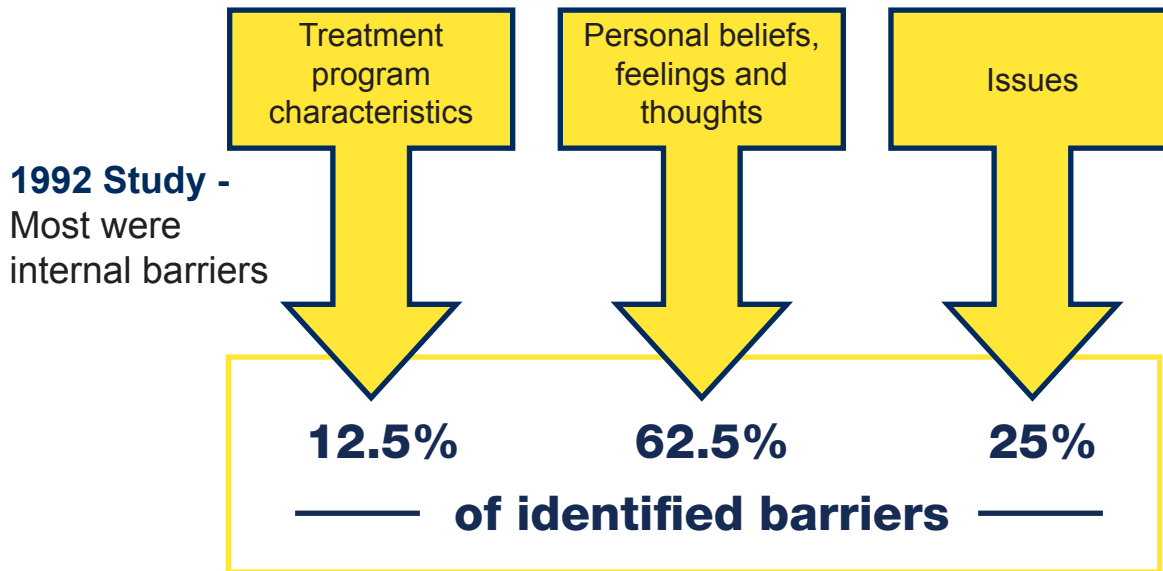
for Women with Substance Use Disorder

General Information

The Allen Barriers to Treatment Instrument (ABTI) was developed from the woman's perspective as a response to asking "How do we get women to come to treatment?"

<https://www.samhsa.gov/grants/gpra-measurement-tools/csat-gpra/csat-gpra-ppw>

Three Assessment Sections:



Changes to barriers over time

- Increase in research and innovation among programs and services
- Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services (SAMSHA) funded treatment centers
- Establishment of Affordable Care Act
- Access to care increased, however, increase in barriers as a result of gender differences.

Barriers have increased since 1992 - in 2019 only 12.2% received substance use treatment

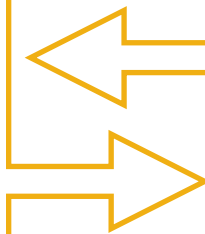
Conceptualizing barriers in 2021

EXTERNAL

Environmental	Accessibility
Geographical	Affordability
Political	Availability
Legal	Racism
Socioeconomic	Inequality
Lifestyle	

INTERNAL

Brain	Literacy
Physiological	Cultural
Mental Health	Attributes
Utilization of	Languages
Services	





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Tips

- Use the ABTI over time on Moms to assess for barriers.
- Identify solutions to remove the barrier as it becomes evident
- Identify whether barriers are internal or external
- Continue to gain knowledge to stay up to date and be open minded to break the stigma cycle
- Be a known member of the community, advocate for change and be persistent to see that change through



Resources

Multiple studies have been conducted over the years to address barriers to treatment.

Articles:

2019 National Survey of Drug Use and Health (NSDUH) releases. SAMHSA.gov.
<https://www.samhsa.gov/data/release/2019-national-survey-drug-use-and-health-nsduh-releases>.
Accessed October 13, 2021.

Chartier K.G., Miller, K., Harris, T.R., Caetano R. A. 10-year study of factors associated with alcohol treatment use and non-use in a U.S. population sample. *Drug Alcohol Depend.* 2016;160:205-211. doi:10.1016/j.drugalcdep.2016.01.005

Patrick, S.W., Buntin, M.B., Martin, P.R., Scott, T.A., Dupont, W., Richards, M., & Cooper, W.O. (2018). Barriers to Accessing Treatment for Pregnant Women with Opioid Use Disorder in Appalachian States. *Substance Abuse*. DOI: 10.1080/08897077.2018.1488336.

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