Understanding Patient Perspectives: OUD

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Vision
Our vision is to eliminate addiction as a major health problem.

Mission
We lead the fight against the deadly consequences of addiction and help patients, families, and communities affected by the disease.

Who We Are
The Addiction Policy Forum is a nationwide nonprofit organization dedicated to eliminating addiction as a major health problem. Our national headquarters are located in Washington, DC with resources and services in every state.
Patient Perspectives

- Individuals with Active SUD
- Individuals in Recovery & Treatment
- Family Members/Caregivers
Cassidy was one of the 185 people who die in our country each day from an overdose.

Get help today if you or a loved one are struggling.
To better understand the impact of COVID-19 on individuals with substance use disorders (SUDs), the Addiction Policy Forum with funding support from NIDA administered a survey to our network of patients, families and survivors between April 27 and May 8, 2020.

Key Takeaways:

1. One in three respondents (34%) report changes in treatment or recovery support services due to the COVID-19 pandemic.
2. 3% reported a non-fatal overdose and 1% reported a fatal overdose since the pandemic began.
3. 87% of those who report access disruptions also report emotional changes since the pandemic began, compared to 72% of those who do not report access disruptions.
4. Twenty-four percent of responses indicate that their/family member’s substance use has changed because of COVID-19. Of these, 83% say that that change was counter therapeutic, and substance use increased.
5. 48% of patients and families reported fear of becoming infected with COVID-19 as a top concern, followed by spreading the virus (46%) and social isolation (40%).
Reduced Access to Treatment and Recovery Services During the Pandemic

1 in 3 respondents report changes or disruption in treatment or recovery support services

Categories of Service Disruption

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Service Disruption</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Unable to Get Needed Services</td>
<td>41%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unable to Access Support Groups</td>
<td>21%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unable to Access Naloxone</td>
<td>8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unable to Access Syringe Services</td>
<td>7%</td>
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</tbody>
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How Treatment is Changing

Among patients and families reporting changes in their service delivery, many report accessing modified access points.

Changes in Service Delivery

- Receiving Telehealth Services: 54%
- Getting Medication by Curbside Pickup or Delivery: 13%
- Able to get take-home doses of MAT: 10%
COVID-19 Effects and Concerns

Overall, 74% of respondents say they had noticed changes in their emotions since the pandemic began. The percentage of those who reported emotional changes was higher among those who have had changes in treatment access. Among those who reported changes in treatment access, 87% report emotional changes.

COVID-19 Testing and Symptoms

Source: Addiction Policy Forum

Concerns About COVID-19 Pandemic

Percent of Responses Endorsing Emotional Changes
Addiction Policy Forum’s Strategic Priorities

End Stigma
Build empathy and compassion by educating the public and key constituencies about addiction as a health condition.

Prevent Addiction And Intervene Quicker
This is a preventable illness and early intervention is key.

Foster Innovation
Focus on innovation, progress, solutions. Replicate and take to scale. Ensure proper resources.

Help Patients and Families in Crisis
Help those currently struggling.

Improve Treatment
Integrate treatment into healthcare, improve quality and make it easier to access.
THANK YOU
ADDICTION POLICY FORUM

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