

### **NSHAPC Alcohol/Drug/Mental Health Problem (ADM) Definitions**

Respondents were classified as having a *mental health problem within the past month* if *any* of the following conditions were met:

- (1) they scored 0.25 or higher on a modified Addiction Severity Index (ASI) measure (a composite measure giving equal weight to Client Survey Questions 12.1 through 12.4),
- (2) they reported receiving treatment or counseling or being hospitalized for emotional or mental problems within the past month (Q12.5d, 12.6d),
- (3) they reported taking prescribed medications for psychological or emotional problems within the past month (Q12.1a(8)),
- (4) they reported that a mental health condition is the single most important thing keeping them from getting out of homelessness (Q14c), or
- (5) they reported receiving treatment or counseling or being hospitalized for emotional or mental problems at some point in their lives *and* having one or more serious emotional or psychological conditions within the past month (Q12.5a, 12.6a, 12.1a).

Respondents were classified as having a *mental health problem within the past year* if *any* of the following were true:

- (1) they were classified as having a mental health problem within the past month,
- (2) they reported having three or more serious emotional or psychological conditions in the past year (Q12.1a),
- (3) they reported receiving treatment or counseling or being hospitalized for emotional or mental problems in the past year (Q12.5d, 12.6d),
- (4) they reported taking prescribed medications for psychological or emotional problems within the past year (Q12.1a(8)), or
- (5) they reported receiving treatment or counseling or being hospitalized for emotional or mental problems at some point in their lives *and* having one or more serious emotional or psychological conditions within the past year (Q12.5a, 12.6a, 12.1a).

Respondents were classified as having a *mental health problem in their lifetime* if *any* of the following were true:

- (1) they were classified as having a mental health problem within the past year,

- (2) they reported ever having three or more serious emotional or psychological conditions (Q12.1a),
- (3) they reported ever receiving treatment or counseling or being hospitalized for emotional or mental problems (Q12.5a, 12.6a),
- (4) they reported ever taking prescribed medications for psychological or emotional problems (Q12.1a(8)), or
- (5) they reported ever having stayed in a mental hospital, psychiatric ward, or adult group home, crisis residence, or other housing for the mentally ill (Q2.11a(6), 2.11a(13)(c), 3.15a(6), 3.15a(13)(c)).

Respondents were classified as having a *alcohol use problem within the past month* if *any* of the following conditions were met:

- (1) they scored 0.17 or higher on a modified Addiction Severity Index (ASI) measure (a composite measure giving equal weight to Q13.2 through 13.6),
- (2) they reported drinking to get drunk three or more times a week within the past month (13.1b(2)),
- (3) they reported being treated for alcohol abuse within the past month (Q13.11, 13.13), or
- (4) they reported ever having been treated for alcohol abuse *and* drinking three or more times a week within the past month (Q13.10a, 13.12a, 13.1b(1)).

Respondents were classified as having an *alcohol use problem within the past year* if *any* of the following were true:

- (1) they were classified as having an alcohol use problem within the past month,
- (2) they reported drinking to get drunk three or more times a week within the past year (Q13.1b(2)),
- (3) they reported being treated for alcohol abuse within the past year (Q13.11, 13.13), or
- (4) they reported ever having been treated for alcohol abuse *and* drinking three or more times a week within the past year (Q13.10a, 13.12a, 13.1b(1)).

Respondents were classified as having an *alcohol use problem within their lifetime* if *any* of the following were true:

- (1) they were classified as having an alcohol use problem within the past year,
- (2) they reported ever drinking to get drunk three or more times a week (Q13.1b(2)),
- (3) they reported ever having three or more alcohol-related problems (Q13.7), or
- (4) they reported ever being treated for alcohol abuse (Q13.10a, 13.12a).

Respondents were classified as having a ***drug use problem within the past month*** if *any* of the following conditions were met:

- (1) they scored 0.10 or higher on a modified Addiction Severity Index (ASI) measure (a composite measure giving equal weight to Q13.14 through 13.17),,
- (2) they reported being treated for drug abuse within the past month (Q13.22, 13.24),
- (3) they reported using drugs intravenously (shooting up) (Q10.1(q)), or
- (4) they reported using any of a variety of specific drugs three or more times a week within the past month (Q13.14b).

Respondents were classified as having a ***drug use problem within the past year*** if *any* of the following conditions were met:

- (1) they were classified as having a drug use problem within the past month,
- (2) they reported being treated for drug abuse within the past year (Q13.22, 13.24), or
- (3) they reported using any of a variety of specific drugs three or more times a week within the past year (Q13.14b).

Respondents were classified as having a ***drug use problem within their lifetime*** if *any* of the following conditions were met:

- (1) they were classified as having a drug use problem within the past year,
- (2) they reported ever having three or more drug-related problems (Q13.18),
- (3) they reported ever being treated for drug abuse (Q13.20), or
- (4) they reported ever using any of a variety of specific drugs three or more times a week (Q13.14a).

Respondents were classified as having an *ADM problem in the past month* if (1) they were classified as having an alcohol, drug, or mental health problem in the past month (as defined above) or (2) they reported “addiction(s) to alcohol or drugs” as the single most important thing keeping them from getting out of homelessness (Q14c).

They were classified as having an *ADM problem in the past year* if met any of the criteria for having a past-year alcohol, drug, or mental health problem.

Finally, respondents were classified as having an *ADM problem in their lifetime* if (1) they were classified as having an alcohol, drug, or mental health problem in their lifetime (as defined above) or (2) they reported ever having stayed in a residential recovery program, such as substance abuse halfway house (Q2.11a(13)(b), 3.15a(13)(b)).<sup>1</sup>

---

<sup>1</sup> The past-month and lifetime ADM measures include a second criterion (not included in the individual alcohol or drug measures) indicating some type of substance use problem but not allowing one to identify whether the problem is/was with alcohol, drugs, or both.