

A Profile of Clients Served by the Drug and Alcohol Branch, GBHWC

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Introduction and Methodology

The Guam Behavioral Health and Wellness Center (GBHWC) is the designated single state entity providing mental health services to the population of Guam. The Drug & Alcohol Branch (D & A) is a branch under the Clinical Services Division of GBHWC. D & A is mandated by Guam Public Law 17-21 to provide comprehensive inpatient/residential and community-based outpatient substance abuse treatment programs and services for the people of Guam. D & A provides several levels of care including Drug Education/Brief Intervention ASAM 0.5, Level 1 Outpatient and Level 2 Intensive Outpatient under the program “New Beginnings,” and Level 3.7 Withdrawal Management services. Level 3.5 Residential services are provided through contracted partners Salvation Army Lighthouse Recovery Center and Sanctuary Incorporated-Youth.

D & A staff have been collecting information on consumers during intake screening. However, these data have not been subjected to systematic analysis since 2021. The GBHWC Prevention and Training Branch through the Guam State Epidemiological Outcomes Workgroup (SEOW) provided technical assistance to D & A by reviewing the raw data from Fiscal Year (FY) 2022 to 2024, calculating frequency statistics and providing an analysis of the profile of consumers served under New Beginnings, Salvation Army Lighthouse Recovery Center and Sanctuary Incorporated-Youth. This report summarizes the findings of that analysis.

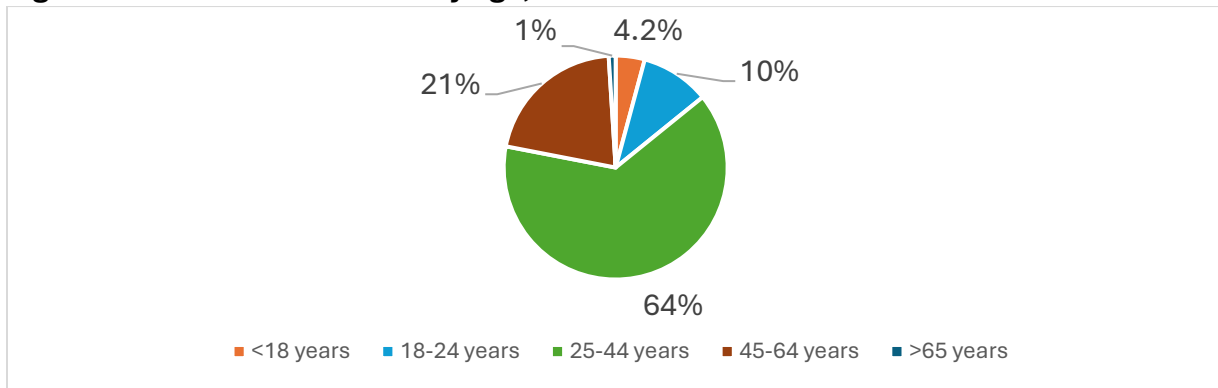
Demographics and Social Determinants

From FY 2022 to 2024, D & A served a total of 1972 consumers:

- FY 2022 – 631 served
- FY 2023 – 714 served
- FY 2024 – 627 served

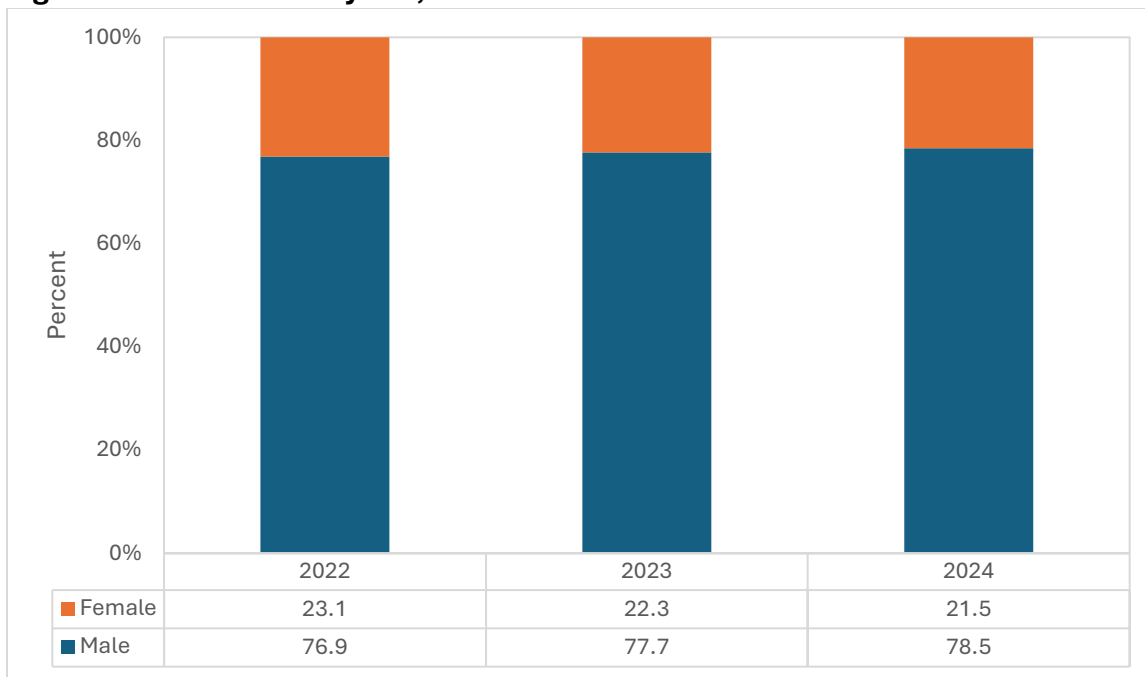
Majority (64%) of those served were aged 25 to 44 years. Another 21% were consumers aged 45-64 years. Less than 5% of those served were youth under the age of 18 years. (Figure 1).

Figure 1. D & A clients served by age, FY 2022-2024



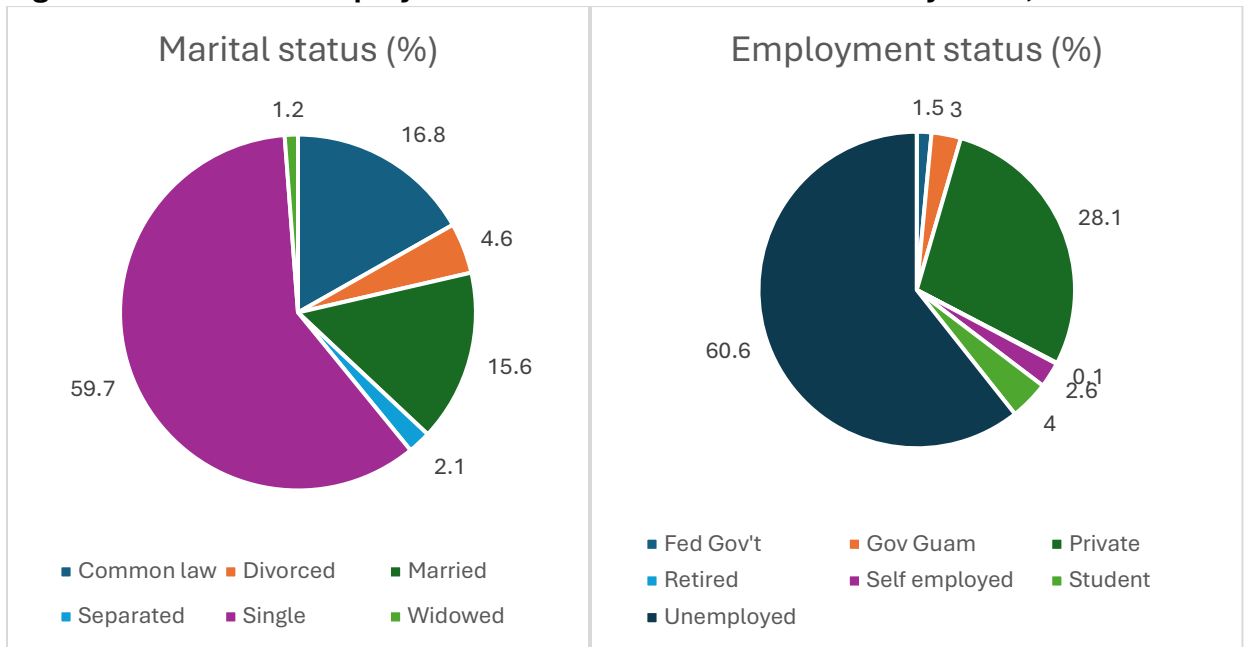
Males outnumbered females by a ratio of 3:1 across the 3 years of data (Figure 2).

Figure 2. D & A clients by sex, FY 2022-2024



Consumers predominantly identified as cis-gender (99.7%) and straight or heterosexual (96.7%). Majority of the consumers were Chamorro (60.2%), Chuukese (17.8%) or Filipino (6.8%). Only 3.8% were college graduates; 79.5% had some high school education or were HS graduates. Over half (59.7%) were single, and 60% were unemployed. More than 1 in 4 were employed in the private sector (Figure 3).

Figure 3. Marital and employment status of consumers served by D & A, FY 2022-2024



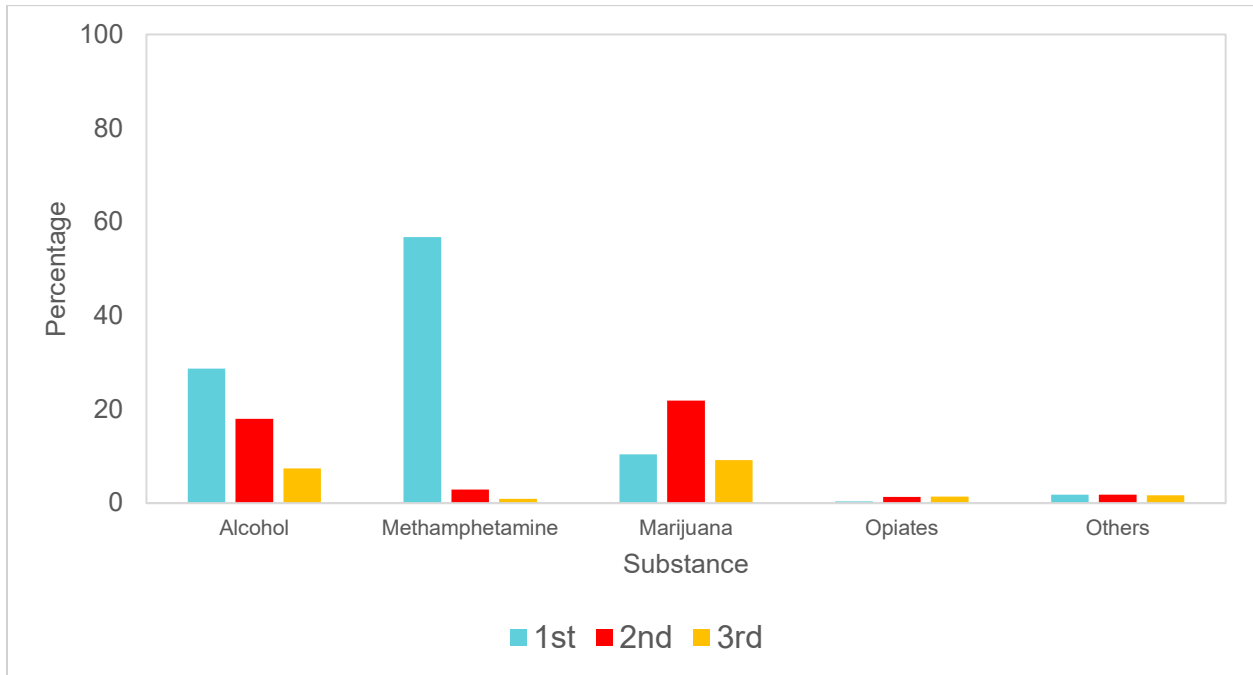
Important correlates

- 61% had no health insurance, and 24% had Medicaid.
- Nearly 69% lived with family. One in 10 lived in facilities run by the Department of Corrections (9.3%) or the Department of Youth Affairs (0.7%).
- Over half (52.7%) were referred by the Superior Court. One in five (22%) were self-referred.
- Over 60% were on probation at the time they sought services.
- 94.5% did NOT have co-occurring mental health disorders.
- Only 3.4% were in the Armed Forces, National Guard or Reserves.

Reported substance use

The D & A data track the reported substance use by order of frequency. Overall, methamphetamine is the most frequently reported drug used by consumers, followed by alcohol and marijuana. Opiates make up a very small proportion of substances reported by D & A consumers (Figure 4).

Figure 4. Reported substance use by order of frequency among D & A consumers, FY 2022-2024



Ancillary services needed

- 4% of consumers needed translation services.
- One in five (19.7%) needed transport to access services.
- One in ten (10%) were homeless upon admission to D & A.
- About 5% were arrested in the 30-day period prior to admission to D & A.