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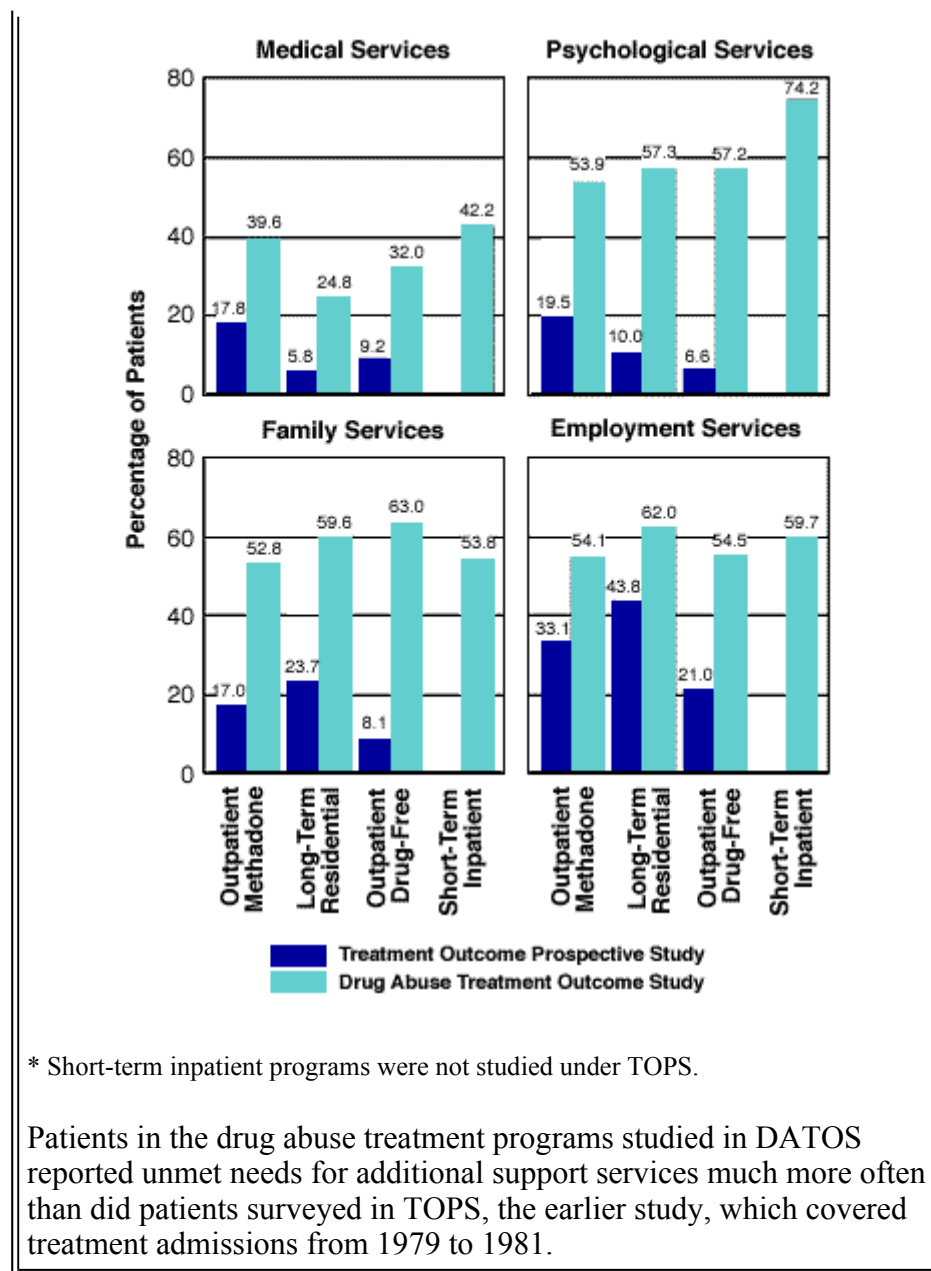
## DATOS Documents Dramatic Decline In Drug Abuse Treatment Services

Drug Abuse Treatment Outcome Study (DATOS) researchers report a widening gap over the last decade patients' needs for support services that go beyond basic treatment techniques such as drug abuse course availability of those services. Such support services address medical, psychological, family, legal, vocat financial problems with which many drug abusers need help to stay in treatment, reduce substance abuse other areas of social functioning.

The investigators compared the type and number of both core drug abuse treatment services and support those that had been delivered a little over a decade before with the Treatment Outcome Prospective Stud "What we found was alarming. In every problem area studied, the type and number of support services l from TOPS to DATOS, while the need for those services had increased," says Dr. Bennett Fletcher, chie Services Research Branch.

Dr. Rose Etheridge and her colleagues at the National Development and Research Institutes in Raleigh, found that more than half of DATOS patients in all four types of treatment-outpatient methadone, long-t outpatient drug-free, and short-term inpatient - did not report receiving many services that they said they

Patients in Treatment Who Needed But Did Not Receive Support Services: TOPS vs. DATOS



Some 65.3 percent of DATOS patients in outpatient methadone programs reported that they did not receive services during the critical first three months of treatment compared to 49.5 percent in TOPS. In outpatient programs, 60.2 percent of DATOS patients said that they did not receive such services compared to 18.2 TOPS patients.

Few gender differences were found in patient reports of services received and unmet service needs after treatment. Only small gender differences were found in unmet needs in DATOS compared to TOPS.

**Source**

Etheridge, R.M.; Craddock, S.G.; Dunteman, G.H.; and Hubbard, R.L. Treatment services in two nation community-based drug abuse treatment programs. *Journal of Substance Abuse* 7:9-26, 1995.

NIDA NOTES - September/October 1997

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