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**Spending for VA Specialized Substance Abuse care: Recent Evidence**

Shuo Chen, PhD and Todd H. Wagner, PhD  
 VA Health Economics Resource Center  
 795 Willow Road (152 MPD)  
 Menlo Park, CA 94025  
 650-617-2630  
 650-617-2667 (Fax:)

Spending for VA substance abuse treatment declined from 1993 to 1999.<sup>1</sup> Table 1 below shows what happened between 2000 and 2002. While total spending for VA health care services rose 11 percent between 2000 and 2002, the amount spent on substance abuse treatment increased approximately 2 percent. As a percent of all VA health care spending, about 2% was spent on specialized substance abuse care. The pattern of shifting from inpatient to residential and outpatient care remained. By 2002, outpatient care accounted for approximately 55 percent of substance abuse costs.

Table 1. VA Spending for Specialized Substance Abuse Care, in Millions of 2002 Dollars

Spending	FY2000	FY2001	% Change '00-01	FY2002	% Change '01-02	% Change '00-02
All VA health care spending	17,429	18,543	6%	19,429	5%	11%
All Specialized substance abuse treatment	352	375	7%	358	-5%	2%
Inpatient	62	67	8%	57	-15%	-8%
Residential	92	101	10%	106	5%	15%
Outpatient	183	201	10%	196	-2%	7%
As a percent of all VA health care costs	2.00%	2.00%		1.80%		
Percent of specialized substance abuse treatment						
Inpatient	17.60%	18.00%		15.80%		
Residential	26.20%	26.80%		29.60%		
Outpatient	52.00%	53.60%		54.60%		

1. Chen, S., Wagner, T.H., and Barnett., P.G. (2001). "Expenditures for Substance Abuse Treatment in the Department of Veterans Affairs: 1993-1999". *Health Affairs*. Vol. 20. No 4: 169-175