EXTENT AND ADEQUACY OF INSURANCE
COVERAGE FOR SUBSTANCE ABUSE
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ON
HISTORICAL, INSTITUTIONAL, AND ECONOMIC
CONTEXTS OF DRUG TREATMENT; DRUG
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(Institute of Medicine Report: Treating Drug Problems)

Volume 2

Commissioned Papers on Historical, Institutional, and Economic Contexts of Drug Treatment

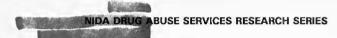
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The Drug Abuse Services Research Series is issued by the National Institute on Drug Abuse's Financing and Services Research Branch within the Division of Applied Research. The National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA) is the Federal agency with primary responsibility for research on drug abuse. Such research includes the biological, pharmacological, psychological, and sociocultural aspects of drug abuse.

NIDA's Financing and Services Research Branch is responsible for coordinating and conducting research, demonstration, and evaluation studies on the capacity, efficiency, effectiveness, organization, structure, and financing of drug abuse treatment programs and delivery systems. The *Drug Abuse Services Research Series* disseminates the latest drug abuse services research on a range of topics, including quality of care, financing, and cost-effectiveness.

NIDA wishes to express its appreciation to the many members of the scientific and treatment community who reviewed the papers and reports in this issue as well as to the authors of these reports.

The views and opinions expressed in this issue are solely those of the authors and do not necessarily constitute an endorsement, real or implied, by the National Institute on Drug Abuse or any other part of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

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FOREWORD

The Substance Abuse Coverage Study was prepared in response to Congressional direction contained in Section 6005, PL 99-570, the Anti Drug Abuse Act of 1986. This Section of the law provided for the National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA) to fund the Institute of Medicine (IOM) to study the extent and adequacy of coverage by public programs, private insurance and other sources of payment for the treatment and rehabilitation of persons with drug abuse problems. The report for the Substance Abuse Coverage Study resulted in two volumes. Volume 1 of the IOM report, "Treating Drug Problems: A study of the evolution, effectiveness, and financing of public and private drug treatment systems," is comprehensive and thought provoking. It looks at a broad range of drug treatment and service delivery issues and provides an important compilation and analysis of what is known and not known of the nation's drug abuse services delivery systems. Volume 2 contains commissioned papers which provide background reviews on drug controls, the drug treatment system, criminaljustice-system-based drug treatment, employee assistance drug programs, an economic model of drug treatment, and the cycles of cocaine use.

A Committee of outstanding drug abuse and health services researchers, practitioners and program planners was appointed by the IOM Division of Health Care Services to conduct this study. Their efforts included site visits to several treatment programs throughout the United States, analysis of available epidemiologic and services systems data on drug abuse, literature reviews, commissioned background papers, and interviews with experts in drug abuse treatment and services research, financing and delivery fields.

Recommendations made by the Committee address both research and policy issues based upon their assessment of the current state of knowledge. They address issues involving data acquisition systems and the generation of reliable performance and outcome data; the role of standards for admission, care and program performance; the provision of services to special populations such as adolescents, pregnant women and mothers of young children; and the establishment of priorities for expanding public treatment programs and services. A number of these recommendations directly relate to public and private financing and reimbursement for drug treatment and related services research. Among these are the future role for publicly financed (Medicaid) drug abuse services, and reimbursement for free-standing drug treatment facilities.

The recommendations in the Substance Abuse Coverage Study reflect the deliberations of the IOM committee. While NIDA does not necessarily agree or disagree with the conclusions and recommendations offered in this report, they will be useful and will be carefully considered as NIDA undertakes our research planning and management activities. The report will also contribute to the broader public dialogue regarding a number of drug abuse services issues. The solution to the complicated, difficult and costly problem of drug abuse and its vast consequences requires the concerted energies of us all. The wide distribution of both volumes of this report is an effort to further discussion among the scientific, policy making, service delivery, and the public and private sectors involved in efforts to address these problems.