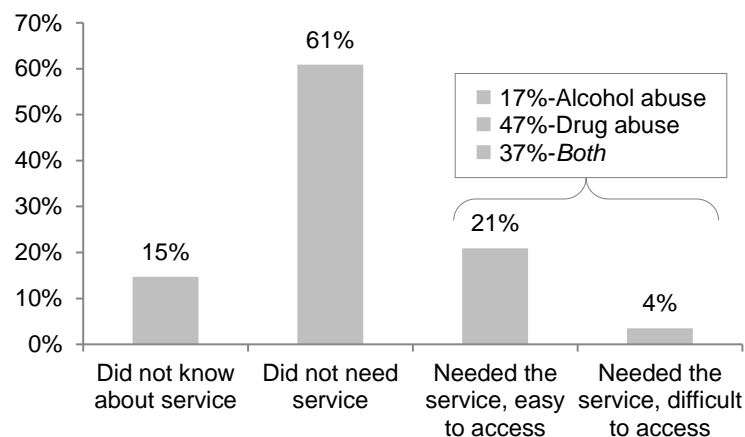


## SUBSTANCE ABUSE SERVICES

*Substance abuse services*, also referred to as *outpatient alcohol or drug abuse treatment*, provides counseling and/or other treatment modalities to persons living with HIV (PLWH) who have a substance use disorder concern in an outpatient setting and in accordance with state licensing guidelines. This includes services for alcohol use and/or use of legal or illegal drugs.

(**Graph 1**) In the 2020 Houston HIV Care Services Needs Assessment, 24% of participants indicated a need for *substance abuse services* in the past 12 months. 21% reported the service was easy to access, and 4% reported difficulty. 15% stated they did not know the service was available. When analyzed by type of substance concern, 17% of participants cited alcohol, 47% cited drugs, and 37% cited both.

**GRAPH 1-Substance Abuse Services, 2020**



(**Table 1**) When barriers to *substance use services* were reported, the most common barrier type was education and awareness (46%). Education and awareness barriers reported include lack of knowledge about service availability

**TABLE 1-Top 2 Reported Barrier Types for Substance Abuse Services, 2020**

	No.	%
1. Education and Awareness (EA)	4	46%
2. Transportation (T)	2	18%

(**Table 2 and Table 3**) Need and access to services can be analyzed for needs assessment participants according to demographic and other characteristics, revealing the presence of any potential disparities in access to services. For *substance abuse services*, this analysis shows the following:

- More females than males found the service accessible.
- More other/multiracial PLWH found the service accessible than other race/ethnicities.
- More PLWH age 50+ found the service accessible than other age groups.
- In addition, more recently released and homeless PLWH found the service difficult to access when compared to all participants.

**TABLE 2-Substance Abuse Services, by Demographic Categories, 2020**

Experience with the Service	Sex (at birth)		Race/ethnicity				Age		
	Male	Female	White	Black	Hispanic	Other	18-24	25-49	50+
Did not know about service	17%	7%	12%	12%	18%	19%	43%	15%	12%
Did not need service	59%	68%	69%	63%	58%	58%	43%	59%	65%
Needed, easy to access	20%	23%	16%	21%	21%	23%	10%	22%	21%
Needed, difficult to access	4%	3%	3%	5%	2%	0%	5%	4%	2%

**TABLE 3-Substance Abuse Services, by Selected Special Populations, 2020**

Experience with the Service	Homeless <sup>a</sup>	MSM <sup>b</sup>	Out of Care <sup>c</sup>	Recently Released <sup>d</sup>	Rural <sup>e</sup>	Transgender <sup>f</sup>
Did not know about service	13%	18%	16%	15%	23%	8%
Did not need service	55%	60%	61%	44%	71%	71%
Needed, easy to access	20%	18%	23%	24%	6%	17%
Needed, difficult to access	12%	3%	0%	18%	0%	4%

<sup>a</sup>Persons reporting current homelessness <sup>b</sup>Men who have sex with men <sup>c</sup>Persons with no evidence of HIV care for 12 mo.

<sup>d</sup>Persons released from incarceration in the past 12 mo. <sup>e</sup>Non-Houston/Harris County residents <sup>f</sup>Persons with discordant sex assigned at birth and current gender