

NADAbase: 10 years of client outcomes data from the Non Government specialist Alcohol and Other Drug treatment sector

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Introduction and Aims: The Network of Alcohol and Other Drugs Agencies (NADA) is the peak body representing non-government AOD treatment services in New South Wales. For over 10 years NADA has supported its member services to select, implement and embed routine outcomes measurement (ROM) into client treatment. The NSW NGO AOD treatment sector is in a unique position to demonstrate how ROM can shape treatment at the individual, service, and system level.

Design and Methods: NADAs engagement of the NGO sector and strong research partnerships have seen the collection of ROM embedded in therapeutic practice. Review of validated measures and consultation with service providers contributed to the establishment of the ROM data set. NADA built and modified an online data system and provided implementation training and ongoing data support. Research partnerships informed reporting functions in the database and effectiveness indicators were developed.

Results: 21 572 unique people have completed at least one NADAbase ROM. Conclusions have been drawn about treatment types, how substances shape the response to treatment and differences gender, age and length of treatment can have. Calculated effectiveness indicators for measures of symptom distress (Kessler-10), substance dependence (Substance Dependence Scale), and quality of life (EUROHIS Quality of Life Scale) were also established for the total sample - residential rehabilitation ($n = 8161$) and community-based ($n = 10\ 306$) treatment services.

Discussion and Conclusions: The volume of data and establishment of effectiveness indicators provide the opportunity to establish clinically significant change benchmarks. Establishing benchmarks assists in shaping treatment in real-time for people accessing treatment, inform service-level interventions and shape policy approaches.

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