Addiction and the Martha’s Vineyard Community: Assessment of Substance Use Disorder and Addiction Services

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INTRODUCTION

Martha’s Vineyard (MV) is an island off the coast of Massachusetts comprised of six independent towns within Dukes County. It has a year-round population of 15,900 residents but swells to more than 100,000 in the summer months (1). The population on MV experience unique challenges stemming from the seasonality and geography of the island. These include unstable employment, lack of affordable housing, high cost-of-living, and a party-like atmosphere in the summer contrasted with a lack of things to do in the wintertime.

According to state data from 2013, it is estimated that 1,450 people are living on MV with SUD (2). Previous UMass Rural Scholars have focused on Substance Use Disorder (SUD) from various angles, including general SUD (2005), a screening tool for SUD (2006), SUD in relation to general SUD (2005), a screening tool for SUD (2006), SUD in relation to youth (2007), and SUD in elderly (2011).

PROJECT GOALS

Goal 1: Collect and compile a real-time, detailed primary-source substance abuse data and determine a system for updating the data-set going forward.

Goal 2: Obtain information about the individual's experience of seeking treatment on Martha's Vineyard.

Goal 3: Identify what, if anything, is needed by the community in the way of support for families, services or opportunities for early intervention as a means to prevent the development of SUD.

METHODS

Quantitative Data Collection and Compilation

Data was collected on incidence and prevalence of SUD on Martha’s Vineyard via the police department incident reports, Death Certificates from the Chilmark Board of Health, Martha’s Vineyard Hospital EMRs, Martha’s Vineyard Hospital Director of EMS, Duke’s County Jail, MA Department of Public Health, and Barnstable County Regional Substance Abuse Council. Data was compiled and represented graphically to elicit trends.

Qualitative Data Collection and Compilation

37 Individuals in the community were interviewed, including 25 stakeholders (law enforcement officials, physicians, Martha's Vineyard Community Services staff, parents, and school faculty) and 12 individuals in recovery from SUD. Interviews were conducted in a semi-structured format.

PROJECT GOALS

SUD Specific Deaths by Substance on MV, 2010-2015

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<th>Year</th>
<th>Alcohol</th>
<th>Opioids</th>
<th>Other (Including Pending)</th>
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<tr>
<td>2015</td>
<td>14,007</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

DATA RESULTS

Narcan Use on MV 1/1/2016 – 5/31/16

<table>
<thead>
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<th>Year</th>
<th>Alcohol</th>
<th>Opioids</th>
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<tr>
<td>2017</td>
<td>4</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Points of Entry to Services on MV

Figure 1

Figure 2

Figure 3

Figure 4

QUALITATIVE INTERVIEWS

"Recovery is carrying the message to those who are still sick and suffering"

Stakeholders’ Views about SUD services on MV:

- There is a need to reach individuals struggling with SUD sooner
- The wait to access services spikes with the rise in population in the summer
- There needs to be improved communication among those SUD resources
- While statistically SUD may not be greater on MV than in other parts of the US, it is felt acutely

REFERENCES


ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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