

Ideas about recovery class:

NEW CLASS DEFINITIONS: The opioid addict and heroin addict classes will consist of those who are actively addicted, are in treatment, or are within 4 weeks post-treatment for opioid or heroin/fentanyl addiction. The recovery class (recovered individuals) will consist of those who did not relapse within 4 weeks post-treatment for opioid or heroin/fentanyl addiction and those who are considered at a stable/successful state of being recovered. Therefore, make assumption that those in the recovery class are not considered addicted.

Where this came from:

-We have data on the number of “addicted” individuals in 2015 for both opioids and heroin/fentanyl, but this number would include individuals who are in recovery

-Originally, the recovery class consisted of two very different types of people: those in short-term treatment who have a high chance of relapsing (essentially are still addicted) and those who successfully recovered and not addicted anymore according to our definition of addiction; we don’t have data on the number of individuals in our recovery class since it includes those who are in active recovery AND those who have finished treatment successfully for their addiction

-Most individuals go into short-term recovery (3-6 weeks long), and since 91% of opioid addicts in recovery relapse back to addiction within 8 weeks and 70% of heroin addicts relapse within 4 weeks, we may keep these individuals in the addiction class since they have not fully “recovered,” i.e. at a point where they are less likely to fall back into addiction. [1, 2]

-Making this change would allow us to have the recovery class be composed of individuals who have been addicted in the past and have finished treatment/are in a longer-term treatment program but not considered actively addicted anymore and should be dealt with differently than susceptibles and than those in short-term treatment; could use data for the number of addicts being those just in A.

References

- [1] National Institute on Drug Abuse (2018). Principles of drug addiction treatment: A research-based guide (third edition). Available at <https://www.drugabuse.gov/publications/principles-drug-addiction-treatment-research-based-guide-third-edition/drug-addiction-treatment-in-united-states/types-treatment-programs> (accessed 11/29/2018).
- [2] Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration and Center for Behavioral Health Statistics and Quality (2018). Treatments for substance use disorders. Available at <https://www.samhsa.gov/treatment/substance-use-disorders> (accessed 11/29/2018).