Needs Assessment

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Definition

- One basic definition of needs assessment is the systematic process whereby needs are identified and documented

- A needs assessment is a series of data collection activities that help pinpoint gaps in services and inform as to what kinds of programs might fill the gaps

- It is a process encompassing planning, data gathering, and analysis.

Purpose

- Supports rational, data-driven allocation of resources
- Identifies high-need areas
- Supports sound service planning
- Improves coordination of services
- Assesses the gap between need and resources/capacity

Background

- NJ has conducted substance abuse needs assessment studies since the 1970s

- Purpose
  - Improve program planning
  - Guide treatment and prevention resource allocation

- Since 1992, the Federal government has funded states to support needs assessment studies

Need vs. Demand for Treatment

- **Need**
  - physical and behavioral indicators (e.g., frequency and quantity of substance use, diagnoses)
  - biological testing

- **Demand**
  - motivation for treatment
  - service utilization
  - waiting lists
  - referrals from other agencies/service systems

Steps in the Process

- Defining addictions treatment need
- Estimating need in given populations
- Estimating treatment demand
- Inferring service requirements on basis of needs and/or demand estimates
- Comparing existing services with inferred service requirements to identify service "gaps"
- Establishing priorities among the gaps
- Designing service programs to fill the gaps

Methods

- Gathering opinions and judgments
  - Key informant interviews
  - Community forums/public hearings
  - Political leaders

- Conducting surveys
  - General population
  - Special sub-populations

- Collecting service statistics
  - Utilization rates/system performance
  - Other system utilization rates

Methods (con't)

- Social Indicators Analyses
  - Use of existing quantitative data such as hospital discharge records, poverty, unemployment rates, crime, education, income levels, housing, etc.

- Use of mathematical models
  - Capture-Recapture
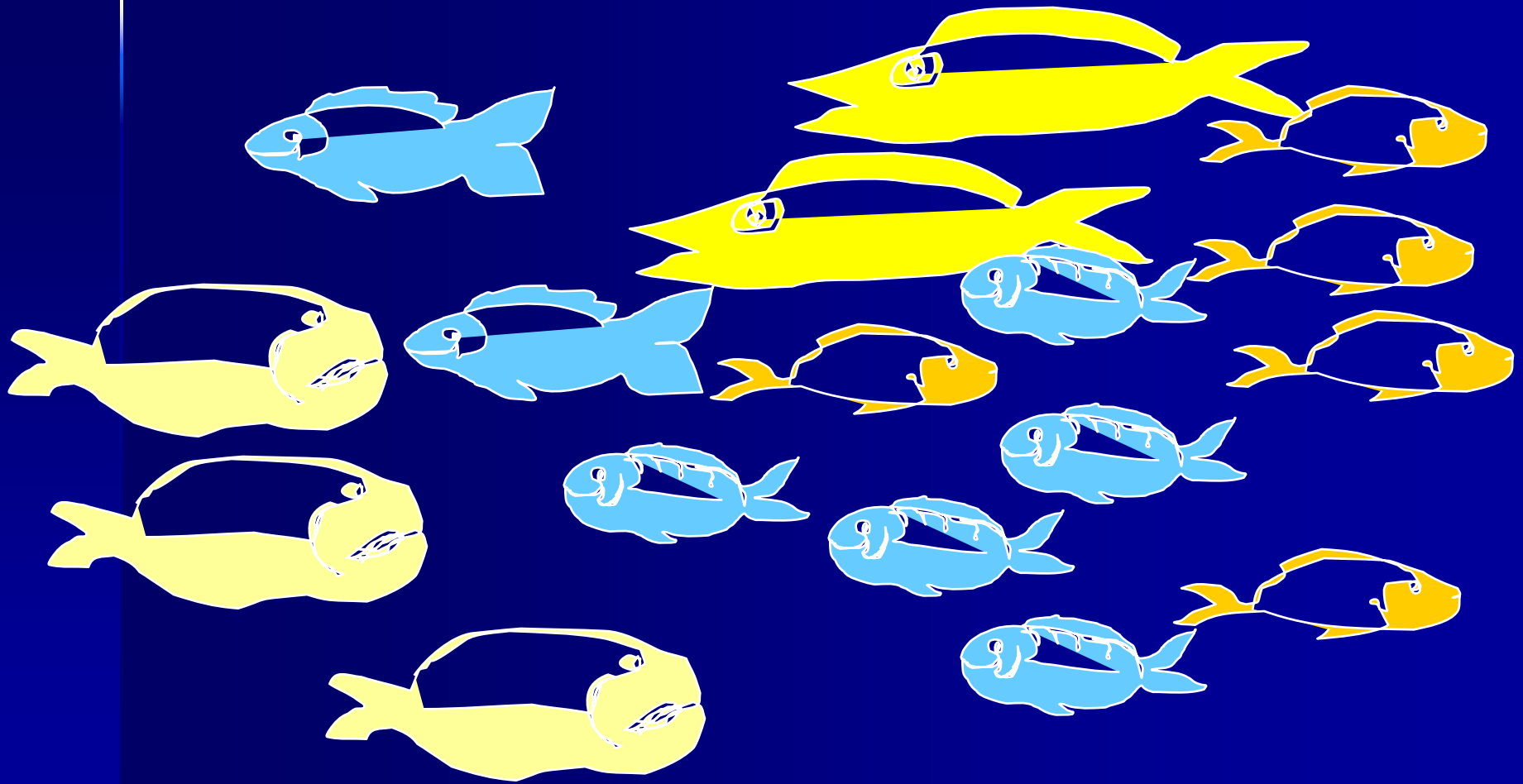
Capture-Recapture

Capture-Recapture

- Problem
  - To estimate the size of the population known to exist but not possible to sample
- Objective
  - To estimate the need for illicit drug treatment
- History
  - In 1896, Carl George Johannes Peterson, a Danish fisheries scientist, estimated the size of a fish population using this method

Capture-Recapture

- Why
  - Household surveys do not provide reliable estimates of illicit drug use
- How
  - Use NJ-SAMS data to examine 2 different samples from 2 different years and observe the presence or absence in both years
- Other Applications
  - Study of epidemiologic problems
  - US Census Bureau
  - Ecology

National Studies

- Need in general population
  - National Household Survey of Drug Use and Health (NHSDUH)
  - Drug Abuse Warning Network (DAWN)
  - Treatment Episode Data Set (TEDS)

- Need in special populations
  - Monitoring the Future Study (MTF)
  - Youth Risk Behavior Survey (YRBS)
  - Arrestee Drug Abuse Monitoring Program (ADAM)

DAS Needs Assessment Studies

- NJ Household Survey on Drug Use and Health
- Mental Health Study
- Administrative Client-Level Treatment Data Analysis
- Database Linking Study
- Social Indicators Supplemental Studies
- Middle School Survey

Some Recent DAS Examples

- AEREF funding formula and application
- Deaf , Hard of Hearing, Blind and Disabled needs assessment
- NJ EPI Profile
  - Mortality
  - Morbidity/Injury and Illness
  - Crime
  - Consumption
  - Other Risk Factors

DAS Chartbooks

- Presents profiles of each county and the State using key social indicators related to substance abuse

- Includes core indicators
  - population
  - mortality
  - crime
  - SA treatment admissions

DAS Chartbooks

- Includes supplemental indicators of risk and protective factors that affect health outcomes

  (community environment, family structure, school involvement, individual/peer group behavior, substance abuse related problems)

- Shows the effect of substance use and health related consequences

- Provides information to support needs assessment and prevention, as well as treatment planning, at the community level

Supplemental Studies

-   Estimates of need for treatment

- Treatment gap analysis (unmet
   demand/total demand)

-   The Relative Needs Assessment Scale

Need vs. Demand Data

State Estimates of Met and Unmet Demand for Adult Population in 2000

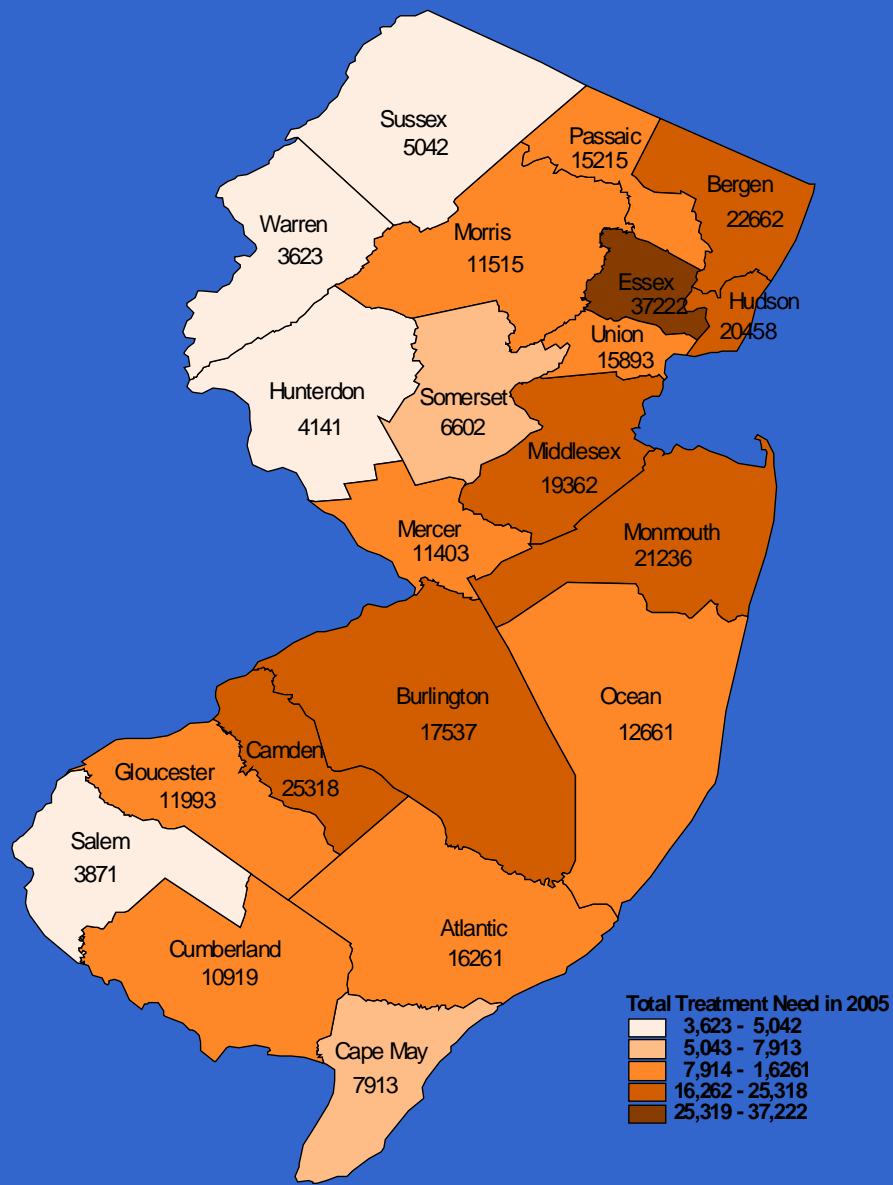| Total Treatment Need*	Treatment Demand			Gap Unmet Demand As Percent of Total Demand
	Met Demand	Unmet Demand	Total Demand	
833,285	50,380	29,736	80,118	37.1%

- Treatment need is derived from the 2003 Household Survey and Capture-recapture analysis
- Met demand: Population who received treatment, in NJ-SAMS DATA
- Unmet demand: Those in need who would seek treatment, had it been available (2003 Household Survey)
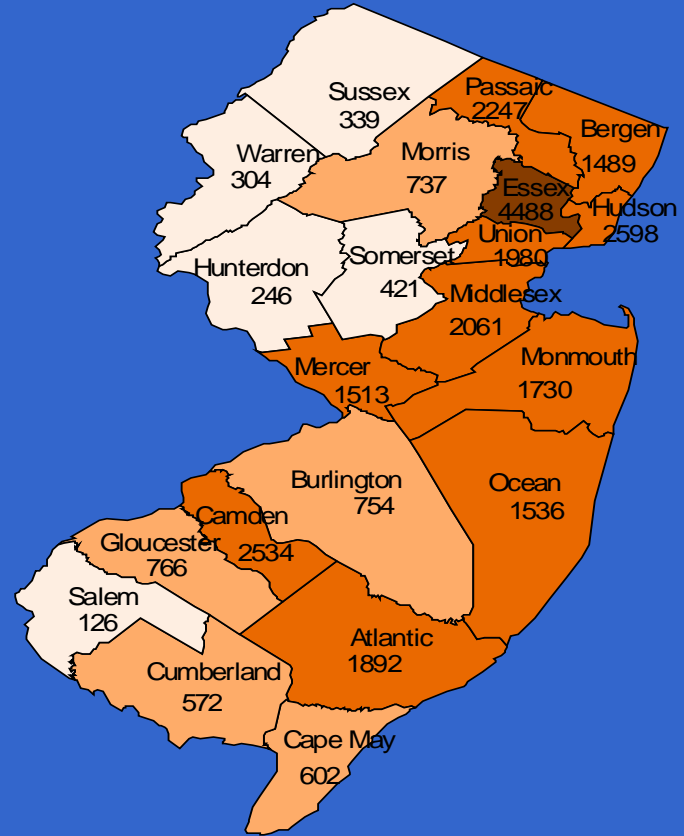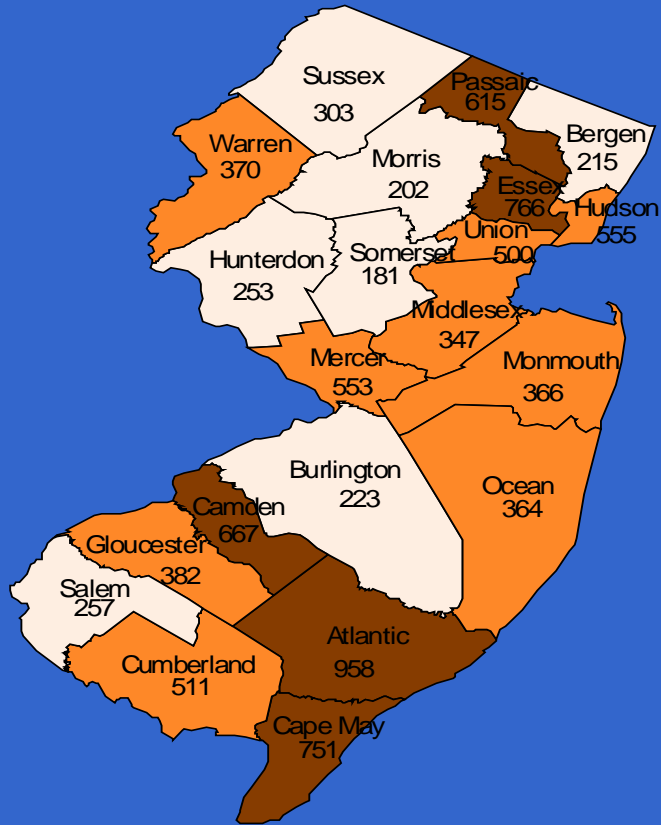
Geographic Information Systems (GIS)

- A method to visually spatialize social service problems
- Being used as a tool to illustrate needs assessment
- Will be mapping treatment capacity overlaid over need

Some GIS Examples

Total Treatment Need in New Jersey, 2005

Sussex
5042

Passaic
15215

Bergen
22662

Warren
3623

Morris
11515

Essex
37222

Hudson
20458

Union
15893

Hunterdon
4141

Somerset
6602

Middlesex
19362

Mercer
11403

Monmouth
21236

Burlington
17537

Ocean
12661

Camden
25318

Gloucester
11993

Salem
3871

Cumberland
10919

Atlantic
16261

Cape May
7913

Total Treatment Need in 2005

- 3,623 - 5,042
- 5,043 - 7,913
- 7,914 - 1,6261
- 16,262 - 25,318
- 25,319 - 37,222

Treatment Need Estimate for Injection Drug Use in New Jersey, 2003

Left map labels:

Sussex 303
Passaic 615
Bergen 215
Warren 370
Morris 202
Essex 766
Hudson 555
Union 500
Hunterdon 253
Somerset 181
Middlesex 347
Mercer 553
Monmouth 366
Burlington 223
Camden 667
Ocean 364
Gloucester 382
Salem 257
Atlantic 958
Cumberland 511
Cape May 751

IDU_Treatment Need Per 100,000 County Population
- 181 - 303
- 304 - 555
- 556 - 958

Right map labels:

Sussex 339
Passaic 2247
Bergen 1489
Warren 304
Morris 737
Essex 4488
Hudson 2598
Union 1980
Hunterdon 246
Somerset 421
Middlesex 2061
Mercer 1513
Monmouth 1730
Burlington 754
Camden 2534
Ocean 1536
Gloucester 766
Salem 126
Atlantic 1892
Cumberland 572
Cape May 602

Total Treatment Need in 2005
- 126 - 421
- 422 - 766
- 767 - 2598
- 2599 - 4488
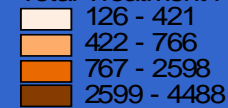
Estimate of Need and Location of Methadone Detox Services

Location of Methadone Maintenance Services

Methadone Detox Treatment Need
- 99 - 204
- 205 - 458
- 459 - 1083
- 1084 - 1752
- 1753 - 3118
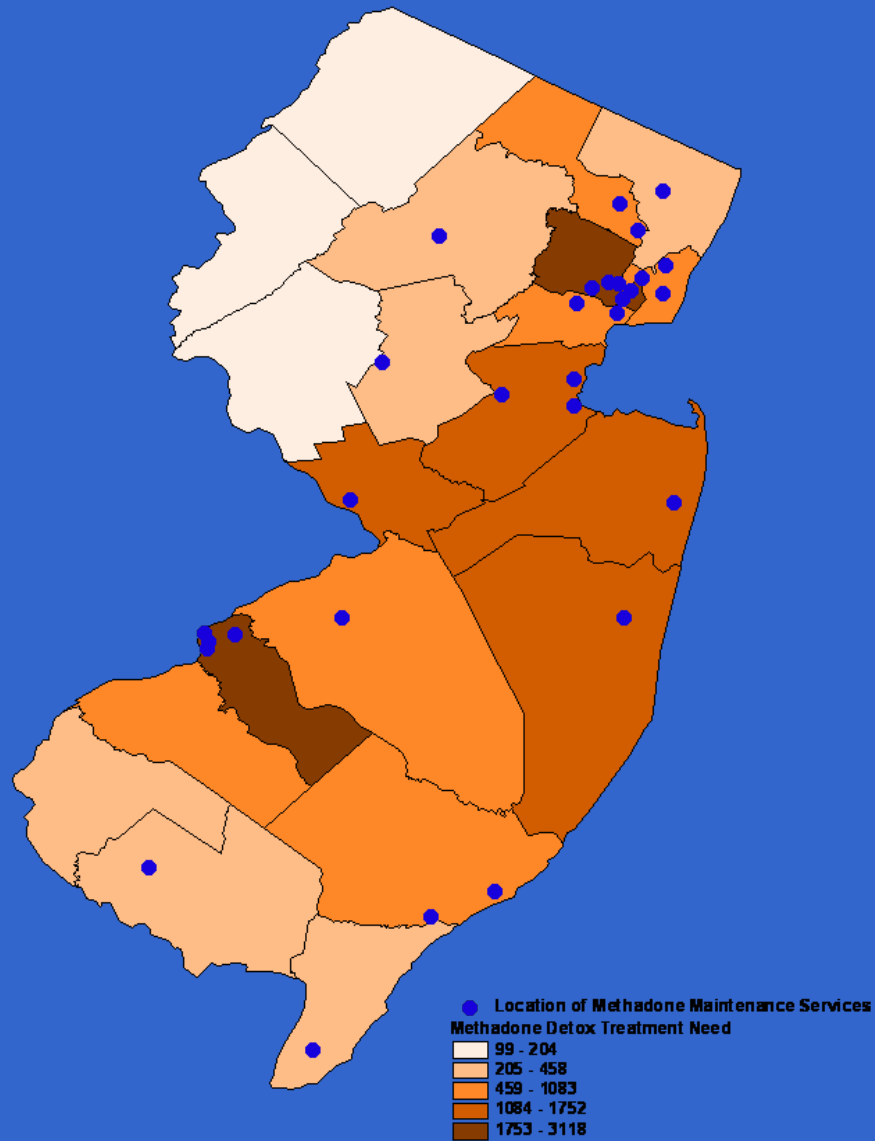
Next Steps

- Developing a plan to conduct a comprehensive statewide needs assessment

- Unifying the prevention and treatment needs assessment process

For More Information

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