The Division of Alcohol and Substance Abuse (DASA) provides alcohol and substance abuse prevention and treatment services through an organization of Headquarters staff, regional administrators, county coordinators, and providers. This organization subcontracts service delivery to over 350 public and private providers. In a diverse organization like this, the information system supplies the “glue” that keeps it together.

The Treatment and Assessment Reports Generation Tool (TARGET2000) has successfully provided that “glue” for eight years. The latest version of this system was implemented in October of 2001. The DASA operated system has become a national model system in the field of substance abuse. Information from this system has met high standards of accuracy, integrity and timelines. It is used by program and agency administrators as well as academic researchers to assist in their planning and studies. The information from TARGET2000 has become a critical element in the broad range of research managed and supported by DASA. This system is also integrated into the DASA Substance Abuse Management Information System (SAMIS), which is an enterprise-wide relational database covering contracts management and provider certification.

The current TARGET2000 is an Internet-based application using high level Washington State approved digital certificates for user authentication. It was designed to run on computers with Intel Pentium processors and 32 Megabytes of RAM. Providers are required to establish Internet connectivity from their reporting sites using Internet Explorer version 5.5 with at least Service Pack 1 and 128-bit encryption capability. Other browser options do not support the Java-script functions incorporated into the application. The system uses the secure socket layer encryption for data transmission over the Internet.

The current version of the TARGET2000 system includes an expanded dataset that contains over 450 separate data items on each individual receiving publicly funded chemical dependency treatment in Washington State. New items include the elements necessary to calculate the Addiction Severity Index (ASI) composite scores. This addition is expected to make the data more comparable and useful for outcome studies and impact analysis regarding the care given through the service system. Several other data additions are incorporated in the new system. These include:

- Tracking the recommended American Society of Addiction Medicine placement (ASAM) level for the client’s care at assessment, admission and discharge from each modality of service’
- Recording the client’s sexual orientation;
- Recording the number of times that a client has been tested for sexually transmitted disease in the past year.

The TARGET2000 system utilizes a Microsoft SQL 7.0 database to store information and support data analysis projects. This architecture simplifies the system maintenance and in combination with the web site Active Server Pages screens provides a much more flexible system which is capable of evolving to address changing needs in the field.

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