This year marks the 18th Anniversary of Project ASSERT – an innovative program of the Yale-New Haven Hospital (YNHH) Emergency Department that has become a cornerstone of the Yale community & serves as a national model for addressing substance misuse & addiction in an urban emergency setting. Since its launch in 1999, Project ASSERT has connected more than 50,000 patients with community-based alcohol & drug treatment services and continues to evolve to address the ever-changing needs of our community.

Together, our team includes Project Directors, Gail D’Onofrio, MD, MS & Caitlin Malicki, MPH, & Health Promotion Advocates (HPA’s), Gregory Johnson, MS, Amanda Lewis, Shevonne Mack, DARC, MSW, and Damaris Navarro. Our staff are available seven days a week at the York & Saint Raphael Campuses & work tirelessly to provide education, support & referrals for patients as they embark on their path to treatment and improved health.

News and Updates:

- Amanda Lewis recently joined Project ASSERT as an HPA at the Saint Raphael Campus. Amanda comes with extensive experience in substance use disorder counseling & case management & is a welcome addition to our team!

- Project ASSERT has screened a total of 50,537 patients for alcohol & drug misuse since 1999 & continues to develop strategies to increase our presence & impact at YNHH.

- In response to the opioid epidemic, we increased resources available to patients with opioid use disorder (OUD) by collaborating within YNHH & the community. In 2017, we distributed the overdose reversal drug, naloxone, to hundreds of patients & their family members, along with life-saving education about overdose prevention & offered treatment initiation with buprenorphine. Resulting from these efforts, we successfully connected six out of ten patients with OUD to treatment directly from the Emergency Department in the last year.
Project ASSERT | 2017 Statistics
Improving Alcohol & Substance Abuse Services & Educating Providers to Refer Patients to Treatment

1,760 Patient Consults
Mean Age: 44
69% Male 31% Female
79% of patients are uninsured or covered by Medicaid

Intervention Type
- Alcohol: 56%
- Drugs: 24%
- Alcohol & Drugs: 20%

Most Commonly Used Drugs
- Opioids: 374
- Cocaine: 305
- Marijuana: 208
- Benzos: 142
- PCP: 79

Patient Services
- Information Only: 16%
- Direct Referral: 49%
- Indirect Referral: 16%
- Admitted to Hospital: 19%
284 patients received counseling & information.
342 patients went directly to a specialized treatment center.
858 patients received a referral for treatment or primary care.
276 patients required continued medical attention.

Treatment Enrollment
55% of all referrals enrolled in a specialized treatment center within one month of their visit.

Patients were... 2x more likely to enroll if they went directly from the hospital.

Yale DEPARTMENT OF EMERGENCY MEDICINE
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