

Impact of Addiction Consult Social Workers on Hospital Readmission Rates

Presenter: Hayley Rotello, LCSW

Intro

- Sought to explore the specific impact of addiction consult *social worker involvement* on 90-day readmission rates for patients evaluated by the Addiction Consult Team (ACT)
- **Hypothesis:** Patients who received an ACT consultation with social worker involvement would have lower readmission rates compared to those seen by attending only.

Methods

1. Data queried from an internal dashboard (safety net hospital) reporting all addiction consultations completed between Jan 1- Sept 30, 2023.
2. Readmissions: 90-day, binary, same institution
3. Chi-squared test was performed to test the null hypothesis that readmission rates are equal in both groups. Statistical significance defined as < 0.05 .
4. ACT social work (SW) interventions included psychosocial assessment, ASAM Level of Care Assessment, transition of care planning, linkage to treatment, therapeutic intervention, and collaborative discharge planning.

Results

- 90-day readmission rates were 5% lower for patient encounters with ACT SW involvement ($p = 0.05$)
 - OUD: 9% lower readmission rate ($p < 0.01$)
 - AUD: No difference in readmission rate ($p=0.73$)
 - Other: 5% lower, though non-significant, readmission rate ($p < 0.35$).

Discussion

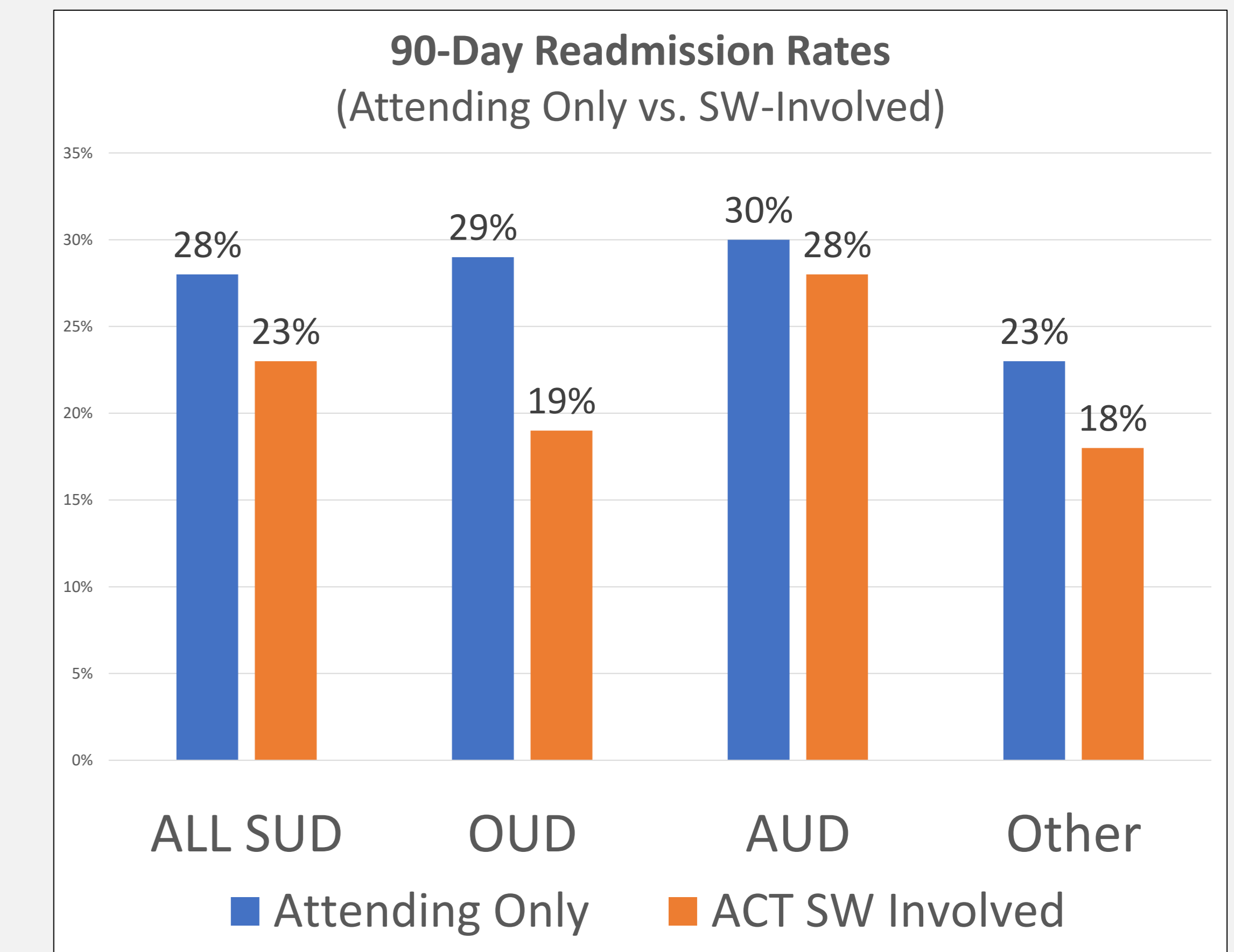
- ACT SW intervention may reduce rate of post-hospital destabilization and return to use
- **OUD Patients:** Workflow involves both medication induction and ACT SW linkage to medication continuation highlighting the multidisciplinary approach needed to treat this disease.
- **AUD Patients:** Often requires inpatient treatment, limited availability of intensive residential treatment (IRT) beds for publicly insured patients.

90-day hospital readmission rates were **5% lower** (absolute difference) for patients seen by **Addiction Consult Social Worker** than those seen by **Addiction Consult attending alone.**



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| Primary SUD | # Consults | Attending only | | SW involved | | Diff. | Chi-square p value |
|-------------|------------|--------------------|-------------|--------------------|-------------|-------|--------------------|
| | | # Rehosp (90 days) | Rehosp Rate | # Rehosp (90 days) | Rehosp Rate | | |
| ALL | 1515 | 225 | 28% | 165 | 23% | 5% | 0.0452 |
| OUD | 578 | 91 | 29% | 50 | 19% | 9% | 0.009 |
| AUD | 660 | 98 | 30% | 94 | 28% | 1% | 0.7317 |
| Other | 277 | 36 | 23% | 21 | 18% | 5% | 0.3547 |



References

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Authors

- ✍ Hayley C. Rotello, LCSW hayley.rotello@dhha.org [a]
- ✍ Dale J. Terasaki, MD, MPH dale.terasaki@dhha.org [a,b]
- ✍ Alexandra D. Tillman, MS alexandra.tillman@dhha.org [a,c]
- ✍ Jennifer R. Lyden, MD jennifer.lyden@dhha.org [a,b]

[a] Denver Health & Hospital Authority
[b] University of Colorado School of Medicine
[c] Public Health Institute at Denver Health

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