Integration of a substance abuse treatment program into population-based behavioral health care

Background
Nearly 23 million Americans need treatment for substance use disorders; however, only 10% receive treatment (1). The most common path to treatment entry is self-referral (36%), followed by referral from the criminal justice system (34%); only 7% of treatment entrants were referred by healthcare providers (2). The current approach creates a passive system, wherein over 20 million people who may benefit from treatment are overlooked. To create a more proactive approach, a large managed care organization integrated a substance abuse treatment (SAT) program into their population-based behavioral health care system, wherein over 20 million people who may benefit from treatment are overlooked. Nearly 23 million Americans need treatment for substance use disorders; however, only 10% receive treatment (1). 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