



BACK TO BASICS

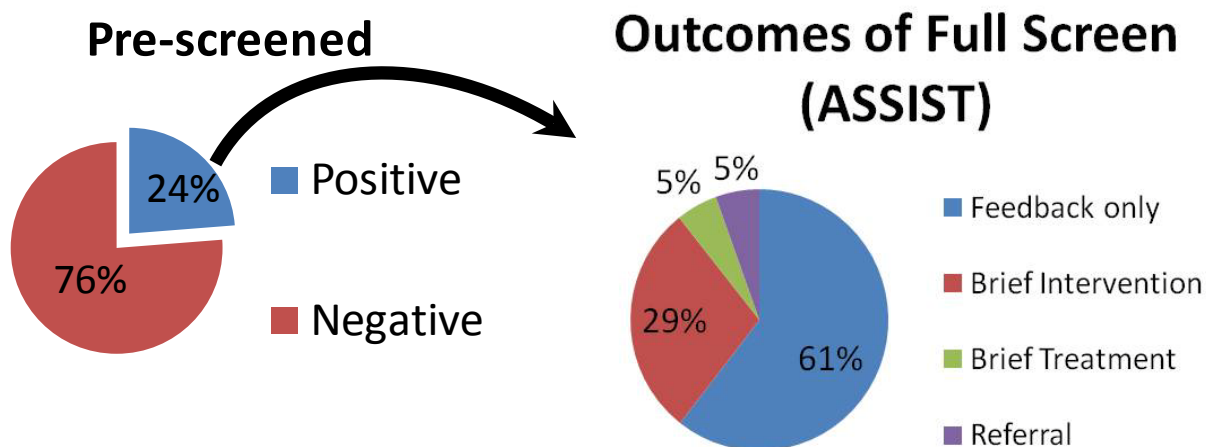
A Research Brief from Georgia's Brief Assessment, Screening, Intervention and Continuum of Care System¹

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What percentage of emergency department (ED) patients are at-risk for substance use-related problems?

Introduction and Rationale: Every week ED patients are enrolled in Georgia BASICS through routine screening procedures. The project provides a system to recommend appropriate intervention and treatment services to alcohol and drug users that are at-risk for poor health outcomes.

Sample: 84,974 patients pre-screened for alcohol and drug use from *October 1, 2009 to September 30, 2010* at Grady Health System and the Medical Center of Central Georgia.



Results:

- In the past year, *over 20,000 ED patients* answered “yes” to one or more of the following pre-screen questions:
 - Have you had 5 or more drinks (4 or more for women) in a day in the past year?
 - Have you smoked pot, used another illegal drug, or used a prescription pain killer, stimulant, or sedative for a non-medical reason in the past year?
- Patients with a positive pre-screen were then given a more comprehensive assessment of substance use severity (ASSIST).
- Results of this “full screen” correspond to a suggested level of intervention.
 - Most—about 6 in 10—were considered low risk and received brief feedback only.
 - Almost one third were considered moderate risk and recommended for a brief intervention conducted by Health Education Specialists on-site.
 - Substance users with the highest level of risk (10%) were recommended for brief treatment and/or given a referral to more intensive treatment.

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