

Cocaine Anonymous

Public Information

Fact File

Yearly Comparisons Including Results from the 2007 Survey



We're Here and We're Free[®]

COCAINE ANONYMOUS WORLD SERVICES OFFICE, INC.

CAWSO

3740 Overland Ave. Suite C
Los Angeles, CA 90034, USA

Phone (310) 559-5833

Fax (310) 559-2554

Or

on the Internet at www.ca.org

Table of Contents

A Definition of “Cocaine Anonymous”	Page	3
C.A.’s Position on the Field of Addiction	Page	3
Public Relations Policy	Page	4
Membership Survey Results & Graphs	Page	5
<i>Gender</i>	<i>Figure A</i>	Page 5
<i>Age of Members</i>	<i>Figure B</i>	Page 6
<i>Ethnicity</i>	<i>Figure C</i>	Page 6
<i>Language</i>	<i>Figure D</i>	Page 7
<i>Education</i>	<i>Figure E</i>	Page 7
<i>Occupation</i>	<i>Figure F</i>	Page 8
<i>Drugs Used</i>	<i>Figure G</i>	Page 8
<i>How We Used</i>	<i>Figure H</i>	Page 9
<i>How We Got To C.A.</i>	<i>Figure I</i>	Page 9
<i>Amount Of Sobriety</i>	<i>Figure J</i>	Page 10
<i>Do You Have A Sponsor?</i>	<i>Figure K</i>	Page 10
<i>How Many Meetings A Week?</i>	<i>Figure L</i>	Page 11
<i>At What Level Do You Serve?</i>	<i>Figure M</i>	Page 11
The Structure of “Cocaine Anonymous”	Page	12
Cocaine Anonymous Group Traditions	Page	13
The Importance of “Anonymity”	Page	14
The Recovery Program	Page	15
Cocaine Anonymous Meetings	Page	16

A Definition of Cocaine Anonymous

Our primary purpose is to stay free from cocaine and all other mind-altering substances and to help others achieve the same freedom.

Cocaine Anonymous is a fellowship of recovering addicts throughout the world whose members meet in local groups, as well as on the Internet. The following definition of “Cocaine Anonymous” is found in our Fellowship’s literature and is often read at meetings of C.A.:

“Cocaine Anonymous is a fellowship of men and women who share their experience, strength and hope with each other, that they may solve their common problem and help others to recover from their addiction. The only requirement for membership is a desire to stop using cocaine and all other mind-altering substances. There are no dues or fees for membership; we are fully self-supporting through our own contributions. We are not allied with any sect, denomination, politics, organization or institution. We do not wish to engage in any controversy and we neither endorse nor oppose any causes. Our primary purpose is to stay free from cocaine and all other mind-altering substances, and to help others achieve the same freedom. We use the Twelve Steps of recovery because it has already been proven that the Twelve Step recovery program works.” *

* Reprinted and adapted from the pamphlet ‘What Is C.A.?’ copyrighted from Cocaine Anonymous World Services, Inc.

C.A.’s Position on the Subject of Addiction

C.A. is concerned solely with the personal recovery and continued sobriety of individual addicts who turn to the fellowship for help. Cocaine Anonymous does not engage in the fields of drug addiction research, medical or psychiatric treatment, drug education, or propaganda in any form – although our members may participate in such activities as individuals.

The Fellowship has adopted a policy of “cooperation but not affiliation” with outside organizations concerned with the problem of addiction. C.A. never endorses, supports, becomes affiliated with, or expresses any opinion on, the programs of others in the field of addiction. C.A. has no position on outside issues – including the legality or illegality of drugs – or any other public policy.

The Public Information Committee handles C.A.’s relations with professional groups, agencies, facilities and individuals involved with the problems of drug addiction. Mutual understanding and cooperation between C.A. members and others who work with addicts are the concerns of this standing committee of the World Service Board.

Public Relations

Cocaine Anonymous has adopted the following as its Public Information Policy:

In all public relations, C.A.'s sole objective is to help the still-suffering addict. Always mindful of the importance of personal anonymity, we believe this can be done by making known to him/her and to those who may be interested in his/her problem, our own experience as individuals and as a Fellowship in learning to live without cocaine and all other mind-altering substances. **

We believe that our experience should be made available freely to all who express sincere interest. We believe further that all our efforts in this field should always reflect our gratitude for the gift of sobriety and our awareness that many outside C.A. are equally concerned with the serious problem of addiction.

Information and public relations matters affecting the Fellowship as a whole are the concern of the Public Information Committee of Cocaine Anonymous World Services.

Reporters are welcome at open meetings and events of C.A., ***with prior approval of the local service body***. The only restriction is a request to bear in mind the importance of anonymity, by not disclosing the name of any C.A. member. For obvious reasons, cameras are not permitted at C.A. meetings.

In many areas, C.A. members have formed local committees on public information and cooperation with the professional community, to assist local media in obtaining accurate information about our Fellowship.

** Adapted with permission of Alcoholics Anonymous World Services, Inc.

C.A. WSC Public Information Committee Survey

2007

Cocaine Anonymous was founded in November, 1982, in Hollywood, California. Although it is not possible to pinpoint an exact figure, there are approximately 2,000 meetings all over the world.

The C.A. World Service Conference Public Information Committee, in conjunction with the C.A. World Service Office, along with Delegates and P.I. Chairs from the various areas, conducted a survey of the Fellowship during the year 2007.

Wherever possible yearly comparisons have been given based on previous survey results, however this has not been possible on all graphs.

The data gathered in the survey is presented in the following pages; and, while not scientific, will be useful in evaluating the demographics, character, and diversity of our Fellowship.

Who Are We?

Over one third of our Fellowship are female and over 35% of the members are between the ages of 35 and 44 years old. We come from various cultures and all walks of life.

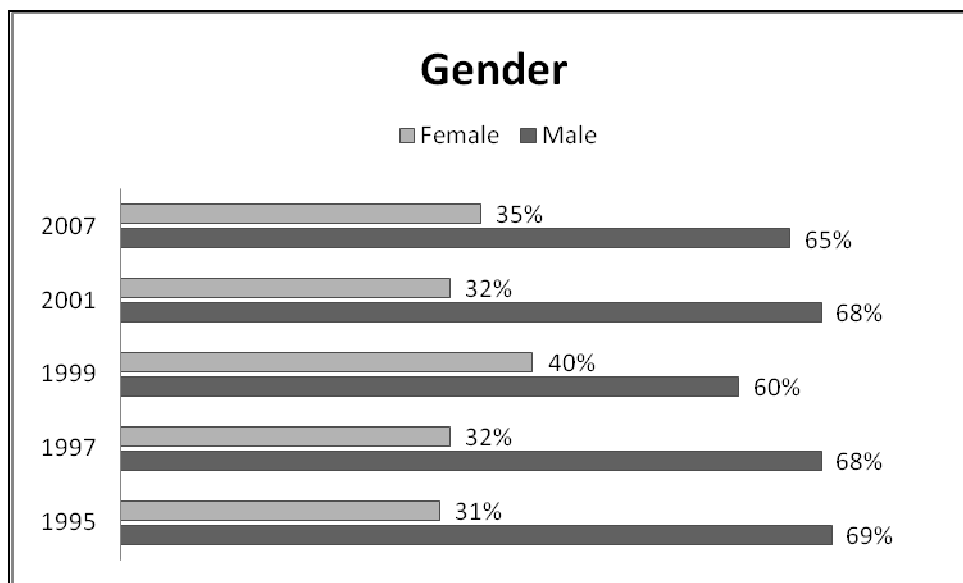


Figure A

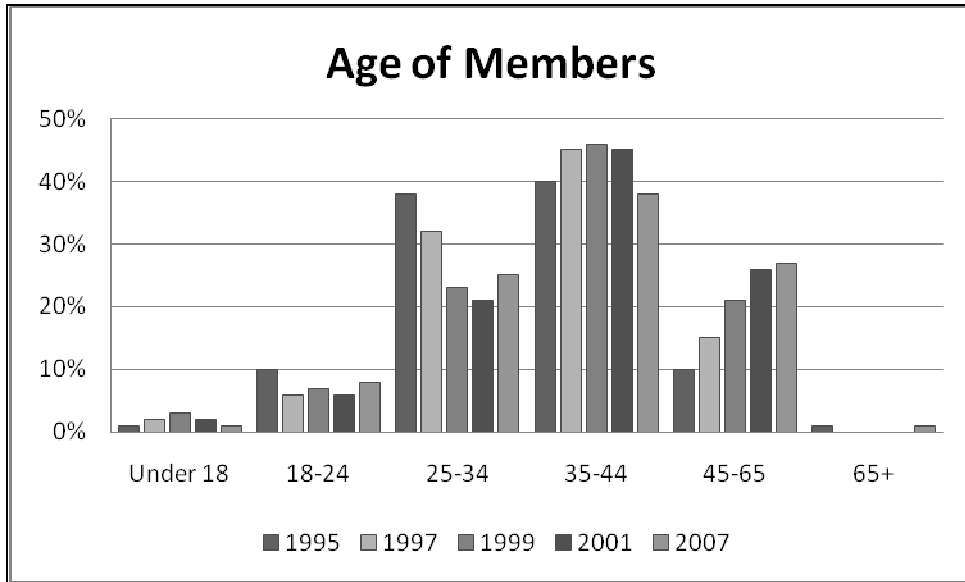
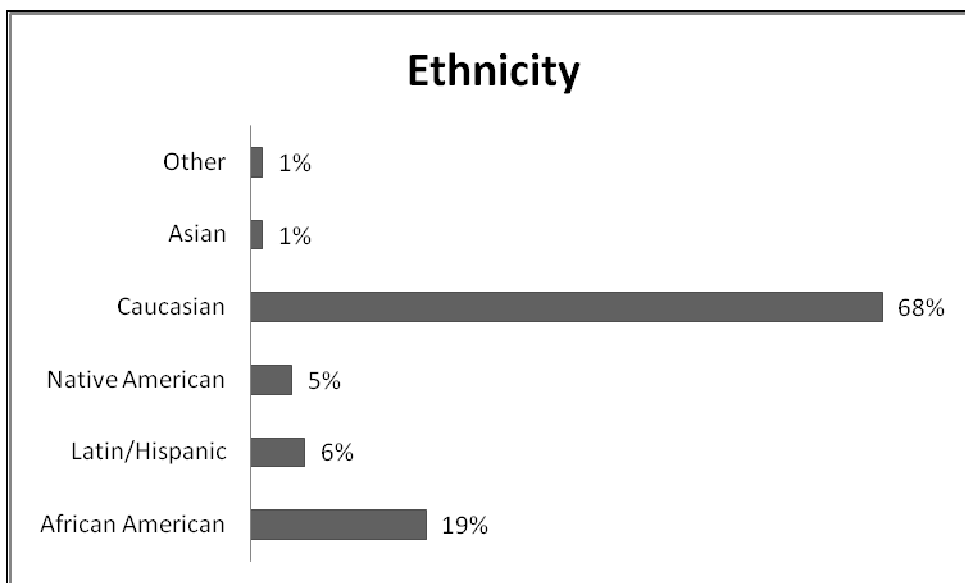
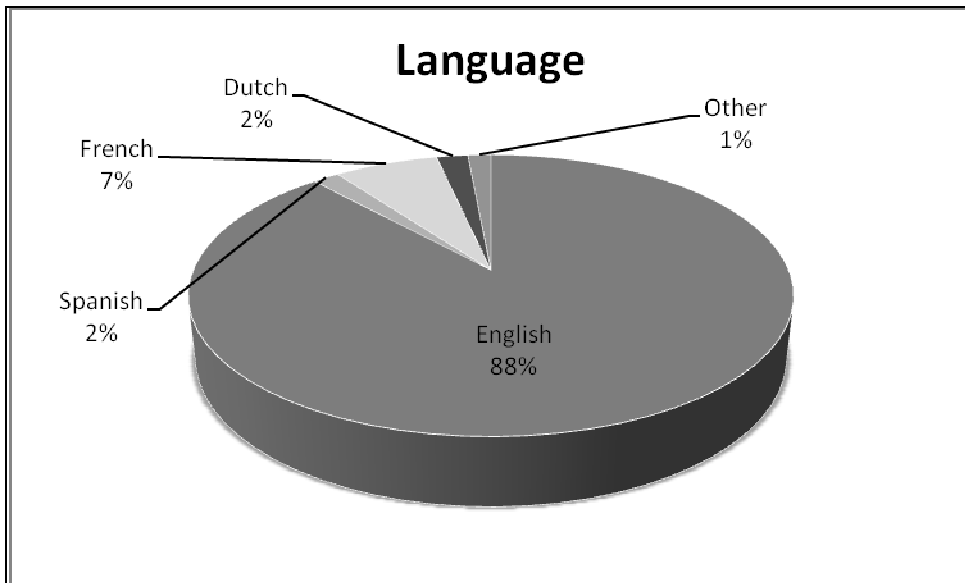


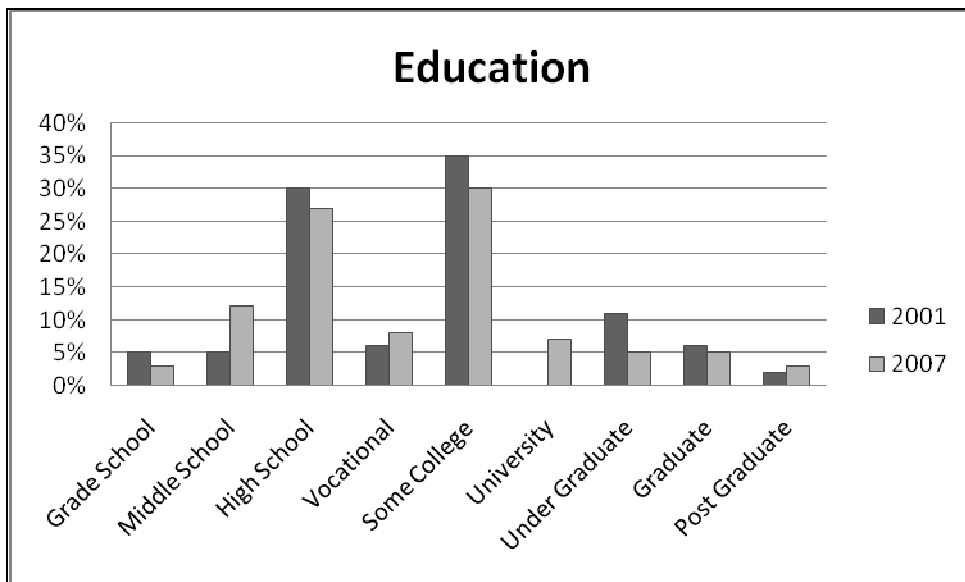
Figure B



Relates to 2007 survey results
Figure C



Relates to 2007 survey results
Figure D



Results for university not available in 2001
Figure E

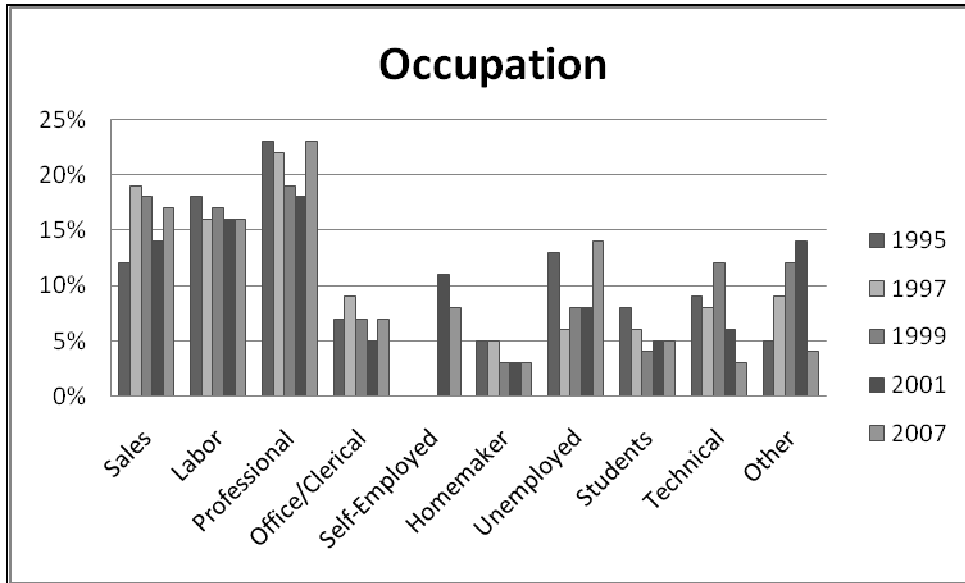
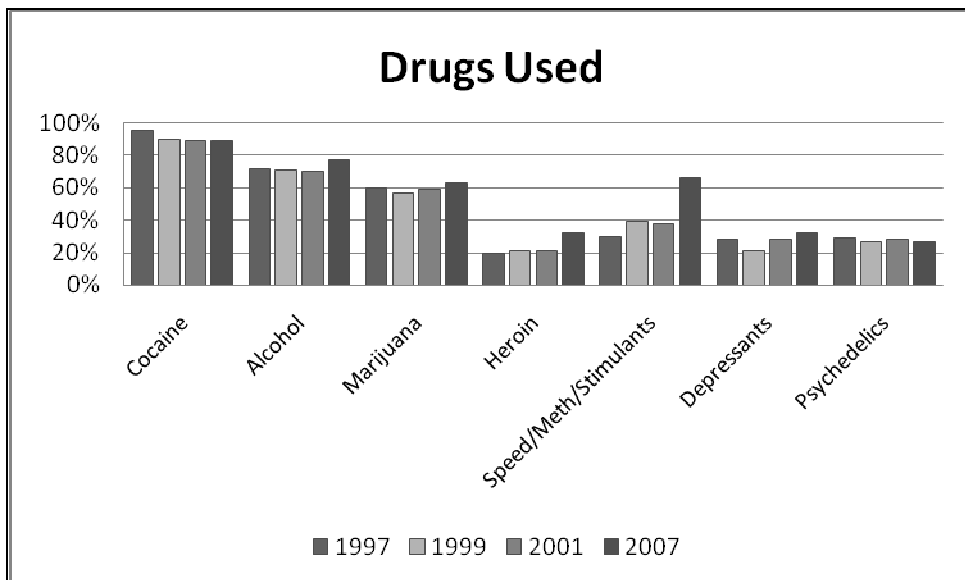


Figure F

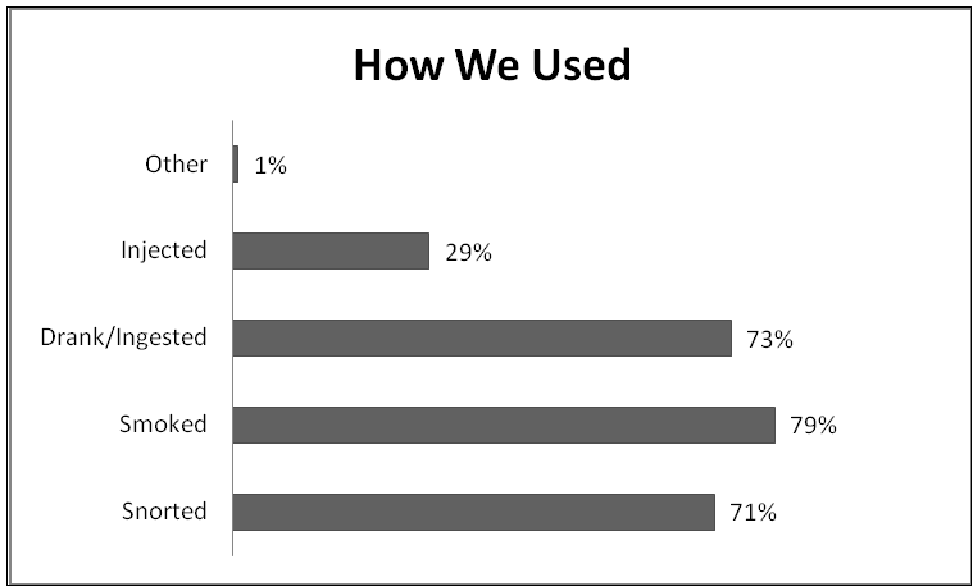
What Happened?

Cocaine and all other mind altering substances. Almost ninety percent of the respondents used cocaine. A slightly lower percentage also used other mind-altering substances. Nearly the same amount of respondents snorted their drugs as those who smoked them. Almost one out of four injected. Some did not use cocaine at all. We found the rooms of C.A. by various means; but the most often cited were hospitals/recovery programs, family and friends (in and out of the program), and on our own.

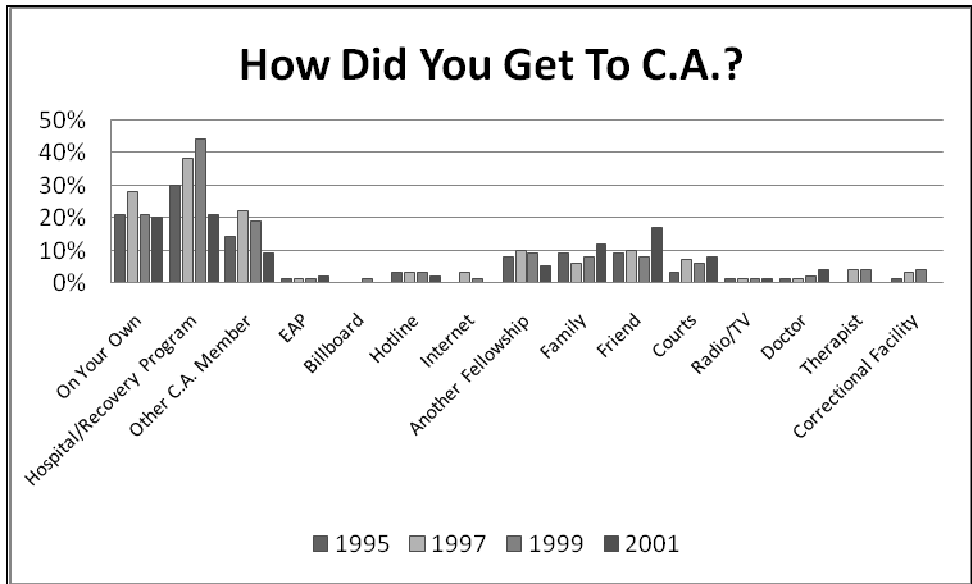


Multiple responses allowed

Figure G



Relates to 2007 survey results
Multiple responses allowed
Figure H

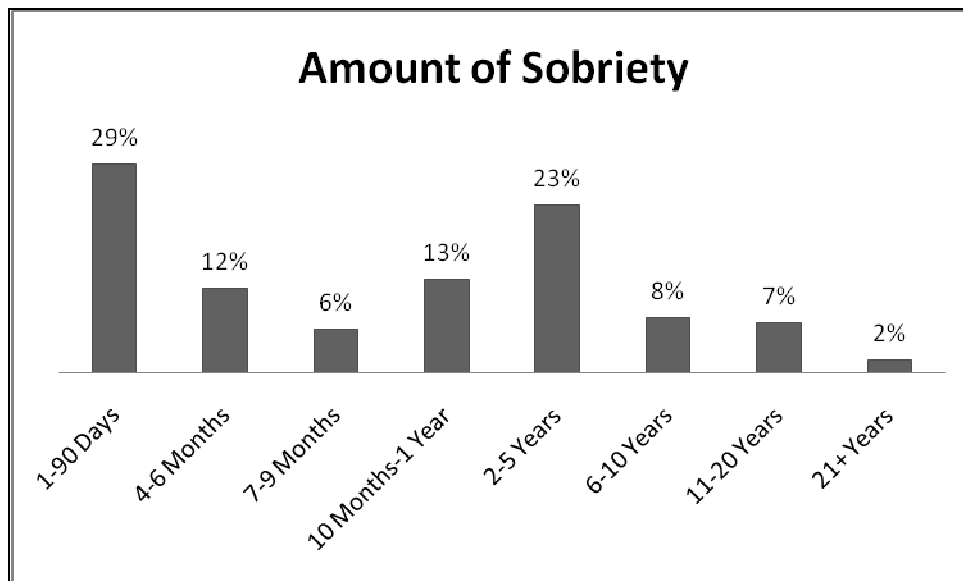


Taken from 2003 Fact File results
Figure I

What Are We Like Now?

Probably the most significant statistic in this category is the sobriety time. Note that forty percent of respondents have two or more years of sobriety and over one in six has five years or more. Over half the fellowship have a C.A. sponsor and more than fifty percent attend three or more meetings per week.

The information on meetings per week is possibly skewed as many of the areas that responded only have a few meetings per week in any given locale. In areas with many meetings per week, the results were more spread out.



Relates to 2007 survey results
Figure J

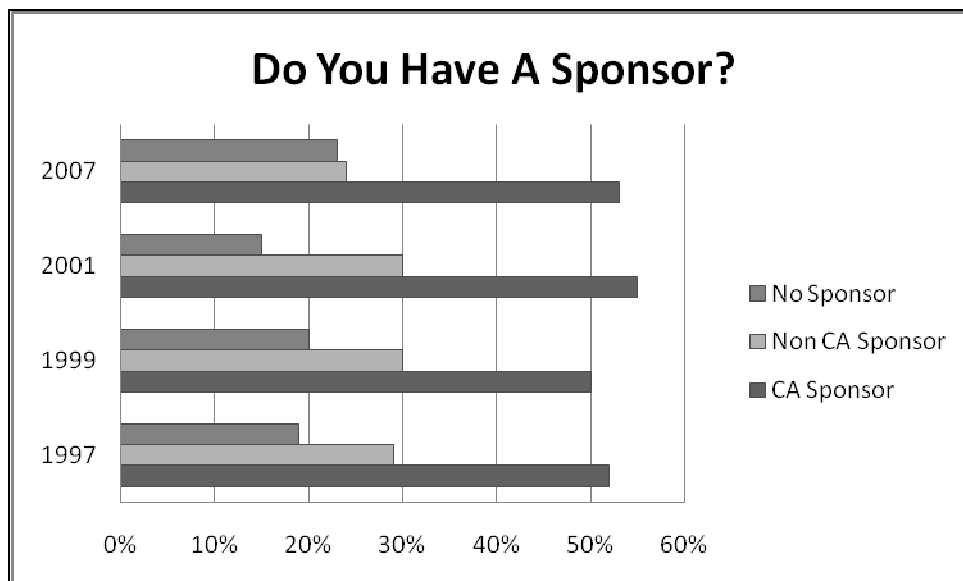
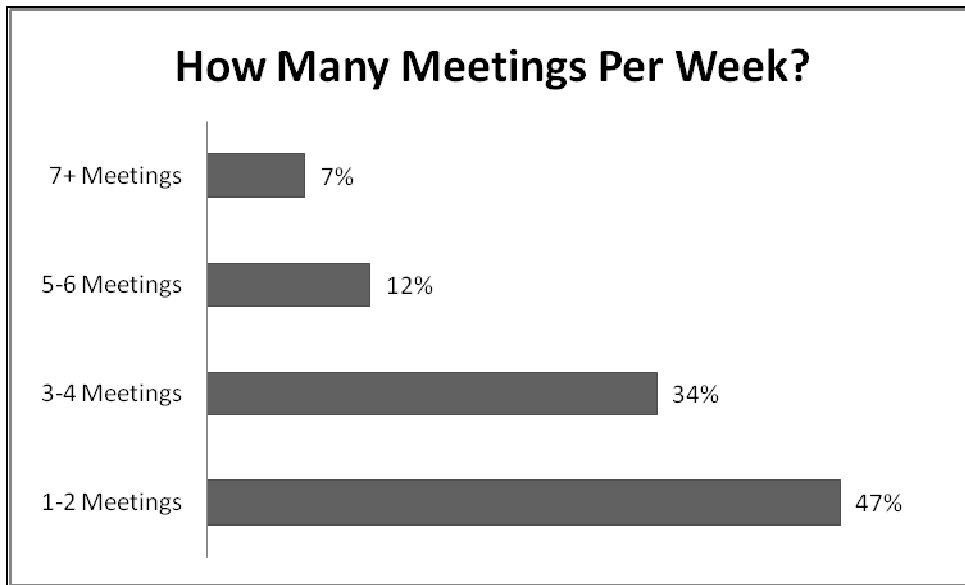
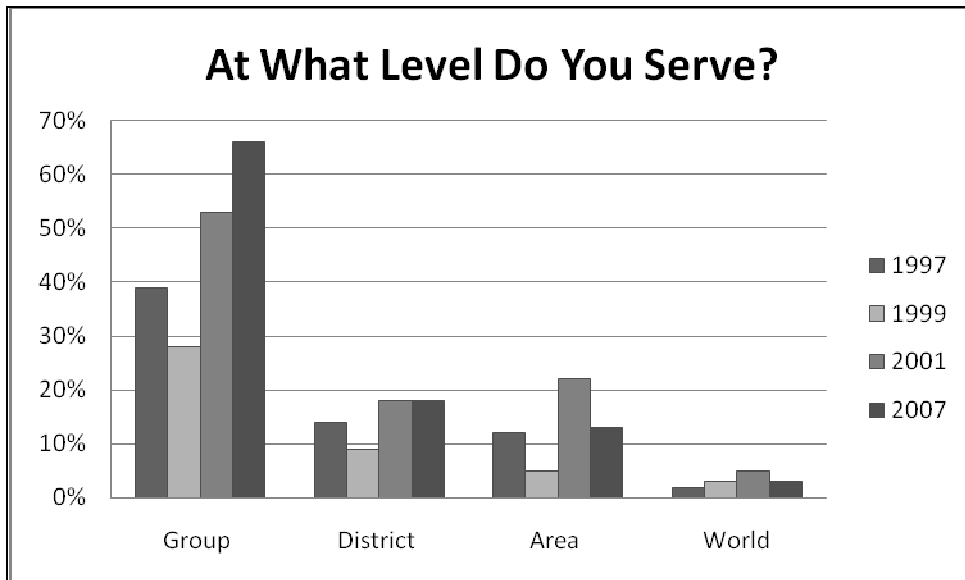


Figure K



Relates to 2007 survey results
Figure L



Multiple responses allowed
Figure M

The Structure of Cocaine Anonymous

Cocaine Anonymous is not organized in the formal or political sense. There are no governing officers, no rules or regulations, no dues or fees.

However, the need for services to addicts throughout the world is very important to the Fellowship. Inquiries from both within and outside the Fellowship have to be answered. Literature has to be written, printed and distributed, and requests for help need to be followed up. The main service body of the Fellowship is C.A. World Services, which is centered at the World Service Office in Los Angeles, California. Here employees and service volunteers maintain communications with local Groups and with persons outside the Fellowship who turn to C.A. for information on the program of recovery. C.A. Conference-approved literature and chips are prepared, published and distributed through this office.

The World Service Office, through its Board of Directors, is responsible to the World Service Board of Trustees. The Trustees, who serve as custodians of the Traditions of Cocaine Anonymous, as well as interpreters of policies affecting C.A. as a whole, in turn are responsible to the World Service Conference.

The World Service Conference meets annually to unify the Fellowship and consider those actions which affect the Fellowship as a whole. Comprised of Delegates from all the recognized Areas of C.A., as well as the Trustees and the World Service Office Board, the Conference considers how best to carry the message of recovery from addiction to those outside, as well as inside, the meeting rooms of Cocaine Anonymous. Committees of the Conference cover various areas that affect carrying that message of recovery: Literature, Hospitals and Institutions, Public Information, Convention (responsible for the annual World Service Convention), and Unity. Other Committees address the internal functions of the Fellowship: Conference, Finance, and Structure & Bylaws.

All of the service structure of C.A. is based on our 9th Tradition: ***"C.A. as such ought never be organized, but we may create service boards or committees directly responsible to those they serve."***

The principal of consistent rotation of responsibility is followed in all C.A. service positions. Positions in the local Group are rotated according to a vote of the Group. Representatives to the local service organization are voted on at the Group level according to a schedule defined by each Group. Officers of the local service organization are elected based on the group conscience of that organization.

Cocaine Anonymous Traditions

The Twelve Traditions* reflect the attitude and principles of our fellowship and were accepted and approved by the Third World Service Conference, at Woodland Hills, California, in 1987.

1. Our common welfare should come first; personal recovery depends upon C.A. unity.
2. For our group purpose there is but one ultimate authority – a loving God as He may express Himself in our group conscience. Our leaders are but trusted servants; they do not govern.
3. The only requirement for C.A. membership is a desire to stop using cocaine and all other mind-altering substances.
4. Each group should be autonomous except in matters affecting other groups or C.A. as a whole.
5. Each group has but one primary purpose – to carry its message to the addict who still suffers.
6. A C.A. group ought never endorse, finance, or lend the C.A. name to any related facility or outside enterprise, lest problems of money, property and prestige divert us from our primary purpose.
7. Every C.A. group ought to be fully self-supporting, declining outside contributions.
8. Cocaine Anonymous should remain forever nonprofessional, but our service centers may employ special workers.
9. C.A., as such, ought never be organized; but we may create service boards or committees directly responsible to those they serve.
10. Cocaine Anonymous has no opinion on outside issues; hence the C.A. name ought never be drawn into public controversy.
11. Our public relations policy is based on attraction rather than promotion; we need always maintain personal anonymity at the level of press, radio, television and films.
12. Anonymity is the spiritual foundation of all our Traditions, ever reminding us to place principles before personalities.

*The Twelve Traditions are reprinted with permission of Alcoholics Anonymous World Services, Inc. Permission to reprint and adapt the Twelve Traditions does not mean that AA is affiliated with this program. A.A. is a program of recovery from alcoholism. Use of the Traditions in connection with programs and activities which are patterned after A.A. but which address other problems does not imply otherwise.

The Twelve Traditions of Alcoholics Anonymous: 1. Our common welfare should come first; personal recovery depends upon A.A. unity. 2. For our group purpose there is but one ultimate authority – a loving God as He may express Himself in our group conscience. 3. The only requirement for A.A. membership is a desire to stop drinking. 4. Each group should be autonomous, except in matters affecting other groups or A.A. as a whole. 5. Each group has but one primary purpose – to carry its message to the alcoholic who still suffers. 6. An A.A. group ought never endorse, finance or lend the A.A. name to any related facility or outside enterprise, lest problems of money, property or prestige divert us from our primary purpose. 7. Every A.A. group ought to be fully self-supporting declining outside contributions. 8. Alcoholics Anonymous should remain forever nonprofessional, but our service centers may employ special workers. 9. A.A., as such, ought never be organized; but we may create service boards or committees directly responsible to those they serve. 10. Alcoholics Anonymous has no opinion on outside issues; hence the A.A. name ought never be drawn into public controversy. 11. Our public relations policy is based on attraction rather than promotion; we need always maintain personal anonymity at the level of press, radio and films. 12. Anonymity is the spiritual foundation of all our Traditions, ever reminding us to place principles before personalities

The Importance of Anonymity

Traditionally, C.A. members have always taken care to preserve their anonymity at the public level: press, radio, television and films. We know from experience that many people with drug problems might hesitate to turn to C.A. for help if they thought others might discuss their problems publicly, even inadvertently. Newcomers should be able to seek help with complete assurance that their identities will not be disclosed to anyone outside the Fellowship.

We believe that the concept of personal anonymity has a spiritual significance for us: It discourages the drives for personal recognition, power, prestige or profit that have caused difficulties in some societies. Much of our relative effectiveness in working with addicts might be impaired if we sought or accepted public recognition.

While each member of C.A. is free to make his or her own interpretation of C.A. Tradition, no individual is ever recognized as a spokesperson for the Fellowship locally, nationally or internationally. Each member speaks only for themselves.

A C.A. member may, for various reasons, “break anonymity” deliberately at the public level. Since that is a matter of individual choice and conscience, the Fellowship as a whole has no control over such deviations from Tradition. It is clear, however, that they do not have the approval of the group conscience of C.A. members.

Cocaine Anonymous is grateful to all media for their assistance in strengthening and observing the Tradition of anonymity. Periodically, the C.A. World Service Office sends to all major media, a letter describing the Traditions and asking their support in observing it.

The Recovery Program

The only requirement for membership is a desire to stop using cocaine and all other mind-altering substances. The maintenance of our recovery depends upon the sharing of our experiences, strength and hope with each other, thus helping us to identify and understand the nature of our disease. As the Twelve Steps are our guide to recovery, the Twelve Traditions are our guide to Group unity, growth and discipline. Our primary purpose is to help others recover through the Twelve Steps of Cocaine Anonymous. *

1. We admitted we were powerless over cocaine and all other mind-altering substances – that our lives had become unmanageable.
2. Came to believe that a Power greater than ourselves could restore us to sanity.
3. Made a decision to turn our will and our lives over to the care of God *as we understood him*.
4. Made a searching and fearless moral inventory of ourselves.
5. Admitted to God, to ourselves, and to another human being the exact nature of our wrongs.
6. Were entirely ready to have God remove all these defects of character.
7. Humbly asked Him to remove our shortcomings.
8. Made a list of all persons we had harmed, and became willing to make amends to them all.
9. Made direct amends to such people wherever possible, except when to do so would injure them or others.
10. Continued to take personal inventory and when we were wrong promptly admitted it.
11. Sought through prayer and meditation to improve our conscience contact with God *as we understood him*, praying only for knowledge of his will for us and the power to carry that out.
12. Having had a spiritual awakening as the result of these steps, we tried to carry this message to addicts, and to practice these principles in all our affairs.

* The Twelve Steps are reprinted with permission of Alcoholics Anonymous World Services, Inc. Permission to reprint and adapt the Twelve Steps does not mean that A.A. is affiliated with this program. AA is a program of recovery from alcoholism. Use of the Steps in connection with programs and activities which are patterned after AA but which address other problems does not imply otherwise.

The Twelve Steps of Alcoholics Anonymous: 1. We admitted we were powerless over alcohol – that our lives had become unmanageable. 2. Came to believe that a Power greater than ourselves could restore us to sanity. 3. Made a decision to turn our will and our lives over to the care of God as we understood Him. 4. Made a searching and fearless moral inventory of ourselves. 5. Admitted to God, to ourselves and to another human being the exact nature of our wrongs. 6. Were entirely ready to have God remove all these defects of character. 7. Humbly asked him to remove our shortcomings. 8. Made a list of all persons we had harmed, and become willing to make amends to them all. 9. Made direct amends to such people wherever possible, except when to do so would injure them or others. 10. Continued to take personal inventory, and when we were wrong promptly admitted it. 11. Sought through prayer and meditation to improve our conscious contact with God as we understood Him, praying only for knowledge of His will for us and the power to carry that out. 12. Having had a spiritual awakening as a result of these steps, we tried to carry this message to alcoholics, and to practice these principles in all our affairs.

Cocaine Anonymous Meetings*

Open Meetings: As the term suggests, meetings of this type are open to addicts and their families and to anyone interested in solving a personal drug problem or helping someone else to solve such a problem.

Closed Meetings: These meetings are limited to addicts. They provide an opportunity for members to share with one another on problems related to using patterns and attempts to achieve stable sobriety.

Step Study: Participants study and discuss the Twelve Steps with the group.

Book Study: Participants study and discuss with the group any of these books: Alcoholics Anonymous (the "Big Book"), Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions (the "12 and 12"), both volumes of Hope, Faith and Courage Book: Stories from the Fellowship of Cocaine Anonymous (the "C.A. Story Book"), and The A.A. Service Manual, combined with the 12 Concepts for World Service.

Speaker Meetings: One or more C.A. members share their personal experience, strength and hope with the meeting/group at length.

Participation Meetings: Participants discuss their experience, strength and hope with the meeting/group one member at a time.

H&I Meetings: H&I meetings are often restricted to patients or residents only, and not open to the community as a whole. These meetings are brought into facilities by local C.A. members through the H&I committee. H&I meetings are basically beginners meetings; with the chairperson of each meeting providing speakers. They are not usually listed in the area or world directory; and they do not observe the 7th Tradition. Certain facilities may require H&I participants to be subject to sobriety requirements, dress and conduct codes.

Online Meetings: These meetings are limited to addicts, and allow our members anywhere in the world to share their experience, strength and hope with each other at www.ca-online.org.

**Variations and/or combinations of these meetings exist.*

CAWSO

**3740 Overland Ave, Suite C,
Los Angeles, CA 90034, USA**

Phone (310) 559-5833

Fax (310) 559-2554

Or

on the Internet at: www.ca.org