

Using State Data for Policy- Relevant Mental Health Services Research

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NIMH previous work with State MH Agencies

- 2002 Workshop on State Implementation of EBPs
- 2003/5 RFA (w/CMHS) to plan for and launch implementation research grants within state systems
- Since 2005: Several statewide implementation research grants (e.g. TN, CA, MN)
- Major challenge: lack of coordinated data to understand broader impact of system-wide policies



The Road Ahead:

Research Partnerships to Transform Services
*A Report by the National Advisory Mental Health Council's Workgroup
on Services and Clinical Epidemiology Research*



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES NATIONAL INSTITUTES OF HEALTH

NIMH
National Institute
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SOURCE: <http://www.nimh.nih.gov/research-funding/scientific-meetings/recurring-meetings/namhc/reports/road-ahead.pdf>

Workgroup Recommendations

- I. Enhancing research responsiveness to stakeholders
- II. Capacity building
- III. Knowledge exchange
- IV. Ongoing evaluation

(NAMHC, “Road Ahead Report”, 2006)

I. Recommendations for enhancing research responsiveness to stakeholders

- “create a means of identifying policy changes and other trends likely to have significant impact on mental health services and seize opportunities to study them”

(NAMHC, “Road Ahead Report”, 2006)

I. NIMH/DSIR Responses to enhance research responsiveness to stakeholders

- Create new 'platforms' for conducting services research:
 - Explore a 'State Policy Laboratory' using states' pooled data to evaluate natural experiments in policy, delivery systems & financing
 - Explore similar initiatives with other stakeholders (e.g., federal, HMO, business coalitions)

Availability of Data Sources

- Data systems exist in the majority of states across multiple agencies, but rarely integrated
 - State Medicaid
 - Social Security
 - Depts of Corrections
 - Hospitals
 - Community Health Centers
 - VA
 - Education
 - Child Welfare

Impact of Mental Health Transformation Agenda

- 9 States have received Federal funds to coordinate data systems across agencies
- Additional states are contributing toward similar activities
- NRI engaged in a multi-state study of expenditures across multiple agencies

Many states are primed to use existing data to determine the impact of policy, but may require connections with research to best design studies.

Initiative on State Policy Research

- Develop studies to identify the impact of state financial, workforce, and other policies on cost, quality of care and patient outcomes.
- Contract to establish Infrastructure for State Data Collection, Policy Analyses
- R01s to address a specific policy question within their region
- Collaborative grants with 2 PIs (state, research partners)

Example State Policy Changes

- Implementation of EBPs statewide
- Change of Reimbursement Policies
- Change in Public MH Workforce
- Introduction of services into non-mental health agencies (e.g. prisons, schools, welfare, workplace)

Intended Outcomes of Initiative

- Cohort of policy-relevant, partnered-research studies
- Development of a “natural laboratory” to facilitate cross-state comparative research
- Applications could employ states as both experimental sites and matched controls