

Trajectories of Seclusion/Restraint Use in an Extended-Care Psychiatric Facility

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The Fulton State Hospital, an intermediate and maximum security forensic hospital, developed a predictive model of seclusion/restraint using latent class analysis. Clients were classified into three relatively homogenous groups based on the level and pattern of seclusion/restraint over the first two years since admission to the hospital. Predictors of class membership upon admission were: age, admission status (voluntary by guardian, court-ordered transfer, etc.), previous hospitalizations, marital status, employment history, and diagnoses.

Accuracy of the predicted classes was improved by entering actual incidents of seclusion/restraint during the first two months of hospitalization. Accuracy and confidence of the predictions were high-88.4% of the predictions were correct. The average probability for the correct class was .80.

The implications for policy and client care are numerous and include: early identification of security and treatment needs; the development of interventions that are specific to high-use clients; specialized training can be developed for staff working with assaultive individuals; individuals who are in the low-use class may be "fast-tracked," and staffing patterns and placement of clients may be improved.