

Title of Presentation: Access To Community Mental Health Services By
Individuals With HIV/AIDS

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This poster presentation will address Goal 3 of the President's New Freedom Commission Report: "Disparities in mental health services are eliminated." by presenting base-line findings regarding utilization of community mental health services by adults with HIV/AIDS diagnoses. Individuals with an HIV/AIDS diagnosis are members of a socially stigmatized group that is at elevated risk for mental disorders. Ongoing monitoring of access to community mental health services by this high need population and other groups with a high risk of mental disorders will provide important and powerful measures of the degree to which this important transformation goal is being achieved.

Preliminary analysis indicates that individuals with AIDS were more than 4 times as likely to access Community Mental Health Center (CMHC) services as members of the general population (6.6% vs. 1.4%), and more than 3 times as likely to access CMHC services as adults with a Cancer Diagnosis (6.6% vs. 2.1%). Individuals with HIV were more than 9 times as likely to access CMHC services as members of the general population (13.4% vs. 1.4%), and more than 6 times as likely to access CMHC services as adults with a Cancer Diagnosis (13.4% vs. 2.1%).

These findings are based exclusively on analysis of anonymous HIPAA compliant extracts from administrative databases maintained by the state of Vermont. Data regarding 3,317 Outpatient Mental Health and Substance Abuse service recipients were obtained from the Vermont Division of Mental Health CMHC Service Reporting System. Data describing 635 individuals living with HIV/AIDS diagnoses was obtained from the Vermont HIV/AIDS Registry System (HARS).

Because these data sets do not include unique person identifiers, Probabilistic Population Estimation (PPE) was used to determine the proportion of individuals represented in the HIV/AIDS Registry were also served by a community mental health program during the same year. PPE is an innovative statistical data-mining tool that measures the number of people represented in HIPAA compliant data sets that do not share unique person identifiers. PPE reports how many people are represented in and across data sets, but does not reveal who the people are. This analysis provides the information necessary to determine the proportion of adults with HIV/AIDS who received behavioral health services from a CMHC in Vermont during the study year while protecting personal privacy and the confidentiality of medical records.