



DATA SHORTS

Characteristics of an Identified Cohort of PMHS Adults

In the most recent Data Short (December 2013, Vol.2, Issue 12), a cohort of 512 of the approximately 92,000 adults served in the Public Mental Health System (PMHS) was identified based on the amount spent on their behalf for PMHS inpatient services and/or their using six or more PMHS emergency room services during Fiscal Year 2012. In this issue, some of the characteristics of this cohort will be explored, as will their utilization of substance use disorder (SUD) services.

The first graph contrasts selected demographic characteristics of the cohort with all PMHS adults. There is little difference in the age distributions between the cohort and all PMHS adults. However, there are marked gender differences between these groups. The cohort is nearly 60% men, in contrast to the PMHS as a whole, which is 60% women.

The second graph compares the two groups based on diagnostic characteristics. The first section of the graph compares the presence of an SUD in the two groups. It is in this area that the most striking difference is seen. At nearly 74%, the prevalence of an SUD is nearly three times higher for the cohort than for the PMHS generally, which is just under 27%. The second comparison looks at four diagnostic categories (schizophrenia, bipolar disorder, all other major mood disorders, and all other disorders) for the primary diagnosis of the two groups. While the primary diagnoses for the cohort is distributed nearly evenly across the categories, the adults in the PMHS are more likely to have a major mood disorder or a diagnosis not included in the categories examined.

In addition to these analyses, the Alcohol and Drug Abuse Administration (ADAA) examined the SUD service utilization of the cohort. The last graph shows the documented SUD service utilization in FY 2012 and in the past 10 years. Slightly less than one-third of the cohort received SUD services during FY 2012, more than half of whom were enrolled in multiple levels of SUD services during the year. In addition, more than half of the cohort was enrolled in SUD services at some time in the past ten years.

In conclusion, the greatest difference between the groups was the presence of a co-occurring SUD diagnosis, with nearly three of every four members of the cohort having an SUD diagnosis.

