

## **Appendix A**

### **Estimation Methodologies**

#### **Prevalence of Children with Serious Emotional Disturbances**

#### **Demand for Children's Mental Health Services**

#### **Table 1: Trends in Prevalence and Demand – 1992 through 2003**

## **Appendix A – Estimation Methodologies**

OMHAS uses published prevalence estimates from the Center for Mental Health Services, “Estimation of the 12-month Prevalence of Serious Mental Illness” (1997). This source estimates the statewide prevalence of severe mental illness (SMI) to be 5.9% among persons 18 and older. The state level estimate for severe and persistent mental illness (SPMI) from the same source is 2.8%. (The SPMI population is a subset of the SMI population.) Based on other federal research, 12% of the general population of children will need mental health services for an severe emotional disorder (SED).

To estimate the need for public mental health service in Oregon, OMHAS combines the information on prevalence rates with information about the percent of people who are uninsured in Oregon. It is assumed that about 32% of the privately insured individuals will be able to receive the needed service through private settings, while the remainder will rely on the public mental health system. Based on this information, the office generates an estimated need for public mental health.

The percent of uninsured individuals is based on the Oregon Population Survey, which is administered to a random sample of Oregon residents every two years. A summary of findings for percent of uninsured in Oregon can be accessed within the Oregon Office for Health Policy and Research web site at [www.ohppr.state.or.us/data/ops/data\\_ops\\_index.htm](http://www.ohppr.state.or.us/data/ops/data_ops_index.htm).

### ***Prevalence of serious emotional disturbance in children.***

Oregon uses national prevalence data published in the Federal Register to estimate the number of children who may need some level of mental health services. According to this source, the prevalence of severe emotional disorders (SED) vary as a function of the poverty level for the state. Based on the number of children in poverty, Oregon’s rate of SED is 12%.

To estimate the number of children who may need public mental health service, prevalence of SED is estimated for the two populations: uninsured children (about 9% of the population) and children covered by the Oregon Health Plan. The total SED out of these two populations is the estimated number of children who will need mental health services.