

Addictions and Mental Health Division (AMH) Update: Number Served & Outcomes for Mental Health Services

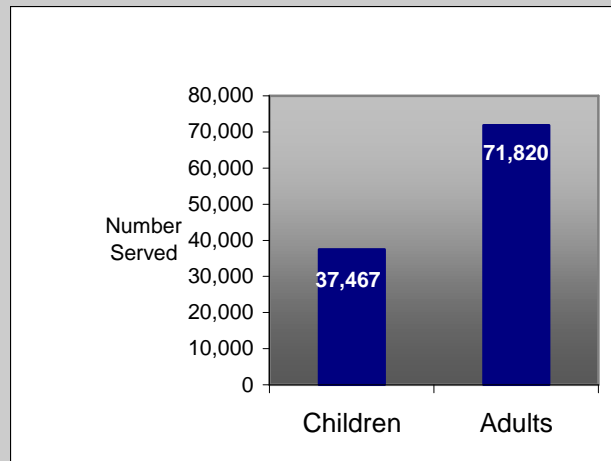
March 2007

Department of Human Services

How many Oregonians are in need of mental health services, and of these, how many does Addictions and Mental Health Division (AMH) serve?

- 12% of Oregonian youth --- approximately 108,000 children and adolescents --- suffer from a serious emotional disturbance.
 - ◆ *Figure 1* 35% of these youth are served by AMH each year.
- 5.9% of adult Oregonians --- approximately 162,000 people --- suffer from a serious mental illness.
 - ◆ *Figure 1* 44% of these adults are served by AMH each year.

Figure 1: Count of Oregonians receiving mental health services from the Addictions and Mental Health Services Division



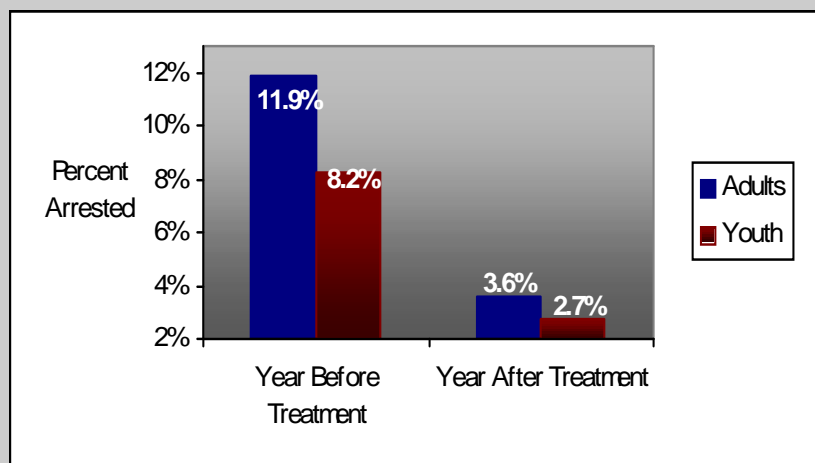
MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES ARE ASSOCIATED WITH REDUCED CRIME, INCREASED EMPLOYMENT, IMPROVED HOUSING STATUS, AND BETTER FUNCTIONING IN SCHOOL

Mental health services are associated with reduced crime rates

Figure 2 shows 11.9% of adult consumers report that they were arrested in the year before mental health services began. Only 3.6% of these same consumers report that they were arrested in the year after mental health services began. Thus, adult consumers are over three times more likely to be arrested in the year before treatment as in the year after treatment.

Similarly 8.2% of caregivers of adolescent consumers report that their child was arrested in the year before mental health services began. Only 2.7% of these same caregivers report that their child was arrested in the year after mental health services began. Thus, youth are *three times* more likely to be arrested in the year before treatment as in the year after treatment.

Figure 2: Impact of mental treatment on arrest rate.



Addictions and Mental Health Division Update: Mental Health Treatment Outcomes and Cost Benefit

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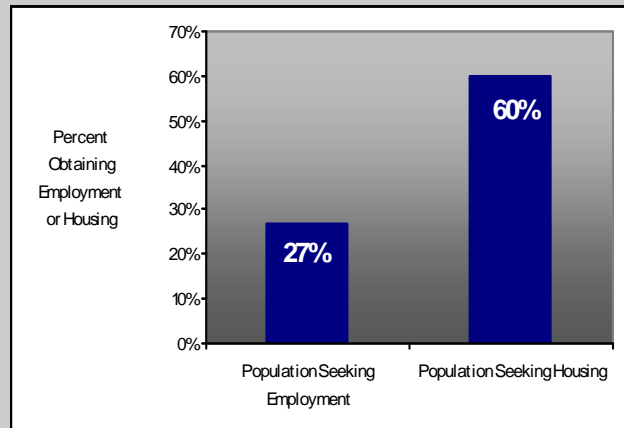
Mental health services are associated with increased employment and improved housing status

30% of adult consumers report seeking employment when they enter service.

Figure 3 shows that 27% of the adults in treatment who are seeking employment eventually obtain employment with assistance from their mental health care provider.

43% of adult consumers are seeking housing or new housing when they enter service. **Figure 3** shows that 60% of the adults in treatment who are seeking housing obtain housing with assistance from their mental health care provider.

Figure 3: Percent of population in need of employment or housing that obtained employment or housing with assistance from their mental health provider

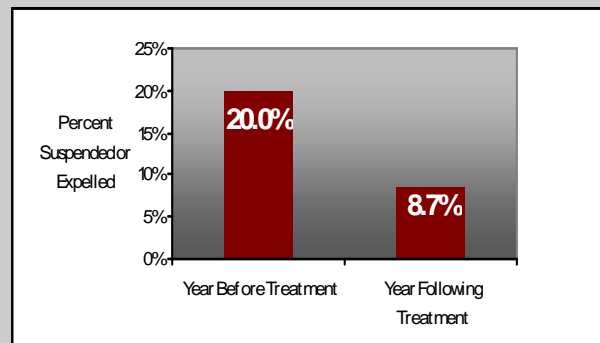


Mental health services are associated with better functioning in school

35% of child consumers with a history of problems attending school attend more regularly following mental health treatment.

Figure 4 shows 20% of caregivers of child consumers report their child was suspended or expelled in the year before mental health services began. Only 8.7% of these same caregivers report their child was suspended or expelled in the year after mental health services began. Thus, children are over twice as likely to be suspended or expelled in the year before treatment as in the year after treatment.

Figure 4: Percent suspended or expelled from school before and after treatment



While mental health treatment is expensive, the negative economic consequences of mental illness far exceed the direct costs of treatment (Hu, 2006).

While the cost of *treating* mental illness is high, the cost of mental illness *itself* is higher. Mental health treatment cost the US \$69.0 billion in 1996; however, untreated mental illness cost the US \$78.6 billion six years earlier, in 1990 (the most recent year for which data are available) (Rice and Miller, 1996).