



September 2003

Adolescent Substance Abuse Performance Measures

Overview and Goals of the Study: This study will develop performance measures for adolescent substance abuse services, and test the feasibility of the measures using administrative data. The feasibility of both new measures and several that have been previously developed for adults by the Washington Circle (WC) will be tested and linkage of these measures to treatment outcomes for adolescents in the public sector will be examined. The main goals of the project are:

- (1) Develop new performance measures for adolescents,
- (2) Test the feasibility of both these newly developed measures and those previously developed by the WC for adolescents, using state administrative data, and
- (3) Explore the relationship between adherence to performance measures and substance abuse treatment outcomes for adolescents.

The data source will be from the Oklahoma Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services (DMHSAS), which has the capability of linking its administrative data set to various other state agency data, resulting in a very rich data source. Descriptive analyses are planned to compare adolescents who meet the established performance measures to those who do not. Multivariate analyses will be conducted to determine the relationship between adherence to performance measures and substance abuse treatment outcomes for adolescents.

The Washington Circle, a multidisciplinary group with extensive experience in alcohol and other drug (AOD) disorders, managed care, and performance management developed a set of measures for substance abuse services in the private sector. These measures will be adapted for adolescents in the public sector. The premise of the WC measures is that all organized systems of care must be held accountable for the entire process of care.

The three WC measures that will be the focus of this project are outlined below:

- Identification is defined as the percent of the adolescent population eligible for publicly funded healthcare that have an AOD diagnosis or service.
- Initiation of Treatment is defined as the percent of adolescents with an index diagnosis of AOD abuse or dependence that receives any additional AOD services within 14 days of the diagnosis.
- Treatment Engagement is defined as the percent of adolescents diagnosed with AOD disorders that receives two additional AOD services within 30 days of the initiation of care.

Significance: The significance of the study is that it will extend the work on performance measures conducted by the WC to an adolescent population. This work will shed light on how to improve accountability for delivery of AOD treatment services to adolescents in public health care systems. By the completion of the proposed project, we plan to have identified and specified a set of substance abuse performance measures for adolescents that are based on effective treatment processes. In addition, we will have determined which measures can be calculated using a state database such as the Oklahoma DMHSAS data. Furthermore, we will examine

whether adherence to AOD performance measures results in improved treatment outcomes for adolescents in the public sector.

Funding Source: National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA)

Further Information

For more information about this project, please contact:

Margaret T. Lee, Ph.D.
Principal Investigator
Research Scientist

Phone: (781) 736-3966

Fax: (781) 736-3905

E-mail: MLEE@BRANDEIS.EDU

Deborah W. Garnick, Sc.D.
Co-Principal Investigator
Professor

Phone: (781) 736-3840

Fax: (781) 736-3985

E-mail: GARNICK@BRANDEIS.EDU

Constance M. Horgan, Sc.D.
Co-Investigator
Professor

Phone: (781) 736-3916

Fax: (781) 736-3905

E-mail: HORGAN@BRANDEIS.EDU

Steve Davis, Ph.D.
Director, Decision Support Services
Oklahoma Department of Mental
Health and Substance Abuse Services
1200 N.E. 13th – Box 53277
Oklahoma City, OK 73152-3277

Phone: (405) 522-3813

Fax: (405) 522-3829

E-mail: SDAVIS@ODMHSAS.ORG