



DATA SHORTS

A Look Back at Eight Years of the Outcomes Measurement System

The Outcomes Measurement System (OMS) for the Public Mental Health System (PMHS) has been operational since September 2006. Under the newly established Behavioral Health Administration (BHA), the OMS was expanded beginning January 1, 2015 to include recipients of Level 1 outpatient Substance-Related Disorder (SRD) services. Given this change, it seemed an opportune time to review and summarize the eight years of data collected on PMHS outpatient services.

The first graph shows the number of interviews, the number of episodes of care, and the number of individuals included in the data set by type of interview, i.e., adult and youth. To date, there are over 900,000 (511,193 adults and 393,353 youth) interviews recorded in the OMS system. These interviews cover over 400,000 (245,217 adult and 168,925 youth) episodes of care, i.e., cases with continuous authorization with the same provider on the same OMS form (adult or youth). The number of people represented by these is over one quarter million (152,202 adults and 108,120 youth).

The next two graphs show how symptom and functioning scores change between people's initial and most recent OMS interviews, the first for adults and the second for youth. Some people have only two OMS interviews in their episode of care, while others have as many as 18 interviews; many episodes of care are continuing and more interviews will be added over time. In each graph, the percent change in symptoms and functioning scores are analyzed; changes in the range of 5% above or below the initial score were considered no change; the percentage of change was calculated by subtracting the initial from the most recent result and dividing by the initial score.

These results show that the great majority of adults and youth either maintain or improve in both symptoms and functioning as measured by the scales that are used.

The OMS is a very rich source of outcome data that can be viewed using the OMS Datamart at http://maryland.valueoptions.com/services/OMS_Welcome.html. An enhanced version of OMS Datamart will become available later this year that will include new features, new items from the revised OMS questionnaires, and a new population of people who are receiving Level 1 SRD services.

